



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH  
SECRETARY

July 1, 2020

**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:

North Carolina General Statute 108A-27.10, requires the Department of Health and Human Services to submit an annual report showing the number of permanent state employees who have been Work First recipients during the previous calendar year.

Should you have any questions, please contact Susan Osborne, Assistant Secretary for County Operations, at [Susan.Osborne@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Susan.Osborne@dhhs.nc.gov).

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
*Tara Myers* on behalf of  
B21898BA92B341B...  
Mandy Cohen, MD, MPH  
Secretary

- |     |                    |                 |                    |                |
|-----|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| cc: | Kody Kinsley       | Susan G. Perry  | Dave Richard       | Ben Money      |
|     | Tara Myers         | Rob Kindsvatter | Marjorie Donaldson | Zack Wortman   |
|     | Matt Gross         | Hattie Gawande  | Joyce Jones        | Lisa Wilks     |
|     | Katherine Restrepo | Jared Simmons   | Jane Chiulli       | Luke MacDonald |
|     | Erin Matteson      | Theresa Matula  | Mark Collins       | Jessica Meed   |

## **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 2019.

## **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 2019, there was a monthly average of 11,976 Work First cases, with an estimated 70% 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.

<b>Family Size</b>	<b>Monthly Income Limit</b>
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.

<b>2019 Work First Parents Receiving Assistance</b>	<b>Number of State Employees Who Received Work First</b>
5,794	0

For calendar year 2019, an estimated 5,794 parents were included on the monthly Work First cash assistance payment. Out of 5,794 parents, the queries database results show 0 (zero) state employees received Work First cash assistance during the 2019 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.