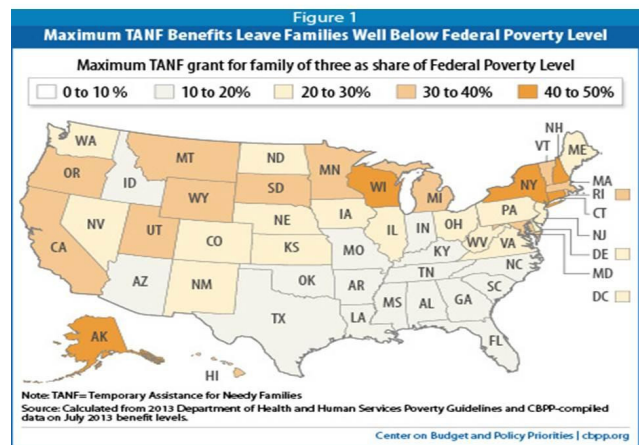
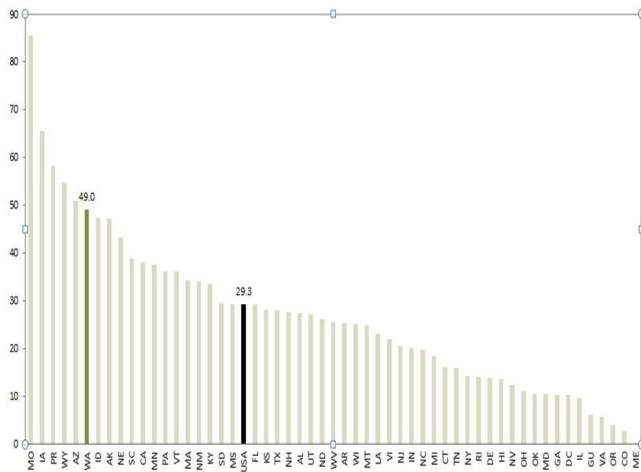




### 3.1.a Number who leave public assistance (TANF) due to increased income or at their own request - Supplemental Information

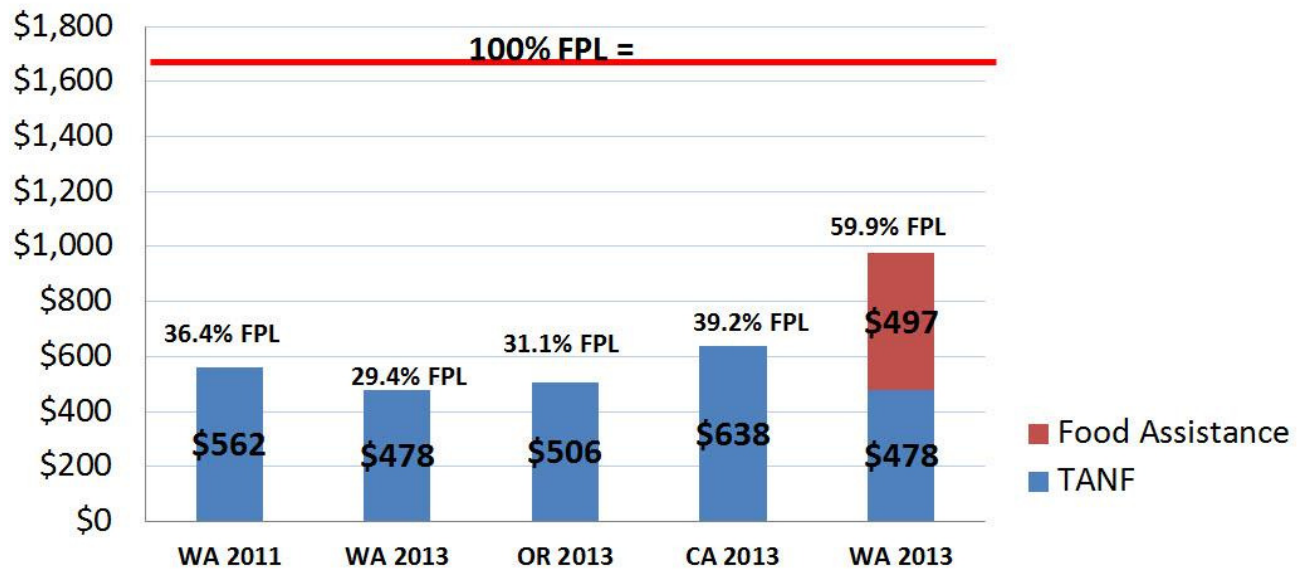
Reported on March 2014

Washington has the 6th best performance when ranked nationally.



## Monthly Public Assistance Benefits Comparison

3 Person TANF Household

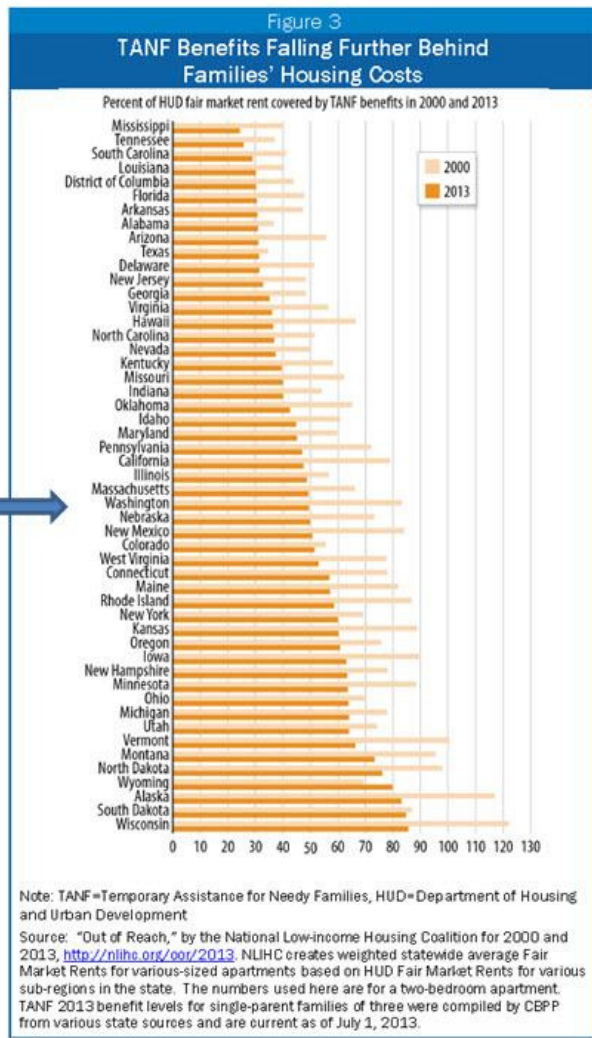


The current benefit level in Washington State is:

- 49.5% of the Fair Market Rent rate
- 35.6% lower (in inflation adjusted terms) than in 2000
- 11% of the Washington Self-Sufficiency Standard of \$4,347 per month

Source: Dept. of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, National TANF Datafile (PDF); Table 46: Distribution of TANF Closed-Case Families by Reason for Closure, FY 2011 (p. 52). National TANF Datafile:

[http://acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ofa/appendix\\_fy2011\\_final\\_amend.pdf](http://acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ofa/appendix_fy2011_final_amend.pdf)



**DATA SOURCE:** Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *TANF Cash Benefits Continued to Lose Value in 2013* (Dec. 2013), p. 6.

Appendix 1 TANF Benefit Levels as of July 2013 (Single-Parent Family of Three)								
	July 1996	July 2000	July 2005	July 2010	July 2011	July 2012	July 2013	Change from 2013 (in inflation adjusted dollars)
Alabama	164	164	215	215	215	215	215	-11.7
Alaska	923	923	923	923	923	923	923	-32.7
Arizona	347	347	347	278	278	278	278	-46.1
Arkansas	204	204	204	204	204	204	204	-32.7
California	596	626	723	694	638	638	638	-27.9
Colorado	356	356	356	462	462	462	462	-12.6
Connecticut	636	636	636	674	674	674	688 <sup>1</sup>	-27.2
Delaware	338	338	338	416	338	338	338	-32.7
D.C.	415	379	379	428	428	428	428	-30.6
Florida	303	303	303	303	303	303	303	-32.7
Georgia	280	280	280	280	280	280	280	-32.7
Hawaii	712	570	570	610	610	610	610 <sup>2</sup>	-42.3
Idaho	317	293	309	309	309	309	309	-34.4
Illinois	377	377	396	432	432	432	432 <sup>3</sup>	-22.8
Indiana	288	288	288	288	288	288	288	-32.7
Iowa	426	426	426	426	426	426	426	-32.7
Kansas	429	429	429	429	429	429	429	-32.7
Kentucky	262	262	262	262	262	262	262	-32.7
Louisiana	190	190	240	240	240	240	240	-14.9
Maine	418	461	485	485	485	485	485	-21.9
Maryland	373	417	482	574	574	574	576 <sup>4</sup>	4.0 <sup>1</sup>
Massachusetts	565	565	618	618	618	618	618	-26.4
Michigan	459	459	459	492	492	492	492	-27.8
Minnesota	532	532	532	532	532	532	532	-32.7
Mississippi	120	170	170	170	170	170	170	-4.6
Missouri	292	292	292	292	292	292	292	-32.7
Montana	438	469	405	504	504	504	510	-21.6
Nebraska	364	364	364	364	364	364	364	-32.7
Nevada	348	348	348	383	383	383	383	-25.9
New Hampshire	550	575	625	675	675	675	675	-17.4
New Jersey	424	424	424	424	424	424	424	-32.7
New Mexico	389	439	389	447	380	380	380	-34.2
New York	577	577	691	753	753	770	789 <sup>5</sup>	-7.9
North Carolina	272	272	272	272	272	272	272	-32.7
North Dakota	431	457	477	477	477	477	477 <sup>6</sup>	-25.5%

Appendix 1 (Cont.) TANF Benefit Levels as of July 2013 (Single-Parent Family of Three)								
	July 1996	July 2000	July 2005	July 2010	July 2011	July 2012	July 2013	Change from 1996-2013 (in inflation adjusted dollars)
Ohio	341	373	373	434	434	450	458 <sup>7</sup>	-9.6%
Oklahoma	307	292	292	292	292	292	292	-36.0%
Oregon	460	460	460	485	506	506	506	-25.9%
Pennsylvania	421	421	421	421	421	421	421 <sup>8</sup>	-32.7%
Rhode Island	554	554	554	554	554	554	554	-32.7%
South Carolina	200	204	205	270	216	216	216	-24.9%
South Dakota	430	430	501	555	555	555	565	-11.5%
Tennessee	185	185	185	185	185	185	185	-32.7%
Texas	188	201	223	260	260	263	271 <sup>9</sup>	-2.9%
Utah	416	451	474	498	498	498	498	-19.4%
Vermont	597	622	640	640	640	640	640 <sup>10</sup>	-27.8%
Virginia	354	354	389	389	389	389	389 <sup>11</sup>	-26.0%
Washington	546	546	546	562	478	478	478	-41.1%
West Virginia	253	328	340	340	340	340	340	-9.5%
Wisconsin	517	673	673	673	673	653	653 <sup>12</sup>	-15.0%
Wyoming	360	340	340	561	577	602	616	15.2%

<sup>1</sup> Connecticut's COLA has been suspended for the past four years because of budget constraints. The state finally adjusted benefits on July 1. The number listed is for Region A, which covers the highest cost areas of the state. Most families of three in Connecticut receive a maximum benefit of \$579 a month.

<sup>2</sup> Hawaii has a two-tiered system of benefit levels - a lower benefit level for families that are required to participate in work activities and a higher level for families that are exempt from work activities. As of July 1, 2010, benefits for a family of three are \$610 (for work-required families) and \$743 (for work-exempt families), respectively.

<sup>3</sup> This is the benefit level for most of the state of Illinois; the benefit levels are lower in the southern part of the state compared to the central part of the state.

<sup>4</sup> Maryland increased benefits on October 1, 2012. Each year Maryland calculates whether the TANF and SNAP benefits added together meet 61 percent of the Minimum Living Level. The TANF benefit is adjusted to meet the 61 percent threshold if necessary. There has been no TANF adjustment for three years. Effective November 1, 2013, Maryland's benefit increases to \$624 for a family of three.

<sup>5</sup> The listed benefits for New York City, New York state's benefits is made up of several components including a statewide monthly basic allowance (for recurring needs), a statewide home energy allowance, a statewide supplemental home energy allowance, and a variable portion for rent, which varies from \$259-\$447 depending on the county of residence. On July 1, 2012, there was a 5 percent increase to the basic allowance portion of the grant, which is represented above. There was another 5 percent increase to the basic allowance on October 1, 2012.

<sup>6</sup> North Dakota's benefit of \$477 a month for a family of three includes a \$50 special need portion for those families with shelter costs.

<sup>7</sup> Ohio's COLA follows the same approach as is used for Social Security and SSI benefits; Ohio increases the TANF benefits on January 1 based on SSA's adjustment. Because there were no Social Security COLAs for 2010 and 2011, there were no TANF benefit increases in Ohio for those years.

<sup>8</sup> Pennsylvania's benefits levels vary by county. The listed number is the highest, not the most typical, benefit.

<sup>9</sup> Texas' monthly cash grant is adjusted annually according to the federal poverty level. The increase reported above was implemented on October 1, 2012. The unit on October 1, 2012, but for the purpose of comparability across states, we have used the amount in place as of July 2012.

<sup>10</sup> Vermont has two regional benefit levels, a higher one for Chittenden County and a lower one for the rest of the state. The state also provides a housing supplement that many, but not all, recipients receive. Since 2010, we have used the benefit level for outside Chittenden County and do not add the housing supplement in these annual benefit level reports; we also list the historic benefit levels which correspond to the circumstances of the benefit levels: welfare. CBPP has collected the information for benefit levels for 2010-2012 and the choice of the comparable historic benefit levels is the Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database. In the 2006 version of this paper, CBPP made a different choice in identifying the benefit levels for Vermont and followed the approach used in Congressional Research Service report, which used the higher levels that apply for Chittenden County and include a housing supplement.

<sup>11</sup> In Virginia, the TANF benefit amounts depend on the geographic area. There are three separate locality groups. Family of 3: Group I: \$292, Group II: \$320, Group III: \$389.

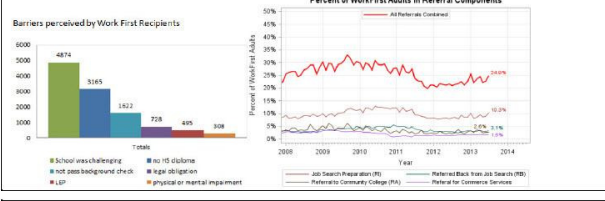
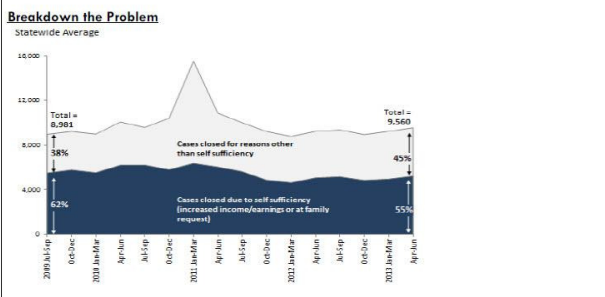
<sup>12</sup> Some categories of W-2 recipients (caretakers of newborn and pregnant women with at-risk pregnancies and no other children in their care) remain at \$673.

Note: TANF Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

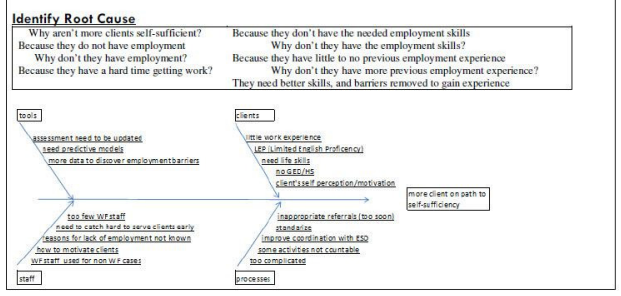
### A3 Problem Solving | Increase Percentage Who Leave TANF Due to Earnings or Client Request

David Stillman, Assistant Secretary  
ESA/ January 2014

**Clarify the Problem**  
ESA provides help to low-income working families to put them on a pathway to self-sufficiency. Employment is the key to self-sufficiency and to reduce their chances of needing future assistance. Families that work always have more income than if they only receive public assistance. Currently the number of families that leave TANF due to increased income or at their request is 54%. ESA would like to increase that to 60% by July 2014.



**Target Setting**  
Our goal is to increase the percentage of people who leave TANF due to increased income or at their request increases from 54 percent in January 2013 to 60% by July 2014. This will be measured by the number of TANF cases exiting due to increased income or at their request by the total number of WorkFirst case closures.



**Identify Countermeasures**

Root Cause	Proposed Countermeasure	Feasibility	Cost	Risk	Impact
Motivate clients	Increase client/staff rapport with motivational interviewing	High	Medium	Low	Low
Program coordination	Lean projects to streamline WorkFirst program to improve efficiency and effectiveness of program	High	Medium	Low	High
Client skills & experience	Enhance client's work force skills through engagement in work preparation (education, WEX, barrier removal)	High	High	Low	High
Assessments of clients	Implement the improved assessment	High	Low	Low	High
Unknown family risks	Use data to predict risk and drive decisions	High	High	Low	High
Activities for federal participation rates	Balance activities and engagements that matter with participation rates	Medium	Low	Low	Low
Staffing level	Fill vacancies, have WorkFirst staff focus on case management	High	High	Low	High

**Action Plan**

ID#	Problem to be solved	Action Item	Lead	Team	Due Date	Status
1	How to motivate clients	Increase client/staff rapport with motivational interviewing	B. Roberts	CSD	6/2014	Pending
2	Improve program coordination	Lean projects to streamline WorkFirst for improved efficiency and effectiveness	L. Kleingartner	WF Lean	7/2014	WIP
5	Unknown family risks	Develop TANF Predictive Risk Intelligence System (PRISM) tool to predict barriers/risk based on data	C. Reyes	CSD	4/2014	WIP
7	WF staff used for non-WF cases	Fill vacancies, have WF staff focus on WF cases	B. Roberts	CSD	6/2014	WIP

**Evaluate Results, Standardize, then Repeat**

## Action Elements:



- Return focus to work and rally team
- New client Comprehensive Evaluation
- True performance-based contracts (ESD & SBCTC)
- Plan and conduct six Value Stream Mapping workshops, between Dec. 2013 and July 2014, to identify opportunities for improvement in these areas:
  1. Increasing successful outcomes for educational activities
  2. Post comprehensive evaluation engagement (Barrier removal to work)
  3. Transition gaps
  4. Verifying and documenting actual hours
  5. Federal reporting process
  6. Job Search churn (see Value Stream Mapping (VSM) photo below)
- New work focused orientation
- New sanction policy for non-participation
- New housing support pathway, focused on rapid re-housing
- Limited English Proficiency Population program expanded\*
- Expanded community work experience programs
- TANF PRISM (forthcoming)
- Two-Parent participation requirement\*
- Infant-exception ACES-oriented education programs

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\*Governor's budget - not yet supported in Legislative budgets



Participants: Joint Employment Security and DSHS "Reducing Job Search Churn" process improvement workshop, Tacoma, Dec. 9-13, 2013

For more current information see our updated [Action Trackers](#).

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