



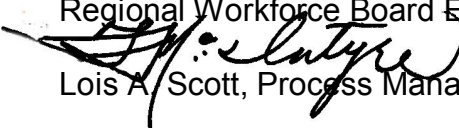
STATE OF FLORIDA
AGENCY FOR WORKFORCE INNOVATION

Date of Issue – October 16, 2006

Office of Issue – AWI-06-17

Reference – DCF Memorandum

AWI Communiqué

TO: Regional Workforce Board Executive Directors
FROM:  Lois A. Scott, Process Manager, One-Stop and Program Support
SUBJECT: **Department of Children and Families: Florida Participation Rate Requirements under the Deficit Reduction Act**

PURPOSE: Distribute the Department of Children and Families' Memorandum to Staff

References:

The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) Notification: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Changes Resulting from the 2005 Deficit Reduction Act

Background:

Under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996, states were required to engage all recipients of on-going assistance to participate in activities that lead to self-sufficiency unless the recipient was not excluded by the federal law. To demonstrate if the states were engaging recipients of on-going assistance, the states were required to meet a 50 percent all family work participation rate and a 90 percent two parent family rate. These rates demonstrated if families were being engaged and participating in "work activities" for the minimum number of required hours.

Under the 1996 Act, states were allowed to earn a caseload reduction credit to reduce their work participation rate for each percentage point they reduced their TANF caseload since 1995. Due to the caseload reduction credit of over 70 percent between 1995 and 2005, Florida was not required to meet the 50 percent work participation rate. The PRWORA also allowed for any program funded separately by the state to be excluded from the work participation rates. Florida opted to fund two-parent families under a separate state program; therefore, Florida's two-parent program was not included in the all family rate, and Florida did not have to meet the 90 percent two parent family rate.

In light of the changes of the 2005 Deficit Reduction Act, the base year for the caseload reduction credit changed from 1995 to 2005 and eliminated the state's ability to exclude separate state funded programs from the work participation rate. Florida is now required to meet the 50 percent all family participation rate and the 90 percent two-

parent participation rate, minus applicable caseload reduction credit from base year 2005. The Interim Final Rule published in June of 2006 defined each work activity. States are required to assign activities that meet such definitions. States are also required to ensure that a certain percentage of their cases are participating in the minimum required hours provided below.

- Single-parent families with a child under the age of six will be included in the participation rate if (s)he meets a minimum of 20 hours in a core activity.
- Single-parent families with the youngest child six and older will be included in the participation rate if (s)he meets a minimum of 30 hours per week total with a minimum of 20 hours in a core activity.
- Two-parent families will be included in the all-family rate as meeting participation rate requirements if the two-parent family participates a minimum of 30 hours per week total with a minimum of 20 hours in a core activity.
- Two-parent families will be included in the two-parent rate:
 - If the two-parent family not receiving subsidized childcare participates a minimum of 35 hours total with a minimum of 30 hours per week in a core activity; and
 - If the two-parent family receiving subsidized childcare participates a minimum of 55 hours total with a minimum of 50 hours per week in a core activity.

The work participation rates have been added to DCF's dashboard, and the agency is taking steps to ensure that all possible measures are implemented to work towards meeting both the all-family and two-parent family rate. The attached memorandum advises DCF staff of actions to take to improve customer service and program performance.

Action Required:

The RWBs and TANF program providers should view the attachment.

AUTHORITY

Department of Children and Families

Agency for Workforce Innovation

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