

“JUST THE FACTS”

A Monthly Assistance Update from the
Illinois Department of Human Services
October 2020

Summary

Total cases receiving Public Assistance in Illinois climbed 193,878 cases (312,776 persons) in October 2020 from October 2019. Aided cases numbered 1,976,097 (3,202,517 persons) in October 2020, up 10.88% from year-earlier totals.

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

- **Total TANF Benefits:** There were 28,115 TANF cases (75,518 persons) in October 2020, up 525 cases and 1,573 persons from September 2020. The caseload was 29.00% higher than the October 2019 total.
- **TANF-Basic:** In October 2020, TANF-Basic (primarily single-parent) families increased, from September 2020, by 485 cases (1,398 persons) for a total of 26,685 cases (69,044 persons).
- **Two-Parent Cases:** Two-parent cases increased in October 2020 by 40 (175 persons) from September 2020 for a total of 1,430 cases (6,474 persons).
- **Approvals:** There were 1,752 assistance approvals this month, including 717 new grants (up 42 since September 2020) and 231 reinstatements (up 36 since September 2020). A reinstatement is defined as approval of any case that was active within the previous 24 months.
- **TANF Cancelled due to earnings:** In October 2020 there were 171 cases cancelled due to earnings from new employer or increased earnings from an existing employer.
- **Total Grant amount:** \$12,716,341 was the total in October 2020. This is \$509,303 more than the total in September 2020. October 2020 shows a 43.96% increase from October 2019.

Assistance to the Aged, Blind or Disabled (AABD)

The total number of October 2020 AABD Cash cases was up 430 cases or 2.24% from the number of cases a year earlier.

- **AABD Case Details:** AABD cash cases decreased by 49 cases in October 2020 from September 2020 for a total of 19,626 cases. This total includes 9,496 persons who qualified for Old Age Assistance; 127 persons who qualified for Blind Assistance; and 10,003 persons who qualified for Disability Assistance. The total grant amount shows a 5.21% increase from September 2020 (\$2,409,360) to October 2020 (\$2,534,793).

Medical Assistance – No Grant (MANG)

October 2020 had a program total of 1,809,959 cases (2,945,857 persons). Of the total MANG cases, there were 69,781 cases (121,140 MANG persons) in All Kids, Disabled Workers, Breast and Cervical Cancer, Veteran Care, Medically Fragile Technology Dependent, and Department of Corrections programs. Overall, MANG cases in October 2020 show a 9.03% increase (149,904 cases) since October 2019.

- **MANG:** MANG recipients represent 91.59% of total cases and 91.99% of total persons in October 2020. In October 2019, MANG recipients represented 93.15% of total cases.
- **Family Health Plans:** Families increased in October 2020 by 6,593 to 738,549 cases from totals in September 2020. Persons also increased in October by 17,431 to 1,840,219 persons.
- **ACA Adult:** ACA Adult saw an increase of 12,157 cases from September 2020 for a total of 730,924 cases in October. Persons increased by 12,483 for an October 2020 total of 756,231 persons.
- **AABD Clients:** AABD customers who were categorically qualified for Medical Only increased 7.23% in October 2020 from September 2020 to 340,486 cases.
- **Foster Care:** Foster Care Assistance totals were not available at the time of this report.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- SNAP Assistance was given to 1,089,945 Illinois households (1,890,862 persons) in October 2020. This is an increase of 196,868 households from October 2019 levels.
- A total of 118,397 households (161,516 persons) received SNAP with no other assistance in October 2020. This is an increase of 37,222 households from October 2019 levels.
- The total SNAP assistance amount for October of 2020 was \$381,040,247*. This is an increase of \$156,616,694 from October of 2019.

FISCAL YEAR 2020 SUMMARY OF CASES AND PERSONS AS OF OCTOBER 2020

PROGRAM	CASES	PERSONS
TANF	28,115	75,518
AABD Cash	19,626	19,626
Family Health Plans	738,549	1,840,219
AABD MANG	340,486	349,407
ACA	730,924	756,231
SNAP with no other assistance	118,397	161,516
Foster Care	N/A	N/A
Refugees Cash & Medical	47	47
Total	1,976,144	3,202,564

Child Care¹

Child Care Services are available to families with income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. Families must be working or enrolled in approved education or training activities. Families cost-share with co-payments based on income and family size. 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 September 2020, an estimated 105,459 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 September 2020, an estimated 4,093 children were served by contract.
- **The Migrant Head Start Program** provides childcare and health and social services for preschool children of migrant and seasonal farm workers. Services are provided by local community-based agencies. In August 2020, there were 153 children enrolled in Migrant and Seasonal Head Start.

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 4,794 households in shelters during July through September 2020. Of those, 1,020 were households with children.
- **The Emergency Food Program** served 223,426 households (duplicative) in October 2020.
- **The Homeless Prevention Program** helps families in existing homes and helps others secure affordable housing. During July - September 2020, 1,082 households were served. Of those, 526 were families (Households with children under age 18).
- **The Supportive Housing Program** funds governments and agencies which serve families and transitional facility residents. In the July - September 2020 quarter, 833,348 nights of Supportive Housing were provided.

- **The Refugee and Immigrant Citizenship Initiative** funds the provision of English language, civics and U.S. history instruction as well as application services. This program has served 3,805 clients in the 1st Quarter of SFY2021
- **Of the refugees served**, 425 received employment services, and 94% of the clients entering employment were still employed 90 days later from July 2020 – September 2020.
- **The Outreach and Interpretation project** assures access to IDHS benefits. This program has served 5,206 in the 1st Quarter of SFY2021.

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 201 customers during the July - September 2020 quarter.
- **The Estimated Donated Funds Initiative** aided 1,7676 customers with 21,795 rides provided for Senior’s during the July - September 2020 quarter.

Early Intervention (EI)¹

The Illinois Early Intervention (EI) program serves infants and toddlers ages birth to 3 years old with developmental delays or disabilities and their family in one 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 23,000 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 referred to EI and coordinates the eligibility determination process and manages eligible infants and toddlers with Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) through transition.

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 other counseling services and assistive technology. Evaluations, assessments, service plan development and service coordination are provided to families at no cost. Ongoing EI services are paid for by public insurance (i.e., 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 - Early Intervention

Indicator	September 2020	SFY 2020 Average	SFY 2019 Average
Referrals	2,611	2,813	3,333
Active IFSP’s	17,664	22,474	22,812
0-3 Participation Rate	12.21%	10.41%	4.88%
Under 1 Participation Rate	0.89%	1.30%	1.38%
% With Medicaid	50.50%	51.2%	52.0%
% With Insurance	39.20%	38.8%	39.1%
% With Fees	28.00%	28.8%	28.5%

What's New in EI

The Bureau is finalizing our State Systemic Improvement Plan to improve child outcomes through two coherent improvement strategies of implementing the Child Outcomes Survey practice with fidelity and to have Family

Engagement processes developed, measured and put into practice. This work aligns with evidence-based services utilizing the Division of Early Childhood’s Recommended Practices.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)¹

The purpose of WIC is to provide nutrition education and counseling, breastfeeding promotion and support, nutritious supplemental foods 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 since 1997. 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 – WIC

Eligibility Category	Clients in September 2020
Pregnant Women	12,676
Breastfeeding Women	11,811
Postpartum Women	10,779
Infants	44,767
Children	71,303
Total	151,336

What's New in WIC

WIC Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) implementation activities are underway and include the creation of a new management information system (MIS) to replace the existing Cornerstone system. USDA has mandated full implementation of EBT by October 1, 2020. The Pilot roll-out of both the EBT and MIS began March 16, 2020 in DHS Region 4. We are currently set to go live in the last DHS Region to be converted, Region 1 – Cook County on Tuesday, September 8.

Family Case Management¹

The program target population is low income families (below 200% of the federal poverty level) with a pregnant woman, an infant. 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-childcare. The program works with community agencies to address barriers to accessing medical services, such as childcare, 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 program staff are provided in the first year of life.

Program Statistics – Family Case Management

Active Participant Counts for September 2020

Location	Total
Cook County	13,229
Downstate	19,788
Statewide	33,017

Of the 33,017 Statewide participants, 25,864 were Medicaid participants and 7,153 were Non-Medicaid.

Bureau of Program & Performance Management

¹ Current month's Child Care, Early Intervention, Women, Infants, and Children, and Family Case Management data is not released until the end of the following month resulting in a one-month lag for this report.

* Increase due to COVID19 – see Policy Memo - <http://intranet.dhs.illinois.gov/oneweb/page.aspx?item=123562>