

BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT

December 1, 2019 – May 31, 2020

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

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:

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Commissioner

8/6/2020

Date

1. FINANCES	Federal Funds	General Funds	Trust/Local Match	Total
Annual Budget	\$180,689,420.00	\$55,980,000.00	\$0.00	\$252,602,520.00
Actual Expenditures	\$101,452,413.46	\$55,977,358.72	\$0.00	\$157,429,772.18
Encumbrances	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Available Balance	\$79,237,006.54	\$2,641.28	\$0.00	\$95,172,747.82

2. RESULTS BUDGETED/ACHIEVED

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
1. Provide cash assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of families.	1. From December 2019 through May 2020, a monthly average of 13,616 families (4,744 adults and 26,214 children) received cash assistance through the Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (K-TAP).
2. Provide supportive services, within budget limitations, to enable K-TAP recipients to participate in job preparation and work with the goal of family self-sufficiency.	<p>2. In December 2019, 13,716 families received K-TAP. The number of families receiving assistance increased to 13,944 in May 2020. In December 2019, there were 30,970 individuals including 4,710 adults and 26,260 children receiving K-TAP. In May 2020, the number of individuals receiving K-TAP increased to 32,204 individuals, comprised of 5,165 adults and 27,039 children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were 826 adult K-TAP recipients working in May 2020 (unsubsidized employment), compared to 1,168 in December 2019; a 29.2% decrease in unsubsidized employment. The monthly average of adults working during this time period was 1,006. • There were 1,625 recipients in adult education, high school, college, and skills training in May 2020 with a monthly average of 1,660. • During December 2019, 3,358 K-TAP recipients, or 79% of the recipients who are required to participate, were participating in some Kentucky Works activity. These activities are not all counted toward the federal participation rate. In May 2020, 3,564 K-TAP recipients were required to participate in some Kentucky Works activity, but only 42% were participating. This drastic decrease in KWP participation was due to K-TAP recipients being unable to participate in the Kentucky Works Program due to the COVID-19 pandemic. • Other supportive services were provided for a monthly average of 34 K-TAP recipients from December 2019 through May 2020. • From December 2019 to May 2020, relocation assistance was provided to 5 families.

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Department: Community Based Services (DCBS) Block Grant: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families**2. RESULTS BUDGETED/ACHIEVED (continued)**

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Alternatives Diversion (FAD) was provided to 38 families during the time period of December 2019 to May 2020, with an average of 6 families per month. This was a decrease from 86 families during the time period of June 2019 to November 2019, (average of 14 families per month). For the period December 2019 through May 2020, an average monthly number of 1,627 children (including children in Kinship Care) were provided child care services with TANF funds.
<p>3. Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.</p>	<p>3. In September 2019, several members of the Division of Family Support (DFS) participated in the 2019 Kentucky Fatherhood Summit, held in Lexington, Kentucky. The Fatherhood Summit is a project hosted by the Department for Income Support/Child Support Enforcement (DIS/CSE); and is a collaborative project with DCBS/DFS, and the Justice & Public Safety Cabinet/Department of Corrections. DCBS/DFS continues to be involved with the Commonwealth Center for Fathers & Families (CCFF) Advisory Council, which is focused on planning the 2020 Fatherhood Summit, and building a partnership between government agencies & community partners to further the TANF goals of responsible fatherhood and two-parent family formation. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the 2020 Fatherhood Summit will be a virtual event on Zoom in Fall 2020.</p>

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.

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4. EVALUATION OF RESULTS

The monthly average of K-TAP families for the months of December 2019 through May 2020 was obtained by averaging the total number of cases (families) during this time period. The number of K-TAP 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 9,251 child-only K-TAP cases that did not contain an adult member in the case. The number of K-TAP families and recipients who received assistance was obtained from the PA-264 reports for December 2019 through May 2020. 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.

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 K-TAP. 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 K-TAP 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 K-TAP 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 2019 through May 2020, an average of 161 individuals per month received WIN. This figure shows a trend of decreasing WIN recipients, from prior averages of 230 WIN recipients per month for the time period of 6/2019-11/2019, 289 for the time period of 12/2018-5/2019, 335 for 6/2018-11/2018, and 383 WIN recipients for 12/2017-5/2018.

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 2020, there were 3,580 children in the Kinship Care program, a 3.1% decrease from December 2019. Effective April 1, 2013, no new Kinship Care applications have been accepted due to a moratorium placed on the program. At the time of the KC moratorium in April 2013, there were 11,281 children receiving Kinship Care.

Special steps are taken to ensure K-TAP recipients know about the 60-month lifetime limitation so they can take advantage of the Kentucky Works program. Up to 20% of the K-TAP caseload may be exempted from time limitations due to hardship. As of May 2020, there were 91 families with extended benefits due to meeting a hardship extension reason. During the time period of December 2019 through May 2020, there was a monthly average of 20 families discontinued due to reaching the 60-month time limit.

CHFS staff visits K-TAP families that are nearing discontinuance due to time limitations to ensure children are safe and to identify any emergency needs. Safety net services are available to a post-K-TAP family who has lost assistance due to reaching the 60-month lifetime TANF limit, or had their 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. Safety net data for May 2020 was not available for this report. During the time period of December 2019 through April 2020, 23 families received safety net services.