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**Results and Recommendations from the Cognitive  
Pretesting of the 2003 SIPP Welfare Reform Module**

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## **Results & Recommendations from the Cognitive Pretesting of the 2003 SIPP Welfare Reform Module**

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### **BACKGROUND**

This report reflects the Center for Survey Methods Research's (CSMR's) evaluation of the 2003 SIPP Welfare Reform Module. The purpose of this evaluation is to examine respondents' reactions to both the new and revised questions, in the module, and their knowledge of their welfare benefits.

Three major areas of change from the 1996 SIPP Welfare Reform Module were the focus of the cognitive interviews. They include:

- understanding of the term "work" (how respondents refer to things that are not actually work (e.g., training) but are requirements to stay eligible for welfare),
- sanctions and term limits (respondents' awareness and understanding of the policy and terminology related to limits on the amount of time adults can continue to receive welfare),
- "child only" households (how reporting occurs for households in which children, but not adults, receive benefits).

In addition to the welfare reform module, the interview also include questions from the core instrument that were necessary to identify the persons who receive specific questions in the module, or to provide information for the fills in the module questions.

This report contains the results of the cognitive interviews. In the next section, we describe the methodology used to conduct the interviews. Following that, we document the results of 16 problems we encountered during the interviews. These problems are presented in the order of their appearance in the questionnaire.

### **RESEARCH METHODS**

In October of 2003, CSMR staff<sup>1</sup> conducted concurrent think-aloud interviews with fourteen respondents in Philadelphia, PA and Seattle/Tacoma, Washington, which 1996 data showed to have high incidences of cases that were relevant to these areas of focus. Interviews ranged in duration from 45 minutes to an hour and were audio-taped after gaining respondents' consent.

Recruiting was conducted through local welfare agencies in the target areas, and the interviews were conducted in the agency offices. Respondents represented a variety of demographic groups: all were

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<sup>1</sup> Interviews were conducted by Kristen Hughes, Jennifer Hunter, and Yuling Pan.

female; four were Black/African-American, six were Caucasian, and three listed themselves as “Some other race”; respondents ranged in age from 22 to 47. Thirteen of the respondents had children who lived in the household, while one respondent had grandchildren who lived in the household. All but one respondent had received at least one type of means-tested benefit within the reference period.

## **CORE FINDINGS**

Respondents were able to answer most questions without problems. There were, however, a few concepts that they were not familiar with. Respondents were not familiar with General Assistance or General Relief. They also did not know what was meant by Short-term cash assistance. This will be discussed further in the next section.

A surprising finding to the researchers was that respondents did not know that they were, in fact, receiving Medicaid. Respondents in WA referred to this assistance as the “medical coupon” and respondents in PA referred to it as “medical assistance.” In many cases they said that they did not receive Medicaid, but they did receive this other form of medical assistance. In both states, administrators here able to confirm that the assistance that respondents receive is Medicaid.

## **MODULE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

For the most part, the module was smoothly administered. There were few problems with the flow, and changes regarding these problems are found below. The module as it was tested is included in Appendix A. Problems are presented in the order they are found in the module. A revised module is included in Appendix B.

### **PROBLEM 1:**

#### **WR06. WORDING FOR NON-GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES**

**Did the government give your employer any money to cover all or part of your hiring, training, or wages?**

Or **WORDING FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES**

**Did a welfare or social service agency pay your EMPLOYING agency part of the cost of your hiring, training, or wages?**

OR **WORDING FOR MULTIPLE JOB HOLDERS AND CONTINGENT WORKERS**

**Did a welfare or social service agency give any of your employers money to cover all or part of your hiring, training, or wages?**

Yes

No

In this case, respondents seemed to lack the necessary knowledge to answer the question.

The respondents who were in a program where they were paid by the welfare office, but worked for an outside agency reported here that the government pays their wages. However, this is not a wage

subsidy because the government is not giving the employer money to cover wages. Instead, the recipient is working for another agency but being paid *directly* by the government.

Some respondents who knew their employer received a “tax break” for hiring them reported this here, and others did not (i.e., one explicitly said “no” then went on to say that they only received a tax break for hiring her).

What is meant by “training” is unclear. Most of the people we spoke with received training through a program offered by the state - money for this program was not given to the employer, though it was sometimes reported during the loop as being relevant to this question.

In sum, respondents do not seem to know if their wages, hiring or training is subsidized. In fact, they may not have this information.

**RECOMMENDATION 1:**

Given the lack of knowledge of the respondent about these government subsidies, we would recommend that the question be dropped.

However, if it is necessary to keep this question, the follow-up question from the loop (i.e. WR36A) should be asked as WR06 part B. Some problems answering the follow-up question in loop 2 may stem from the unnecessary distance between these questions.

The follow-up could read as follows:

**WR06B. What specifically was that for: HIRING, TRAINING or WAGES? Or more than one of these?**

**MARK ALL THAT APPLY**

- Hiring
- Training
- Wages
- Don't know
- Refused

**FINAL OUTCOME 1:**

The sponsors determined that asking this question was necessary and the revised ordering and wording was accepted.

**PROBLEM 2:**

**WR10. Since June 1<sup>st</sup>, did you receive any clothing assistance or clothes, such as assistance to buy uniforms, work clothes, or school or winter clothes for children?**

Yes

No

Several respondents misinterpreted this question as being asked only for children. This can be easily remedied by rewording.

**RECOMMENDATION 2:**

**Since June 1<sup>st</sup>, did you receive any clothing assistance or clothes, such as assistance to buy school or winter clothes for children, uniforms or work clothes?**

**FINAL OUTCOME 2:**

Changes accepted.

**PROBLEM 3:**

**WR15. WORDING FOR RESPONDENTS THAT STARTED A “REGULAR” JOB DURING THE REFERENCE PERIOD**

**To get the (job/jobs) with (read above for name or names of employers), did (you) get any help from a government or social service agency or from a case worker or social worker?**

Or **WORDING FOR CONTINGENT WORKERS WITH A HOUSEHOLD INCOME BELOW THE INCOME THRESHOLD**

**To get any of the work (you) did since (MONTH) 1st, did (you) get any help from a government or social service agency or from a case worker or social worker?**

Yes

No

This question made respondents think of a particular person who “helped” them get a job. One R reported “no” here because the instructor at her training center helped her get a job and she said that person was not a government employee. She drew a distinction between the people at the welfare office and the people at the training center.

Most respondents think of “help” as being set up with a potential employer. Only a few think of “help” as receiving training to assist them in finding a job. In fact, most respondents did receive the latter form of help, but did not report it here. Only a few reported the prior form of help.

**RECOMMENDATION 3:**

Delete references to particular people. Focus attention on the government and social service agencies instead.

**WR15. WORDING FOR RESPONDENTS THAT STARTED A “REGULAR” JOB  
DURING THE REFERENCE PERIOD**

**To get the (job/jobs) with (read above for name or names of employers), did (you) get any help from a government or social service agency?**

Or **WORDING FOR CONTINGENT WORKERS WITH A HOUSEHOLD  
INCOME BELOW THE INCOME THRESHOLD**

**To get any of the work (you) did since (MONTH) 1st, did (you) get any help from a government or social service agency?**

Yes

No

**FINAL OUTCOME 3:**

Changes accepted.

**PROBLEM 4:**

**WR16. Which of the following activities have you done since June 1st either because the welfare or social service office required it for you to receive (FILL: Public Assistance, Food Stamps, or Housing Assistance (or combination)) or because you chose to do it:**

**WR16@2 Worked in an unpaid job, sometimes called community service or workfare?**

Yes

No

None of the respondents in the desired programs affirmed this statement. Most respondents were not familiar with the term “workfare,” which was the key term in this question. The concept of workfare is that recipients work off their benefits or otherwise do work in exchange for their benefits. Respondents did not interpret this question as intended. Instead, they interpreted unpaid job as a method of developing skills for future employment and community service as volunteer work or court appointed work.

No one who actually did this type of work correctly identified it. Respondents talked about this work in terms of gaining experience so that they could obtain a “real job.” Some thought that at the conclusion of this work (which usually spanned 6 to 9 months) they would be hired by the agency. In this manner, they thought it was similar to a trial period.

**RECOMMENDATION 4:**

Revise question wording to eliminate the term “workfare” and capture the goals of the question.

Please note that this new question wording is substantially different from the tested wording and was not tested in a second round of testing. We know respondents were not interpreting the old question correctly. We think that the revised wording is an improvement, but we cannot present any evidence of this.

The revised wording below enumerates all the places where changes need to be incorporated into the questionnaire.

**WR16@2      Worked in exchange for your benefits or to gain experience?**

Yes

No

**LOOP 12 -- FOR PERSONS REPORTING “WORKED IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR BENEFITS OR TO GAIN EXPERIENCE” (WR16@2)**

**WR81. You said that you worked in exchange for your benefits or to gain experience since June 1st. Was that at:**

- (1)      A Government organization, including a public school or a government social service agency**
- (2)      A Private, For Profit, Company ---> Skip to WR84**
- (3)      Or a Non-Profit Organization, including tax exempt and charitable organizations ---> Skip to WR84**

(DK/R — Skip to WR84)

**WR88. Did that work in exchange for your benefits or to gain experience actually lead to a regular, paying job?**

Yes

No

**WR97. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM — DO NOT READ**

**DID YOU ALSO COLLECT THE RESPONDENT'S WORK IN EXCHANGE FOR BENEFITS INFORMATION IN SIPP CORE (WHEN ASKING ABOUT JOBS HELD OR WORK DONE)?**

Yes

No

Not sure

**FINAL OUTCOME 4:**

Changes accepted.

**PROBLEM 5:**

**WR16. Which of the following activities have you done since June 1st either because the welfare or social service office required it for you to receive (FILL: Public Assistance, Food Stamps, or Housing Assistance (or combination)) or because you chose to do it:**

**WR16@3 ASK IF FEMALE AND BIOLOGICAL PARENT OF DEPENDENT KIDS < 18 WHOSE BIOLOGICAL FATHER IS NOT IN THE HOUSEHOLD**

**Established the paternity of a child?**

Yes

No

Respondents did not always understand what was meant by “establishing paternity.” Some falsely reported yes because they knew who the father was (without testing).

**RECOMMENDATION 5:**



**Had a test to establish the paternity of a child?**

Yes

No

**FINAL OUTCOME 5:**

Changes accepted.

**PROBLEM 6:**

LOOP 1 -- FOR PERSONS REPORTING (JOBSRCH) OR (JOBTRAIN) OR (WR15)  
AND HAS A JOB OR CONTINGENT WORKERS

WR23 WORDING FOR RESPONDENTS THAT HAVE A "REGULAR" JOB IN THE  
REFERENCE PERIOD (**Show roster of jobs**)

**You said you received help finding the job with (read above for name or names  
of employers). Which of the following kinds of assistance did you receive —**

OR WORDING FOR CONTINGENT WORKERS WITH A HOUSEHOLD INCOME  
BELOW THE INCOME THRESHOLD

**You said you received help finding the work you did since June 1<sup>st</sup>. Which of  
the following kinds of assistance did you receive —**

WR23@1 **Resume writing?** Yes/No

WR23@2 **Learning how to interview?** Yes/No

WR23@3 **Learning how to dress for work or an interview?** Yes/No

WR23@4 **Self-esteem building?** Yes/No

WR23@5 **Computer training?** Yes/No

WR23@6 **Other office clerical skills?** Yes/No

WR23@7 **Machinery training, such as using certain machines or tools?** Yes/No

WR23@8 **Any other specific job skills training?** Yes/No

RESPONDENTS WHO ANSWERED YES ONLY TO WR15, SKIP OVER THE  
NEXT 2 ITEMS SINCE THEY DON'T FIT; SKIP DOWN TO WR23@11

WR23@9 **Work towards a high school diploma or GED?** Yes/No

WR23@10 **Work towards a college degree or certificate?** Yes/No

WR23@11 **Literacy training?** Yes/No

WR23@12 **Referrals to jobs or access to job listings?** Yes/No

WR23@13 (AT FR DISCRETION) **English as a second language, ESL instruction?**  
Yes/No

WR23@14 **Some other kind of training or education or job search help?** Yes/No

IF YES: **What was that?** \_\_\_\_\_

ASK IF ANSWERED YES ONE OR MORE WR23@1 - WR23@8 OR WR23@11 - WR23@14;  
OTHERS SKIP TO WR25.

**WR24. Did any of that training or assistance actually lead to a job?**

Yes

No

**WR25. Did you pay anything for the education, job search, or training you received since June 1st?**

Yes

No

The universe for this question is not sufficient to yield quality data. The version of the module that was tested restricted the universe for this loop to those with a job. This explicitly excludes respondents who have gone through equal training and have failed to get a job. For this reason, data from WR24 would be falsely inflated - asking the question only of those respondents who have gotten a job and not asking of those whose training did not lead to getting a job.

During the cognitive test, we used an extended reference period for WR15 (shown in problem 3) to encompass respondents who got a job since the beginning of welfare reform (i.e. August 1996). However, this lead to problems within the universe.

Answering “yes” to any one of the following 3 questions will place a respondent in this loop: WR15 (reporting getting help from a government or social service agency to get a current job); JOBSRCH from the core (reporting that social services or welfare provided job training, Job Club, a job search program or anything else to help one find a job); or JOBTRAIN from the core (reporting that one attended school or training because social services or a welfare office paid for, referred or sent one there). However, the reference period is not the same for these three questions.

The reference period for JOBSRCH and JOBTRAIN is only the past 4 months, which is the normal SIPP reference period. Respondents who received job training or assistance finding a job prior to the reference period, but got a job either before or within the reference period will not enter the loop. However, the reference period for WR15 is August 1996 to the present, allowing many more people into the loop who received help getting their current job prior to the 4 month reference period.

The result is that the universe in the loop is respondents with jobs who either received training or assistance with job search **during the reference period** OR respondents with jobs who got help from the government to get a job **since 1996**. Receiving training and assistance with job search (as measured by JOBSRCH and JOBTRAIN) does not mean the same to respondents as does, getting help from the government to get a job (as measured by WR15). Respondents who received training

which helped them get a job outside the reference period of 4 months will not get into this loop, but respondents who got help from the government to get a job up to six years ago will get in. This creates an uneven universe.

**RECOMMENDATION 6:**

We recommend that the universe be restricted, as it was before, to those answering yes to JOBTRAIN, JOBSRCH, or WR15 within the normal reference period (4 months) - **but adding those persons whose training has not lead to a job.**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> lead-in could read as follows:

WORDING FOR RESPONDENTS THAT DID NOT HAVE A JOB IN THE  
REFERENCE PERIOD

**You said you received help looking for a job. Which of the following kinds of  
assistance did you receive —**

Add the following question prior to 24:

WR24a. **Have you completed the training?**

Yes

No      GO TO 25

**FINAL OUTCOME 6:**

Changes accepted.

**PROBLEM 7:**

Loop 2: FOR PERSONS REPORTING “JOB SUBSIDY” (WR06)

**W36A**

**Earlier you said that since June 1st, your employer received government  
assistance to cover all or part of your hiring, training, or wages. What  
specifically was that for: HIRING, TRAINING or WAGES? Or more than one  
of these?**

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

Hiring

Training

Wages

Don't know

Refused

The success of this question is entirely dependent on the success of WR06. See Problem 1.

**RECOMMENDATION 7:**

Move follow-up to immediately after WR06, as shown in Recommendation 1.

**FINAL OUTCOME 7:**

Changes accepted.



**PROBLEM 8:**

LOOP 7 - Housing Assistance

ASK IF R GOT TO THIS LOOP FROM THE CORE; OTHERS SKIP TO WR57

**WR56. Earlier you said you are (in public housing/receiving reduced rent). Is this through Section 8, some other rental assistance program, or are you not sure?**

- Section 8 — END LOOP 7
  - Other rental assistance — Skip to WR58
  - Not sure/Don't know — Skip to WR58
- (Refused --> END LOOP 7)

ASK IF SKIPPED WR56

**WR57. Earlier you said that you received assistance to help pay for housing since June 1<sup>st</sup>. Was that through Section 8, some other rental assistance program, some other kind of housing program, or are you not sure?**

- Section 8 — END LOOP 7
  - Other rental assistance
  - Other housing program
  - Not sure/Don't know
- (Refused --> END LOOP 7)

**WR58. Did you get that through a government social service agency, through a local housing authority, through a community or religious charitable organization, or through someplace else?**

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- Government agency
- Housing authority
- Community or religious charity
- Someplace else -----> **What was that?**\_\_\_\_\_

Many of the local housing authorities such as Tacoma HA and Philadelphia HA are very similar to Section 8. Some respondents knew for sure whether they fell under one or the other, but for some respondents this question was very confusing.

**RECOMMENDATION 8:**

Give FRs detailed instructions on how to deal with questions about local housing authority and Section 8 housing. The distinction is unclear for some respondents.

**FINAL OUTCOME 8:**

Recommendation not accepted.

**PROBLEM 9:**

LOOP 8 -- FOR PERSONS REPORTING "SHORT-TERM CASH ASSISTANCE" (PACHCK2 and PATYP)

Short term cash assistance is not understood by respondents in the core. The one R who did receive it did not report it here. Later when discussed, she said she didn't think of it that way because short term to her implied several payments - not a lump sum. She thought "emergency assistance" would have been better.

Several respondents mentioned that TANF is now short-term - only 5 years. Most were not aware that they could get any form of cash assistance other than TANF.

Our respondents were almost all currently on welfare, so asking them if they received short term cash assistance to help stay off welfare was inappropriate. Since the goal of the question is to obtain data on diversion payments, as recommended from previous cognitive testing (Bogen and Klein Griffiths<sup>2</sup>), this question should only be asked of those who did not receive cash assistance during the reference period.

The follow-up questions in this loop are fine, as long as the correct universe gets to the loop.

**RECOMMENDATION 9:**

Consider changing the core wording for Short-term cash assistance and test with the relevant population (i.e. those not currently on welfare).

During the core, restrict the universe for this part of the question to those who have not received cash assistance during the current reference period (as recommended by Bogen and Klein Griffiths).

**FINAL OUTCOME 9:**

Recommendation not accepted.

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<sup>2</sup>Bogen, K. and Griffiths, J.K. (1997). "SIPP Wave 8 Welfare Reform topical module - Findings from cognitive interviews in five states." Unpublished U.S. Census Bureau Report, October 27, 1997.

**PROBLEM 10:**

LOOP 9 -- FOR PERSONS REPORTING "HELP TRYING TO OBTAIN CHILD SUPPORT"  
(WR13)

**WR66. You said that since June 1st, you talked to or worked with someone from the child support or welfare office to try to obtain child support. Who helped you try to get child support — was it the child support agency, the welfare office, or someplace else?**

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- Child Support agency
- Welfare office
- Someplace else -----> **What was that?**\_\_\_\_\_

**WR68. What kind of assistance did you try to get? Was it —**

**WR68@1 Help establishing paternity? Yes/No**

**WR68@2 Help locating an absent parent? Yes/No**

**WR68@3 Help obtaining a court order for child support? Yes/No**

**WR68@4 Help collecting child support? Yes/No**

**WR68@5 Or some other kind of help? Yes/No**

If Yes: **What was that?** \_\_\_\_\_

This "assistance" is not always voluntary. In the case where a person is forced to have a paternity test to continue their benefits, this question is not accurate.

**RECOMMENDATION 10:**

Delete references to "help" - as outlined below.

**WR66. You said that since June 1st, you talked to or worked with someone from the child support or welfare office to try to obtain child support. Was it the child support agency, the welfare office, or someplace else?**

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- Child Support agency
- Welfare office
- Someplace else -----> **What was that?**\_\_\_\_\_



WR68. **What kind of assistance did you try to get? Was it —**

WR68@1            **Establishing paternity? Yes/No**

WR68@2            **Locating an absent parent? Yes/No**

WR68@3            **Obtaining a court order for child support? Yes/No**

WR68@4            **Collecting child support? Yes/No**

WR68@5            **Or some other kind of assistance? Yes/No**

If Yes: **What was that?** \_\_\_\_\_

**FINAL OUTCOME 10:**

Changes accepted.

**PROBLEM 11:**

WR108.            **Why didn't you inquire about or apply for any (FILL if reported means-tested benefits: additional) assistance programs? (PROBE: Anything else?)**

DO NOT READ ANSWER CATEGORIES

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- Don't need any
- Not eligible because of immigration status
- Not eligible for some other reason
- Didn't know there was anything else/didn't know I could
- Too much run-around/couldn't get a straight answer/bureaucratic hassle
- No transportation to office
- Don't take charity/don't accept aid from the government
- The money is not worth it
- Haven't done it yet/plan to
- Some other reason (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

This question needs a response category for “No other assistance available.” This may be accurate, while “didn’t know there was anything” implies that the R is wrong.

**RECOMMENDATION 11:**

Add the following response category:

**No other assistance available**

Re-order the response categories by use, with most popular responses first.

**FINAL OUTCOME 11:**

Category added, but not reordered as recommended.

**PROBLEM 12:**

WR113

**Earlier you said that since June 1st, you received Public Assistance, also known as AFDC, TANF, or (fill STATEPA). Have any of your payments been reduced, or have you been notified that any of your benefits are going to be reduced?**

YES

NO -- GOTO WR117

DON'T KNOW/ REFUSED GOTO WR117

If respondents’ payments have both been reduced and are going to be reduced (or cut off) again in the future, these 2 pieces of data are intermixed.

**RECOMMENDATION 12:**

No change unless it is necessary to collect this data separately.

**FINAL OUTCOME 12:**

No Change.

**PROBLEM 13:**

WR114

**What reasons were given for your benefits being reduced? Anything else?**

DO NOT READ ANSWER CATEGORIES

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- Non-cooperation with work requirements
- Non-cooperation with child support requirements
- Did not provide all the information requested
- Refused to sign or failed to comply with signed individual responsibility plan
- Receiving SSI
- Exceeded time limit
- Other - Specify \_\_\_\_\_

The most common response that we heard during the cognitive interviews was that respondents got a job and their payments were reduced. This is not a current response category.

**RECOMMENDATION 13:**

The following response category should be added:

- Income resources increased (including got a job, earnings increased)**

Re-order the response categories by use, with most popular responses first.

**FINAL OUTCOME 13:**

Category added, but not reordered as recommended.

**PROBLEM 14:**

WR116

**What are the reasons you are CURRENTLY not receiving public assistance also known as AFDC, TANF, or (fill STATEPA)? Anything else?**

DO NOT READ ANSWER CATEGORIES

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- Non-cooperation with work requirements
- Non-cooperation with child support requirements
- Did not provide all the information requested
- Didn't want to use up time limit (banking eligibility)
- Income resources too high to qualify (including got a job, earnings increased)
- Had already received maximum assistance
- Refused to sign or failed to comply with signed individual responsibility plan
- Got married
- No longer needed

- Children got too old (aged out)
- Other - Specify \_\_\_\_\_

“Exceeded time limit” is more conceptually accurate than “Had already received maximum assistance.”

**RECOMMENDATION 14:**

Delete “Had already received maximum assistance” and replace it with the following:

- Exceeded time limit**

Re-order the response categories by use, with most popular responses first.

**FINAL OUTCOME 14:**

Category replaced, but not reordered as recommended.

**PROBLEM 15:**

WR117

[LEAD IN FOR R’S THAT ARE NOT CURRENTLY RECEIVING TANF BUT HAVE IN THE PAST] **You told me that you received public assistance also known as AFDC, TANF, or (fill STATEPA) in the past.**

**How many more months are you eligible to receive public assistance?**

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ months

Or end date: \_\_\_\_\_ month \_\_\_\_\_ year

Question wording was not consistent with previous question wording.

**RECOMMENDATION 15:**

Add examples of public assistance as shown below:

**How many more months are you eligible to receive public assistance such as AFDC, TANF, or (fill STATEPA)?**

**FINAL OUTCOME 15:**

Changes accepted.

**PROBLEM 16: WR118-120 Child Only**

We were unable to find anyone that fit the Child Only case. One respondent did falsely affirm that her case was child only. She only received \$20 per month because she and her husband were working (her husband was in a welfare-to-work program) and they kept the TANF to receive other benefits. She reasoned that she and her husband had income, so that money was for her children.

Most respondents did not know that children could be covered after their parent's time limit was up. The only respondents who knew this had received letters that their time was almost up and their children could still be covered through these special provisions. Since most are not aware that this even exists, asking if their coverage is for adults and children or just for children may seem to be a strange question. However, this problem may be abated as more people meet their 5-year time limit and are faced with this option.

**RECOMMENDATION 16:**

We are unable to make any recommendations at this time. The questions are structured similarly to other questions that were tested, so they should not present a problem as long as the correct universe gets to these question (i.e. as long as the KIDONLY question is answered correctly in the core).

**FINAL OUTCOME 16:**

No change.

**APPENDIX A**  
**WELFARE REFORM TOPICAL MODULE QUESTIONS**

SECTION A: IDENTIFYING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS & BENEFIT REQUIREMENTS

WR01. **Which category represents (the total combined income of all members of this family/ your total income) during the past 12 months? This includes money from jobs, net income from business, farm, or rent, pensions, dividends, interest, social security payments and any other money income received by (members of this family who are 15 years of age or older/ you).**

- LESS THAN \$10,000
- \$10,000 TO \$20,000
- \$20,000 TO \$30,000
- \$30,000 TO \$40,000
- \$40,000 TO \$50,000
- \$50,000 OR MORE

Respondent's answer is used to answer the CHECK ITEM:  
Is the household above the income threshold?

<u># in household</u>	<u>income threshold</u>
1	\$20,000
2 or 3	\$30,000
4+	\$50,000

- Yes ---> Ask WR02
- No ----> Skip to WR06
- (DK/R ----> Skip to WR06 if means-tested benefits reported in core; else go to WR02)

WR02. **Our next questions are about various types of assistance for persons in need.**

**Between June 1st and today, (FILL if reported any means-tested benefits in core: other than the benefits you already told me about,) did you receive any type of assistance because you had income that was too low to meet your needs?**

Yes --> Skip to WR06

No ---> Ask WR03

(DK -----> Ask WR03)

WR03. **Just to be sure, this assistance could have come in any form, such as help getting a job, help improving your skills, help with child care, food assistance, etc. Did you get anything like that?**

Yes --> Proceed with WR06

No ---> NOTE THIS RESPONSE

(DK/R --->NOTE THIS RESPONSE

**(LEAD-IN - IF DIDN'T COME THROUGH WR02: Our next questions are about various types of assistance for persons in need, such as help from a government agency or a charity.)**

WR06. **WORDING FOR NON-GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES**

**Did the government give your employer any money to cover all or part of your hiring, training, or wages?**

Or **WORDING FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES**

**Did a welfare or social service agency pay your EMPLOYING agency part of the cost of your hiring, training, or wages?**

OR **WORDING FOR MULTIPLE JOB HOLDERS AND CONTINGENT WORKERS**

**Did a welfare or social service agency give any of your employers money to cover all or part of your hiring, training, or wages?**

Yes

No

WR09. **Between June 1st and today, did you receive any food assistance (other than Food Stamps or WIC or school meals)?**

Yes

No

WR10. **Since June 1<sup>st</sup>, did you receive any clothing assistance or clothes, such as assistance to buy uniforms, work clothes, or school or winter clothes for children?**

Yes

No

IF PUBLIC HOUSING OR RENTAL ASSISTANCE REPORTED IN CORE, SKIP TO WR13

WR11. **At any time since June 1<sup>st</sup>, did you receive any assistance to help pay for housing , other than energy assistance)?**

Yes

No

ASK IF THE CHILD SUPPORT QUESTION WAS ASKED IN CORE - ANSWERED YES OR NO;  
OTHERS SKIP TO WR14

WR13. **(FILL IF DIDN'T REPORT CHILD SUPPORT IN CORE: Even though your didn't receive any child support,) since June 1st, did your talk to or work with anyone from the child support or welfare office to try to obtain child support?**

Yes

No

WR14. **Since June 1st, did your receive any other assistance or benefits because you had income that was too low to meet your needs:**

Yes ----> **What was that?**\_\_\_\_\_

No



ASK IF HAS A JOB OR CONTINGENT WORKER, BUT DIDN'T REPORT HELP LOOKING FOR A JOB IN JOBSRCH; OTHERS SKIP TO WR16

WR15. Wording for respondents that have a "regular" job  
**(Roster of jobs started in the reference period)**

**To get the (job/jobs) with (read above for name or names of employers), did (you) get any help from a government or social service agency or from a case worker or social worker?**

Or      Wording for contingent workers with a household income below the income threshold  
**To get any of the work (you) did since (MONTH) 1st, did (you) get any help from a government or social service agency or from a case worker or social worker?**

Yes

No

**ASK IF RECEIVED PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, GENERAL ASSISTANCE/RELIEF, OTHER WELFARE OR PA PAYMENTS, PUBLIC HOUSING OR RENTAL ASSISTANCE, OR FOOD STAMPS; OTHER SKIP TO SECTION B**

**WR16. Which of the following activities have you done since June 1st either because the welfare or social service office required it for you to receive (FILL: Public Assistance, Food Stamps, or Housing Assistance (or combination)) or because you chose to do it:**

**WR16@1      Reported your income and any family or address changes on a regular basis?**

Yes

No

**WR16@2      Worked in an unpaid job, sometimes called community service or workfare?**

Yes

No

**WR16@3      ASK IF FEMALE AND BIOLOGICAL PARENT OF DEPENDENT KIDS < 18  
WHOSE BIOLOGICAL FATHER IS NOT IN THE HOUSEHOLD  
Established the paternity of a child?**

Yes

No

**WR16@4      Had drug testing?**

Yes

No

**SECTION B: SPECIFIC BENEFITS INFORMATION**

INSTRUCTION: For each benefit reported in Section A, go through the appropriate loop to find out details of the program.

**LOOP 1 -- FOR PERSONS REPORTING (JOBSRCH) OR (JOBTRAIN) OR (WR15) AND HAS A JOB OR CONTINGENT WORKERS**

WR23 WORDING FOR RESPONDENTS THAT HAS A “REGULAR” JOB IN THE REFERENCE PERIOD  
(Show roster of jobs)

**You said your received help finding the job with (read above for name or names of employers). Which of the following kinds of assistance did your receive —**

OR WORDING FOR CONTINGENT WORKERS WITH A HOUSEHOLD INCOME BELOW THE INCOME THRESHOLD

**You said your received help finding the work your did since June 1<sup>st</sup>. Which of the following kinds of assistance did your receive —**

- WR23@1 **Resume writing?** Yes/No
- WR23@2 **Learning how to interview?** Yes/No
- WR23@3 **Learning how to dress for work or an interview?** Yes/No
- WR23@4 **Self-esteem building?** Yes/No
- WR23@5 **Computer training?** Yes/No
- WR23@6 **Other office clerical skills?** Yes/No
- WR23@7 **Machinery training, such as using certain machines or tools?** Yes/No
- WR23@8 **Any other specific job skills training?** Yes/No

Rs WHO ANSWERED YES ONLY TO WR15, SKIP OVER THE NEXT 2 ITEMS SINCE THEY DON'T FIT; SKIP DOWN TO WR23@11

- WR23@9 **Work towards a high school diploma or GED?** Yes/No
- WR23@10 **Work towards a college degree or certificate?** Yes/No
- WR23@11 **Literacy training?** Yes/No
- WR23@12 **Referrals to jobs or access to job listings?** Yes/No
- WR23@13 **(AT FR DISCRETION) English as a second language, ESL instruction?** Yes/No
- WR23@14 **Some other kind of training or education or job search help?** Yes/No

IF YES: **What was that?** \_\_\_\_\_

ASK IF ANSWERED YES ONE OR MORE WR23@1 - WR23@8 OR WR23@11 - WR23@14;  
OTHERS SKIP TO WR25.

**WR24. Did any of that training or assistance actually lead to a job?**

Yes

No

**WR25. Did your pay anything for the education, job search, or training your received since  
June 1st?**

Yes

No

Loop 2: FOR PERSONS REPORTING “JOB SUBSIDY” (WR06)

**W36A**

**Earlier you said that since June 1st, your employer received government assistance to cover all or part of your hiring, training, or wages. What specifically was that for: HIRING, TRAINING or WAGES? Or more than one of these?**

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- Hiring
- Training
- Wages
- Don't know
- Refused

**LOOP 3 -- FOR PERSONS REPORTING "TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE" (CORE - PACHCK2 and PATYP)**

**WR40. You said that since June 1st, you received transportation assistance. Did you receive —**

**WR40@1            Gas vouchers? Yes/No**

**WR40@2            Bus or subway tokens or passes? Yes/No**

**WR40@3            Help registering, repairing, or insuring a car? Yes/No**

**WR40@4            Rides to a doctor's office or medical appointment? Yes/No**

**WR40@5            Some other kind of transportation assistance? Yes/No**  
**If Yes: What was that? \_\_\_\_\_**

**LOOP 4 -- FOR PERSONS REPORTING "CHILD CARE SERVICES OR SUPPORT"**  
(PACHCK2 and PATYP)

**WR43. You said that since June 1st, you received child care services or support. Did your pay part of the cost of the child care or did you receive FREE child care services?**

- Paid part of the cost
- Free child care
- Neither (*if R volunteers this answer*) — **What kind of child care services or support did you receive?**  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Both (*if R volunteers and R has more than one child under age 15*)

**WR44. Did a government social service agency pay any of the cost of the child care since June 1st?**

- Yes
- No --> Ask WR45 and WR46, then end LOOP 4 for this group  
(DK/R --> Ask WR45 and WR46, then end LOOP 4 for this group)

**WR45. Did an employer, a charity, a relative, or a friend (FILL if Yes to WR44: also) help pay the cost of any of the child care since June 1st?**

- Yes
- No --> Skip to WR47 if answered Yes to WR44; otherwise, end LOOP 4  
(DK/R --> Skip to WR47 if answered Yes to WR44; otherwise, end LOOP 4)

**WR46. Who was that?**

- An employer
- A charity
- A relative
- A friend
- Other --> (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

ASK IF WR44 = YES AND R IS PARENT/GUARDIAN OF MORE THAN ONE CHILD UNDER AGE 15 IN THE HOUSEHOLD; OTHERS SKIP TO WR48

**WR47. Which of your children were covered by the child care assistance through a government social service agency?**

**(SHOW ROSTER OF DEPENDENTS UNDER AGE 15)**

ASK IF WR44 = YES

**WR48. Which of the following types of child care arrangements were paid for by the government social service agency since June 1<sup>st</sup>:**

WR48@1                    **Care by a RELATIVE, including sisters, grandparents, etc.?** Yes/No

WR48@2                    **A child care provider or a day care center, outside your home, including a nursery or preschool?** Yes/No

WR48@3                    **Care by a non-relative, such as a sitter or nanny?** Yes/No

WR48@4                    **An after school program at school?** Yes/No



LOOP 5 -- FOR PERSONS REPORTING "FOOD ASSISTANCE" (WR09)

**WR49. You said that since June 1<sup>st</sup>, you received some food assistance. (FILL as appropriate: Excluding your Food Stamps/WIC/school meals,) did you receive:**

WR49@1            **Money, vouchers, or certificates to buy groceries or food? Yes/No**

WR49@2            **Bags of groceries or packaged foods? Yes/No**

WR49@3            **Any meals from a shelter, soup kitchen, or charity? Yes/No**

WR49@4            **Any other food assistance? Yes/No**  
If Yes: **What was that?** \_\_\_\_\_

ASK IF WR49@1= yes; OTHERS END LOOP

**WR50. Did you get the grocery money, vouchers or certificates through a government social service agency, through a community or religious charitable organization, through family or friends, or through someplace else?**

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- Government agency
- Community or religious charity
- Family or friends
- Someplace else -----> **What was that?** \_\_\_\_\_

LOOP 6 -- FOR PERSONS REPORTING "CLOTHING ASSISTANCE OR CLOTHES" (WR10)

**WR54. You said that you received clothing assistance or clothes since June 1st. Did you get that through a government social service agency, through a community or religious charitable organization, through family or friends, through an employer, or through someplace else?**

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- Government agency
- Community or religious charity
- Family or friends
- Employer
- Someplace else -----> **What was that?**\_\_\_\_\_

**LOOP 7 -- FOR PERSONS REPORTING "HOUSING ASSISTANCE" (WR11) OR PUBLIC HOUSING OR RENTAL ASSISTANCE IN CORE**

ASK IF R GOT TO THIS LOOP FROM THE CORE; OTHERS SKIP TO WR57

**WR56. Earlier you said you are (in public housing/receiving reduced rent). Is this through Section 8, some other rental assistance program, or are you not sure?**

- Section 8 — END LOOP 7
  - Other rental assistance — Skip to WR58
  - Not sure/Don't know — Skip to WR58
- (Refused --> END LOOP 7)

ASK IF SKIPPED WR56

**WR57. Earlier you said that you received assistance to help pay for housing since June 1<sup>st</sup>. Was that through Section 8, some other rental assistance program, some other kind of housing program, or are you not sure?**

- Section 8 — END LOOP 7
  - Other rental assistance
  - Other housing program
  - Not sure/Don't know
- (Refused --> END LOOP 7)

**WR58. Did you get that through a government social service agency, through a local housing authority, through a community or religious charitable organization, or through someplace else?**

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- Government agency
- Housing authority
- Community or religious charity
- Someplace else -----> **What was that?**\_\_\_\_\_

**LOOP 8 -- FOR PERSONS REPORTING "SHORT-TERM CASH ASSISTANCE" (PACHCK2 and PATYP)**

**WR59. You said that since June 1st you received short-term cash assistance to tide you over or to help you stay off welfare. Did you get that through a government social service agency, through family or friends, or through someplace else?**

- Government agency
- Family or friends
- Someplace else — **What was that?** \_\_\_\_\_

**WR61. How many of those payments have you received since June 1st?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**WR62. And what is the total amount of the short-term cash assistance you have received since June 1st?**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(DK/R --> Skip to WR64)

**WR63. Did you already report this amount earlier in the interview?**

- Yes
- No

**WR64. (Was the payment/Were the payments) for a particular use, or could you spend (it/them) on whatever you needed?**

- Particular use
  - Whatever was needed — END LOOP 8
- (DK/R — END LOOP 8)

**WR65. What was the money for — rent, food, clothes (FILL if has kids: for yourself or your child(ren)), car expenses, or something else?**

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- Rent
- Food
- Clothes for self
- Clothes for kids
- Car expenses
- Other -----> **What was that?** \_\_\_\_\_

LOOP 9 -- FOR PERSONS REPORTING "HELP TRYING TO OBTAIN CHILD SUPPORT" (WR13)

**WR66. You said that since June 1st, you talked to or worked with someone from the child support or welfare office to try to obtain child support. Who helped you try to get child support — was it the child support agency, the welfare office, or someplace else?**

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

Child Support agency

Welfare office

Someplace else -----> **What was that?**\_\_\_\_\_

**WR68. What kind of assistance did you try to get? Was it —**

WR68@1            **Help establishing paternity? Yes/No**

WR68@2            **Help locating an absent parent? Yes/No**

WR68@3            **Help obtaining a court order for child support? Yes/No**

WR68@4            **Help collecting child support? Yes/No**

WR68@5            **Or some other kind of help? Yes/No**

If Yes: **What was that?** \_\_\_\_\_

LOOP 10 -- FOR PERSONS REPORTING "OTHER ASSISTANCE OR BENEFITS" (WR14)

WR69. You said that since June 1st, you received (FILL description from WR14). Did you get that through a government social service agency, through a community or religious charitable organization, through family or friends, or through someplace else?

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- Government agency
- Community or religious charity
- Family or friends
- Someplace else -----> What was that? \_\_\_\_\_

WR70. What is the total amount of that assistance you have received since June 1st?

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

- No cash value — What did you receive? \_\_\_\_\_ — Skip to WR72  
(DK/R — Skip to WR72)

WR71. Did you already report this amount earlier in the interview?

- Yes
- No

WR72. Was the assistance for a particular use, or could you spend it on whatever you needed?

- Particular use
- Whatever was needed — END LOOP 10  
(DK/R — END LOOP 10)

WR73. What was the money for — rent, food, clothes (FILL if has kids: for yourself or your child(ren)), car expenses, or something else?

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- Rent
- Food
- Clothes for self
- Clothes for kids
- Car expenses
- Other -----> What was that? \_\_\_\_\_

**LOOP 12 -- FOR PERSONS REPORTING "WORK IN AN UNPAID JOB, COMMUNITY SERVICE OR WORKFARE" (WR16@2)**

**WR81. You said that you worked in an unpaid job or did community service or workfare since June 1<sup>st</sup>. Was that at:**

- (1) A Government organization, including a public school or a government social service agency**
  - (2) A Private, For Profit, Company ---> Skip to WR84**
  - (3) Or a Non-Profit Organization, including tax exempt and charitable organizations ---> Skip to WR84**
- (DK/R — Skip to WR84)**

**WR83. ASK OR VERIFY: What is the main function or activity of the government organization that you worked for? Was it mainly —**

- (1) Education**
- (2) Social Service**
- (3) Public Safety**
- (4) Recreation**
- (5) Health**
- (6) Religion**
- (7) Or something else? --> What was that? \_\_\_\_\_**

**SKIP TO WR86**

**WR84. What kind of (business or industry)(organization) is this? What do they make or do there?**

---



WR85. ASK OR VERIFY: **Is it mainly —**

- (1) **Manufacturing**
- (2) **Wholesale Trade**
- (3) **Retail Trade**
- (4) **Service**
- (5) **Or Something Else?**

WR86. **What kind of work did you do, that is, what was your occupation?**  
**READ IF NECESSARY: For example: Bookkeeper, plumber, press operator**

---

WR87. **What were your usual activities or duties on this job?**  
**READ IF NECESSARY: For example: Keeping account books, repairing pipes, operating printing press**

---

ASK ONLY IF STARTED JOB DURING REFERENCE PERIOD; OTHERS SKIP TO WR97

WR88. **Did that community service or workfare actually lead to a regular, paying job?**

- Yes
- No

WR97. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM — DO NOT READ

**DID YOU ALSO COLLECT THE RESPONDENT'S COMMUNITY SERVICE/  
WORKFARE JOB INFORMATION IN SIPP CORE (WHEN ASKING ABOUT  
JOBS HELD OR WORK DONE)?**

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

**SECTION D: ADDITIONAL INQUIRIES AND APPLICATIONS**

FOR Rs WHO REPORTED NO MEANS-TESTED BENEFITS OR ONLY MEDICAID

WR102. **I know you have not received any income assistance, but you may have looked into getting such assistance.**

**Since June 1<sup>st</sup>, did you INQUIRE about or COMPLETE AN APPLICATION for ANY government assistance because you had income that was too low to meet your needs?**

- Yes — Ask WR104
- No — Skip to WR108
- (DK/R — Skip to WR113)

FOR Rs WHO REPORTED RECEIPT OF MEANS-TESTED BENEFITS, NOT JUST MEDICAID.

WR103. **You reported receiving some income assistance. The next questions are about whether you looked into getting any OTHER government assistance.**

**Since June 1<sup>st</sup>, did you INQUIRE about or COMPLETE AN APPLICATION for receiving ANY OTHER government assistance because you had income that was too low to meet your needs?**

- Yes — Ask WR104
- No — Skip to WR108
- (DK/R — Skip to WR113)

WR104. **What (FILL if reported means-tested benefits: additional) government assistance did you INQUIRE about or COMPLETE AN APPLICATION for? (PROBE: Anything else?)**

DO NOT READ ANSWER CATEGORIES

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- Public Assistance payments, sometimes called AFDC, TANF, or (fill STATEPA).
- General Assistance Program or General Relief Program
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Food Stamps
- Medicaid
- WIC (Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition program)
- Unemployment compensation
- Public Housing or rental assistance or Section 8
- Energy Assistance
- Education or training
- Child care assistance
- Transportation assistance
- School meals
- Other (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

FOR Rs WHO DID NOT INQUIRE OR APPLY FOR BENEFITS; OTHERS SKIP TO WR113

WR108. **Why didn't you inquire about or apply for any (FILL if reported means-tested benefits: additional) assistance programs? (PROBE: Anything else?)**

DO NOT READ ANSWER CATEGORIES

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- Don't need any
- Not eligible because of immigration status
- Not eligible for some other reason
- Didn't know there was anything else/didn't know I could
- Too much run-around/couldn't get a straight answer/bureaucratic hassle
- No transportation to office
- Don't take charity/don't accept aid from the government
- The money is not worth it
- Haven't done it yet/plan to
- Some other reason (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

FOR Rs CURRENTLY RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (AFDC, TANF, OR (fill STATEPA)); OTHERS SKIP TO WR115

**WR113**

**Earlier you said that since June 1st, you received Public Assistance, also known as AFDC, TANF, or (fill STATEPA). Have any of your payments been reduced, or have you been notified that any of your benefits are going to be reduced?**

- YES
- NO -- GOTO WR117
- DON'T KNOW/ REFUSED GOTO WR117

**WR114**

**What reasons were given for your benefits being reduced? Anything else?**

DO NOT READ ANSWER CATEGORIES

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- Non-cooperation with work requirements

- Non-cooperation with child support requirements
  - Did not provide all the information requested
  - Refused to sign or failed to comply with signed individual responsibility plan
  - Receiving SSI
  - Exceeded time limit
  - Other - Specify
- 

**GOTO WR117**

FOR Rs NOT CURRENTLY RECEIVING AFDC, TANF, OR (fill STATEPA)  
**WR115**

**Earlier you said that since June 1st you have not received any Public Assistance such as AFDC, TANF, or (fill STATEPA). Have you EVER received it in the past?**

- Yes
- No - if reported KIDONLY in core, GOTO WR118, otherwise END

**WR115B**

**When was the last time you received AFDC, TANF or (fill STATEPA)?**

\_\_\_\_\_Month

\_\_\_\_\_Year

FOR Rs WHO ANSWERED WR115=YES

**WR116**

**What are the reasons you are CURRENTLY not receiving public assistance also known as AFDC, TANF, or (fill STATEPA)? Anything else?**

**DO NOT READ ANSWER CATEGORIES**  
**MARK ALL THAT APPLY**

- Non-cooperation with work requirements
- Non-cooperation with child support requirements
- Did not provide all the information requested

- Didn't want to use up time limit (banking eligibility)
  - Income resources too high to qualify (including got a job, earnings increased)
  - Had already received maximum assistance
  - Refused to sign or failed to comply with signed individual responsibility plan
  - Got married
  - No longer needed
  - Children got too old (aged out)
  - Other - Specify
- 

FOR Rs WHO CURRENTLY RECEIVE TANF OR EVER RECEIVED TANF  
**WR117**

[LEAD IN FOR R'S THAT ARE NOT CURRENTLY RECEIVING TANF BUT HAVE IN THE PAST] **You told me that you received public assistance also known as AFDC, TANF, or (fill STATEPA) in the past.**

**How many more months are you eligible to receive public assistance?**

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ months

Or end date:

\_\_\_\_\_ month \_\_\_\_\_ year

FOR Rs WHO REPORTED KIDONLY IN CORE; OTHERS END MODULE  
**WR118**

**Earlier you stated that your public assistance such as AFDC, TANF or (fill STATEPA) covers just the children in the household and not any adults.**

**Has it always been the case that only your children are covered by public assistance and not you?**

- Yes
- No

Don't know – END

Refused -- END

**WR119**

**What is the reason you are not covered by public assistance, such as AFDC, TANF or (fill STATEPA)?**

DO NOT READ ANSWER CATEGORIES  
MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- Non-cooperation with work requirements
- Non-cooperation with child support requirements
- Not eligible - immigration status
- Did not provide all the information requested
- Refused to sign or failed to comply with signed individual responsibility plan
- Receiving SSI
- Exceeded time limit
- Other - Specify

---

---

---

CHECK ITEM: If WR118= no then GOTO WR120, else END

**WR120**

**When did your children start being covered by public assistance on their own?**

\_\_\_\_\_ Month

\_\_\_\_\_ Year

END MODULE





**APPENDIX B  
WELFARE REFORM TOPICAL MODULE QUESTIONS**

**SECTION A: IDENTIFYING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS & BENEFIT REQUIREMENTS**

WR01. **Which category represents (the total combined income of all members of this family/ your total income) during the past 12 months? This includes money from jobs, net income from business, farm, or rent, pensions, dividends, interest, social security payments and any other money income received by (members of this family who are 15 years of age or older/ you).**

- LESS THAN \$10,000
- \$10,000 TO \$20,000
- \$20,000 TO \$30,000
- \$30,000 TO \$40,000
- \$40,000 TO \$50,000
- \$50,000 OR MORE

Respondent's answer is used to answer the CHECK ITEM:  
Is the household above the income threshold?

<u># in household</u>	<u>income threshold</u>
1	\$20,000
2 or 3	\$30,000
4+	\$50,000

- Yes ---> Ask WR02
- No ----> Skip to WR06
- (DK/R ----> Skip to WR06 if means-tested benefits reported in core; else go to WR02)

WR02. **Our next questions are about various types of assistance for persons in need.**

**Between June 1st and today, (FILL if reported any means-tested benefits in core: other than the benefits you already told me about,) did you receive any type of assistance because you had income that was too low to meet your needs?**

- Yes --> Skip to WR06
- No ---> Ask WR03
- (DK ----> Ask WR03)

WR03. **Just to be sure, this assistance could have come in any form, such as help getting a job, help improving your skills, help with child care, food assistance, etc. Did you get anything like that?**

- Yes --> Proceed with WR06
- No ---> NOTE THIS RESPONSE
- (DK/R --->NOTE THIS RESPONSE

**(LEAD-IN - IF DIDN'T COME THROUGH WR02: Our next questions are about various types of assistance for persons in need, such as help from a government agency or a charity.)**

WR06a. WORDING FOR NON-GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

**Did the government give your employer any money to cover all or part of your hiring, training, or wages?**

Or WORDING FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

**Did a welfare or social service agency pay your EMPLOYING agency part of the cost of your hiring, training, or wages?**

OR WORDING FOR MULTIPLE JOB HOLDERS AND CONTINGENT WORKERS

**Did a welfare or social service agency give any of your employers money to cover all or part of your hiring, training, or wages?**

- Yes
- No GOTO WR09

WR06b. **What specifically was that for: HIRING, TRAINING or WAGES? Or more than one of these?**

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- Hiring
- Training
- Wages
- Don't know
- Refused

WR09. **Between June 1st and today, did you receive any food assistance (other than Food Stamps or WIC or school meals)?**

- Yes
- No

WR10. **Since June 1<sup>st</sup>, did you receive any clothing assistance or clothes, such as assistance to buy school or winter clothes for children, uniforms or work clothes?**

- Yes
- No

IF PUBLIC HOUSING OR RENTAL ASSISTANCE REPORTED IN CORE, SKIP TO WR13

WR11. **At any time since June 1<sup>st</sup>, did you receive any assistance to help pay for housing , other than energy assistance)?**

- Yes
- No

ASK IF THE CHILD SUPPORT QUESTION WAS ASKED IN CORE - ANSWERED YES OR NO; OTHERS SKIP TO WR14

WR13. **(FILL IF DIDN'T REPORT CHILD SUPPORT IN CORE: Even though you didn't receive any child support,) since June 1st, did you talk to or work with anyone from the child support or welfare office to try to obtain child support?**

- Yes
- No

WR14. **Since June 1st, did you receive any other assistance or benefits because you had income that was too low to meet your needs:**

- Yes ----> **What was that?**\_\_\_\_\_
- No

ASK IF REPORTED IN CORE THAT A JOB STARTED IN THE REFERENCE PERIOD, BUT DIDN'T REPORT HELP LOOKING FOR A JOB IN JOBSRCH; OTHERS SKIP TO WR16

WR15.

WORDING FOR RESPONDENTS THAT STARTED A "REGULAR" JOB IN THE REFERENCE PERIOD

**(Roster of jobs started in the reference period)**

**To get the (job/jobs) with (read above for name or names of employers), did (you) get any help from a government or social service agency?**

Or WORDING FOR CONTINGENT WORKERS WITH A HOUSEHOLD INCOME  
BELOW THE INCOME THRESHOLD

**To get any of the work (you) did since (MONTH) 1st, did (you) get any help from a government or social service agency?**

Yes

No

**ASK IF RECEIVED PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, GENERAL ASSISTANCE/RELIEF, OTHER WELFARE OR PA PAYMENTS, PUBLIC HOUSING OR RENTAL ASSISTANCE, OR FOOD STAMPS; OTHER SKIP TO SECTION B**

**WR16. Which of the following activities have you done since June 1st either because the welfare or social service office required it for you to receive (FILL: Public Assistance, Food Stamps, or Housing Assistance (or combination)) or because you chose to do it:**

**WR16@1      Reported your income and any family or address changes on a regular basis?**

Yes

No

**WR16@2      Worked in exchange for your benefits or to gain experience?**

Yes

No

**WR16@3      ASK IF FEMALE AND BIOLOGICAL PARENT OF DEPENDENT KIDS < 18  
WHOSE BIOLOGICAL FATHER IS NOT IN THE HOUSEHOLD  
Had a test to establish the paternity of a child?**

Yes

No

**WR16@4      Had drug testing?**

Yes

No

**SECTION B: SPECIFIC BENEFITS INFORMATION**

INSTRUCTION: For each benefit reported in Section A, go through the appropriate loop to find out details of the program.

**LOOP 1 -- FOR PERSONS REPORTING (JOBSRCH) OR (JOBTRAIN) OR (WR15)**

**WR23 WORDING FOR RESPONDENTS THAT HAS A “REGULAR” JOB IN THE REFERENCE PERIOD**

**(Show roster of jobs)**

**You said you received help finding the job with (read above for name or names of employers). Which of the following kinds of assistance did you receive —**

**OR WORDING FOR CONTINGENT WORKERS WITH A HOUSEHOLD INCOME BELOW THE INCOME THRESHOLD**

**You said you received help finding the work you did since June 1<sup>st</sup>. Which of the following kinds of assistance did you receive —**

**OR WORDING FOR RESPONDENTS THAT DID NOT HAVE A JOB IN THE REFERENCE PERIOD**

**You said you received help looking for a job. Which of the following kinds of assistance did you receive —**

**WR23@1 Resume writing? Yes/No**

**WR23@2 Learning how to interview? Yes/No**

**WR23@3 Learning how to dress for work or an interview? Yes/No**

**WR23@4 Self-esteem building? Yes/No**

**WR23@5 Computer training? Yes/No**

**WR23@6 Other office clerical skills? Yes/No**

**WR23@7 Machinery training, such as using certain machines or tools? Yes/No**

**WR23@8 Any other specific job skills training? Yes/No**

**Rs WHO ANSWERED YES ONLY TO WR15, SKIP OVER THE NEXT 2 ITEMS SINCE THEY DON'T FIT; SKIP DOWN TO WR23@11**

**WR23@9 Work towards a high school diploma or GED? Yes/No**

**WR23@10 Work towards a college degree or certificate? Yes/No**

**WR23@11 Literacy training? Yes/No**

**WR23@12 Referrals to jobs or access to job listings? Yes/No**

**WR23@13 (AT FR DISCRETION) English as a second language, ESL instruction? Yes/No**

WR23@14 **Some other kind of training or education or job search help? Yes/No**  
IF YES: **What was that?** \_\_\_\_\_

WR24a. **Have you completed the training?**

Yes

No GO TO 25

ASK IF ANSWERED YES TO WR24a AND ONE OR MORE WR23@1 - WR23@8 OR  
WR23@11 - WR23@14; OTHERS SKIP TO WR25.

WR24b. **Did any of that training or assistance actually lead to a job?**

Yes

No

WR25. **Did you pay anything for the education, job search, or training you received since June 1st?**

Yes

No

**LOOP 3 -- FOR PERSONS REPORTING "TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE" (CORE - PACHCK2 and PATYP)**

**WR40. You said that since June 1st, you received transportation assistance. Did you receive**

—

**WR40@1 Gas vouchers? Yes/No**

**WR40@2 Bus or subway tokens or passes? Yes/No**

**WR40@3 Help registering, repairing, or insuring a car? Yes/No**

**WR40@4 Rides to a doctor's office or medical appointment? Yes/No**

**WR40@5 Some other kind of transportation assistance? Yes/No**  
**If Yes: What was that? \_\_\_\_\_**



**LOOP 4 -- FOR PERSONS REPORTING "CHILD CARE SERVICES OR SUPPORT"  
(PACHCK2 and PATYP)**

**WR43. You said that since June 1st, you received child care services or support. Did you pay part of the cost of the child care or did you receive FREE child care services?**

- Paid part of the cost
- Free child care
- Neither (*if R volunteers this answer*) — **What kind of child care services or support did you receive?**  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Both (*if R volunteers and R has more than one child under age 15*)

**WR44. Did a government social service agency pay any of the cost of the child care since June 1st?**

- Yes
- No --> Ask WR45 and WR46, then end LOOP 4 for this group  
(DK/R --> Ask WR45 and WR46, then end LOOP 4 for this group)

**WR45. Did an employer, a charity, a relative, or a friend (FILL if Yes to WR44: also) help pay the cost of any of the child care since June 1st?**

- Yes
- No --> Skip to WR47 if answered Yes to WR44; otherwise, end LOOP 4  
(DK/R --> Skip to WR47 if answered Yes to WR44; otherwise, end LOOP 4)

**WR46. Who was that?**

- An employer
- A charity
- A relative
- A friend
- Other --> (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

ASK IF WR44 = YES AND R IS PARENT/GUARDIAN OF MORE THAN ONE CHILD UNDER AGE 15 IN THE HOUSEHOLD; OTHERS SKIP TO WR48

**WR47. Which of your children were covered by the child care assistance through a government social service agency?**

**(SHOW ROSTER OF DEPENDENTS UNDER AGE 15)**

ASK IF WR44 = YES

**WR48. Which of the following types of child care arrangements were paid for by the government social service agency since June 1<sup>st</sup>:**

**WR48@1 Care by a RELATIVE, including sisters, grandparents, etc.? Yes/No**

**WR48@2 A child care provider or a day care center, outside your home, including a nursery or preschool? Yes/No**

**WR48@3 Care by a non-relative, such as a sitter or nanny? Yes/No**

**WR48@4 An after school program at school? Yes/No**

LOOP 5 -- FOR PERSONS REPORTING "FOOD ASSISTANCE" (WR09)

**WR49. You said that since June 1<sup>st</sup>, you received some food assistance. (FILL as appropriate: Excluding your Food Stamps/WIC/school meals,) did you receive:**

WR49@1            **Money, vouchers, or certificates to buy groceries or food?** Yes/No

WR49@2            **Bags of groceries or packaged foods?** Yes/No

WR49@3            **Any meals from a shelter, soup kitchen, or charity?** Yes/No

WR49@4            **Any other food assistance?** Yes/No  
If Yes: **What was that?** \_\_\_\_\_

ASK IF WR49@1= yes; OTHERS END LOOP

**WR50. Did you get the grocery money, vouchers or certificates through a government social service agency, through a community or religious charitable organization, through family or friends, or through someplace else?**

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- Government agency
- Community or religious charity
- Family or friends
- Someplace else -----> **What was that?**\_\_\_\_\_

LOOP 6 -- FOR PERSONS REPORTING "CLOTHING ASSISTANCE OR CLOTHES" (WR10)

**WR54. You said that you received clothing assistance or clothes since June 1st. Did you get that through a government social service agency, through a community or religious charitable organization, through family or friends, through an employer, or through someplace else?**

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- Government agency
- Community or religious charity
- Family or friends
- Employer
- Someplace else -----> **What was that?** \_\_\_\_\_

**LOOP 7 -- FOR PERSONS REPORTING "HOUSING ASSISTANCE" (WR11) OR PUBLIC HOUSING OR RENTAL ASSISTANCE IN CORE**

ASK IF R GOT TO THIS LOOP FROM THE CORE; OTHERS SKIP TO WR57

**WR56. Earlier you said you are (in public housing/receiving reduced rent). Is this through Section 8, some other rental assistance program, or are you not sure?**

- Section 8 — END LOOP 7
  - Other rental assistance — Skip to WR58
  - Not sure/Don't know — Skip to WR58
- (Refused --> END LOOP 7)

ASK IF SKIPPED WR56

**WR57. Earlier you said that you received assistance to help pay for housing since June 1<sup>st</sup>. Was that through Section 8, some other rental assistance program, some other kind of housing program, or are you not sure?**

- Section 8 — END LOOP 7
  - Other rental assistance
  - Other housing program
  - Not sure/Don't know
- (Refused --> END LOOP 7)

**WR58. Did you get that through a government social service agency, through a local housing authority, through a community or religious charitable organization, or through someplace else?**

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- Government agency
- Housing authority
- Community or religious charity
- Someplace else -----> **What was that?**\_\_\_\_\_

**LOOP 8 -- FOR PERSONS REPORTING "SHORT-TERM CASH ASSISTANCE" (PACHCK2 and PATYP)**

**WR59. You said that since June 1st you received short-term cash assistance to tide you over or to help you stay off welfare. Did you get that through a government social service agency, through family or friends, or through someplace else?**

- Government agency
- Family or friends
- Someplace else — **What was that?** \_\_\_\_\_

**WR61. How many of those payments have you received since June 1st?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**WR62. And what is the total amount of the short-term cash assistance you have received since June 1st?**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(DK/R --> Skip to WR64)

**WR63. Did you already report this amount earlier in the interview?**

- Yes
- No

**WR64. (Was the payment/Were the payments) for a particular use, or could you spend (it/them) on whatever you needed?**

- Particular use
  - Whatever was needed — END LOOP 8
- (DK/R — END LOOP 8)

**WR65. What was the money for — rent, food, clothes (FILL if has kids: for yourself or your child(ren)), car expenses, or something else?**

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- Rent
- Food
- Clothes for self
- Clothes for kids
- Car expenses
- Other -----> **What was that?** \_\_\_\_\_

LOOP 9 -- FOR PERSONS REPORTING "HELP TRYING TO OBTAIN CHILD SUPPORT" (WR13)

**WR66. You said that since June 1st, you talked to or worked with someone from the child support or welfare office to try to obtain child support. Was it the child support agency, the welfare office, or someplace else?**

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

Child Support agency

Welfare office

Someplace else -----> **What was that?** \_\_\_\_\_

**WR68. What kind of assistance did you try to get? Was it —**

WR68@1            **Establishing paternity?** Yes/No

WR68@2            **Locating an absent parent?** Yes/No

WR68@3            **Obtaining a court order for child support?** Yes/No

WR68@4            **Collecting child support?** Yes/No

WR68@5            **Or some other kind of assistance?** Yes/No

If Yes: **What was that?** \_\_\_\_\_



LOOP 10 -- FOR PERSONS REPORTING "OTHER ASSISTANCE OR BENEFITS" (WR14)

**WR69. You said that since June 1st, you received (FILL description from WR14). Did you get that through a government social service agency, through a community or religious charitable organization, through family or friends, or through someplace else?**

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- Government agency
- Community or religious charity
- Family or friends
- Someplace else -----> **What was that?** \_\_\_\_\_

**WR70. What is the total amount of that assistance you have received since June 1st?**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

- No cash value — **What did you receive?** \_\_\_\_\_ — Skip to WR72  
(DK/R — Skip to WR72)

**WR71. Did you already report this amount earlier in the interview?**

- Yes
- No

**WR72. Was the assistance for a particular use, or could you spend it on whatever you needed?**

- Particular use
- Whatever was needed — END LOOP 10  
(DK/R — END LOOP 10)

**WR73. What was the money for — rent, food, clothes (FILL if has kids: for yourself or your child(ren)), car expenses, or something else?**

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- Rent
- Food
- Clothes for self
- Clothes for kids
- Car expenses
- Other -----> **What was that?** \_\_\_\_\_

**LOOP 12 -- FOR PERSONS REPORTING “WORKED IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR BENEFITS OR TO GAIN EXPERIENCE” (WR16@2)**

**WR81. You said that you worked in exchange for your benefits or to gain experience since June 1st. Was that at:**

- (1) A Government organization, including a public school or a government social service agency**
  - (2) A Private, For Profit, Company ---> Skip to WR84**
  - (3) Or a Non-Profit Organization, including tax exempt and charitable organizations ---> Skip to WR84**
- (DK/R — Skip to WR84)**

**WR83. ASK OR VERIFY: What is the main function or activity of the government organization that you worked for? Was it mainly —**

- (1) Education**
- (2) Social Service**
- (3) Public Safety**
- (4) Recreation**
- (5) Health**
- (6) Religion**
- (7) Or something else? --> What was that? \_\_\_\_\_**

**SKIP TO WR86**

**WR84. What kind of (business or industry)(organization) is this? What do they make or do there?**

\_\_\_\_\_

WR85. ASK OR VERIFY: **Is it mainly —**

- (1) **Manufacturing**
- (2) **Wholesale Trade**
- (3) **Retail Trade**
- (4) **Service**
- (5) **Or Something Else?**

WR86. **What kind of work did you do, that is, what was your occupation?**  
**READ IF NECESSARY: For example: Bookkeeper, plumber, press operator**

---

WR87. **What were your usual activities or duties on this job?**  
**READ IF NECESSARY: For example: Keeping account books, repairing pipes, operating printing press**

---

ASK ONLY IF STARTED JOB DURING REFERENCE PERIOD; OTHERS SKIP TO WR97

WR88. **Did that work in exchange for your benefits or to gain experience actually lead to a regular, paying job?**

- Yes
- No

WR97. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM — DO NOT READ

**DID YOU ALSO COLLECT THE RESPONDENT'S WORK IN EXCHANGE FOR BENEFITS INFORMATION IN SIPP CORE (WHEN ASKING ABOUT JOBS HELD OR WORK DONE)?**

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

**SECTION D: ADDITIONAL INQUIRIES AND APPLICATIONS**

FOR Rs WHO REPORTED NO MEANS-TESTED BENEFITS OR ONLY MEDICAID

WR102. **I know you have not received any income assistance, but you may have looked into getting such assistance.**

**Since June 1<sup>st</sup>, did you INQUIRE about or COMPLETE AN APPLICATION for ANY government assistance because you had income that was too low to meet your needs?**

- Yes — Ask WR104
- No — Skip to WR108
- (DK/R — Skip to WR113)

FOR Rs WHO REPORTED RECEIPT OF MEANS-TESTED BENEFITS, NOT JUST MEDICAID.

WR103. **You reported receiving some income assistance. The next questions are about whether you looked into getting any OTHER government assistance.**

**Since June 1<sup>st</sup>, did you INQUIRE about or COMPLETE AN APPLICATION for receiving ANY OTHER government assistance because you had income that was too low to meet your needs?**

- Yes — Ask WR104
- No — Skip to WR108
- (DK/R — Skip to WR113)

WR104. **What (FILL if reported means-tested benefits: additional) government assistance did you INQUIRE about or COMPLETE AN APPLICATION for? (PROBE: Anything else?)**

DO NOT READ ANSWER CATEGORIES

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- Public Assistance payments, sometimes called AFDC, TANF, or (fill STATEPA).
- General Assistance Program or General Relief Program
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Food Stamps
- Medicaid
- WIC (Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition program)
- Unemployment compensation
- Public Housing or rental assistance or Section 8
- Energy Assistance
- Education or training
- Child care assistance
- Transportation assistance
- School meals
- Other (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

FOR Rs WHO DID NOT INQUIRE OR APPLY FOR BENEFITS; OTHERS SKIP TO WR113

WR108. **Why didn't you inquire about or apply for any (FILL if reported means-tested benefits: additional) assistance programs? (PROBE: Anything else?)**

DO NOT READ ANSWER CATEGORIES

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- Don't need any
- Not eligible because of immigration status
- Not eligible for some other reason
- Didn't know there was anything else/didn't know I could
- Too much run-around/couldn't get a straight answer/bureaucratic hassle
- No transportation to office
- Don't take charity/don't accept aid from the government
- The money is not worth it
- Haven't done it yet/plan to
- Exceeded time limit
- No other assistance available
- Some other reason (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

FOR Rs CURRENTLY RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (AFDC, TANF, OR (fill STATEPA)); OTHERS SKIP TO WR115

### WR113

**Earlier you said that since June 1st, you received Public Assistance, also known as AFDC, TANF, or (fill STATEPA). Have any of your payments been reduced, or have you been notified that any of your benefits are going to be reduced?**

- YES
- NO -- GOTO WR117
- DON'T KNOW/ REFUSED GOTO WR117

### WR114

**What reasons were given for your benefits being reduced? Anything else?**

DO NOT READ ANSWER CATEGORIES

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- Income resources increased (including got a job, earnings increased)
  - Non-cooperation with work requirements
  - Non-cooperation with child support requirements
  - Did not provide all the information requested
  - Refused to sign or failed to comply with signed individual responsibility plan
  - Receiving SSI
  - Exceeded time limit
  - Other - Specify
- 

GOTO WR117

[ FOR Rs NOT CURRENTLY RECEIVING AFDC, TANF, OR (fill STATEPA)  
WR115

**Earlier you said that since June 1st you have not received any Public Assistance such as AFDC, TANF, or (fill STATEPA). Have you EVER received it in the past?**

- Yes
- No - if reported KIDONLY in core, GOTO WR118, otherwise END

WR115B

**When was the last time you received AFDC, TANF or (fill STATEPA)?**

\_\_\_\_\_Month

\_\_\_\_\_Year

FOR Rs WHO ANSWERED WR115=YES

WR116

**What are the reasons you are CURRENTLY not receiving public assistance also known as AFDC, TANF, or (fill STATEPA)? Anything else?**

DO NOT READ ANSWER CATEGORIES  
MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- Exceeded time limit
  - Non-cooperation with work requirements
  - Non-cooperation with child support requirements
  - Did not provide all the information requested
  - Didn't want to use up time limit (banking eligibility)
  - Income resources too high to qualify (including got a job, earnings increased)
  - Refused to sign or failed to comply with signed individual responsibility plan
  - Got married
  - No longer needed
  - Children got too old (aged out)
  - Other - Specify
- 

FOR Rs WHO CURRENTLY RECEIVE TANF OR EVER RECEIVED TANF  
WR117

[LEAD IN FOR R'S THAT ARE NOT CURRENTLY RECEIVING TANF BUT HAVE IN THE PAST] **You told me that you received public assistance also known as AFDC, TANF, or (fill STATEPA) in the past.**

**How many more months are you eligible to receive public assistance such as AFDC, TANF, or (fill STATEPA)?**

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ months

Or end date:

\_\_\_\_\_ month \_\_\_\_\_ year

FOR Rs WHO REPORTED KIDONLY IN CORE; OTHERS END MODULE  
WR118

**Earlier you stated that your public assistance such as AFDC, TANF or (fill STATEPA) covers just the children in the household and not any adults.**

**Has it always been the case that only your children are covered by public assistance and not you?**



Yes

No

Don't know – END

Refused -- END

WR119

**What is the reason you are not covered by public assistance, such as AFDC, TANF or (fill STATEPA)?**

DO NOT READ ANSWER CATEGORIES

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

Non-cooperation with work requirements

Non-cooperation with child support requirements

Not eligible - immigration status

Did not provide all the information requested

Refused to sign or failed to comply with signed individual responsibility plan

Receiving SSI

Exceeded time limit

Other - Specify

---

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CHECK ITEM: If WR118= no then GOTO WR120, else END

WR120

**When did your children start being covered by public assistance on their own?**

\_\_\_\_\_ Month

\_\_\_\_\_ Year

END MODULE