

Oklahoma Employment Security Commission

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OKLAHOMA EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING ISSUANCE # 11-2002

TO: Welfare-to-Work Formula Grant Recipients

FROM: Terry Watson

DATE: October 15, 2002

SUBJECT: Department of Labor issued a quick reference desk tool for Defining & Calculating TANF assistance for Determining Welfare-to-Work Eligibility. This desk tool explained the WtW Program's broader definition of the term "TANF assistance" for determining individuals eligible for all WtW eligibility categories related to TANF recipients. The broader WtW definition considers TANF-funded services (non-cash services such as case management or child care), in addition to TANF-funded benefits (cash support such as recurrent cash payments), to be "TANF assistance." Under this definition, the WtW program considers "TANF assistance" to mean: Any TANF benefits and services for the financially needy according to the appropriate income and resource criteria (if applicable) specified in the state TANF plan.

MESSAGE: After reviewing the WtW broader definition of TANF assistance, it was the State's understanding that the months of child care that a TANF recipient received after the TANF case had been closed would count as non-cash TANF assistance for the purpose of determining WtW eligibility. But after additional research and further guidance from the National Department of Labor, it was determined that the TANF funds lose their identity once the funds were transferred to the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) to pay for childcare. Since the TANF funds are no longer distinguishable, childcare services (and the months received) cannot be counted for the purpose of determining WtW eligibility. TANF non-cash assistance must be TANF funded to count as months of service when determining eligibility. Childcare, Food Stamps and Medicaid do not count as non-cash TANF assistance. Months of non-cash services such as case management and transportation can be used when determining the months of TANF assistance an individual has received as long as those services are directly funded by TANF, and back up documentation is provided by the DHS caseworker.

ACTION: The National Department of Labor has notified OESC that the months of child care will not count as non-cash TANF assistance due to the TANF funds losing their identity when transferred to CCDF. *Those WtW participants that were originally determined 30% (other eligible) and transferred to 70% (primary eligibility) category because they had 30 or more months of TANF assistance when counting the months of childcare, Food Stamps or Medicaid will have to be transferred back to the 30% (other eligible) category. This includes any participants that were originally determined eligible under the 70% (primary eligibility) category when including months of non-funded TANF assistance. Also, reported expenditures made on behalf of those participants after being transferred into the 70% (primary eligibility) category or originally determined eligible under the 70% (primary eligibility) category, must be backed out and reported in the 30% - other eligible expenditure category on Monthly Accrued Expenditures Report.*

INQUIRIES: If you have any questions, please contact Tami Decker at 405/962-7595