



Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Parents As Scholars Report

State Fiscal Year 2014



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History:

During the 2011 Legislative session, Senate Bill 385 created the *Parents As Scholars* Program (PAS). This bill allows select cash recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to attend an approved vocational/educational program for a period of time that is longer than the allowable limit under Federal Regulation (45 CFR 261.33). This bill supports TANF cash recipients in the full-time pursuit of education, with attendance in Adult Basic Education (Hi-Set), associate's degree, or baccalaureate degree programs. PAS participation is limited, with 25 statewide slots available. Slots are awarded through a regional lottery with five regions established based on proportionate TANF caseloads. As participants complete their education or lose eligibility for TANF, openings occur. Participants attend a variety of schools in a variety of programs. Some students are studying for their Hi-Set diploma, while others are attending trade schools, tribal colleges or a component of the Montana University System.

SFY 2014 Outcomes:

- **36** individuals benefited from the PAS program in SFY 2014
- **11** individuals are currently enrolled in the PAS Program
- **6** individuals graduated from their education placement
 - **1** – GED
 - **1** – Certificate
 - **3** – Associate Degrees
 - **1** – Bachelor Degree
- **5** individuals closed their TANF cases due to earned income
- **1** individual closed their TANF case due to child support income
- **3** individuals closed their TANF voluntarily
- **8** individuals were closed due to sanction or non-compliance
- **2** individuals were closed because they exhausted their 60 month time clock

Success Story



Melanie utilized the Parents as Scholars program while attending the MSU Nursing Program in Missoula. The PAS Program allowed Melanie to complete her remaining 18 months of nursing school and use her school hours to count toward the required hours for the WoRC program. Melanie is a single mother of five children who now range in age from 5 to 14. The Parents as Scholars program allowed her to focus on school work and her five children while receiving TANF cash assistance. Melanie graduated from the nursing program in May 2014. She is currently studying for her boards, volunteering in her local community and will be seeking employment as a nurse in the near future.



Overview SFY 2012-2014:

SFY 2012		SFY 2013		SFY 2014	
Enrolled	42	Enrolled	35	Enrolled	36
Single Parent	40	Single Parent	33	Single Parent	32
Two Parent	2	Two Parent	2	Two Parent	4
Average # Children	2	Average # Children	2	Average # Children	2
Closed due to Employment	3	Closed due to Employment	8	Closed due to Employment	5
Graduated	13	Graduated	6	Graduated	6
Certificates: Cosmetology Dental Assistant	3 1	Certificates: Cosmetology	3	Diploma: GED	1
Associates: Paralegal Nursing Business Medical Assisting Mental Health Direct Care	1 1 2 2 2 1	Associates: Medical Office Specialist	1	Certificate: Cosmetology	1
Bachelors: Photography	1	Bachelors: Community Health Electrical Engineering	1 1	Associates: Dental Hygiene Dental Assistant Business	1 1 1
				Bachelors: Nursing	1

*Table is based on State Fiscal Year (SFY), previous reports compiled used current to date data.

Synopsis:

- Graduation rates have declined from 31% in SFY 2012 to 17% in SFY 2013 and 2014. The decline is associated to an increase in case closures for the following reasons:
 - Case closure due to employment. (7% SFY 2012, 23% SFY 2013, 14% SFY 2014)
 - Case closures due to sanction, unearned income, and ineligibility for TANF or the Parents As Scholars Program. (34% in SFY 2012 to 52% in SFY 2013 and 53% in SFY 2014)