

(1) **DEFINITION OF WORK ACTIVITIES**

The State defines TANF work activities listed at 42 U.S.C. 607 (d) as follows:

Unsubsidized Employment - Work in which wages are paid to assistance recipients solely by the employer without public sector subsidy. Includes assistance recipients' self-employment.

Subsidized Private Sector Employment - Work in the for-profit or private not-for-profit sector of the economy in which wages are paid to assistance recipients by the employer and another entity, usually through state or federal government assistance. Includes work study and stipends.

Subsidized Public Sector Employment - Work in the government sector of the economy, that is, federal, state or local governmental organizations, in which wages are paid to assistance recipients by the employer and another entity, usually through state or federal government assistance. Includes work study and stipend programs.

Work Experience - Time-limited, paid (at least the State's minimum wage), supervised work activity in the public or private sector which is intended to improve the employability of assistance recipients.

On-the-Job Training (OJT) - Paid and supervised work activity in the public or private sector in which a participating assistance recipient receives training that provides knowledge or skills essential to the full and adequate performance of a specific job.

Job Search and Job Readiness - Supervised group and individual job search activity for assistance recipients. May include:

- classroom instruction in job search techniques, completing job applications, interviewing, resumes;
- life skills training, orientation to the world of work, motivational exercises, family budgeting, etc.;
- job placement and job development;
- job seekers support groups (job clubs).

Vocational Education Training - Formal occupational skills training conducted for assistance recipients in a classroom setting, in a workplace setting, or in some combination of the two.

Community Service - Volunteer activity in community-based programs, the primary goal of which is community enhancement as opposed to improving the employability of assistance recipients.

(1) **DEFINITION OF WORK ACTIVITIES (Continued)**

Child Care for Others Doing Community Service - Provision of child care services by an assistance recipient for an individual performing community service. Care for a dependent child by the second adult in a two-parent TFA household does not count.

Job Skills Training Directly Related to Employment - Any suitable occupational or vocational training provided to assistance recipients that leads to employment.

Education Directly Related to Employment, in the case of assistance recipients without a high school diploma or GED - Preparatory programs in ABE, GED and ESL when not a part of a vocational educational program.

High School / GED - Participation in a high school or GED program in the case of assistance recipients who have not completed high school.

The above definitions exclude services provided to inmates of public institutions.

(2) DESCRIPTION OF TRANSITIONAL SERVICES PROVIDED TO FAMILIES NO LONGER RECEIVING ASSISTANCE DUE TO EMPLOYMENT

a). Post-TFA Jobs First Employment Services

Jobs First Employment Services are available to families engaged in such activities at the time they become ineligible for Temporary Family Assistance, the State's TANF cash assistance program. Employment services may be provided for up to one year after exiting TFA. Such services include, but are not limited to the following: case management, barrier resolution, employment related education and training, job search skill training, job placement services, support services, retention services, and re-employment services.

b). Transitional Child Care

Families that exit Temporary Family Assistance are also eligible for Transitional Child Care, a CCDF-based component of the State's Child Care Assistance Program. Such families remain eligible for Transitional Child Care as long as their income remains below 55% of the state's median income level.

c). Transitionary Rental Assistance

The Transitionary Rental Assistance Program (T-RAP) provides up to 12 months of rental assistance payments to employed families who exhaust 21 months of time-limited TFA assistance or otherwise leave TFA while employed. To qualify, such families must not be eligible for an extension and must have income over the TFA payment standard or must be working at least 12 hours per week when leaving TFA for another reason. The T-RAP subsidy is equal to the difference between forty percent of the tenant's monthly income (minus certain allowances), and the state-set maximum rent, or twenty percent of the family's gross monthly income, whichever is greater. A fifty percent of area median income limit applies.

d). Women in Transition

Charter Oak State College's Women in Transition program (WIT) is designed to address the needs of the underemployed and under-served who could, with a college degree, improve the quality of their lives. The Women in Transition program targets minority, low-income, single mothers, many of whom are former AFDC/TANF recipients. All individuals provided with services will meet the criteria of "Needy Parents" as defined in Connecticut's State Plan for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program. The purpose of the program is to end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage. This is a separate state program that utilizes state maintenance of effort funds.

d). Women in Transition (Continued)

The WIT participants are provided with laptop computers, Internet access, a printer, funding for courses not covered by financial aid, textbooks, and academic and career counseling. The technology tools allow the student to take online courses and to communicate with the WIT Coordinator, faculty, and other students. Taking online courses alleviates the need for childcare and transportation costs and allows the family to spend more quality time together. Funds provided under this MOA will be used to provide recruitment, assessment, counseling, technology training and support, books, tuition and other fees not covered by federal or state financial aid.

(3) DESCRIPTION OF HOW STATE REDUCES ASSISTANCE PAYABLE TO A FAMILY WHEN AN INDIVIDUAL REFUSES TO ENGAGE IN WORK WITHOUT GOOD CAUSE.

Non-exempt individuals (other than minor parents) who refuse or otherwise fail to engage in work without good cause subject the family receiving Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) benefits to progressively larger reductions in cash benefits payable. Such refusal or failure to engage in work includes failure to satisfactorily engage in work activities specified in employment plans, voluntary quits of employment, and terminations from employment due to willful misconduct. Reductions in benefits for families who have not yet reached the program's 21-month time limit are applied as follows:

- a reduction of 25 percent for three months for the first offense¹;
- a reduction of 35 percent for three months for the second offense;
- for the third and any subsequent offenses, discontinuance of the family's assistance and ineligibility for at least three months.

For non-exempt individuals who comprise entire assistance units ("assistance units of one," such as pregnant women with no other children), benefits are discontinued entirely for at least three months irrespective of the offense number.

For families receiving benefits under extension provisions (i.e., beyond the program's 21-month time limit), the penalty for refusal or failure to engage in work is discontinuance and ineligibility for any future extensions based on good faith effort to obtain and retain employment.

Individuals who are exempt from employment services do not subject the family to the penalties described above. Such individuals include:

- children under 18, unless the child is a minor parent not in school;
- an individual who is incapacitated or of advanced age;
- an individual who is needed in the home because of the incapacity of another member of the household;
- an individual caring for a child under one year of age, if such child is not a child covered by the family benefit cap provision;
- a pregnant woman if the physician has indicated that she is unable to work;
- a women in a six-week post-pregnancy period;
- an individual who is otherwise determined to be unemployable under state policies.

¹ A 25% reduction represents the minimum *pro rata* reduction for any assistance unit with more than one member in all three of the State's payment regions.

4) **AVERAGE MONTHLY PAYMENTS FOR CHILD CARE SERVICES
MADE THROUGH USE OF DISREGARDS**

Not Applicable – Connecticut does not pay for child care services through the use of disregards.

5) **FAMILY VIOLENCE OPTION INFORMATION**

Not Applicable – Connecticut has not adopted the Family Violence Option

6) **DESCRIPTION OF NONRECURRING, SHORT-TERM BENEFITS**

a) Diversion Program

Connecticut operates a Diversion Program to help families remain self-sufficient rather than become dependent on monthly cash assistance. The goal of the program is to provide families with the assistance they need in lump sum payments that removes barriers to employment and self sufficiency.

(i.) Eligibility Criteria

Payments are limited to families who are likely to succeed with short term help; program candidates must be employed or have a job offer, have a solid work history, marketable skills, and barriers that can be removed within a three month period if given Diversion assistance. Financial eligibility criteria for Diversion are identical to those for Temporary Family Assistance (TFA), which are described in Section A, Part I(A) of Connecticut's TANF State Plan. Families are eligible to receive payments to cover current and anticipated needs, up to three times the amount that they would have received under TFA.

(ii.) Effect on TANF Cash Assistance Eligibility

Families may be eligible for Diversion for up to three months. If a family would be subject to the TFA time-limit, up to three months of time limit are recorded under Diversion. Receipt of Diversion payments makes a family ineligible for TFA for three months, unless the family experiences undue hardship. Undue hardship exists when the family's circumstances constitute a serious threat to the health, safety or welfare of the family, and are a result of forces outside the family's control, and the circumstances prevent the family from maintaining or getting a job.

(iii.) Access to Other Program Benefits

Diversion families are served by DSS staff who explore eligibility for Medicaid, Food Stamps, and other programs. Most Diversion families are eligible for Medicaid under the Section 1931 coverage group. Diversion payments are considered non-recurring lump sums for Food Stamp eligibility purposes. Receipt of Diversion also qualifies the family for Transitional Child Care (TCC) benefits, as long as the family also meets all other TCC requirements

b) Emergency Assistance Foster Care Months 1-4

Connecticut provides foster care residential placement services to children who are in the custody of the State and are at risk of abuse and neglect. These services are provided up to 120 days and can be claimed because they were claimed under the State's Emergency Assistance (EA) program. As per EA program eligibility criteria, the services must be necessary to meet the needs of the child. There is no effect on TANF cash assistance for clients that also receive these services. Clients who receive these services are case managed by Department of Children and Families staff who help them access any other relevant program benefits.

c) Supportive Housing for Families

The Supportive Housing for Families Program (SHF) provides subsidized housing through DSS Section 8 Family Unification Program and intensive case management services to DCF families for whom inadequate housing jeopardizes the safety, permanency and well being of their children.

During the four month stabilization and skill building phase of SHF, clients are provided a housing allowance, which includes up to four months of rent, a security deposit allowance and credit adjustment allowance, in order for the client to successfully move into their home. During the same four month period, clients receive highly specialized and personalized vocational rehabilitation and employment services. The goal is to give clients the knowledge and skills needed to successfully pursue, secure, and maintain employment in order to become self sufficient.

SHF provides a special housing allowance to SHF families that need to transition immediately into housing and that are waiting to get a Family Unification Program (FUP) voucher assigned. This gives the SHF Case Manager the ability to provide immediate housing assistance in the forms described above.

The maximum security deposit allowance for each family is equal to two months rent (\$1800), and the rental subsidy is temporary and allows only for four months rent. The one time credit adjustment allowance allows the SHF client to pay back utilities and housing related debt, so that they will be eligible for a Section 8 voucher in the future.

(7). DESCRIPTION OF DISPLACEMENT COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

Delivery of TANF employment services is administered by the Connecticut Department of Labor. In this capacity the Department of Labor contracts with several regional Workforce Investment Boards, who in turn contract with local organizations to provide employment services to recipients of ongoing TANF cash assistance (Temporary Family Assistance).

The specific terms of the Labor Department's contracts with the several Workforce Investment Boards requires said boards to administer services in accordance with all applicable federal and state laws, including section 407(f) of the Social Security Act. Contract language also prohibits the contractors and their subcontractors from placing TANF recipients into jobs from which their employees have been laid off and maintain recall rights, and also prohibits termination of employment in order to hire TANF recipients.

The Department of Labor has instructed the Workforce Investment Boards to use complaint resolution procedures established under their Workforce Investment Act (WIA) implementation plans to resolve displacement complaints brought by TANF participants. (The public was given an opportunity to comment on such implementation plans.) Each board must maintain these complaint resolution procedures, which stipulate how individuals can register complaints in each Workforce Investment Board region.

(8) PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES DIRECTED AT 3RD AND 4TH STATUTORY PURPOSES OF TANF

Note: some of the programs and activities described below also meet the first and/or second statutory purposes of TANF. Also, some programs are simultaneously directed at statutory purposes 3 and 4.

a) PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES DIRECTED AT PREVENTING AND REDUCING OUT OF WEDLOCK BIRTHS

1. **School Readiness** – The initiative is designed to ensure that children from low-income families have access to high-quality early learning experiences by combining the strengths and resources of the public and private child care and school systems. Funds are made available to School Readiness Councils in communities with large numbers of low-income children. The Councils assess community needs, identify gaps, and allocate funds. Each Council is allocated funds to increase the number of 3- and 4-year old children served in early care and education programs and to improve the quality of those services. The Councils are required to ensure that full-day early childhood care and education services are available year-round. Additionally, funds are made available on a statewide basis to train new early childhood teachers.

The policy goal of the program is that 60% of the families must have earnings less than 75% of the state median income. Also, 60% of the families must be working full-time.

The program readies children for the school experience. Children who are prepared for school are more apt to stay in school and avoid early pregnancy and childbearing. Thus, these services prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock births.

2. **Teen Pregnancy Prevention** -The Department of Social Services funds pregnancy prevention programs that include a component that requires the grantees to work more intensively with at risk teens of both sexes. Programs include components to comprehensively address family issues including health, education and other life issues. These programs work directly to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies in the State.

The Department has contracted with a program evaluator to ascertain which program methods, or aspects of different programs are most effective. The Department has also contracted with the University of Connecticut Health Center to act as coordinator of the various teenage pregnancy prevention efforts across the state. In this capacity, the health center provides technical assistance and information and works with state agencies to minimize duplicated efforts and to secure current data.

The Department of Social Services worked with the Department of Public Health to include the collection of marital status information on birth certificates to allow more accurate data collection on out-of-wedlock pregnancies. Numerical goals were established in collaboration with the Connecticut Progress Council to reduce the number of out-of-wedlock births in the state.

- 3. Priority School Districts, Extended Hours, Transitional School Districts** - The State Department of Education provides funds to priority school districts and transitional school districts, the neediest schools in the state, to fund extended day programs, summer programs, parental involvement programs, drop-out prevention programs, and alternative programs for students. These services are offered through extended hours and extended year programs. These programs are targeted to poor school districts and offers support services outside of basic education that are designed to foster success and result in enhanced opportunities for children as they mature into adulthood.

The services offered under these programs are targeted to children of needy families, although services are provided to all children within the school district who would benefit by receiving the service. These services are provided to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock births and encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

- 4. Youth Services Bureau** - The State Department of Education (SDE) grants funds to school districts to support at-risk youth in their communities by addressing issues related to social development, mental health, and physical well-being. The bureaus provide counseling on at-risk behaviors such as out-of-wedlock births. There are no income guidelines for this program.
- 5. Substance Abuse Services** - TANF funding is made available to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) for promotional activities such as “Drugs Don’t Work” that target children to discourage them from trying illegal substances. There are no income guidelines for public service campaigns since it would not be possible to identify the recipients of these services. However, the entire purpose of the campaign is reasonably calculated to support the State’s TANF program.

This program serves to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock births. By targeting children with a substance abuse campaign, this program seeks to help children avoid dependence on substances that can lead to out-of-wedlock pregnancies.

- 6. LEAP Program** – The State Office of Policy and Management (OPM) funds the Leadership, Education, Athletics in Partnership (LEAP) program. This program

provides neighborhood-based education and mentoring programs that match low-income children, ages 7 to 14, with high school and college student counselors. The children meet with their mentors after school and during the summer. This program helps to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock births.

7. **Neighborhood Youth Centers** - The State Office of Policy and Management (OPM) offers competitive grants to priority cities to create and maintain neighborhood youth centers. The grantees must use the funds to provide skill development training, tutoring, parental involvement, and other supportive services. These services take place during after-school hours. There are no income guidelines for this program. This program helps to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock births.

8. **Inter-District Cooperative Grants** - The State Department of Education (SDE) funds school districts to offer programs that expand and enrich student's educational experience above and beyond basic education and also encourage diversity. The types of programs funded include after-school and extended year enrichment programs and mentoring programs. There are no income guidelines for this program. These services prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock births because they address at-risk behaviors that can lead to out-of-wedlock births.

9. **Young Parents Program** - The State Department of Education (SDE) provides funds for programs to help teen parents stay in school. The funds are used to cover transportation costs for teen parents and their children to and from school and child-care facilities. The funds are also used to operate parenting education programs and prevention programs for teens that are at-risk of becoming teen parents. There are no income guidelines for this program.

These services prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock births because programs that help teens stay in school support this purpose of the TANF program.

10. **Safe Learning Grants** - The State Department of Education (SDE) funds school districts to develop programs that create safe school environments in which students can learn without fear of harm. The programs target students who have demonstrated at-risk behaviors, establish rules of safety and activities that encourage respect, and decrease early youth at-risk behaviors. The funds can be used to establish after-school enrichment programs that develop crisis and violence prevention policies. There are no income guidelines for this program.

These services prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock births by targeting students who have demonstrated at-risk behaviors that can lead to out-of-wedlock births.

11. **Grants to Boys and Girls Clubs** - The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) funds the Boys and Girls Clubs to offer support services such as mentoring, outreach to high-risk girls, increased hours of operation, and other support services. There are no income guidelines for this program.

This program helps prevent the incidence of out-of-wedlock births by targeting girls who have demonstrated at-risk behaviors that can lead to out-of-wedlock pregnancies and by offering after-school activities that keep students occupied productively.

12. **Children and Youth Development Programs** - The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) funds a variety of prevention and early intervention services for Connecticut youth including a parenting program for teens, a parenting program for adults, and an after-school mentoring program. There are no income guidelines for this program.

This program prevents and reduces the incidence of out-of-wedlock births by providing counseling and guidance on at-risk behaviors that can and have led to out-of-wedlock pregnancies.

13. **Truancy Prevention** - The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) funds three school districts (Hartford, Windham, and Danbury) to provide support services such as classes on parenting skills, mentoring, coordination and tracking, and other family support services. There are no income guidelines for this program.

This program helps prevent the incidence of out-of-wedlock births by providing counseling and other support services to help avoid at-risk behaviors.

14. **Governor's Prevention Partnership** - The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) offers grants for initiatives to provide training to mentors of at-risk youth. There are no income guidelines for this program.

This program helps reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock births because it provides training to mentors on how to address and counsel youth against at-risk behaviors.

15. **Violence Reduction Program** - The Department of Social Services (DSS) funds the University of Connecticut School of Social Work to administer and provide a violence reduction mediation program in at least two middle schools. The program works with small groups of ten to fifteen students at each school who are at risk of violent behavior or who are known for their violent or aggressive disruptions. The criteria for selection and participation in this program are the exhibition of violent or excessive aggressive behavior in schools, and students who are at risk of expulsion because of violent behavior. There are no income guidelines for this program.

This program helps reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock births in that it is a program that aims to help students stay in school.

16. **Safety Net Services** – Safety Net Services are available to families who have exhausted the 21-month time limit of TFA benefits, are not eligible for an extension due to non-compliance with employment services requirements, and have income below the payment standard for the appropriate family size. This program works to 1) minimize the likelihood of harm to the children, 2) stabilize families and assist with access to resources to strengthen parenting skills and protect children and 3) assist families to attain and maintain employment through the identification and amelioration of existing psychological, personal, and structural barriers.

Services provided include the following:

- Home based outreach services during non-traditional hours (early mornings and weekends)
- Intensive family support services that are based on mutual trust and respect
- Availability of a regional clinical staff that is bilingual, and available for in-home or office based clinical assessments, referrals, and follow-up
- Comprehensive, qualitative assessment of family strengths and risk factors using a unique tool designed for the program
- Family focus and environmental systems approach

This program helps to stabilize families and assist with access to resources to strengthen parenting skills and protect children and to end the dependence of “needy parents” on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.

17. **Connecticut Aid to Public College Students Grant Program- (Dependent Students)** - The General Assembly appropriates funds annually to the Department of Higher Education to fund the Connecticut Aid to Public College Students Grant Program (CAPCS). These grant payments are awarded to students attending Connecticut’s public colleges and universities. The fundamental objective of this program is to provide grants, which are not paid back by the student, that fill a financial need for students trying to pursue higher education, and become economically self-sufficient. Low income students’ decision to attend college is influenced by the price of tuition and the amount of financial aid made available to them. The basis of selection for these grants is financial need as determined by a needs analysis system approved by the United States Department of Education, therefore, they are not available to everyone pursuing a postsecondary education

The grant payments made to dependent undergraduate students from families who are within the definition of “needy,” which is described as an income level below 75% of the state median income, are funded under the TANF program.

There is a strong association between poor achievement and pregnancy, and poor academic ability may influence the onset of sexual activity and early parenthood. Participation in post secondary educational opportunities increase an individual’s sense of self worth and future orientation, creating the motivation behind avoiding risky behaviors that may result in out-of-wedlock pregnancy.

18. **Connecticut Independent College Student Grant Program- (Dependent Students)** The General Assembly appropriates funds annually to the Department of Higher Education to fund the Connecticut Independent College Student Grant Program (CICSG). These grants are awarded to students attending Connecticut’s private colleges and universities. The fundamental objective of this program is to provide grants, which are not paid back by the student, that fill a financial need for students trying to pursue a better education and become economically better off. Low income students’ decision to attend college is influenced by the price of tuition and the amount of financial aid made available to them. The basis of selection for these grants is financial need as determined by a needs analysis system approved by the United States Department of Education, therefore, they are not available to everyone pursuing a postsecondary education

The grant payments made to dependent undergraduate students from families who are within the definition of “needy,” which is described as an income level below 75% of the state median income, are funded under the TANF program.

There is a strong association between poor achievement and pregnancy, and poor academic ability may influence the onset of sexual activity and early parenthood. Participation in post secondary educational opportunities increase an individual’s sense of self worth and future orientation, creating the motivation behind avoiding risky behaviors that may result in out-of-wedlock pregnancy.

19. **Alternative to Detention Program (ADP)** - The General Assembly appropriates funds annually to the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch to fund the Alternative to Detention Program (ADP). ADPs target juveniles who have been ordered into a Juvenile Detention Center to determine if they meet the criteria for referral to an alternative program. Juveniles chosen for the ADP program are supervised in the form of community-based day programming and short-term residential programs. Both the residential (any residential costs incurred by this program are excluded from the TANF claim) and the non-residential components of the program provide a wide array of services, seven days each week. Programming includes: counseling, substance abuse education and treatment, volunteer service, recreational/physical fitness activities, life skills development, family and peer relationships, anger management, values clarification, problem solving, sexuality, parenting, and accepting responsibility for behaviors.

There are no income guidelines for this program. This program is utilizes federal TANF funds. This program provides services that address at risk behaviors and self esteem issues of juveniles that may lead to out-of-wedlock pregnancy.

20. **Community Detention Centers for Girls (CDCs)** - The General Assembly appropriates funds annually to the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch to fund the Community Detention Centers for Girls program (CDCs). The services are provided to female juvenile detainees who are remanded to a physically secure facility pending disposition or placement. The services provided include: education, medical treatment as necessary, life skills development, substance abuse counseling, and recreational activities. The goal of the services provided is to foster positive behaviors that will help the clients to make better life choices in the future. The costs being claimed under TANF include the support services that address a client’s risky behaviors, while the residential costs, medical costs and educational costs are excluded from the claim.

There are no income guidelines for this program. This program utilizes federal TANF funds. This program provides services that address at-risk behaviors of females who have been remanded that can lead to out-of-wedlock pregnancy.

21. **Juvenile Justice Centers (JJC)s** - The General Assembly appropriates funds annually to the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch to fund the Juvenile Justice Centers (JJC)s. The Juvenile Justice Centers are center-based programs that rely heavily on local community partnerships and agreements to serve juvenile delinquents and their families. The juveniles and their families receive services that include counseling, academic support, recreation, and life skills development. The youth also participate in community service. The length of stay in the program is typically 3 to 6 months and the reporting requirements are 3 to 6 times weekly, including Saturdays and Holidays. The goal of the programming is to foster positive behaviors that will help clients to make better life choices in the future. Educational costs to provide juveniles with a school board approved basic education are excluded from the TANF claim.

The juveniles targeted by this program are those who are at high risk for continued involvement with the juvenile justice system. There are no income guidelines for this program. This program utilizes federal TANF funds. This program provides services that address at risk behaviors that can lead to out-of-wedlock pregnancy.

22. **Juvenile Supervision and Reporting Centers (JSRC)s** - The General Assembly appropriates funds annually to the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch to fund the Juvenile Supervision and Reporting Centers (JSRC)s. This program targets juveniles who would otherwise be committed to the Department of Children and Families for delinquency, but who can be served and supervised through this intensive community-based program. These centers provide day reporting programs, where the youth are required to report for at least 8 to 12 hours per day for anywhere from 6 to 12 months. While at these centers, the youth receive services designed to address their at-risk behaviors, such as: individual and family counseling, substance abuse intervention and treatment, and case management. The youth are also involved in community service and structured recreation.

The costs incurred under this program to provide a basic education, as approved by the local school board, are excluded from the program costs claimed under TANF. There are no income guidelines for this program. This program is utilizes federal TANF funds. This program supports reducing the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancy, because it provides services that address the risky behaviors of the youth involved.

23. **Striving Toward Achievement, Renewal and Success program (STARS)** - The General Assembly appropriates funds annually to the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch to fund the Striving Toward Achievement,

Renewal and Success program (STARS). This is a gender-specific program for women age 16 and older who have been involved with the criminal justice system. The goal of the STARS program is to help address the issues that have contributed to the destructive, risky behaviors of these women. It is these risky behaviors that can often lead to out-of-wedlock pregnancy (some of the participants already have a child/ren). The program environment is positive, safe, and trusting and helps to foster self-esteem and motivation among the participants in the program with the intention that they will ultimately make better life choices. There are no income guidelines for this program. This program is utilizes federal TANF funds. This program supports reducing the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancy.

24. **Truancy Services** - The General Assembly appropriated funds annually to the Judicial Branch to fund Truancy Services programs. These funds are distributed across several juvenile service providers as part of their larger budget amount and the goal of these funds is to support truancy prevention efforts. Truancy is one of the first indicators in negative juvenile behavior. Students who become truant are likely engaged in at-risk behaviors and participating in unsupervised activities that may result in out-of-wedlock pregnancy. There were no income guidelines for this program. This program utilized federal TANF funds. As of the 4th Quarter FFY 2005, this program stopped being offered.

25. **Intensive Outreach and Monitoring** - The General Assembly has appropriated funds to the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch to fund the Intensive Outreach and Monitoring program (IOM). This program serves juveniles who are facing commitment to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) for delinquency, but who can benefit from this home-based service in lieu of commitment. This program provides intensive case management, as the caseworkers are available 24 hours a day, seven days each week. The case managers meet with clients in the context of the family and provide access to community-based services. The goal of the program is to promote positive behavior and avoid risky behaviors that can lead to out-of-wedlock pregnancy.

26. **Summer Youth Extended Day** – Summer School programs for students in Priority School Districts are required by legislation for several group of students including: kindergarten students in need of additional instruction in reading readiness; students in 4th and 6th grade who fail to meet the standard on the 4th or 6th grade mastery examination; and students identified as being at risk of failing to learn to read. Summer school programs are supported by SDE grant funds to local boards of education for priority school districts.

The summer school programs include educational, enrichment, and recreational components. The TANF allowable expenditures are only those costs associated with services provided after regular summer school hours or, in the SDE vernacular, in “extended day” programs. ACF guidance has recognized the value of after school programs in reducing the opportunity for youth to engage in at-risk behaviors. This program helps to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies. This program has no income criteria. Income criteria are not required.

27. **Department of Children and Families Extended Day Treatment Program-** The Extended Day Treatment program, operated by the Department of Children and Families, provides case management, counseling, and support services in the community before and after school in order to promote positive behaviors. Services are provided to children who have been returned to their homes or are at home but at risk of placement due to mental health or emotional disturbance. Services are provided daily before and after school, with extended daily service on days or weeks in which school is not in session. This program helps to reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancy.

28. **Special Population Program** – The Special Population Program, operated out of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, was created to serve as a bridge for children leaving the care of the Department of Children and Families who lacked independent living skills and who had mental health issues. The program specifically targets clients who: 1) have pervasive developmental disorders and have demonstrated at-risk behaviors, and 2) have mental health issues and have experienced prior traumas and have demonstrated a history of sexually aggressive behavior. The counseling services provided to these youth will help them address their at-risk behaviors, which in turn, could reduce and prevent the incidence of future out-of-wedlock pregnancies. In addition, it can sometimes be difficult for youth with pervasive developmental disorders to distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate behaviors, which can lead to out-of-wedlock pregnancies

29. **Faith Based Initiatives** – Connecticut contracts with the Capitol Region Conference of Churches (CRCC) to provide counseling, information and referral to community based programs and services for women, children and non-custodial fathers; counseling directed at beginning or increasing child support payments; counseling and support services that discourage unwed parenthood; and referral and support for job seeking and job retention. Counseling is also focused on the psycho-socio-economic needs of the children, including the need for support and nurturance from both parents. These services encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families. This is a separate state program that utilizes state maintenance of effort funds.

b) **PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES DIRECTED AT FORMATION AND MAINTENANCE OF TWO-PARENT FAMILIES**

1. **Family Resource Centers** – Operated through the State Department of Education, these centers are designed to promote comprehensive, integrated, community-based systems of family support and child development.

Family Resource Centers provide or collaborate with existing agencies to operate full-time preschool childcare, school-age childcare, families-in-training (including home visiting and monitoring of child development for new and expectant parents), adult education, support and training for family daycare providers, positive youth development services, and resource and referral services.

In addition to encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families, Family Resource Centers also reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock births.

2. **Child Welfare Prevention and Intervention Services** - These services are provided when conditions exist requiring the intervention of the Department of Children and Families (DCF). These services include: substance abuse counseling and screening of a non-medical nature, 24-hour family preservation counseling to families in their homes, community-based prevention and treatment of child abuse, community-based case management for children and their families who are at-risk of being removed from their homes, outreach referral, and crisis intervention to families who are at-risk or have experienced abuse and neglect, support for families in which there is a child or adult victim of family violence, child-care of a therapeutic nature to enable children who have demonstrated emotional, behavioral, or neurological problems to remain in their homes, investigations of reports of child abuse and neglect, and case management and counseling supportive services for clients in subsidized housing programs, case management and counseling provided to families through Child Guidance Clinics, support to reunifying families during the post transition phase of reunification.

Also included are services provided with funds from the children's Trust Fund such as parenting programs for first-time parents, Parents Anonymous groups, and other developmental and support services.

These services are offered on behalf of children under the age of 19 who are members of families with a gross income of seventy-five percent or less than the State Median Income (SMI).

These services enable needy families to care for their children in their own homes or in the homes of relatives or were authorized through the Emergency Assistance program described in Connecticut's IV-A State Plan in effect on September 30, 1995.

3. **Fatherhood Initiative** – Connecticut’s fatherhood initiative is a broad-based, statewide program led by the department that focuses on changing the systems that can improve fathers’ ability to be fully and positively involved in the lives of their children. The programs objectives are as follows:
- Promote public education concerning the financial and emotional responsibilities of fatherhood;
 - Assist men in preparing for the legal, financial and emotional responsibilities of fatherhood;
 - Promote the establishment of paternity at childbirth;
 - Encourage fathers, regardless of marital status, to foster their emotional connection to and financial support of their children;
 - Establish support mechanisms for fathers in their relationship with their children, regardless of their marital and financial status;
 - Integrate state and local services available for families.
4. **Education and Training Services** – The Department of Corrections (DOC) provides education and training services that prepare clients to develop job skills and ultimately secure employment. TANF funds are used for such services provided to clients who are non-custodial parents. By providing education and training services to non-custodial parents, the program helps them obtain the skills and ultimately jobs that will enable them to be contributing members of their families. In this way, the program encourages the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.
5. **Addiction Treatment Services** – The Department of Correction (DOC) provides addiction services to clients who have varying levels of needs, from basic addiction education to intensive counseling. TANF funds are used to cover the cost of such non-medical services provided to clients who are non-custodial parents. By providing addiction treatment to non-custodial parents, the program helps them become clean and sober, which ultimately will enable them to become contributing members of the family. In this way, the program encourages the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

6. **Judicial Branch Counseling Services Program** – The Judicial Branch provides mental health counseling services in the three state detention centers. Judicial contracts with private providers for services such as: psychiatric assessment, psychotropic medication management, licensed clinical social work assessment and treatment, substance abuse assessment and short-term treatment and psycho-education for the child and the parent(s). The assessment and counseling services are claimed under TANF and the medical services are not.

The services provided through this program help to prevent out of wedlock births. The mental health and substance abuse services available in the state detention centers provide much needed assessment and early intervention for youths presenting with these types of issues. The research literature shows that children placed in detention for delinquent behavior are at high-risk for further involvement with the criminal justice system. High-risk adolescents involved with the court are also at high-risk or already have a history of out-of-wedlock pregnancy, school failure, and unemployment. The adolescent detention population is disproportionately over-represented by children from high conflict families and the children can often continue in the family legacy of family instability.

7. **Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) - Problem Gambling Services Program** - The Connecticut Lottery Corporation created the "Connecticut Partnership for Responsible Gambling" (the Partnership). The Partnership is designed to educate consumers on problem gambling, underage gambling, and to promote responsible play. The Partnership also serves as a leading resource for responsible gambling, warning signs of problem gambling and available treatment services. The Connecticut Lottery Corporation supports this effort through a \$1.2 million annual contribution to the DMHAS Problem Gambling Services Program.

Through the Problem Gambling Services program, DMHAS provides counseling, assessment, financial management counseling, and peer counseling. They also provide gambling prevention services and perform advocacy work. The program operates in 15 sites throughout the State, which are either State-operated or operated by private non-for-profit organizations.

(9) **ESTIMATE OF TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN SUBSIDIZED EMPLOYMENT**

The State estimates that **332 individuals** participated in subsidized employment during FFY 2005.