

Employment First Program: Primary purpose is to provide temporary, transitional support for work-eligible Nebraska families; so that economic self-sufficiency is reached as quickly as possible through training, education, and employment preparation.

Employment Formula: Total number of work-eligible individuals entering the workforce divided by the total number of work-eligible individuals served by the Employment First Program.

EQUUS Workforce Solutions: EQUUS has a Sub-Award with DHHS to prepare Nebraska TANF work-eligible individuals for employment and assist them in achieving self-sufficiency by providing a variety of programs and services. Services are based on the history, education, and specific needs of each participant and include both group and individual activities.

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY): Twelve-month period beginning on October 1 of the preceding calendar year and ending on September 30 of each year.

Federal Target Rate: Each state must achieve a 50% minimum overall participation rate.

Overall Participation Rate: The average of the state's single and two-parent participation rates for each month of the FFY.

Referral: All work-eligible individuals are referred to the Employment First Program for assessment of skills, prior work experience, and employability.

TANF: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Timeliness: EQUUS is responsible for contacting each applicant within a preset number of days of receiving a referral.

Timeliness Formula: Total number of new referrals contacted within preset guidelines divided by the total number of new referrals.

Wages: Average starting wage of work-eligible individuals entering the workforce for the report month.

Work Participation Rate (WPR): Percentage of TANF work-eligible individuals that are engaged in countable work activities for the month.

Work Participation Rate Formula: Number of work-eligible individuals who are engaged in a countable work activity divided by the total number of work-eligible individuals receiving TANF cash assistance. After this percentage is determined, it is multiplied by the percentage determined accurate during a statistically valid sample review of the work-eligible individuals for that month.

Work-Eligible Individuals:

- All adults receiving TANF cash assistance.
- All adults who are non-participants due to non-cooperation with child support, non-cooperation with third party medical liability, are convicted drug felons or fleeing felons, have an intentional program violation, failed to apply for a social security number, or misrepresented their Nebraska residency.
- Minor Parent who is the oldest recipient in the TANF cash assistance case.

Work Activities:

1. Unsubsidized Employment (including Microbusiness Enterprise and paid Apprenticeship)
2. Subsidized Private-or Public Sector Employment
3. Work Experience
4. On-the-Job Training
5. Job Search and Job Readiness
6. Community Service
7. Vocational Training
8. Post-Secondary Education
9. Job Skills Training Directly Related to Employment
10. Education Directly Related to Employment
11. Satisfactory Attendance at Secondary School or in a Course of Study Leading to a Certificate of General Equivalence (GED)