



Oregon

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Co-Chair Wlnsvey Campos

Co-Chair Andrea Valderrama

Joint Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Human Services

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Subcommittee:

At your hearing on March 10, 2025, during Oregon Department of Human Services' presentation on an overview of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, Representative Scharf requested additional information on TANF fraud investigations. Representative Diehl also asked about how many families are currently receiving Job Participation Incentive (JPI). Additionally, a corrected JOBS table will be included.

Please see our response and corrections below:

Question 1: TANF Fraud Investigations

As Director Claire Seguin noted in her presentation, TANF fraud investigations are primarily handled by the Office of Payment Accuracy and Recovery (OPAR). Within OPAR, the Fraud Investigation Unit (FIU) has an extensive fraud investigation manual, including a breakdown of the triage procedure for new potential fraud referrals, where the following questions are asked.

1. Are there elements of a program violation present?
2. How long has the alleged violation been occurring? If it's potential fraud that has just occurred and depending on the type of violation, you may be able to outreach and provide a warning and education.
3. In this a multi-program referral with high dollar benefit payout?

4. Does the beneficiary or household have a history of prior fraud referrals?
5. Is the referral a possible criminal case?

A benefit recipient commits an Intentional Program Violation (IPV) when they make a false or misleading statement that allows them to receive more benefits than they are eligible for. As a result of receiving more benefits than they were eligible- this creates an overpayment a household may be indebted to repay. For the purposes of IPV it is solely proving, by clear and convincing legal standard, that the recipient misrepresented or made false statements to workers and/or on benefit applications to receive benefits they were not otherwise eligible for.

There is only one type of violation that can occur in TANF/SNAP and providers in the ERDC program. The causes for IPV are false or misleading statements or misrepresenting, concealing, or withholding a fact relating to the use, presentation, transfer, acquisition, receipt, possession, or trafficking of SNAP benefits; The duration of disqualification depends on number of occurrences and cause: 12 months, 2 years, 10 years, or permanent.

Referrals come to FIU through a variety of ways: online report form, hotline, email from workers statewide, internal partners like Overpayment Writing Unit (OWU) and Data Match Unit, or from external agencies such as law enforcement and USDA Food and Nutrition Services (FNS). A referral is a report of concern that there may be inaccurate reporting of information regarding a benefit case. There are four possible outcomes for a referral: Fraud, Client Error, Administrative Error and Unsubstantiated. A multi-agency referral occurs when we are contacted by other agencies or law enforcement, to combine a case, or FIU reaches out to combine a case.

Question 2: Number of Participants in JPI

ODHS Self-Sufficiency Program (SSP) serves a little over 24,000 families currently receiving the \$10 JPI benefit. This data is from October 2022 to September 2023.

Corrected JOBS Activity Tables

As Claire noted on Monday, March 10, a few of the items in the tables on our slides about JOBS work activities had incorrect markings indicating the extent to which the activities count towards TANF beneficiaries' work activity engagement requirements that determine the state's work participation rate. We provide corrected tables here, as well as additional detail.

In both tables below, activities highlighted in green are unlimited "core countable" activities; these count toward all 30 hours of TANF beneficiaries' weekly work requirements with no limits. Yellow-highlighting indicates limited "core countable" activities, which count toward all 30 weekly required hours, but within certain limits. Participating in orange-highlighted activities, or "non-core countable" activities, can help meet up to 20 weekly required weekly hours only if combined with participation in at least 10 weekly hours of core countable activities.

Most of the yellow-highlighted items are considered "job readiness" activities and are subject to a strict time limit, counting towards weekly required hours for no more than four consecutive weeks,

and no more than six weeks per year (12 weeks in a year the state is deemed “needy”). The remaining yellow-highlighted activities are Vocational Educational Training and Self-Initiated Education; these can count towards the weekly hourly requirement for up to 12 months. Vocational Training and Self-Initiated Education are both subject to an additional limit: no more than 30% of a state’s TANF caseload may be counted as engaged in work by virtue of participating in educational activities. Finally, while “High School and GED activities” is a non-core countable activity for most beneficiaries and is marked as such in the table, it is available as a core countable activity for teen parents, again subject to the 30% cap on a state’s caseload that can count as engaged by virtue of participating in educational activities.

TANF JOBS Activities by 2023-25 Expenditures

This table shows expenditures so far this biennium on the different types of contracted JOBS activities, in order of the amounts spent.

KEY:

Unlimited “core countable” activities

Limited “core countable” activities

“Non-core Countable”

JOBS Activity	2023-25 Expenditures
Job Search & Job Preparation	\$8.69 million
Life Skills	\$7.17 million
Stabilized Living	\$3.57 million
Supported Work	\$2.45 million
Child Related Services	\$1.81 million
Vocational Educational Training	\$1.69 million
Mental Health Services	\$1.57 million
High School & GED Activities	\$1.53 million
Work Experience	\$1.40 million
Medical Related Services	\$0.73 million
English as a Second Language	\$0.72 million
Self-Initiated Education	\$0.69 million
JOBS Plus	\$0.44 million
Adult Basic Education	\$0.19 million
Substance Abuse Disorder	\$0.16 million
Job Skills Training	\$0.12 million
Rehabilitative Services	\$0.07 million
On-the-Job Training	\$0.04 million

JOBS Activities by State FY 2024 Participation

This table shows how many individuals participated in the different types of JOBS activities during State Fiscal Year 2024.

JOBS Activity	Total	Percentage
Child Related Services	3,948	20.3%
Job Search	3,704	19.1%
Stabilize Living	2,381	12.3%
Medical-Related Services	1,642	8.5%
Working	1,473	7.6%
Life Skills	1,237	6.4%
Mental Health	572	2.9%
SSI Application Process	518	2.7%
Supported Work	497	2.6%
Family Support and Connections	474	2.4%
Crisis Intervention	452	2.3%
Domestic Violence Services	417	2.1%
Family Stabilization	401	2.1%
Self-Initiated Education	361	1.9%
High School Diploma or GED (equivalent)	346	1.8%
Drug/Alcohol Services	275	1.4%
Vocational Training	263	1.4%
Work Experience	100	0.5%
Job Skills Training	85	0.4%
English as a Second Language	76	0.4%
Adult Basic Education	60	0.3%
Rehabilitative Services	43	0.2%
JOBS Plus	38	0.2%
Community Service Program	20	0.1%
On-the-Job Training	9	0.0%
Total	19411	100.0%