

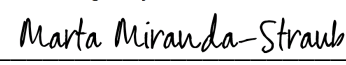
BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT

June 1, 2021 – November 30, 2021

Department: Community Based Services (DCBS) Block Grant: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

This report is submitted in compliance with KRS 45.357. This report on achievements may be compared to the Block Grant application currently on file with LRC.

Block Grant Manager:

DocuSigned by:

 8A72BE89C475443
Marta Miranda-Straub
Commissioner

1/31/2022

Date

| 1. FINANCES | Federal Funds | General Funds | Trust/Local Match | Total |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Annual Budget | \$180,689,420.00 | \$53,503,700 | \$0.00 | \$234,193,120.00 |
| Actual Expenditures | \$ 37,232,418.94 | \$ 17,875,645.33 | \$0.00 | \$ 55,108,064.27 |
| Encumbrances | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Available Balance | \$ 143,457,001.06 | \$ 35,628,054.67 | \$0.00 | \$ 179,085,055.73 |

NOTE: Section 1 "Finances" contains data for 7/2021-12/2021. Due to data collection timeframes, the TANF data for all other sections contains data for the six month time period of 6/2021-11/2021.

2. RESULTS BUDGETED/ACHIEVED

| OBJECTIVES | ACHIEVEMENTS |
|---|---|
| <p>1. <u>TANF FEDERAL PURPOSE #1:</u> <i>"Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives."</i></p> <p>➤ KTAP cash assistance</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From June 2021 through November 2021, a monthly average of 10,376 families (3,378 adults and 18,934 children) received cash assistance through the Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP). The number of families receiving KTAP has decreased significantly in the last two years. Looking at data prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, from June 2019 through November 2019, a monthly average of 14,167 families (4,943 adults and 26,895 children) received KTAP cash assistance. |
| <p>2. <u>TANF FEDERAL PURPOSE #2:</u> <i>"End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage."</i></p> <p>➤ Provide supportive services, within budget limitations, to enable KTAP recipients to participate in job preparation and work with the goal of family self-sufficiency.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In June 2021, 24,693 families received KTAP, including 3,724 adults and 20,969 children. The number of families receiving assistance decreased to 20,242 in November 2021, comprised of 3,133 adults and 17,109 children. There were 644 adults working in November 2021 (unsubsidized employment), compared to 640 in June 2021. The monthly average of adults working during this time period was 632. From June 2021 to November 2021, an average of 112 KTAP cases per month discontinued due to employment. There were 459 Kentucky Works Program (KWP) participants in adult education, high school, and college for November 2021 and a monthly average of 445 KWP participants during this six month time period. |

2. RESULTS BUDGETED/ACHIEVED (continued)

| OBJECTIVES | ACHIEVEMENTS |
|------------|--------------|
|------------|--------------|

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During June 2021, 2,868 KTAP recipients, or 44% of the KTAP recipients who are required to participate in KWP, were participating in some Kentucky Works Program activity. Not all of these activities were counted in the federal participation rate. In November 2021, 2,848 KTAP recipients were federally required to participate in some Kentucky Works activity. When compared to participation rates from prior years, the decrease in KWP participation was due to KTAP recipients unable to participate in the Kentucky Works Program due to the COVID-19 pandemic. • Other supportive services were provided for a monthly average of 10 KTAP recipients from June 2021 through November 2021. This category of supportive services is intended to support KWP participation activities, and encourage employment. Allowable expenditures are outlined in the Family Support Operation Manual, and the most common use of these funds is the purchase of uniforms or clothing for employment. • From June 2021 to November 2021, the Relocation Assistance Program (RAP) provided aid to one family during this time period. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for relocation assistance was significantly reduced. • Family Alternatives Diversion (FAD) was provided to 6 families during the time period of June 2021 to November 2021, with an average of 1 family per month. Looking at data prior to the pandemic, this was a decrease from 8 families during the time period of June 2019 to November 2019 (average of 14 families per month). • For the period June 2021 through November 2021, an average monthly number of 849 children (including children in Kinship Care) were provided child care services with TANF funds. |
| <p>3. <u>TANF FEDERAL PURPOSE #3:</u> <i>“Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Teen Pregnancy Prevention ➤ Statutory Rape Prevention | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KY Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) and KY Department for Public Health (DPH) have committed to renew a decades-old partnership from the early days of TANF in the late 1990s. This partnership intends to fulfill federal TANF Purpose #3, and address Teenage Pregnancy Prevention and Statutory Rape Prevention. • This project will encourage referrals from the TANF program to DPH programs, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ HANDS (Health Access Nurturing Development Services) ➤ WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children) ➤ PREP (Personal Responsibility Education Program) • The goal of this partnership is not just to address prevention efforts, but to support young parents by streamlining referrals between the two departments. |

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June 1, 2021 – November 30, 2021

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4. TANF FEDERAL PURPOSE #4:

“Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.”

➤ Responsible Fatherhood

- In October 2021, the Division of Family Support (DFS) participated in the 3rd Annual Kentucky Fatherhood Summit, held virtually. The Fatherhood Summit is an event hosted by the Department for Income Support/Child Support Enforcement (DIS/CSE); and is a collaborative project with DCBS/DFS.
- Although the Kentucky Fatherhood Summit was originally planned to be an in-person event, the 2021 summit was changed to become a 100% virtual event due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- DCBS/DFS continues to be involved with the Commonwealth Center for Fathers & Families (CCFF) Advisory Council, which is focused on planning the annual Fatherhood Summit, and building a partnership between government agencies & community partners to further the TANF goals of responsible fatherhood and two-parent family formation.
- Kentucky state government is a leader in the field of fatherhood conferences/summits, and annually the planning committee strives to involve other state governments in KY’s summit. The 2021 3rd Annual KY Fatherhood Summit featured a workshop in which Georgia state government officials presented an overview of GA Health & Human Services’ Fatherhood Program. Their presentation focused on the power of community partnership. The Georgia Fatherhood Program is an employment-based program that works with unemployed or underemployed parents and cannot pay their full child support obligation. The program uses community resources and established partnerships to connect parents with resources that lead to jobs paying above minimum wage, greater self-sufficiency, and more emotional and financial involvement in their children’s lives. KY policy makers from both DIS and DCBS hope to one day create KY’s own fatherhood program modeled after Georgia’s successful programs.
- 2021’s KY Fatherhood Summit sought to provide outreach to Kentucky’s inmate population. There are 14 correctional facilities that house KY’s adult inmate population. Of the 14 prisons, 11 KY prisons signed up to provide “viewing parties” to inmates to be able to view the KY Fatherhood Summit in a group setting, as an educational opportunity. Unfortunately, not all of the prisons were able to provide live-streamed viewings due to poor internet connection at various rural prisons across the state. The prison administrative staff was provided with recordings so that they could air the summit at a later date. KY inmates and prison staff across the state were given the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback, and the overall inmate outreach effort was successful.

BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT

June 1, 2021 – November 30, 2021

3. AUTHORIZED CHANGES (from the Block Grant Plan in Finances and/or Objectives)

The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005 reauthorized the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. The DRA required the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to issue regulations to do the following: define the activities that are countable toward the work participation rate requirements; define which cases contain a parent are included in the work participation rate calculation; and describe how states must document, verify, and monitor hours of participation. On June 29, 2006, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) published an interim final rule implementing key provisions of the DRA effective October 1, 2006. The final rule addressing provisions of the DRA was published February 5, 2008. Changes from the interim rule were effective October 1, 2008.

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program was scheduled for reauthorization in 2010. The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act (H.R. 3630), extended the block grant through September 30, 2012, the end of Federal fiscal year 2012. A continuing resolution was passed to extend TANF through the end of March 2013. The Continuing Appropriations Act for FY 2013 extended TANF through the end of September 2013, while the Continuing Appropriations Act for FY 2014 (P.L. 113-46) provided funds through January 15, 2014. The Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2014 extended TANF through September 30, 2014. The Continuing Appropriations Act for 2015 approved TANF through September 30, 2015. The Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2016 extended TANF through February 8, 2018. The Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY 2017 extended TANF through FY 2018, which ended September 30, 2018.

H.R. 430, The TANF Extension Act of 2019, extended TANF through June 30, 2019. H.R. 2940, an act to extend the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families and related programs, extended TANF through September 30, 2019; and H.R. 4378, the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2020 and Health Extenders Act of 2019, extended TANF through November 21, 2019. The Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 (H.R. 1865) extended TANF through May 22, 2020. Section 3824 of the “CARES Act”, or Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (H.R. 748), extended TANF program grants through November 30, 2020. The Continuing Appropriations, 2021 & Other Extensions Act (H.R. 8337) extended TANF through December 11, 2020. The Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 & Other Extensions Act (H.R. 8900) extended TANF through December 18, 2020.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (H.R. 133) extended TANF through September 30, 2021. On 9/30/2021, H.R. 5305 – “Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act” extended TANF funding through September 30, 2022.

4. EVALUATION OF RESULTS

The monthly average of KTAP families for the months of June 2021 through November 2021 was obtained by averaging the total number of cases (families) during this time period. The number of KTAP adults and children was computed in the same manner. Not all cases contain an adult member. During this period, there was a monthly average of 6,780 child only KTAP cases that did not contain an adult member in the case. The number of KTAP families and recipients who received assistance was obtained from the PA-264 reports for June 2021 through November 2021.

Information regarding participation in the Kentucky Works Program and receipt of supportive services was obtained from reports taken from the Online Tracking Information System (OTIS). The number and type of cases discontinued were based on reason entries on Worker Portal (IEES) systems, including cases discontinued for exceeding the income limits due to earnings, receipt of or increase in earnings, and the removal of time limited deductions. The numbers for child care were obtained by averaging the total number of children who received assistance funded with TANF during this time period. The number of families who received Relocation Assistance during this time period was obtained from the OTIS and Worker Portal systems and averaged for this time period. Safety Net data is provided by the DCBS’s Division of Protection & Permanency.

BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT

June 1, 2021 – November 30, 2021

5. ALTERNATIVES FOR IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY

Special services were provided during this period of time to assist families in obtaining self-sufficiency or for the family to remain intact.

Effective April 2003, Employment Retention services were replaced with the Work Incentive Program (WIN). WIN is a reimbursement payment given to individuals who are employed and transitioning off of KTAP. The payment is provided to reimburse individuals for expenses incurred as a result of their employment such as transportation, special items needed to stay employed, etc. Eligible individuals may receive reimbursement payments of \$130 per month for up to nine (9) months. WIN is available to a family if the family includes an adult with wages who has been discontinued from KTAP on or after April 1, 2003. The family has to have an eligible child, be a resident of Kentucky, and have total gross income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Receipt of WIN reimbursement is limited to once in a lifetime. WIN is not available to a family if employment is obtained after the KTAP case is discontinued. The WIN program was developed as a result of findings from a Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation (MDRC) study indicating income supports are the most effective means to help individuals stay off welfare. During the period June 2021 through November 2021, an average of 68 individuals per month received WIN. Pre-pandemic, 210 individuals received WIN in December 2019.

The Kinship Care (KC) program was created to offer an option to assist relatives in caring for a child who must be placed out of the child's home due to substantiated abuse or neglect. As of November 2021, there were 2,239 children in the Kinship Care program. Effective April 1, 2013, no new Kinship Care applications have been accepted. At the time of the KC moratorium in April 2013, there were 11,281 children receiving Kinship Care.

Special steps are taken to ensure KTAP recipients know about the 60-month lifetime limitation so they can take advantage of the Kentucky Works program. Up to 20% of the KTAP caseload may be exempted from time limitations due to hardship. As of November 2021, there were 171 families with extended benefits due to meeting a hardship extension reason. During the time period of June 2021 through November 2021, there was a monthly average of 14 families discontinued due to reaching the 60 month time limit.

CHFS Protection & Permanency (P&P) staff visits KTAP families whose KTAP case has been discontinued due to time limitations to ensure children are safe and to identify any emergency needs. Safety Net services are available to a post-KTAP family who has lost cash assistance due to reaching the sixty month lifetime TANF limit, or had their KTAP case discontinued due to non-cooperation with the Kentucky Works Program. Safety Net services are funded through TANF and are available to families with income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Benefits are temporary and may be authorized up to a total of \$635 for four (4) months during a twelve month period. These benefits are used to meet basic needs such as shelter, food, clothing or utilities. During the time period of June 2021 to November 2021, one family received Safety Net services.

6. OTHER NEWS

In December 2021, Kentucky DCBS/Division of Family Support's application was chosen for the 2022 Administration for Children & Families (ACF) "TANF Learning Community" (TLC). From January 2022 - December 2022, ACF will mentor Kentucky TANF policy makers to assist with implementing innovative program strategies that improve agency performance and ultimately achieve better outcomes for children and families. The national TLC theme is: "Reimagining TANF Programs to Support Family Economic Independence and Mobility in a Post-Pandemic World." The title of Kentucky's winning application was "Creating Virtual Case Management Options for Both Rural & Urban Populations in the Kentucky Works Program."