G4: 3.1.a - Increase percentage who leave public assistance (TANF) due to increased income or at their request from 56% in March 2017 to 60% by June 2019.

Reported on September 18, 2017

INCREASE FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)
Economic Services Administration (ESA)

David Stillman, Assistant Secretary
September 18, 2017
**Current State: Where are we at today**

**Percent of families who leave public assistance (TANF) due to increased income or at their request**

- **Exits due to Self-Sufficiency**
  - 3.1.a: Increase percentage who leave public assistance (TANF) due to increased income or at their request from 56% in March of 2017 to 60% by June 2019.
  - This measure reflects a portion of the WorkFirst caseload that is comprised of families who are able and capable of achieving self-sufficiency.
  - Historical trend shows an average of 50 – 60 percent of monthly closures are due to self-sufficiency reasons as opposed to procedural reasons.
  - The last time the 60 percent target was achieved was in SFY11, prior to the implementation of the time limit and sanction policies in 2010 and 2011.

**Current State: How do we compare nationally?**

**Percent of TANF Cases Closed Due To Increased Income or Client Request:**
Washington is 7th in the nation

Source: Office of Family Assistance, Characteristics and Financial Circumstances of TANF Recipients, Fiscal Year 2015
Background: 2015 Washington State Demographics

Percentage of people living below 200% of the federal poverty level by key demographics

Source: DSHS|ESA|CSD analysis of 2015 American Community Survey data 2015
### Background: Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>TANF Program Reaches</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For every 100 children living below 100% of the federal poverty level that are...

### Background: TANF/WorkFirst Performance

#### 12-month Exits

- Historical look at families who exited the program one year ago.
- Trend has been increasing since 2008.
- In Jan. 2011, TANF hardship extension criteria were restricted resulting in a one-time spike in terminations.
- A decline in the number of families who are able to successfully remain off of TANF may indicate social and/or economic conditions that are having an adverse effect on these economically disadvantaged families.
Background: TANF/WorkFirst Performance

**Percent of TANF/WorkFirst (WF) Families Participating In WF activities**

- **WorkFirst (WF) Participation**
  - The number of WF families that are participating in approved activities.
  - Activities that are appropriate for the WF program may not be a countable activity under federal rules.
  - Individuals who were exempt from participation, sanctioned, or whose participation was temporarily suspended are excluded.
### Action Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Task Lead</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Expected Outcome</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Help clients gain employment and provide post-employment supports through expansion of Employer Pipeline.</td>
<td>Babs Roberts</td>
<td>State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, Employment Security</td>
<td>Increased number of employers in state actively recruiting from TANF client population. Increase number of clients remaining off TANF.</td>
<td>On Track</td>
<td>Dec. 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support case manager efficacy in client engagement</td>
<td>Babs Roberts</td>
<td>WSU – Casey Jackson</td>
<td>Consistent, effective Motivational Interviewing techniques will increase client engagement and improve client outcomes</td>
<td>On Track</td>
<td>Dec. 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supported Employment Pilots</td>
<td>Lori Pfingst</td>
<td>BHA, Sunrise Services, Snohomish, Skagit Counties</td>
<td>Stable employment paired with integrated mental health services result in better health and family self-sufficiency.</td>
<td>On Track</td>
<td>Dec. 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expand Life Skills opportunities</td>
<td>Babs Roberts</td>
<td>Commerce, Employment Security</td>
<td>Increase successful outcomes for families by through expanded life skills opportunities.</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>July 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transforming case management</td>
<td>Babs Roberts</td>
<td>All of CSD</td>
<td>Creating effective case management practices and a social service business delivery model.</td>
<td>In process</td>
<td>Feb. 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhanced Comprehensive Evaluation and WorkFirst Orientation</td>
<td>Babs Roberts</td>
<td>Commerce, State Board and Employment Security, Divisions across DSHS</td>
<td>Enhance the comprehensive evaluation and standardized overview of the WorkFirst program to further incorporate strength based and family centered approach.</td>
<td>In process</td>
<td>June 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty reduction listening tours</td>
<td>Lori Pfingst</td>
<td>CSD, communities across Washington</td>
<td>Learning from our communities to identify: unique poverty needs, ways to strengthen partnerships, system changes to support the elimination of disparities, and best practices in reducing intergenerational poverty.</td>
<td>In process</td>
<td>June 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Strategies: Poverty Reduction Initiatives**

Goal: Reduce the percentage of Washingtonians living with income below 200% of the federal poverty level in a way that eliminates disparities.

**Life Skills Options**
- Getting Ahead
- Strategies for Success

**Parenting Supports**
- Parental Education/Home Visiting

**Increased Services**
- Transportation Initiative Pilot
- Part-time Community Jobs
- Supported Employment

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**Strategies: Continued poverty reduction initiatives**

Goal: Reduce the percentage of Washingtonians living with income below 200% of the federal poverty level in a way that eliminates disparities.

**Systems to Family Stability Policy**
- Academy
- WIOA alignment
- Trauma-informed coaching case management
- Multi-generational, whole-family approach

**Transforming Case Management**
- Creating effective case management practices and a social service business delivery model

**Listening Forums:** Learning from our communities to identify:
- Unique poverty needs,
- Ways to strengthen partnerships,
- System changes to support the elimination of disparities, and
- Best practices in reducing intergenerational poverty.

Listening tour: Skagit County
Assistance Needed

- Continued support for interagency effort to reduce poverty and advance intergenerational opportunity and success for all Washingtonians

- Coordinate cross-system/agency request legislation for 2019

- Build partnerships and stakeholder support for economic opportunity efforts

- Recognize the expertise of communities
**Partnership: Home Visiting and Other Parenting Support**

**Partners:**
- Community Services Division
- Department of Early Learning
- Thrive Washington
- Community Organizations

**Shared Goal:**
- Parents and Children Living in Poverty Develop Essential Skills that Support Family Well-Being and Financial Success Across Generations
**Partnership:** Home Visiting and Other Parenting Support

**Who is served:**

- Families participating in TANF/Workfirst that meet home visiting model requirements

- Priority populations within TANF/Workfirst are families that are pregnant, have a child under one year, or are homeless

- We use TANF funds to create 344 home visiting slots specifically for TANF/WorkFirst families

- We also work to build referral pathways to increase access to home visiting and parent education for all families that use CSD services
What we have learned...

- Shared data systems for referrals can be challenging but are helpful.

- Start up takes a lot of coordination, translation of home visiting and TANF terminology and clarifying expectations with both partners.

- Nurse-Family Partnership enrolls first-time parents during the first two trimesters of pregnancy – tight window to “catch” families coming onto TANF.

- Half of TANF/Workfirst families have a child under school age – lots of potential for expansion in future.

- TANF Home Visiting enrollees face above average challenges among those receiving home visiting services – 55% had a recent history of homelessness, 20% had a history of criminal justice involvement, and 14% had a history of domestic violence.

- If referrals to home visiting and parent support are to become a standard of practice, staff need time and training to build new processes into workflows. Reinforcement and feedback about the process and impact on families are also important.