



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF STATE BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT**

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

CHARLES PERUSSE
STATE BUDGET DIRECTOR

July 11, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Phil Berger, President Pro-Tempore of the Senate
Representative Tim Moore, Speaker of the House
Senator Dan Bishop
Senator Joyce Krawiec
Representative Greg Murphy
Representative Larry Potts
Representative Donna White
Representative William Brisson
Representative Josh Dobson
Representative Donny Lambeth
Mark Trogon, Fiscal Research

FROM: Charles Perusse *Charles Perusse*
State Budget Director

SUBJECT: Work First Program

General Statute 108-27.10.(b) requires the Director of the Budget to report at the beginning of every fiscal year on the number of permanent State employees who have been Work First Program recipients during the previous calendar year. Please find the attached report, which was prepared by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) with assistance from the Office of the State Controller (OSC).

If you have questions or concerns, you may contact Assistant State Budget Officer Erin Matteson at (919) 807-4758 or erin.matteson@osbm.nc.gov.

Attachment

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH
SECRETARY

July 1, 2019

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Charles Perusse
State Budget Director
Office of State Budget and Management
Room 5200, Administration Building
Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear Director Perusse:

In accordance with the requirements of NC General Statute 108A-27.10, we are submitting the enclosed report showing the number of permanent state employees who have been Work First recipients during the 2018 calendar year.

Should you have any questions, please contact Susan Osborne, Assistant Secretary for County Operations, at Susan.Osborne@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



Mandy Cohen, MD, MPH
Secretary

cc:	Katherine Restrepo	Theresa Matula	Jessica Meed	Rob Kindsvatter
	Joyce Jones	Zack Wortman	Susan Osborne	Tara Myers
	Marjorie Donaldson	Erin Matteson	Matt Gross	reports@ncleg.net
	Hattie Gawande	Deborah Landry	Mark Benton	Susan G. Perry
	Lisa Wilks	Kody Kinsley	Steve Owen	Denise Thomas
	Mark Collins			

WWW.NCDHHS.GOV
TEL 919-855-4800 • FAX 919-715-4645
LOCATION: 101 BLAIR DRIVE • ADAMS BUILDING • RALEIGH, NC 27603
MAILING ADDRESS: 2001 MAIL SERVICE CENTER • RALEIGH, NC 27699-2001
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Background

North Carolina General Statute 108A-27.10 (b) requires the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Secretary, Office of State Budget Management (OSBM) Director and North Carolina Governor collectively to submit an annual report to the North Carolina General Assembly of the number of permanent state employees who have been Work First recipients during the previous calendar year. This report provides data for calendar year 2018.

Overview North Carolina's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program

North Carolina's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, known as Work First, promotes a strengths-based, family-centered practice. The Work First program is based on the premise that parents have a responsibility to support themselves and their children. The program provides low income parents with cash assistance and other services to help them become employed and move toward self-sufficiency. Biological parents, adoptive parents and stepparents may receive assistance for a child and must be included in the payment for the family, unless they are disqualified from the program. Non-parent caretakers can receive services and support which may prevent children from entering the foster care system unnecessarily. Families where grandparents, other relatives and legal guardians are caring for children may apply for assistance on the child's behalf but are not included in the cash assistance payment. These cases are termed "Child-Only" cases. For calendar year 2018, there was a monthly average of 13,640 Work First cases, with an estimated 82% being Child Only cases.

Data Collection Process

The Office of the State Controller assisted DHHS, Division of Social Services (DSS) Performance Management/Reporting and Evaluation Management with obtaining the data needed by completing a query in the BEACON System. The query parameters consist of the number of permanent state employees with income that meet the maximum net family annual income eligibility standard for Work First Family Assistance. The maximum monthly income level for Work First Family Assistance based on family size is shown below.

Family Size	Monthly Income Limit
1	\$362
2	\$472
3	\$544
4	\$594
5	\$648
6	\$698
7	\$746
8	\$771

The state employee data from the BEACON system was then matched to queries completed by the DHHS, DSS Performance Management/Reporting and Evaluation Management team. The queries completed by this team contained Work First recipient data from the North Carolina Families Accessing Services through Technology (NCFAST) system.

2018 Work First Case Load Size	Number of State Employees Who Received Work First
2,728	0

For calendar year 2018, an estimated 2,728 parents were included on the monthly Work First cash assistance payment. Out of 2,728 parents, the queries database results show 0 (zero) state employees received Work First cash assistance during the 2018 calendar year. DHHS is committed to ensuring TANF/Work First benefits and services are provided to low income families and program assistance is used in a manner consistent with the requirements of NCGS 108A-27.10 (b); which also serve to promote the integrity of the TANF/Work First program and the responsible stewardship of public funds.