

Introduction:

This report is a new report on TANF work activities mandated under Section 812 of the Claims Resolution Act of 2010. The report covers the period of April 1, 2011 through June 30, 2011. The report represents additional data gathered in response to the following two broad queries:

- Whether the work-eligible individual engages in any activities that are directed toward attaining self-sufficiency, and
- If yes, the specific activities that (a) do not qualify as a countable work activity, but are otherwise reasonably calculated to help the family move to self-sufficiency or (b) that could be a countable work activity, but for the fact that either the work-eligible individual has not engaged in such activities for a sufficient number of hours; the work-eligible individual has reached a maximum time limit allowed for having participation in the activity count; or the number of work-eligible individuals engaged in such activity exceeds a statutory limitation.

Context of Work Participation:

Federal law requires that each state receiving a TANF Block Grant must meet specific work participation rates—50% for all families receiving assistance and 90% for two parent families receiving assistance. The participation rate is calculated using the number of hours work-eligible individuals participate in allowable or “countable” activities as mandated by 45 CFR, part 261 for the requisite number of hours for each family type: Type of Family	Work participation Hours Required
Single work eligible parent with a child under age 6	20 hours weekly in core work activities.
Other single work-eligible parent families or two work-eligible parent families where one parent is disabled	30 hours weekly with at least 20 hours in core activities.
Married teen or teen head of household under age 20.	Maintains satisfactory attendance at secondary school
Two work-eligible parent families who do not receive federally subsidized child care	35 hours per week (total among both parents) with at least 30 hours in core activities.
Two work-eligible parent families who receive federally subsidized child care	55 hours per week with at least 50 hours in core activities

Work Activities:

Twelve allowable work activities are described in law and regulations. Nine of the activities are “core” activities and may be used to satisfy any of the average weekly participation requirements. The other three activities are “supplemental” in that they may only be used to satisfy the work activity requirement after the “core” requirement is met.

Core Activities

- Unsubsidized employment
- Subsidized private sector employment
- Subsidized public sector employment
- Job search and job readiness (limited to not more than 6 weeks in a federal fiscal year with not more than 4 weeks consecutive).
- Community service
- Work experience
- On-the-job training
- Vocational educational training (limited to 12 months for an individual), and
- Caring for a child of a recipient in community service (Kansas does not utilize this activity)

Supplemental Activities

- Job skills training directly related to employment
- Education directly related to employment (for those without a high school or equivalent degree)
- Completion of a secondary school program

Definition of Work-eligible Individual:

A work-eligible individual is an adult who receives TANF cash assistance. The only individuals that federal law exempts from the work-eligible status are: a minor parent, not head of household; a non-citizen who is ineligible to receive assistance; at state option, a recipient (not an applicant) of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI); and a work-eligible parent providing care for a disabled family member.

April - June Sample:

Kansas has opted to do sampling for federal TANF reporting purposes. For the April - June 2011:

- 48% the majority of the sample TANF population were involved in federally countable components;
- 10% an additional portion of the TANF population was involved in non-federally countable components; resulting in most of the TANF population involved in activities designed to promote self-sufficiency.

The sample population not involved in any work program activity included cases:

- exempt due to hardship provisions (Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault or Disabled);
- exempt (caring for a child under 12 months, caring for a child while a spouse works), and;
- new to TANF in the sample month.

This brings the total of those not engaged in any work component to 41%.

The top non-countable activities for this time frame were:

- Treatment Activities
- Assessment
- Adult Basic Education/ESL
- Family Life Activities

(Treatment Activities includes: Substance Use Disorder treatment; Work with SRCC on personal and life skills development, addressing legal issues and parole activities)

(Family Life Activities includes: parenting programs, mentoring, personal development activities, organizational skills workshops)

Our estimated Work Participation Rate for Kansas for April, May and June 2011 was 28.7%, 27.1% and 27.4%. If Kansas had been allowed to count these additional unverified or uncountable hours for this time frame, more cases would have met the minimum work requirements raising our participation rate to 33% for April, 27.6 for May and 29.3 for June.