

**TANF CASELOAD REDUCTION REPORT**  
For Federal Fiscal Year 2017

State of Connecticut  
Department of Social Services

Submitted to ACF  
December 30, 2016

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# FORM ACF-202 – TANF CASELOAD REDUCTION REPORT

## TANF CASELOAD REDUCTION REPORT FFY 2014

### INTRODUCTION

The State of Connecticut, Department of Social Services is required to complete and submit annually Form ACF-202, the Caseload Reduction Report for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY), to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, in accordance with federal regulations at 45 CFR 260 et seq.

The federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant includes specific performance expectations and requirements to help federal and state governments measure program success. All states are required to meet specific work participation rates, which reflect the percentage of families receiving TANF assistance that must be engaged in federally-defined work activities.

The caseload reduction report provides an analysis of case activity including activity related to changes in eligibility criteria. The caseload reduction credit for FFY 2017 reduces the state's work participation target rate for that fiscal year based on the decline in the FFY 2016 assistance caseload compared to FFY 2005. The methodology and the case number estimates used are included in this document.

A notice to solicit public comments was published in the Connecticut Law Journal on December 6, 2016. Comments shall be submitted on or before December 26, 2015.

During FFY 2016, Connecticut operated one assistance program - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) - under the authority of the federal block grant.

In FFY 2016, there were no assistance cases claimed under separate state programs (SSP). The TFA Cases with Certain Exempt Adults assistance program previously funded as a separate state program is funded as a solely state funded program, effective as of October 1, 2008. The Two-Parent Temporary Family Assistance program, previously funded as a separate state program, is funded as a solely state funded program, effective as of October 1, 2007.

## FORM ACF-202 – TANF CASELOAD REDUCTION REPORT

### TANF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NARRATIVE & METHODOLOGY

Changes in eligibility criteria that the state has made on or after October 1, 2006 that could cause the state's caseload to decrease or increase are described below.

#### **Temporary Family Assistance (TFA-TANF)**

The Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) program provides cash assistance for ongoing basic needs. All TFA cases are time-limited unless all adults in the family are exempt from the time-limit provisions. These programs are descendants of the AFDC program, but have been modified extensively since FFY 1995, first under welfare reform demonstration waivers, then pursuant to changes associated with TFA becoming a TANF-based assistance program, and a third time effective 10/1/01. The eligibility and policies regarding this program have not been modified since 10/1/06. These programs constitute the vast majority of the state's overall assistance caseload.

Effective as of October 1, 2008, Certain Exempt TFA households became solely state funded and are no longer funded with Federal TANF or Commingled funds, or as a Separate State Program, as was the case prior to FFY 2008.

#### **Safety Net Basic Needs (Program No Longer TANF MOE)**

Effective September 30, 2006 the State stopped claiming as a TANF state maintenance of effort expenditure the Safety Net "Basic Needs" Program for families who exhausted time-limited TFA and who were not eligible for extensions for reasons other than having income over the TFA payment standard. The program continues to operate outside of the TANF program. The Safety Net Basic Needs program provides eligible families with vendor payments for basic needs such as food, rent, utilities, and clothing. This component was previously categorized as a Separate State MOE *assistance* program. The caseload for this program in FFY 16 from non-TANF funds are "added back" to the average FFY 2016 Caseload for Caseload Reduction Credit comparison to FFY 2005.

#### **Two-Parent TFA (No TANF Federal, SSP or MOE Expenditures)**

Effective as of October 1, 2007, the Two-Parent Temporary Family Assistance program, previously funded as a Separate State Program, is funded as a solely state funded program. The Two-Parent Temporary Family Assistance program has been removed from the TANF Plan as an assistance program. Effective October 1, 2007, cash assistance is provided to two parent households as a solely state-funded program, although the families are eligible for non-assistance programs such as Employment Services. Since that date, there have been no changes in eligibility to evaluate for caseload effects. Therefore, the average monthly FFY 2016 Two-Parent TFA caseload would normally have been added to the State's overall assistance caseload. However, the state did not utilize TANF federal or state Maintenance of Effort dollars for this program as of October 1, 2007, and thus the effect was a reduction in the total SSP-MOE caseload. The caseload for this program in FFY 16 from non-TANF funds are "added back" to the average FFY 2016 TANF caseload for Caseload Reduction Credit comparison to FFY 2005.

## FORM ACF-202 – TANF CASELOAD REDUCTION REPORT

### Certain Exempts - Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) (No TANF, SSP or MOE Expenditures)

The Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) program provides cash assistance for ongoing basic needs for families including families with adults who are identified with certain exempt status. Effective as of October 1, 2008, Certain Exempt TFA households became solely state funded and are no longer funded as regular TFA with Federal TANF or Commingled funds (FFY 2008), or as a Separate State Program, as it was prior to FFY 2008.

Therefore, similar to Two-Parent TFA, the caseload for this program in FFY 2016 is “added back” for Caseload Reduction Credit comparison to FFY 2005.

### Analysis of the Effect of Policy Changes

For reasons articulated above, the State’s analysis of the effect of policy changes on the overall caseload includes the removal of the Safety Net Basic Needs Program and the Two-Parent and Certain Exempt Temporary Family Assistance program from TANF Commingled and Separate State Program Maintenance of Effort to solely state-funded programs. These eligibility and funding changes impact the caseload reduction credit. For the purposes of analysis, the state has reviewed the monthly caseloads of Temporary Family Assistance (TFA), Two Parent TFA and Certain Exempt TFA case data obtained from the Eligibility Management System (EMS), as well as Safety Net Basic Needs data obtained from the contractors and other sources described in detail below, to arrive at the estimated impact of eligibility and caseload changes on Connecticut’s total FFY 2016 assistance caseload.

### **TANF MOE EXCESS CASELOAD REDUCTION METHODOLOGY**

The methodology used to calculate the excess MOE Expenditures and Caseload ratios are based on total FFY 2016 TANF, state MOE, and separate state program MOE expenditures. The total TANF expenditures equaled \$444,770,144, of which \$242,889,587 was from the federal block grant. In FFY16, the amount of MOE dollars required at 75% equaled \$183,421,057, while actual MOE expenditures were \$201,880,557. This resulted in an excess amount of MOE expenditures equal to \$18,459,500. Based on an average Assistance caseload cost of \$5,195 and expenditures on Assistance programs equal to \$59,229,283 or 13.32% of all TANF expenditures, the excess MOE Assistance equals \$2,458,220 or an offset number of cases equal to 473.

Under CFR Part 261.43 *"What is the definition of a "case receiving assistance" in calculating the caseload reduction credit?"* states: "(2) A State that is investing State MOE funds in eligible families in excess of the required 80 percent or 75 percent basic MOE amount need only include the pro rata share of caseloads receiving assistance that is required to meet the basic MOE requirements."

The total average number of TANF and SSP cases served in FFY 2016 equaled 11,401. Due to program eligibility & policy changes, 3,236 cases (1,248 Two Parent, 1,942 Certain Exempt and 46 Safety Net Basic Needs cases), are to be added back into the overall caseload when it is compared to the base year caseload of 24,088 in FFY 05. The caseload equals 11,401 minus the excess MOE caseload offset of 473 for an adjusted caseload equal to 10,928.

## FORM ACF-202 – TANF CASELOAD REDUCTION REPORT

The difference between the base year caseload of 24,088 (FFY 2005) and an adjusted FFY 2016 adjusted caseload of 10,928, equals a decline of 13,160 cases. The decline net impact is 9,924 cases, after adjusting for the 3,236 cases due to policy provisions. The Caseload Reduction Credit for 2017 is 41.2%.

## FORM ACF-202 – TANF CASELOAD REDUCTION REPORT

**Date of Completion:** 12/30/16

**State:** CONNECTICUT

**Fiscal Year to which credit applies:** 2017

In Connecticut the pro rata share of excess Maintenance of Effort (MOE) for TANF and SSP expenditures and caseload was calculated as follows:

**Connecticut**

**Fiscal Year to which credit applies:** 2017

**Date of Completion:** 12/30/16

### Excess MOE Calculation Worksheet

#### Caseload Data

FY 2005 TANF Caseload	19,830
FY 2005 SSP Caseload	4,258
<b>Total FY 2005 Caseload</b>	<b>24,088</b>
FY 2016 TANF Caseload	11,401
FY 2016 SSP Caseload	0
<b>Total FY 2016 Caseload</b>	<b>11,401</b>

#### 2-Parent Caseload Data

FY 2005 2-p TANF Caseload	0
FY 2005 2-p SSP Caseload	1,423 *
<b>Total FY 2005 Caseload</b>	<b>1,423</b>
FY 2016 2-p TANF Caseload	0
FY 2016 2-p SSP Caseload	0
<b>Total FY 2016 Caseload</b>	<b>0</b>

#### Adjusted Caseload Data

Adjusted FY 2016 Overall Caseload	<b>10,928</b>
Adjusted FY 2016 2-parent Caseload	<b>0</b>

#### Expenditure Data

<b>Total Expenditures</b>	
FY 2016 Total Federal Expenditures	\$242,889,587
FY 2016 Total MOE Expenditures	\$201,880,557
<b>Total Expenditures (Federal + MOE)</b>	<b>\$444,770,144</b>

#### Assistance Expenditures

FY 2016 Federal Expenditures on Assistance	\$16,672,109
FY 2016 MOE Expenditures on Assistance	\$42,557,174
<b>Total Expenditures on Assistance (Federal+MOE)</b>	<b>\$59,229,283</b>
Percentage of Expenditures on Assistance	13.32%

#### Expenditures Per Case

Average Expenditures per Case	\$39,011
Average Expenditures per Case on Assistance	\$5,195

#### MOE and Excess MOE

Required MOE (80% or 75%)	\$183,421,057
Excess MOE Expenditures	\$18,459,500
Excess MOE Expenditures on Assistance	\$2,458,220

**Assistance Cases Funded by Excess MOE** 473

**2-Parent Assistance Cases Funded by Excess MOE** 0

## FORM ACF-202 – TANF CASELOAD REDUCTION REPORT

**Date of Completion:** 12/30/16

**State:** CONNECTICUT

**Fiscal Year to which credit applies:** 2017

Overall Report  (check one)  
Two-parent Report

Apply the overall credit to the two-parent participation rate? N/A\_ yes  
\_\_\_\_\_ no

**PART 1 –Eligibility Changes Made Since FY 2005**  
**(Complete this section for EACH change)**

1. Name of eligibility change: **Safety Net Basic Needs Program – No TANF or MOE Expenditures**
2. Implementation date of eligibility change: **October 1, 2006**
3. Description of policy, including the change from prior policy:

**Safety Net Basic Needs Program**

Effective September 30, 2006 the State stopped claiming as TANF or MOE expenditures the Safety Net “Basic Needs” Program for families who exhausted time-limited TFA and who were not eligible for extensions for reasons other than having income over the TFA payment standard. The Safety Net Basic Needs program provides eligible families with vendor payments for basic needs such as food, rent, utilities, and clothing. This component was categorized as a Separate State MOE *assistance* program. The caseload data for this group from the last report is listed as to be “added back” to the Average Monthly FFY 2016 Caseload.

There had been no changes in eligibility to evaluate for caseload effects. Therefore, the average monthly SN-BN caseload would have been added to the State’s overall assistance caseload. However, the state did not utilize TANF federal or state Maintenance of Effort dollars for this program as of October 1, 2006, and thus the effect was a reduction in the total SSP-MOE caseload.

4. Description of the methodology used to calculate the estimated impact of this eligibility change: (attach supporting materials to this form)

The state does not utilize TANF or Maintenance of Effort dollars for this program as of October 1, 2006.

The average monthly caseload between October 1, 2015 and September 30, 2016 equaled 46. These cases are not claimed in the Maintenance of Effort expenditures. There were no participants which may be claimed in the caseload from the Safety Net – Basic Needs. The impact of this establishes a reduction in the average monthly caseload by 46 cases. These cases are to be “added back to the TANF caseload” to level the comparison to the FFY 2005 base year average monthly caseload.

5. Estimated average monthly impact of this eligibility change on caseload in comparison year:

Avg. Monthly Caseload FFY 2016 = 46 as compared to the Avg. Monthly Caseload FFY 2005 = 56



## FORM ACF-202 – TANF CASELOAD REDUCTION REPORT

**Date of Completion:** 12/30/16

**State:** CONNECTICUT

**Fiscal Year to which credit applies:** 2017

1. Name of eligibility change: **Two Parent TFA Program – No TANF or MOE Expenditures**
2. Implementation date of eligibility change: **October 1, 2007**
3. Description of policy, including the change from prior policy:

### **Two Parent TFA Program**

Effective October 1, 2007 the State stopped claiming the Two Parent component of the TFA program as TANF or MOE expenditures. The Two-Parent Temporary Family Assistance program has been removed from the TANF Plan as an assistance program. Effective October 1, 2007, cash assistance is provided to two parent households in a solely state funded program. Two Parent families are eligible for non-assistance programs such as Employment Services.

There had been no changes in eligibility to evaluate for caseload effects. The average monthly caseload data for this group is “added back” to the Average Monthly FFY 2016 Caseload. Caseload numbers for Two Parent TFA in prior years had been shown in the Separate State Program (SSP) sections. The state did not utilize TANF federal or state Maintenance of Effort dollars for this program as of October 1, 2007, and thus the effect was a reduction in the total SSP-MOE caseload.

4. Description of the methodology used to calculate the estimated impact of this eligibility change: (attach supporting materials to this form)

The state does not utilize TANF or Maintenance of Effort dollars for this program as of October 1, 2007.

The average monthly caseload between October 1, 2015 and September 30, 2016 equaled 1,248. However, none of these cases were claimed in TANF federal or state Maintenance of Effort expenditures. There were no participants which may be claimed in the caseload from the Two Parent Family assistance units. The impact of this establishes a reduction in the average monthly caseload by 1,248 cases. These cases are to be “added back” to the TANF caseload to level the comparison to the FFY 2005 base year average monthly caseload.

5. Estimated average monthly impact of this eligibility change on caseload in comparison year:

Avg. Monthly Caseload FFY 2016 = 1,248 as compared to FFY 2005 = 1,423

## FORM ACF-202 – TANF CASELOAD REDUCTION REPORT

**Date of Completion:** 12/30/16

**State:** CONNECTICUT

**Fiscal Year to which credit applies:** 2017

1. Name of eligibility change: **Certain Exempt TFA Program – No TANF or MOE Expenditures**
2. Implementation date of eligibility change: **October 1, 2008**
3. Description of policy, including the change from prior policy:

### **Certain Exempt TFA Program**

Effective October 1, 2008 the State stopped claiming the Certain Exempt component of the TFA program as TANF, Commingled, or Separate State Program MOE expenditures. The Certain Exempt Temporary Family Assistance program has been removed from the TANF Plan as an assistance program. Effective October 1, 2008, cash assistance is provided to Certain Exempt households in a solely state funded program.

There had been no changes in eligibility to evaluate for caseload effects. The average monthly caseload data for this group is “added back” to the average monthly FFY 2016 caseload. Caseload numbers for Certain Exempt TFA in prior years had been shown in TANF Caseload (FFY 2008) and Separate State Program (prior to FFY 2008). The state did not utilize TANF federal or state Maintenance of Effort dollars for this program as of October 1, 2008, and thus the effect was a reduction in the total caseload.

4. Description of the methodology used to calculate the estimated impact of this eligibility change: (attach supporting materials to this form)

The state does not utilize TANF or Maintenance of Effort dollars for this program as of October 1, 2008.

The average monthly caseload between October 1, 2015 and September 30, 2016 equaled 1,942; however, none of these cases were claimed in TANF federal or state Maintenance of Effort expenditures. There were no participants claimed in the caseload from the Certain Exempt assistance units. The impact of this establishes a reduction in the average monthly caseload by 1,942 cases. These cases are to be “added back” to the TANF caseload to level the comparison to the FFY 2005 base year average monthly caseload.

5. Estimated average monthly impact of this eligibility change on caseload in comparison year:

Avg. Monthly Caseload FFY 2016 = 1,942 as compared to FFY 2005 = 2,401

## FORM ACF-202 – TANF CASELOAD REDUCTION REPORT

**Date of Completion:** 12/30/16

**State:** CONNECTICUT

**Fiscal Year to which credit applies:** 2017

### PART 2 – Estimate of Caseload Reduction Credit

**Connecticut**

**Fiscal Year to which credit applies:**

**2017**

**Date of Completion:** 12/30/16

### PART 2 – Estimate of Caseload Reduction Credit

Impact of All Changes

Caseload Reduction Calculation

Two Parent Cases (No TANF or MOE Funding)	-1,248
Safety Net Basic Needs (No TANF or MOE Funding)	-46
Certain Exempt Cases (No TANF or MOE Funding)	-1,942

FY 2005 TANF Caseload	19,830
FY 2005 SSP Caseload	4,258
<b>Total FY 2005 Caseload</b>	<b>24,088</b>
FY 2016 TANF Caseload	11,401
FY 2016 SSP Caseload	0
<b>Total FY 2016 Caseload</b>	<b>11,401</b>
Excess MOE Cases FY 2016	473
<b>Adjusted FY 2016 Caseload</b>	<b>10,928</b>
Caseload Decline	13,160
Decline – Net Impact	9,924

Caseload  
Reduction  
Credit = **41.2%**

**Net Impact** **-3,236**

Pro rata offset / Excess MOE (>75%) Eligible Families adjusted in TANF & SSP FFY 16 Caseload\*

\*Under CFR Part 261.43 "What is the definition of a "case receiving assistance" in calculating the caseload reduction credit?" states: "(2) A State that is investing State MOE funds in eligible families in excess of the required 80 percent or 75 percent basic MOE amount need only include the pro rata share of caseloads receiving assistance that is required to meet the basic MOE requirements."

Total FY 2005 Caseload	24,088
Adjusted Caseload w/ net impact & Excess MOE	14,164
Difference in FFY and Base Year	9,924
Percent change	41.2%

## FORM ACF-202 – TANF CASELOAD REDUCTION REPORT

### Safety Net Basic Needs Program

No TANF Federal or MOE Funds Claimed in FFY 2016

#### Safety Net Basic Needs Program TFA Program FFY 2016

	Impact on Each Month in FY 2016												
	Oct-15	Nov	Dec	Jan-16	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	
<b>Time of Closure</b>													
Oct-15													
Nov	51	46											
Dec			54										
Jan-16				51									
Feb					42								
Mar						49							
Apr							41						
May								37					
Jun									50				
Jul										39			
Aug											52		
Sep												39	
<b>Total</b>	51	46	54	51	42	49	41	37	50	39	52	39	Grand Total
													551
													FY 2016 monthly average
													46

No TANF Federal or Maintenance of Effort Expenditures were claimed in FFY 16 for the Safety Net Basic Needs Program. The impact shown on the average monthly caseload of the program operating with non-TANF Funds for the program year. The average monthly caseload equaled 46 in FFY 2016.

## FORM ACF-202 – TANF CASELOAD REDUCTION REPORT

### Two Parent TFA Program No TANF Federal or MOE Funds Claimed in FFY 2016

#### Two Parent TFA Program FFY 2016

	Impact on Each Month in FY 2016													
	Oct-15	Nov	Dec	Jan-16	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep		
<b>Time of Closure</b>														
Oct-15	1,345													Grand Total
Nov		1,323												
Dec			1,333											
Jan-16				1,288										
Feb					1,278									
Mar						1,270								
Apr							1,246							
May								1,204						
Jun									1,172					
Jul										1,164				
Aug											1,186			
Sep												1,170		
<b>Total</b>	1,345	1,323	1,333	1,288	1,278	1,270	1,246	1,204	1,172	1,164	1,186	1,170	14,979	
	14,979											FY 2016 monthly average	1,248	

There were no TANF Federal or Maintenance of Effort expenditure claims FFY 16 for the Two Parent Program. It is a Solely State Funded (SSF) Program. The average monthly caseload equaled 1,248 in FFY 2016.

## FORM ACF-202 – TANF CASELOAD REDUCTION REPORT

### Certain Exempt TFA Program No TANF Federal or MOE Funds Claimed in FFY 2016

#### Certain Exempt TFA Program FFY 2016

	Impact on Each Month in FY 2016													
	Oct-15	Nov	Dec	Jan-16	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep		
<b>Time of Closure</b>														
Oct-15	1,964													
Nov		1,986												
Dec			1,996											
Jan-16				1,962										
Feb					1,919									
Mar						1,942								
Apr							1,923							
May								1,911						
Jun									1,884					
Jul										1,930				
Aug											1,958			
Sep												1,927		
<b>Total</b>	1,964	1,986	1,996	1,962	1,919	1,942	1,923	1,911	1,884	1,930	1,958	1,927	<b>Grand Total</b>	23,302
	23,302										FY 2016 monthly average		1,942	

There were no TANF Federal or Maintenance of Effort expenditure claims FFY 15 for the Certain Exempt Program. It is a Solely State Funded (SSF) Program. The average monthly caseload equaled 1,942 in FFY 2016.

**FORM ACF-202 – TANF CASELOAD REDUCTION REPORT**

**FORM ACF-202 – TANF CASELOAD REDUCTION REPORT**

**Date of Completion: 12/30/16**

**State: CONNECTICUT**

**Fiscal Year to which credit applies: 2017**

PART 3 -- Certification

I certify that we have provided the public an appropriate opportunity to comment on the estimates and methodology used to complete this report and considered those comments in completing it. Further, I certify that this report incorporates all reductions in the caseload resulting from State eligibility changes and changes in Federal requirements since Fiscal Year 2005.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

Peter Palermino

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name)

CT TANF Administrator, Connecticut Department of Social Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
(title)



## FORM ACF-202 – TANF CASELOAD REDUCTION REPORT

### TANF CASELOAD REDUCTION REPORT

Pursuant to federal regulations at 45 CFR 261.40 et seq., the Connecticut Department of Social Services is seeking public review and comment on the methodology and the case number estimates used in its Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Caseload Reduction Report to calculate the state's TANF Work Participation Rate for Federal Fiscal Year 2017.

The federal TANF block grant includes specific performance expectations and requirements to help federal and state governments measure program success. All states are required to meet specific work participation rates. Federal law requires work participation rates, which reflect the percentage of families receiving TANF assistance that must be engaged in federally-defined work activities.

To ensure that states receive credit for families that have become self-sufficient, Congress created the caseload reduction credit. States must complete form ACF-202, the Caseload Reduction Report, and provide the public with an opportunity to comment on its methodology and estimates. The reduction report provides an analysis of monthly caseload, case closure, and application activity, including activity related to changes in eligibility criteria, to arrive at the estimated impact of eligibility changes on the state's average assistance caseloads in FFY 2017 (October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017).

The caseload reduction credit reduces the required work participation rate that a state must meet for a given fiscal year. It reflects the net percentage point reduction in the state's caseload in the prior fiscal year as compared to the caseload in base year FFY 2005. The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 recalibrated the base year to be Federal Fiscal Year 2005. Thus, the caseload reduction credit for FFY 2017 reduces the state's work participation rate for that fiscal year based on the caseload decline in the prior year, FFY 2016 compared to FFY 2005.

Statement of Purpose: solicit public comments on the Caseload Reduction Report in accordance with federal TANF regulations.

Written comments on Connecticut's Caseload Reduction Report may be submitted to the Department by December 26, 2016 to the attention of: Peter Palermينو, Program Manager, Department of Social Services, Economic Security Unit, 55 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105 or [peter.palermينو@ct.gov](mailto:peter.palermينو@ct.gov).

A full copy of the report is available at no cost upon request to the Department. To receive a copy, please send e-mail to: [peter.palermينو@ct.gov](mailto:peter.palermينو@ct.gov). The report will also be available on the web at <http://ct.gov/dss>