

STRATEGIC GOAL 6:

Improve the Economic and Social Well-being of Individuals, Families, and Communities, Especially Those Most in Need

HHS promotes and supports interventions that help disadvantaged and distressed individuals, families, and communities improve their economic and social well-being. To achieve this strategic goal, HHS targets efforts to increase the independence and stability of low-income families, people with disabilities, older Americans, Native Americans, victims of domestic violence, refugees, and distressed communities.

This report highlights two programs that contribute to achieving this strategic goal including the Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and Administration on Aging (AoA) Services Program.

HHS partners with community and faith based organizations to make available services to individuals and communities in need. ACF's Office of Family Assistance and AoA's Aging Services program illustrate HHS' commitment to self-sufficiency. ACF's TANF program promotes work and self-sufficiency to improve the economic well-being of individuals and families through various state- and Tribal-administered programs. The Aging Services program ensures that local services are provided to seniors who are at risk of losing their independence.

Highlighted Programs

- 6a: ACF Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- 6b: AoA Aging Services Program

6a Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

Significance

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a time limited block grant program that focuses on work and responsibility. States have broad flexibility in the design of their programs including setting eligibility rule and the extent of benefits and services provided to families. Under TANF, adults receiving assistance are expected to engage in work activities and develop the capability to support themselves and their family before the time-limited assistance runs out. States are required to assist recipients in making the transition to employment.

The TANF Job Retention Rate is one of several work-related measures. It measures the unduplicated number of employed adult recipients in each quarter of the performance year who were also employed in the first and second subsequent quarters. (At some point, the adult might have become a former recipient). This goal is important because it is through employment that recipients gain skills, become self-reliant, and move towards self-sufficiency. Society gains a more productive member and tax dollars are more effectively utilized.

Performance Measure	Fiscal Year 2006		
	Target	Actual	Result
Increase the percentage of adult TANF recipients/former recipients employed in one quarter that were still employed in the next two consecutive quarters.	61%*	10/2007	Deferred
Data Source: National Directory of New Hires			

*Revised target published in the FY 2007 Congressional Justification.

Result Analysis

In FY 2005, the job retention rate was 64.8 percent, missing the 68 percent target. The 68 percent target for FY 2005 did not take into consideration the dampening effect of the caseload reduction credit, which reduced recipient work participation rates. In addition, the current employment retention measure represents a more rigorous measure than the one used prior to FY 2000, because it measures job retention for a longer period of time. Whereas the previous measure assessed job retention for one subsequent quarter, the current measure looks at retention for two subsequent quarters. FY 2006 results will be available in October 2007, due to time needed for States to compile and report data and for ACF to analyze the data.

The program has revised targets for FY 2006 and out years to reflect the effects of the caseload reduction credit, as well as the changes in the definition of the performance measure. However, the targets will be updated again because of the passage of the TANF reauthorization legislation, which strengthens the work requirements to ensure adult TANF recipients are engaged in work or activities leading to employment.

Trends Performance Measure	Fiscal Year Actual				
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Increase the percentage of adult TANF recipients/former recipients employed in one quarter that were still employed in the next two consecutive quarters.	59%	59%	59%	64.8%	10/2007

Data Collection

States provide quarterly lists of monthly adult recipient social security numbers, which are matched against the National Directory of New Hires (NDNH). TANF recipient data validity is ensured with normal audit functions such as the Single State Audit. The Office of Child Support Enforcement monitors/manages the NDNH system. The Office of Child Support Enforcement ensures data validity of the NDNH through various activities including error reports and data quality analyses.

Completeness

The data are limited by the fact that self-employment and some farm employment are not included in the NDNH; however, this is only a small portion of all employment.

Reliability

The TANF job entry, job retention and earnings gain employment data are derived from matching TANF adult recipient social security numbers against the NDNH wage data base. All employers are required to report quarterly wage information to the State Employment Agencies, which in turn are required to report this information to the NDNH. The NDNH wage data base is the most complete national set of wage information available and includes federal employment wages.

6b Aging Services Program
Administration on Aging (AoA)

Significance

The Aging Services program, which includes all AoA program activities, makes essential home and community-based services available across the country to elderly people and family caregivers to help keep America's rapidly growing elderly population healthy, secure and independent in the community. To accomplish this, AoA awards grants to States, Tribal organizations, and other organizations to support a network of aging service providers. Services provided to elderly people include but are not limited to: meals, transportation, caregiver support, personal care, information and assistance, nursing-home ombudsman, elder rights protection, and health promotion. This report highlights a single, fundamental measure of the performance of the aging network to reflect AoA's effectiveness in helping elderly people maintain their independence in the community.

Performance Measure	Fiscal Year 2006		
	Target	Actual	Result
Increase the number of severely disabled clients ¹ who receive selected home and community-based services.	322,522 (base + 15%)	02/2007	Deferred
Data Source: National Survey of Older Americans Act Service Recipients			

Result Analysis

In FY 2005, AoA served home-delivered meals to 313,362 severely disabled elderly people, an increase of 11.7 percent over the baseline, which exceeds the FY 2005 performance target of 302,000. In FY 2004, AoA improved performance, serving home delivered meals to 293,500 severely disabled elders. It is a positive indicator that the network achieved a four percent increase in this critical performance measure in one year. In FY 2003, approximately 280,000 severely disabled elderly people received home-delivered meals, roughly 30 percent of all older individuals who received such services. In February 2007 AoA will report the FY 2006 results.

Performance Measure	Trends	Fiscal Year Actual				
		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Increase the number of severely disabled clients who receive selected home and community-based services.		N/A	280,454 (baseline)	293,500	313,362	02/2007

Data Collection

State Agencies on Aging are required to collect, compile, and annually transmit to AoA the State Program Report which contains Older American's Act program information and data. In addition, AoA, in partnership with State and Area Agencies on Aging, conducts an annual National Survey of Recipients of Older American's Act Services to obtain consumer-reported outcome information; the research contractor conducts these National Surveys.

Completeness

AoA's National Surveys employ a range of quality assurance procedures to guarantee the validity of data on Older Americans Act participants and services. These quality assurance procedures cover all steps in the survey process, from the development of the samples of agencies and service recipients, to the computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) editing that occurs during the survey, and the post-survey weighting of the data to assure the sample is truly representative of the universe of clients and services.

¹ AoA defines severely disabled elderly people as those with three or more Activities of Daily Living limitations who are therefore nursing home eligible.

After the surveys are complete, range and consistency checks and edits, in conjunction with the CATI software applications ensure that only correct responses appear in the data files. Also, the statisticians weight the data during three important post-survey steps to ensure accuracy. First the sample of agencies and clients is weighted using the universe of the probability of selection. Second, there is an adjustment for any non-response patterns and bias that might otherwise occur. Third, the data are post-stratified to known control totals to ensure consistency with official administrative records. Accompanying all survey responses are confidence intervals for measuring the precision of the survey results. This ensures that the data reported by AoA are statistically sound and a precise representation of performance in the Older Americans Act programs.

Reliability

Through the National Survey of Recipients of Older Americans Act Services, AoA focuses on the assessment of quality through consumer surveys. A highly experienced survey research firm is the contractor that conducted AoA's national surveys of service recipients and they employ numerous validation procedures to assure data quality. Survey data quality is good; survey response rates are consistently above 80 percent and the data are consistent with similar data collections conducted by state grantees. Survey results can be found at <http://www.aoa.gov/about/results>.

For the annual State Program Report submissions, AoA reviews the data, obtains revised submissions as needed, certifies the data and releases it to the public. Descriptive material on this report and its results are on AoA's website at <http://www.aoa.gov/prof/agingnet/NAPIS/napis.asp>.