



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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April 17, 2015

The Honorable Senator Alan Bates, Co-Chair
The Honorable Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair
Joint Ways and Means Sub-Committee on Human Services
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

Please accept this letter as the response to questions from the April 15, 2015 Joint Ways and Means Human Services Subcommittee meeting regarding our Self-Sufficiency Programs.

Question 1: Can you tell us about the jobs clients are going to and what they pay?

Answer: The jobs Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) clients are acquiring are tracked monthly by hourly rates and weekly hours. Reviewing our most recent quarter from January 2015 to March 2015, the data shows an average of 1,092 individuals starting jobs monthly; of those just under 51 percent meet the 30 hours or more a week definition of full-time employment, and 14.4 percent meet the hourly wage benchmark of \$11.55 hourly rate or greater.

Average TANF job placements & wages January - March 2015	Total Placements	Full Time	Part Time		Wage Goal
Placements	1,092	554	538		157
Percent of Total		50.7%	49.3%		14.4%
Average Wage per hour	\$10.65	\$11.12	\$10.24		\$14.91

Question 2: How do your programs relate to assistance for victims of domestic violence?

Answer: The Self-Sufficiency Program includes the Temporary Assistance for Domestic Violence Survivors (TA-DVS) program. An information sheet on the TA-DVS program is attached. Many of the emergency funds DHS spends to support domestic violence survivors and their children are used to obtain safe housing.

Attachment: TA-Domestic Violence Survivors Program Overview

Question 3: What information might you have about what transportation services are available, reduced or discounted rates, etc.? What help is there and how do people find out about it?

Answer: For TANF parents participating in the Job Opportunity and Basic Skills (JOBS) program, support services are provided to enable the parents to participate in activities designed to help them obtain employment. The agency provides transportation support services, typically in the form of bus tickets or gas vouchers/money, to help clients attend job preparation or other activities specified in their case plans.

TANF families in need of transportation assistance not related to their case plans are referred to Oregon 211 for resource information. Oregon 211 provides individuals with referrals to agencies that can assist with public transportation needs in their local area. These services could include identification cards or vouchers to help pay for transportation fees.

If you have additional questions, please contact DHS Legislative Coordinator Jill Gray at jill.gray@dhsosha.state.or.us or (503) 569-9484.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Fredlund". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kim" and last name "Fredlund" clearly distinguishable.

Kim Fredlund
Deputy Director, Self-Sufficiency Programs

cc: Laurie Byerly
Erinn Kelley-Siel, Director, Oregon DHS
Tammy Brooks, Program Co-Manager, Temporary Assistance for Needy
Families, Oregon DHS
Jill Gray, Legislative Coordinator, Oregon DHS

Attachment

- TA-Domestic Violence Survivors Program Overview

Temporary Assistance for Domestic Violence Survivors (TA-DVS)

The Temporary Assistance for Domestic Violence Survivors (TA-DVS) program provides temporary financial assistance and support to families who lack resources and are in crisis situations or emerging crisis situations due to domestic violence. The program provides funding to help parents with children and pregnant women address safety concerns, and stabilize their living situation to reduce the likelihood of the survivor returning to the abuser. The most common need among TA-DVS clients is for assistance to flee an abuser. TA-DVS is funded and administered through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

TA-DVS benefits

TA-DVS benefits are payments DHS makes directly to vendors on behalf of the survivor for the following purposes:

- Funding housing costs when fleeing a domestic violence situation, such as a rental deposit
- Funding relocation costs such as bus or air fare
- Funding safety precautions such as lock changes
- Funding household items that are not available through other community resources

Fast Facts from State Fiscal Year 2013-14

- ▶ An average of 1,700 families received TA-DVS monthly
- ▶ Approximate average TA-DVS case expenditure \$780
- ▶ The average monthly program expenditure for TA-DVS is \$343,786

Eligibility

TANF eligibility and income requirements must be met to receive TA-DVS. Certain TANF requirements can be waived if not waiving them will put the client at risk of further domestic violence.

Benefits

A survivor may receive benefits under the TA-DVS program not to exceed \$1,200 during the 90-day period of eligibility.

TA-DVS benefits do not fund:

- Ongoing, recurring costs
- Legal fees or fine payments
- Pet fees
- Car, recreational vehicle purchase
- Firearm or weapons purchase
- Purchase of non-essential items