

BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT

December 1, 2023 – May 31, 2024

Department: Community Based Services

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: Lesla Dennis 7/26/2024
DocuSigned By: 2597068C24204CA
Lesla Dennis, Commissioner **Date**

1. FINANCES	Federal Funds	General Funds	Trust/Local Match	Total
Annual Budget	\$ 180,689,420.00	\$ 81,943,850.00	\$0	\$ 262,633,270.00
Actual Expenditures	\$ 57,344,635.18	\$ 45,551,523.27	\$0	\$ 102,896,158.45
Encumbrances			\$0	\$0
Available Balance	\$ 915,646.07	\$ 27,950,912.77	\$0	\$ 28,866,558.84

NOTE: Section 1 "Finances" contains data for 1/2024 to 6/2024. Due to data collection time frames, the TANF Data for all other sections contains data for the six month time period of 12/2023 to 05/2024

1. FINANCES	Federal Funds	General Funds	Trust/Local Match	Total
PEAF Award Budget	\$19,272,543.63	\$0	\$0	\$19,272,543.63
Actual Expenditures	\$19,264,584.36	\$0	\$0	\$19,264,584.36
Encumbrances	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Available Balance	\$7,959.27	\$0	\$0	\$7,959.27

NOTE: Section 1 "Finances" Actual expenditures contains data for SFYs 22-24, First PEAFF allotment \$17,411,149.25. Second PEAFF allotment \$1,861,394.38. SFY22 expenditures \$16,901,275.73, SFY23 expenditures \$508,280.80. SFY 24 returned checks and related charges \$ 1,855,027.83 Available balances reflect Annual Budget minus expenditures for the time frames for SFYs 22 -24.

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2. RESULTS BUDGETED/ACHIEVED

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
<p>1. TANF FEDERAL PURPOSE #1: <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 December 2023 through May 2024, a total of 179,966 recipients (42,474 adults and 137,492 children) received cash assistance through the Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP). • The number of recipients receiving KTAP has significantly increased in the last year. Looking at data prior to the KTAP Modernization, from June 2022 to November 2022, a total of 121,896 recipients (20,482 adults and 101,414 children) received KTAP cash assistance.
<p>2. TANF FEDERAL PURPOSE #2: <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 December 2023, 12,734 families received KTAP. The number of families receiving assistance increased to 14,036 in May 2024. In December 2023, there were 28,261 individuals including 6,385 adults and 21,876 children. In May 2024, the number of individuals, adults, & children receiving KTAP increased to 31,930 individuals: including 7,824 adults and 24,106 children. • There were 1,788 adults working in April 2024 (unsubsidized employment), compared to 810 in April 2023. The monthly average of adults working during December 2023 to May 2024 was 1,714, also during this time period an average of 195 KTAP cases per month Discontinued due to employment. • There were 5,258 Kentucky Works Program (KWP) participants in adult education, high school, and college for April 2024 and a monthly average of 4,665 from December 2023 to May 2024.

2. RESULTS BUDGETED/ACHIEVED (continued)

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the month of December 2023, 5,246 KTAP recipients, or 68% of the KTAP recipients who are required to participate in KWP, were participating in some kind of Kentucky Works Program activity. Not all of these activities were counted in the federal participation rate. In April 2024, 6,418 KTAP recipients were federally required to participate in some Kentucky Works activity, and 69% were participating. • Other supportive services were provided for a monthly average of 23 KTAP recipients from December 2023 through May 2024. 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 December 2023 to May 2024, Relocation Assistance (RAP) was provided to 72 families during this time period. • Family Alternatives Short Term (FAST) was provided to 104 families during the time period of December 2022 to May 2023, with an average of 17 families per month. • From December 2023 through May 2024, an average monthly number of 2,168 children (including children in Kinship Care) were provided child care services with TANF funds.
<p>3. TANF FEDERAL PURPOSE #3: <i>“Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.”</i></p> <p>➤ Teen Pregnancy Prevention ➤ Statutory Rape Prevention</p>	<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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4. TANF FEDERAL PURPOSE #4:
“Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.”

➤ “Next Level” Fatherhood

- In October 2024, the , the Department for Community Based Services, Division of Family Support (DCBS DFS) will participate in the 6th annual Kentucky Fatherhood Summit. The Fatherhood summit is hosted by the Department of Income Support, Child Support Enforcement (DIS CSE) and the Commonwealth Center for Fathers and Families (CCFF); and is a collaborative project with DCBS/DFS.
- This years theme is “Next Level” Fatherhood. It will be held at the Campbell House Inn, in Lexington, Ky. DCBS will participate as an exhibitor, providing information on TANF, SNAP, and CCAP benefits as well as Protection & Permanency family programs.
- 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

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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, 2023.

4. EVALUATION OF RESULTS

The monthly average of KTAP families for the months of December 2023 through May 2024 was obtained by averaging the total number of cases (families) during this time. 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 5,366 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 December 2023 through May 2024.

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.

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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 December 2023 through May 2024, an average of 194 individuals per month received WIN.

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 May 2024, there were 1,226 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 May 2024, there were 74 families with extended benefits due to meeting a hardship extension reason. During the time period of December 2023 through May 2024, there was a monthly average of 31 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 December 2023 to May 2024, 3 families received Safety Net services.

6. OTHER NEWS

March 1, 2023, Modernization overhauled KTAP income limits and payment amounts. The Gross Income Limit and the Standard of Need increased 20%, and the Payment Maximum amounts were doubled. The resource limit was increased to \$10,000 for a family. Many of the benefits available under Supportive Services were also increased. WIN payments have increased from \$130 for 9 consecutive months to \$200 for 12 consecutive months. The payment for Relocation Assistance Program payments has increased from \$500 to \$1,500 and can now be issued to prevent homelessness, Transportation payments were increased to \$300 for 6 or more days and \$50 for 5 days or less, educational bonus was increased to \$500 per eligible person. Car repairs were increased from \$1,500 in a 12- month period to \$3,000 in a 12- month period. Since the modernization the number of KTAP recipients has increased from 19,046 in February 2023 to 31,930 in May 2024