



**Report to the 2007 Legislative Assembly
Regarding Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
As Required by ORS 418.131**

Background:

ORS 418.131 requires the department to report to each session of the Legislative Assembly information described in ORS 418.131. The requirements in ORS 418.131 are listed below:

418.131 Limitation on receiving aid; exceptions; report on persons receiving aid. (1)

A person shall not receive aid for more than a total of 24 months in any period of 84 consecutive months.

(5)(a) The time limitations described in subsection (1) of this section do not apply to any person who is:

(A) Required to participate in the JOBS Program unless the person has been offered the opportunity to participate in an education, employment or job training program including teen parent programs as defined by the department.

(B) Participating in an employment and training program including any employment search activities required by the program.

(C) Enrolled at an educational institution under section 1, chapter 212, Oregon Laws 2003.

(b) The department shall report to each session of the Legislative Assembly the number of families whose period of time receiving aid has exceeded the time limitations of subsection (1) of this section because of the exceptions provided under paragraph (a) of this subsection. The report shall include information sufficient to permit the Legislative Assembly to determine if the exceptions make a significant contribution to increased self-sufficiency of persons granted an exemption.

(6)(a) The Department of Human Services shall monitor the average period of time a person receives aid and shall record such information by family size. The department shall monitor the wages and benefits received by an individual who becomes employed while receiving aid, including medical and child care benefits. The department shall monitor and record the rate at which persons who cease receiving aid for employment subsequently apply for and receive aid.

(b) The department shall report the results of the monitoring required under paragraph (a) of this subsection to the Legislative Assembly not later than the 15th day of each legislative session. [1995 c.816 §4; 2003 c.212 §3]

The following information is provided in accordance with ORS 418.131:

Time Limits: No one in Oregon has lost eligibility due to time limits. Oregon was operating under the Oregon Option Waivers until they expired at the end of June 2003. Under those options Oregon established a 24 month time limit tied to active client participation. Without this waiver Oregon was required to comply with federal provisions related to the federal TANF time limit clock beginning July 1, 2003. The federal time limit for adults receiving TANF cash assistance is 60 months. This time limit does not apply for child-only cases. States may exempt up to 20 percent of their total TANF funded cash assistance caseload from the 60 month federal time limit. The department is seeking amendments to ORS 418.131 to align Oregon's time on assistances statute with current federal regulations.

Agency policy requires that all able-bodied adult and minor head of household recipients participate in the JOBS employment and training program. All adult and minor head of household recipients who fail, without good cause, to participate in the JOBS program are subject to sanctions. These sanctions increase in severity, and can result in the complete closure of the cash assistance grant within six months.

For TANF cash assistance cases open at the end of June 2006, the following number of cases had received aid more than 24 months since July 1999:

	Total Cases	More than 24 Months
Single Adult Families:	8,786	2,988
Two-Adult Families:	650	181
Total Adult Families	9,436	3,169
No-Adult Families:	6,795	NA
Total Families:	16,231	3,169

Average Months on Aid by Family Size: Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) cases open in June 2006 reveal the following average months on TANF by Need Group Size since July 1999. Need groups are the people whose basic and special needs are used in determining eligibility.

NeedGrp	TotalCases	AvgMos
01	3248	37.31
02	6095	24.39
03	3538	26.18
04	1873	26.68
05	890	29.44
06	359	32.65
07	142	31.33

NeedGrp	TotalCases	AvgMos
08	49	31.76
09	22	34.45
10	6	24.83
11	3	25.67
12	3	39.67
13	1	4.00
14	1	24.00
15	1	84.00

Wages and Benefits after becoming employed: The average starting full-time (30 or more hours per week) wage reported by TANF clients between July 2005 and November 2006 was \$8.74. A typical TANF family of three (one adult, two children) would no longer qualify for cash assistance if the adult worked for more than 19 hours per week at minimum wage. During the current biennium, less than 250 on-going TANF cash assistance cases reported earnings each month.

After having their cases close due to employment on or after July 2005, the following number of families (cases) were receiving Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) and/or Medical Assistance (OHP) in June 2006:

ERDC Only: 21
 OHP Only: 4,101
 ERDC and OHP: 1,655

Rate of Return to Cash Assistance: For the calendar year 2006, 91.5 percent of the cases that left TANF cash assistance due to employment were not receiving aid 18 months later. Of these cases, 72.1 percent did not return to cash assistance during the entire 18 month period, while 19.4 percent returned for some period of time, but had left cash assistance again by the end of the 18 months. The remaining 8.5 percent of cases that left cash assistance due to employment returned to cash assistance and were still receiving cash assistance at the end of the 18 month period.