

BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT

December 1, 2020 – May 31, 2021

Department: Community Based ServicesBlock 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:

Marta Miranda-Straub

8/1/2021

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Commissioner

Date

1. FINANCES	Federal Funds	General Funds	Trust/Local Match	Total
Annual Budget	\$ 180,689,420.00	\$ 53,503,700.00	0.00	\$ 234,193,120.00
Actual Expenditures	\$ 19,420,068.38	\$ 44,321,029.06	0.00	\$ 63,741,097.44
Encumbrances	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Available Balance	\$ 109,202,077.77	\$ 358,842.59	0.00	\$ 109,560,920.36

NOTE: Section 1 "Finances" contains data for 1/2021-6/2021. Due to data collection timeframes, the TANF data for all other sections contains data for the six month time period of 12/2020-5/2021.

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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From December 2020 through May 2021, a monthly average of 11,486 families (4,064 adults and 22,542 children) received cash assistance through the Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP). The number of families receiving KTAP has decreased significantly in the last year, from December 2019 through May 2020, a monthly average of 13,616 families (4,744 adults and 26,214 children) received KTAP case assistance.
2. Provide supportive services, within budget limitations, to enable KTAP recipients to participate in job preparation and work with the goal of family self-sufficiency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In December 2020, 12,607 families received KTAP. The number of families receiving assistance decreased to 10,662 in May 2021. In December 2020, there were 28,190 individuals including 4,350 adults and 23,840 children. In May 2021, the number of individuals, adults and children, receiving KTAP decreased to 24,857 individuals (3,709 adults and 21,148 children). There were 646 adults working in May 2021 (unsubsidized employment), compared to 728 in December 2020, an approximate 11% decrease in unsubsidized employment. The monthly average of adults working during this time period was 672. From December 2020 to May 2021, an average of 97 KTAP cases per month discontinued due to employment.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were 289 Kentucky Works Program participants in adult education, high school, and college for May 2021, with a monthly average of 308.
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2. RESULTS BUDGETED/ACHIEVED (continued)

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During December 2020, 3,294 KTAP recipients, or 45% 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 2021, 2,835 KTAP recipients were required to participate in some Kentucky Works activity, but only 45% were participating. 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 crisis. • Other supportive services were provided for a monthly average of 6 KTAP recipients from December 2020 through May 2021. • From December 2020 to May 2021, Relocation Assistance (RAP) was provided to zero families during this time period. Due to the nationwide COVID-19 Pandemic, the need for Relocation Assistance was significantly reduced. • Family Alternatives Diversion (FAD) was provided to 9 families during the time period of December 2020 to May 2021, with an average of 2 families per month. Looking at data prior to the pandemic, 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 2020 through May 2021, an average monthly number of 917 children (including children in Kinship Care) were provided child care services with TANF funds.

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<p>3. Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In September 2019, the Division of Family Support (DFS) participated in the 1st Annual 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. ● Although 2020's 2nd Annual Kentucky Fatherhood Summit was originally planned to be an in-person event, the 2020 summit was modified to become a 100% virtual event due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2020 Virtual KY Fatherhood Summit was successfully held in October 2020. ● DCBS/DFS continues to be involved with the Commonwealth Center for Fathers & Families (CCFF) Advisory Council, which is focused on planning the 2021 Fatherhood Summit, and building a partnership between government agencies & community partners to further the TANF goals of responsible fatherhood and two-parent family formation. The 3rd Annual Kentucky Fatherhood Summit is scheduled for October 2021. ● Kentucky state government is a leader in the field of fatherhood conferences/summits, and other states such as Indiana state government have met with Kentucky DIS & DCBS officials to help design their own fatherhood summit.
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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.

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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.

4. EVALUATION OF RESULTS

The monthly average of KTAP families for the months of December 2020 through May 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 7,099 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 2020 through May 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.

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 2020 through May 2021, an average of 86 individuals per month received WIN. Pre-pandemic, 210 individuals received WIN in December 2019.

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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 2021, there were 1,701 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 2021, there were 125 families with extended benefits due to meeting a hardship extension reason. During the time period of December 2020 through May 2021, there was a monthly average of 36 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 2020 to May 2021, an average of one family per month statewide received Safety Net services.