

2013 Program Report Card: Jobs First Employment Services Program - Department of Labor

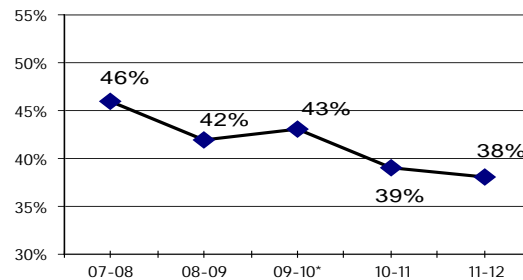
Quality of Life Result: All Connecticut working age residents have jobs that provide financial self-sufficiency.

Contribution to Result: Jobs First Employment Services provides employment services such as case management, job search assistance, vocational education, subsidized work experience, adult basic education and support services to families in receipt of time-limited Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) to assist them in becoming and remaining independent of assistance through employment.

Program Expenditures	State Funding	Federal Funding	Other Funding	Total Funding
Actual FY 12	\$16,854,749	0	0	\$16,854,749
Estimated FY 13	\$16,774,599	0	0	\$16,774,599

Partners: CT Departments of Labor, Social Services and Education, Bureau of Health/Nutrition Family Services and Adult Education; Five Regional Workforce Investment Boards and numerous contracted service providers.

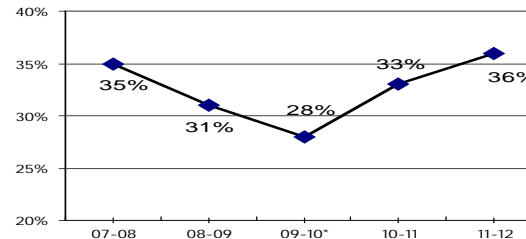
Performance Measure 1: Number of participants to obtain employment during the State Fiscal Year.



Time Period SFY	Caseload	Obtained Employment	
		#	% of Caseload
2007-08	15,915	7,264	46%
2008-09	16,704	7,047	42%
2009-10*	11,713	4,983	43%
2010-11	16,490	6,437	39%
2011-12	15,742	6,046	38%

Story behind the baseline: The majority of the JFES families are single parents with multiple, serious barriers to participating in the program and becoming employed (e.g., lack of access to transportation, lack of child care or funds to pay for child care, no high school diploma or GED, no work history, non-English speaking, unstable housing, health and/or behavior health issues.) Performance is impacted by reduction in program funding translating to higher case managers' caseloads and fewer quality services such as vocational education and subsidized employment. The current economic climate has also impacted the number of participants that obtained employment during SFY11 and SFY12. Trend ▼

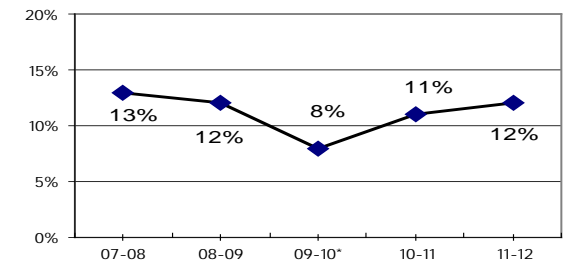
Performance Measure 2: Number of participants and percentage of JFES caseload to obtain employment with wages higher than the cash benefit that they receive during the State Fiscal Year.



Time Period SFY	Caseload	Wages Above TFA	
		#	% of Caseload
2007-08	15,915	5,638	35%
2008-09	16,704	5,194	31%
2009-10*	11,713	3,334	28%
2010-11	16,490	5,449	33%
2011-12	15,742	5,712	36%

Story behind the baseline: JFES case managers develop individualized employment plans that help participants obtain employment before the end of their 21-month time limit. If at the end of the 21-month time-limit participants are earning \$90 more than their cash benefit amount, they are not eligible for an extension and JFES services ends. Despite the drop in the percentage obtaining employment, the level of wages for those employed increased. The increase in the minimum wage on January 2010 and an increased emphasis on quality job placements has contributed to this increase of jobs with higher wages. Trend ▲

Performance Measure 3: # and % of JFES caseload to obtain employment with wages higher than the federal poverty level for their family size during the State Fiscal Year



Time Period SFY	Caseload	Wages Above FPL	
		#	% of Caseload
2007-08	15,915	2,105	13%
2008-09	16,704	1,961	12%
2009-10*	11,713	897	8%
2010-11	16,490	1,793	11%
2011-12	15,742	1,883	12%

Story behind the baseline: The recession has made it more difficult for a single parent who lacks a high school diploma, marketable skills, work history, child care and reliable transportation to obtain a job when competing with the skilled and experienced unemployed. Despite the decline in the percentage obtaining employment, the number of JFES participants obtaining jobs with wages that are higher than the federal poverty level (FPL) has increased. JFES provides some vocational skills training with JFES funding and with leveraged resources. The increase in the minimum wage on January 2010 and an increased program emphasis on quality job placements has contributed to this improvement in wage rates. Trend ▲

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Proposed Actions to Turn the Curve:

- Incorporate the attainment of a secondary education credential into individual employment plans whenever possible within federal requirements and state resources.
- Develop a method of collecting data on educational achievement and vocational skills credential attainment of participants while in JFES.
- Continue to emphasize quality employment placements in addition to meeting the Federal TANF work participation requirements when issuing performance reports to contractors.
- Issue contract performance reports on employment measures to contractors on a more frequent basis.
- Continue to coordinate with other programs and agencies to maximize existing resources such as leveraging training vouchers through the Workforce Investment systems, STEP UP subsidized employment opportunities, grants for training in health care occupations, adult basic education and ESL classes through local adult basic education programs and specialized employment services through the Department of Rehabilitation Services.
- Implement standardized in-depth JFES employment assessments including interest and career inventories.
- Within appropriations, continue to develop core competencies of JFES staff and provide training on the latest approaches to service delivery and on the resources available to assist JFES customers to overcome barriers to employment.