

“JUST THE FACTS”

*A Monthly Public Assistance Update from the
Illinois Department of Human Services*

July 2015

Summary

Total cases receiving Public Assistance in Illinois fell by 20,524 cases (33,467 persons) in July 2015. Non-Assistance SNAP and MANG cases were responsible for the decrease. Aided cases numbered 2,076,701 (3,467,465 persons), up 8.4 percent from year-earlier totals.

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

Benefits

- *Total TANF Benefits:* A 942 case (2,541 person) decrease resulted in a total 43,501 families (116,348 persons) receiving TANF benefits in July. The caseload was 10.9 percent lower than the July 2014 total.
- *“0” Grant Cases:* There were 4,733 “0” grant cases (13,243 persons) included this month, up 297 cases and 785 persons from June 2015.
- *TANF-Basic:* TANF-Basic (primarily single-parent) families fell by 937 (2,537 persons) in July to 41,776 cases (108,704 persons).
- *Two-Parent Cases:* Two-parent cases fell by 5 to a 1,725 total in July 2015. The number of persons decreased by 4 to 7,644.

TANF Program Detail

- *Applications:* The number of TANF applications received in July rose by 562 to a total of 9,626. Both new applications and re-applications increased. Receipts included 8,264 applications for the Basic sector and 1,362 applications for the two-parent sector. There were 2,288 applications pending for the combined program this month, an increase of 173 from June levels.
- *Approvals:* There were 2,259 assistance approvals this month, including 1,443 new grants (up 50 from June 2015) and 816 reinstatements (down 79). A reinstatement is defined as approval of any case that was active within the previous 24 months.

Reasons for Case Openings

There were 2,254 July 2015 TANF openings for which reasons were available, down 100 from the June level. This total includes 2,159 cases from the Basic sector and 95 cases from the two-parent sector. Reasons for opening cases included the following:

| REASONS FOR CASE OPENINGS | % OF TOTAL CASE OPENINGS |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Reinstatement after remedying Previous non-cooperation | 2.8 |
| Living below agency standards | 77.7 |
| Loss of employment | 0.2 |
| Loss of other benefits | 5.9 |
| Parent leaving home | 0.1 |
| Increased medical needs | 5.1 |
| Loss of unemployment benefits | 0.2 |
| All other reasons | 8.0 |

Reasons for Case Closings

Reasons were available for 2,999 July 2015 TANF case closings – up by 60 cases from June. This total includes 2,850 cases from the Basic sector and 149 cases from the two-parent sector. Reasons for closing cases included the following:

| REASONS FOR CASE CLOSINGS | % OF TOTAL CASE CLOSINGS |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Earned Income | 32.4 |
| Other Financial | 3.0 |
| Non-compliance* | 39.7 |
| Non-financial | 24.8 |

* 64 cases canceled in June 2015 for non-compliance related reasons were reinstated by July after complying. These cases had no break in assistance.

Assistance to the Aged, Blind or Disabled (AABD)

The total number of July 2015 AABD cases was down 2,371 or 8.7 percent from the number of cases a year earlier. The decrease was largely attributable to Disability Assistance, where the number of cases fell 1,873 or 8.4 percent from July 2014 levels.

- *One-Person AABD Cases:* One-person cases receiving grants through AABD rose by 22 in July to a total of 24,848. This total includes 4,445 persons who qualified for Old Age Assistance; 90 persons who qualified for Blind Assistance; and 20,313 persons who qualified for Disability Assistance.
- *“0” Grant Status:* The number of persons in “0” grant status fell by 21 to 1,293.
- *State Supplemental Payments:* The number of individuals receiving State Supplemental Payments rose by 43 to 23,555.

Medical Assistance – No Grant

Both AABD MANG and Family Health Plan customers were responsible for a monthly decrease of 7,014 cases receiving Medical Assistance in July 2015. Persons decreased by 13,144. This resulted in a program total of 1,822,049 cases (3,082,085 persons). Of the total, 66,209 MANG cases and 99,392 MANG persons were in Kid Care, Disabled Worker, Breast and Cervical Cancer, and Department of Correction programs first included in July 2014. AABD MANG cases in these offices totaled 12,392. Additional FHP cases totaled 53,817. Additional FHP persons totaled 87,000.

- *MANG:* MANG recipients represent 88 percent of total cases and 89 percent of total persons. MANG cases increased 15.1 percent from their July 2014 levels, when they represented 83 percent of all cases.
- *Family Health Plans:* Families decreased by 7,174 to 1,329,505 from June to July 2015. Persons decreased by 13,304 to 2,589,541. Two groups newly-eligible under the Affordable Care Act are responsible for much of the increase. The first group is Single Adults age 19 through 64, not otherwise eligible for other Medical Assistance with income at or below 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. Also added are Persons age 18 through 26 who were receiving Medicaid benefits when aged out of State Foster Care and who are not otherwise FHP or AABD clients.
- *AABD Clients:* AABD customers who were categorically qualified for Medical Only rose by 701 to 451,929 one-person cases. AABD Group Care clients totaled 60,465.
- *Foster Care:* Foster Care Assistance aided 40,615 children during this time period.

Applications – All Programs

- In July 2015, application receipts for all programs excluding SNAP increased by 348 to a total of 105,198. This count includes: 94,725 applications for Medical Assistance, 9,626 for TANF, and 847 for AABD grants. SNAP applications received through Intake and Income Maintenance decreased by 6,874 to 138,501.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- SNAP Assistance was given to 1,055,063 Illinois households (2,024,423 persons) in July 2015. This is an increase of 1.5 percent (15,968 households) from July 2014 levels.
- Of this total, 869,312 households (1,780,804 persons) also received cash or medical benefits through other public assistance programs. This is an increase of 11.2 percent (87,229 households) from July 2014 levels.
- A total of 185,751 households (243,619 persons) received Non-Assistance SNAP in July 2015. This is a 27.7 percent (71,261 household) decrease from July 2014 levels.

All Kids (KidCare)

- All Kids, which began in January 1998, extends Medical coverage by expanding income eligibility standards (based upon the Federal Poverty Level) for pregnant women, infants born to Medical-eligible pregnant women, and certain other children under the age of 19.
- Between January 5, 1998 and July 1, 2015 a total of 82,129 TANF-Medical Only persons were enrolled in All Kids Phase I due to this expansion of eligibility. Included in this total are 5,259 in the Moms and Babies program and 76,870 in the Assist program.
- Cases ineligible for Medicaid due to excess income may be eligible for All Kids Phase II. October 1998 was the first month of enrollment. Phase II also requires co-pays and sometimes premiums. All Kids Share and All Kids Premium provide essentially the same benefits as Medical Assistance. A total of 26,353 Share and 32,167 Premium persons had enrolled by July 1.

**FISCAL YEAR 2016
SUMMARY OF CASES AND PERSONS
AS OF JULY 2015**

| <u>Program</u> | <u>Cases</u> | <u>Persons</u> |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| TANF (PAYMENT CASES) | 38,768 | 103,105 |
| AABD CASH (ST SUPP PAYMENTS) | 23,555 | 23,555 |
| ZERO GRANTS: | | |
| TANF | 4,733 | 13,243 |
| AABD | 1,293 | 1,293 |
| FAMILY HEALTH PLANS | 1,329,505 | 2,589,541 |
| AABD MANG | 451,929 | 451,929 |
| NON-ASSISTANCE SNAP | 185,751 | 243,619 |
| FOSTER CARE | 40,615 | 40,615 |
| REFUGEES | | |
| CASH & MEDICAL | 423 | 436 |
| MEDICAL ONLY | 129 | 129 |
| TOTAL | <u>2,076,701</u> | <u>3,467,465</u> |

Child Care

Child Care Services are available to families with income below 50 percent of the state median. Families must be working or enrolled in approved education or training activities. Families cost-share with co-payments based on income, family size and number of children in care. Services are delivered through a certificate program and a site-administered contract system.

- **The Certificate Program** eligibility is determined by resource and referral agencies. Parents choose subsidized full or part-time care from any legal care provider that meets their needs. Providers include child-care centers, family homes, group child-care home and in-home and relative care. In July 2015, an estimated 154,050 children were served by certificate.
- **The Site-Administered Contract Program** serves families through a statewide network of contracted licensed centers and family homes. Families apply for care directly with the contracted providers and eligibility is determined on-site by the provider. In July 2015, an estimated 7,000 children were served by contract.
- **The Migrant Head Start Program** provides child care and health and social services for preschool children of migrant and seasonal farm workers. Services are provided by local community based agencies. The program is federally funded and serves approximately 450 children during the harvest season.

Emergency Food, Shelter and Support

Homeless families and individuals receive food, shelter and support services through local not-for-profit organizations. A “continuum of care” includes emergency and transitional housing and assistance in gaining self-sufficiency and permanent housing.

- **The Emergency and Transitional Housing Program** served 5,790 households in shelters during January-March 2015. Of those 896 were households with children.
- **The Emergency Food Program** served 736,562 households from January-March 2015.
- **The Homeless Prevention Program** helps families in existing homes and helps others secure affordable housing. During January-March 2015, 856 households were served. Of those, 488 were families (Households with children under age 18).
- **The Supportive Housing Program** funds governments and agencies which serve families and transitional facility residents. In January-March 2015, 503,631 nights of Supportive Housing were provided.

Emergency Food, Shelter and Support

- **The Refugee and Immigrant Citizenship Initiative** funds the provision of English language, civics and U.S. history instruction as well as application services. During October-December 2014, 1,272 clients had received instruction. In the January-March 2015 quarter, 1,039 were assisted with their citizenship applications.
- **Of the refugees served**, 358 entered employment, and 331 retained jobs 90 days.
- **The Outreach and Interpretation project** assures access to IDHS benefits. In the January-March 2015 quarter, 17,835 clients received case management, 3,123 received interpreter service, and 1,884 received translation service.

Social Service Block Grants

Service funding is provided through the Federal Title XX Social Services Block Grant to manage and monitor contracts which help customers achieve economic self-support and prevent or remedy abuse and neglect.

- **Crisis Nurseries** served 395 customers during the January-March 2015 quarter.
- **The Estimated Donated Funds Initiative** aided 10,677 customers with 67,092 rides provided for Seniors during the January-March 2015 quarter.

Early Intervention (EI)

The Illinois Early Intervention (EI) program serves infants and toddlers birth to 3 years old with developmental delays or disabilities and their family in or more of the following areas of development: adaptive; cognitive, communication/speech, physical and social emotional. EI is part of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities. Annually, the EI program serves approximately 21,000 children throughout the state and maintains 25 regional intake entities called Child and Family Connections (CFC) offices. CFCs handle referrals, intake and service coordination for infants and toddlers with Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs).

Early Intervention services include, but are not limited to: developmental evaluations and assessments, communication/speech therapy, developmental therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, service coordination, psychological and assistive technology. Evaluations, assessments, service plan development and service coordination are provided to families as no cost. Ongoing EI services are paid for by public insurance (Medicaid/All Kids), a family's private health insurance, when appropriate, state general revenue and other program funds. Families are assessed a family participation fee based on a sliding scale which considers their ability to pay.

Program Statistics

| Indicator | June 2015 | SFY 2015 Average | SFY 2014 Average | SFY 2013 Average |
|----------------------------|-----------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Referrals | 2,928 | 2,873 | 2,839 | 2,592 |
| Active IFSP's | 21,693 | 21,183 | 20,342 | 19,662 |
| 0-3 Participation Rate | 4.25% | 4.15% | 3.99% | 3.96% |
| Under 1 Participation Rate | 1.35% | 1.29% | 1.24% | 1.07% |
| % With Medicaid | 59.0% | 59.8% | 61.1% | 48.90% |
| % With Insurance | 35.9% | 35.7% | 34.5% | 36.70% |
| % With Fees | 27.4% | 27.8% | 27.7% | 27.40% |

What's New in EI

Illinois submitted the first State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) this spring. The SSIP is a comprehensive, multi-year plan based upon detailed data and infrastructure analysis. The plan will identify a focus for improvement and describe improvement strategies that will lead to a measurable child-based result. Strategies will support CFC offices and early intervention providers in implementing, scaling-up, and sustaining evidence-based practices that will result in improved outcomes for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. In February 2016, the EI Program will report on Phase II of the SSIP, which will identify changes to infrastructure, resources needed, expected outcomes, timeliness for completing improvement activities, and an evaluation plan.

Women Infants and Children (WIC)

The purpose of WIC is to provide nutrition education and counseling, breastfeeding promotion and support, nutritious food and referrals to services for eligible pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants and children to age five. The program has been housed under the Department of Human Services for the last 16 years. In order to be eligible, participants must be at 185% of the federal poverty level; be a resident of the State of Illinois; and have a nutrition risk.

Program Statistics

| Eligibility Category | Clients in June 2015 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Pregnant Women | 25,647 |
| Breastfeeding Women | 16,181 |
| Postpartum Women | 16,204 |
| Infants | 67,261 |
| Children | 241,281 |

What’s New in WIC

In preparation for WIC Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT), which USDA has mandated by 2020, readiness activities are underway. Training is being provided to all WIC local agency providers on MIS changes which will allow grouping of WIC participants in the same family and synchronization of base dates. Both of these changes will facilitate readiness for EBT. Procurement for an EBT developer is in process.

Participant Centered Services (PCS) are being cultivated throughout the Illinois WIC Program. PCS is a comprehensive, outcome-based model developed by Altarum Institute to promote the adoption of positive nutrition- and health-related behaviors by Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) families. PCS is a comprehensive systems change model for participant interaction that touches upon all aspects of WIC functions and service delivery. PCS puts the participant at the core of WIC service delivery and targets the most important determinants of behavior change: self-efficacy, skill building, and readiness to change. PCS focuses on a person’s capacities, strengths and developmental needs, rather than solely on problems, risks or negative behaviors.

Within the PCS framework, the participant and the WIC staff form a partnership to engage in interactive discussions based on the particular needs and circumstances of the participant. This approach contrasts with the traditional, didactic WIC assessment and education model, which places the nutrition educator in an authoritative position, providing information and direction to the participant. Although the didactic approach is somewhat successful in delivering information and increasing nutrition knowledge, it is less effective at promoting real behavior change.

Family Case Management

The program target population is low income families (below 200% of the federal poverty level) with a pregnant woman, an infant or a child with a high-risk condition. The goals of the program are to help women have healthy babies and to reduce the rates of infant mortality and very low birth weight. To achieve these goals the program conducts outreach activities to inform expectant women and new mothers of available services and then assists them with obtaining prenatal and well-child care. The program works with community agencies to address barriers to accessing medical services, such as child care, transportation, housing, food, mental health needs and substance abuse services. Services are provided statewide through local health departments, federally qualified health centers and community-based organizations. Home visits by a public health nurse are provided to the families of infants with medical problems.

Program Statistics

| FCM Active Participant Counts for June 2015 | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Location | Category | Medicaid | Non-Medicaid |
| Cook County | Children | 6,896 | 1,156 |
| | Infants | 19,361 | 2,493 |
| | Pregnant | 9,888 | 1,181 |
| Downstate | Children | 9,185 | 1,207 |
| | Infants | 34,632 | 3,268 |
| | Pregnant | 16,186 | 1,509 |
| Statewide | Children | 16,081 | 2,365 |
| | Infants | 53,993 | 5,761 |
| | Pregnant | 26,074 | 2,690 |

Program Accomplishments

Family Case Management has contributed to the overall reduction in the state's infant mortality and has reduced expenditures for medical assistance during the first year of life. Program outcomes are more effective in the integrated system of Family Case Management and WIC. Recent statistics show:

- The infant mortality rate is 50 to 70% lower
- The rate of premature birth is 60 to 70% lower
- Medicaid expenditures for health care in the first year of life are up to 50% lower
- Participation in WIC and FCM saves Illinois an average of \$200 million each year in Medicaid expenses