

Special Report of RI Works Participation 2011

The Administration for Children and Families, the federal partner in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), directed states to provide additional information about participation in work-related activities for the month of March, 2011 and for the following quarter, April – June, 2011. Special system programming was able to elicit more detailed information about RI Works participation than is usually available. Only the participation of RI Works parents or caretakers that are required to be engaged in work-related activities (or temporarily exempted) is reported below; it does not include parents receiving SSI or relative caretakers who are not themselves receiving RI Works cash assistance. This information is shared with the public as both the federal and state programs consider program improvements.

Data for all four months are provided in the table below. For example, in March, 2011, there were 4,778 work-eligible individuals in 4,260 cases. There were 436 who participated in activities at their required number of average hours for the month (9.1%), with no more than 2 excused absences for the month. Additionally, 864 individuals participated in countable activities, although not for all of their required minimum hours (18.1%), 68 more who participated but their activities were beyond the TANF statutory limit (1.4%), and 183 more who participated in job readiness but for whom hours of participation were not collected (3.8%). Of the remaining work-eligible individuals, 2051 did not have an active employment plan that month (42.9%), while 103 had plans in which the activities had not yet begun. There were 150 new applicants. Another 474 either had a child under the age of one or had been sanctioned that month (these two categories of work-eligible individuals are disregarded from the Work Participation Rate (WPR) calculation). In addition, the state exempted 408 other work-eligible individuals, including 275 who were in their 3rd trimester, 44 who were applying for SSI, 34 who were caring for family members with disabilities, and 55 with domestic violence waivers.

	March 2011	April 2011	May 2011	June 2011
Work-Eligible Individuals	4778	4780	4818	4823
Cases	4260	4274	4310	4327
Fully Participated; WPR-countable	436 (9.1%)	412 (8.6%)	450 (9.3%)	437 (9.1%)
Partially Participated; noncountable	864 (18.1%)	1075 (22.5%)	898 (18.6%)	903 (18.7%)
Participated but beyond TANF limits	68 (1.4%)	77 (1.6%)	69 (1.4%)	100 (2.1%)
Possibly participated but hours uncoll.	183 (3.8%)	169 (3.5%)	170 (3.5%)	151 (3.1%)
No employment plan	2051 (42.9%)	2036 (42.6%)	2135 (44.3%)	2083 (43.2%)
Plan but activity not yet begun	103 (2.2%)	38 (<1%)	48 (<1%)	101 (2.1%)
New applicants	150 (3.1%)	130 (2.7%)	189 (3.9%)	156 (3.2%)
Family disregarded in WPR (child < 1 or sanctioned)	474 (9.9%)	428 (9.0%)	423 (8.8%)	427 (8.9%)
State exempted (likely 3 rd trimester)	275 (5.8%)	260 (5.4%)	260 (5.4%)	276 (5.7%)
State exempted (disability of parent)	44 (<1%)	44 (<1%)	41 (<1%)	44 (<1%)
State exempted (caring for family with disability)	34 (<1%)	32 (<1%)	30 (<1%)	33 (<1%)
State exempted (DV waiver)	55 (1.2%)	59 (1.2%)	57 (1.2%)	57 (1.2%)