

“JUST THE FACTS”

A Monthly Assistance Update from the
Illinois Department of Human Services

October 2016

Summary

Total cases receiving Public Assistance in Illinois fell by 44,908 cases (81,889 persons) in October 2016 from October 2015. Non-Assistance SNAP cases were primarily responsible for the decrease. Aided cases numbered 1,991,160 (3,328,883 persons), down 2.2 percent from year-earlier totals.

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

Benefits

- **Total TANF Benefits:** There were 30,811 TANF cases (81,950 persons) in October 2016, down 656 cases and 1,571 persons from September 2016. The caseload was 32.4 percent lower than the October 2015 total.
- **“0” Grant Cases:** There were 3,077 “0” Grant cases (8,819 persons) in October 2016, down 37 cases and 108 persons from September 2016.
- **TANF-Basic:** TANF-Basic (primarily single-parent) families fell by 651 (1,583 persons) in October 2016 from September 2016 to 29,482 cases (75,890 persons).
- **Two-Parent Cases:** Two-parent cases decreased by 5 (increased 12 persons) in October 2016 from September 2016 to 1,329 cases (6,060 persons).

TANF Program Detail`

- **Applications:** The number of TANF applications received in October 2016 decreased by 469 from September 2016 to a total of 8,577. New applications decreased and re-applications decreased. Receipts included 7,324 applications for the Basic sector and 1,253 applications for the two-parent sector. There were 2,422 applications pending for the combined program this month, a decrease of 330 from September 2016 levels.
- **Approvals:** There were 1,923 assistance approvals this month, including 1,112 new grants (down 228 from September 2016) and 811 reinstatements (down 75 from September 2016). A reinstatement is defined as approval of any case that was active within the previous 24 months.

Reasons for Case Openings

There were 2,273 October 2016 TANF openings for which reasons were available, up 365 from the September 2016 level. This total includes 2,104 cases from the Basic sector and 169 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	0.9
Living below agency standards	85.1
Loss of employment	0.3
Loss of other benefits	3.1
Parent leaving home	0.1
Increased medical needs	2.9
Loss of unemployment benefits	0.6
All other reasons	7.1

Reasons for Case Closings

Reasons were available for 2,602 October 2016 TANF case closings – up by 209 cases from September 2016. This total includes 2,437 cases from the Basic sector and 165 cases from the two-parent sector. Reasons for closing cases included the following:

REASONS FOR CASE CLOSINGS	% OF TOTAL CASE CLOSINGS
Earned income	38.7
Other financial	2.8
Non-compliance*	34.6
Non-financial	23.9

*21 cases canceled in September 2016 for non-compliance related reasons were reinstated by October 2016 after complying. These cases had no break in assistance.

Assistance to the Aged, Blind or Disabled (AABD)

The total number of October 2016 AABD cases was down 1,242 or 5.0 percent from the number of cases a year earlier. The decrease was largely attributable to Disability Assistance, where the number of cases fell 906 or 4.5 percent from October 2015 levels.

- **One-Person AABD Cases:** One-person cases receiving grants through AABD decreased by 174 in October 2016 from September 2016 to a total of 23,508. This total includes 4,072 persons who qualified for Old Age Assistance; 90 persons who qualified for Blind Assistance; and 19,346 persons who qualified for Disability Assistance.
- **“0” Grant Status:** The number of persons in “0” grant status fell by 21 to 1,060 in October 2016 from September 2016.
- **State Supplemental Payments:** The number of individuals receiving State Supplemental Payments decreased by 153 to 22,448 in October 2016 from September 2016.

Medical Assistance – No Grant

Disability Assistance customers were mainly responsible for a monthly decrease of 4,214 cases receiving Medical Assistance in October 2016. Persons decreased by 6,426. This resulted in a program total of 1,814,440 cases (3,061,765 persons). Of the total, 53,011 MANG cases and 80,542 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 10,656. Additional FHP cases totaled 42,355. Additional FHP persons totaled 69,886.

- **MANG:** MANG recipients represent 91 percent of total cases and 92 percent of total persons in October 2016. MANG cases increased 2.2 percent from their October 2015 levels, when they represented 88.9 percent of all cases.
- **Family Health Plans:** Families decreased by 2,230 to 1,333,426 from September 2016 to October 2016. Persons decreased by 4,442 to 2,580,751. These totals include two groups newly-eligible under the Affordable Care Act. 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 decreased by 1,628 in October 2016 from September 2016 to 443,203 one-person cases. AABD Group Care clients totaled 60,091 in October 2016.
- **Foster Care:** Foster Care Assistance aided 37,811 children in October 2016.

Applications – All Programs

In October 2016, application receipts for all programs excluding SNAP increased by 3,798 from September 2016 to a total of 95,190. This count includes: 85,820 applications for Medical Assistance, 8,577 for TANF, and 793 for AABD grants. SNAP applications received through Intake and Income Maintenance increased by 2,875 from September 2016 to 140,782.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- SNAP Assistance was given to 993,475 Illinois households (1,907,969 persons) in October 2016. This is a decrease of 5.3 percent (55,909 households) from October 2015 levels.
- Of this total, 871,717 households (1,746,979 persons) also received cash or medical benefits through other public assistance programs. This is a decrease of 1.99 percent (17,739 households) from October 2015 levels.
- A total of 121,758 households (160,990 persons) received Non-Assistance SNAP in October 2016. This is a 23.9 percent (38,170 household) decrease from October 2015 levels.

All Kids (KidCare)

- All Kids, which began in February 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 February 5, 1998 and October 1, 2016 a total of 113,244 TANF-Medical Only persons were enrolled in All Kids Phase I due to this expansion of eligibility. Included in this total are 6,647 in the Moms and Babies program and 106,597 in the Assist program.
- Cases ineligible for Medicaid due to excess income may be eligible for All Kids Phase II. November 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 20,920 Share and 38,184 Premium persons had enrolled by October 1, 2016.

FISCAL YEAR 2016 SUMMARY OF CASES AND PERSONS AS OF OCTOBER 2016

PROGRAM	CASES	PERSONS
TANF (payment cases)	27,734	73,131
AABD Cash (st supp payments)	22,448	22,448
Zero Grants TANF	3,077	8,819
Zero Grants AABD	1,060	1,060
Family Health Plans	1,333,426	2,580,751
AABD MANG	443,203	443,203
Non-Assistance SNAP	121,758	160,990
Foster Care	37,811	37,811
Refugees Cash & Medical	500	512
Refugees Medical Only	143	158
Total	1,991,160	3,328,883

Child Care

Child Care Services are available to families with income at or below 162 percent 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, 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 October 2016, an estimated 123,911 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 October 2016, an estimated 6,431 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.

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 6,719 households in shelters during July-September 2016. Of those 1,747 were households with children.
- **The Emergency Food Program** served 731,679 households from July-September 2016.
- **The Homeless Prevention Program** helps families in existing homes and helps others secure affordable housing. During July-September 2016, 114 households were served. Of those, 80 were families (Households with children under age 18).
- **The Supportive Housing Program** funds governments and agencies which serve families and transitional facility residents. In July-September 2016, 459,253 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 been suspended.
- **Of the refugees served**, 565 entered employment, and 579 retained jobs 90 days from February –May 2016.
- **The Outreach and Interpretation** project assures access to IDHS benefits. This program has been suspended.

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 447 customers during the July-September 2016 quarter.
- **The Estimated Donated Funds Initiative** aided 3,689 customers with 52,546 rides provided for Senior’s during the July-September 2016 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 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 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 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

Indicator	September 2016	SFY 2017 Average	SFY 2016 Average
Referrals	2,867	2,787	2,849
Active IFSP's	20,742	20,792	20,689
0-3 Participation Rate	4.44%	4.44%	4.45%
Under 1 Participation Rate	1.38%	1.40%	1.33%
% With Medicaid	58.8%	58.9%	58.6%
% With Insurance	37.2%	37.2%	36.8%
% With Fees	27.3%	27.1%	27.5%

What's New in EI

The Bureau, along with multiple stakeholder representatives, has been working to prepare for implementing the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Phase II strategies in the 3 pilot Race To The Top Innovation Zones. An evaluation Team was created to create the necessary tool(s) to measure and report on the implementation. Each of the 3 pilot sites has also received training for their Local Leadership Teams who will be the lead evaluators of the implementation within their own geographic areas. In April 2017, the EI Program will submit Phase III of the SSIP, which will identify implementation steps taken for changes to infrastructure, resources needed, expected outcomes, timeliness showing completion of improvement activities, and an evaluation of the implementation 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 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

Eligibility Category	Clients in September 2016
Pregnant Women	21,880
Breastfeeding Women	16,014
Postpartum Women	16,162
Infants	62,458
Children	106,824

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 September 2016

Location	Category	Medicaid	Non-Medicaid
Cook County	Children	5,398	934
	Infants	16,876	2,650
	Pregnant	9,950	1,094
Downstate	Children	7,388	772
	Infants	30,187	3,513
	Pregnant	15,589	1,258
Statewide	Children	12,786	1,706
	Infants	47,063	6,163
	Pregnant	25,539	2,352

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. The last analysis conducted for SFY 2014 shows:

- The very low birth weight rate is almost 50% lower
- The rate of premature birth is almost 30% lower
- Medicaid expenditures for health care in the first year of life are almost 20% lower
- Over the last 14 years, participation in both WIC and FCM saved Illinois on average over \$200 million each year in Medicaid expenses.

Bureau of Program & Performance Management