

DWSS

Division of Welfare and Supportive Services

General quarterly updates since the last full board meeting in April 2022

- The DWSS Workforce Development Unit has been actively working with TANF participants to engage them educational opportunities for software development careers.
- A Recovery Friendly Workplace (RFW) unit has been established to identify resources that individuals experiencing substance abuse issues need to begin or continue recovery including, community-based organizations, employers, and educational institutions.

Any COVID-related news/updates

- We continue to look for in-person and virtual opportunities for participants in our employment and training programs.
- In FFY2020, DWSS met the all-family Work Participation Rate (WPR); however, we did fail to meet the two-parent rate. Administration of Children and Families (ACF) has accepted our reasonable cause explanation for failing WPR in FFY2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and will not be imposing a financial penalty for FFY2020.

Any information on service providers that can be shared.

- The RFW unit is reaching out to various community partners across the State to establish partnerships to assist TANF participants.

Any relevant and/or recent performance measure that can be shared.

- ACF has not released the final Work Participation Rate (WPR) for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021.
- The SNAPET federal performance measures for FFY2021, showed 72% of the participants enrolled in the educational component completed their training, 40% of the participants had employment after the 2nd quarter of completion, and 31% of the participants had employment after the 4th quarter of completion.

Any upcoming initiatives and/or plans for the program.

- The SNAPET program is working with our new and existing educational partners to expand and create the best process for SNAP recipients to receive these services through the SNAPET program.
- The Workforce Development unit and the Recovery Friendly Workplace unit are working to expand vocational training options, community partners, and employment opportunities for TANF employment and training participants.
- Workforce Connections and DWSS are working together to establish a SNAP Employment and Training pilot through a grant awarded to Workforce Connections.