

Texas Government Code 2308.101(14) requires the Texas Workforce Investment Council (Council) to provide annual reports to the Governor and Legislature, "including an annual report analyzing work development programs that focus on welfare to work initiatives."

This report aligns with *Destination 2010: FY2004-FY2009 Strategic Plan for the Texas Workforce Development System (Destination 2010)*, endorsed by the Council in September 2003 and approved by the Governor in October 2003.

*Destination 2010* addresses the services provided and participants served by the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program in one of the plan's Critical Success Factors and a corresponding Long Term Objective.

Critical Success Factor:

*Current and future workers (including TANF participants) will access and be successful at the programs necessary to gain knowledge and skills for tomorrow's economy. The system will achieve this by maximizing participant outcomes at critical points in the continuum of education to employment, including:*

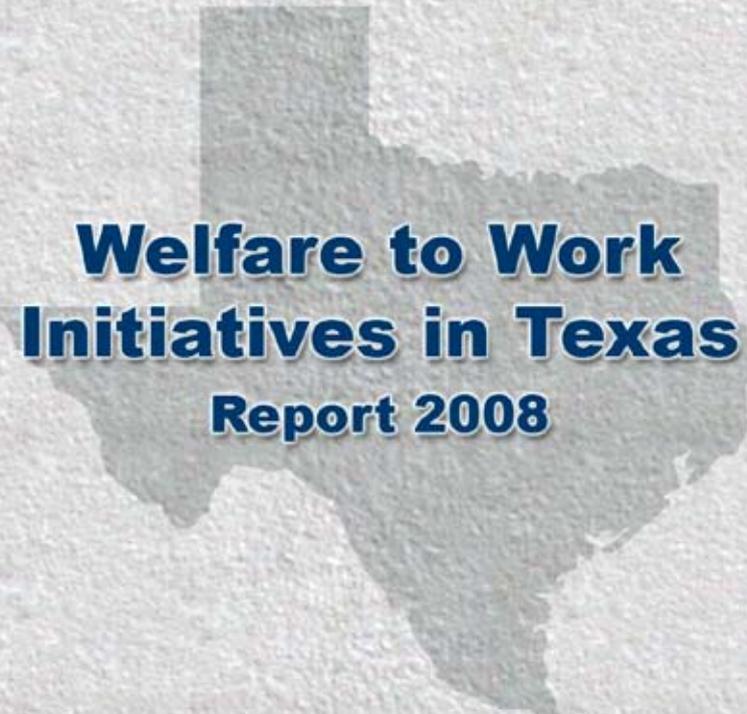
- *Adult Education*
- *Secondary Education*
- *Postsecondary Education*
- *Employment for mature workers through the Senior Employment Program*
- *High-growth population segments*
- *TANF participants*

Long Term Objective:

*Decrease number of TANF recipients cycling on and off TANF to 44% by Q4/09.*

Texas Workforce Investment Council  
1100 San Jacinto, Suite 1.100  
Austin, Texas 78701  
www.governor.state.tx.us/divisions/twic

Texas Workforce Investment Council  
December 2008



## **Welfare to Work Initiatives in Texas Report 2008**

**Workforce Programs and Initiatives  
in Texas that Focus on Welfare to Work**

December 2008

Dear Texas Workforce System Stakeholder:

The Texas Workforce Investment Council (Council) is pleased to present this ninth annual report, *Welfare to Work Initiatives in Texas: Report 2008*, as mandated by Texas Government Code 2308.101(14). This report was approved at the Council's December 3rd meeting.

The information presented here is organized by two types of programs. *Programs that Directly Serve Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and State Program (SP) Recipients* are those that serve only TANF or SP families. *Other Programs Available to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and State Program Recipients* are those that serve other populations as well. For both types of programs, this report highlights general program information, federal and state administrative agencies, program purpose, target population, participant eligibility, types of services, and provides fiscal year results for each program. The most recent available twelve-month program data are presented for each program.

Since the implementation of welfare reform in 1995, partner agencies in the Texas workforce development system have worked diligently to help individuals successfully transition from public assistance to employment, thereby raising the standard of living for thousands of Texans. This work will continue to be vitally important as we face uncertain economic times in the months ahead.



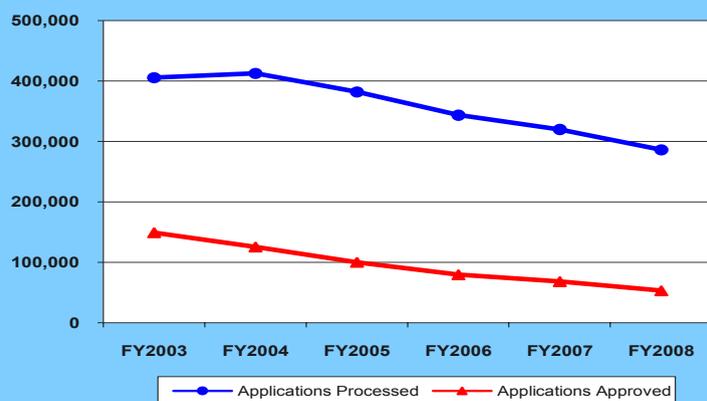
John W. Sylvester  
Chair

## Programs That Directly Serve Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and State Program Recipients

### Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and the State Program

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is the federal cash grant program for eligible low-income adults with children. The State Program (SP) is the state funded cash assistance program for eligible low-income two parent families with children. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) is the state agency in Texas designated for TANF and SP administration. HHSC collaborates with community partners to identify, develop, and expand resources to encourage independence. HHSC is responsible for eligibility determination, eligibility-related issues such as sanctions, assigning exemptions, and tracking the number of months a recipient is on TANF for purposes of state and federal time-limits. HHSC administers Medicaid and Food Stamps, two additional support programs utilized by TANF and SP recipients. The program results below show the number of applications for TANF and SP that were processed and approved over a six year period.

**Total TANF & SP Applications Processed & Approved FY2003-FY2008**



**Federal Administrative Agency:** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families  
**State Administrative Agency:** Health and Human Services Commission  
**Purpose of Program:** Cash grant program for eligible families  
**Participant Eligibility:** Based on income and size of family  
**Types of Services:** Eligibility determination, eligibility-related policies, administration and distribution of cash grants

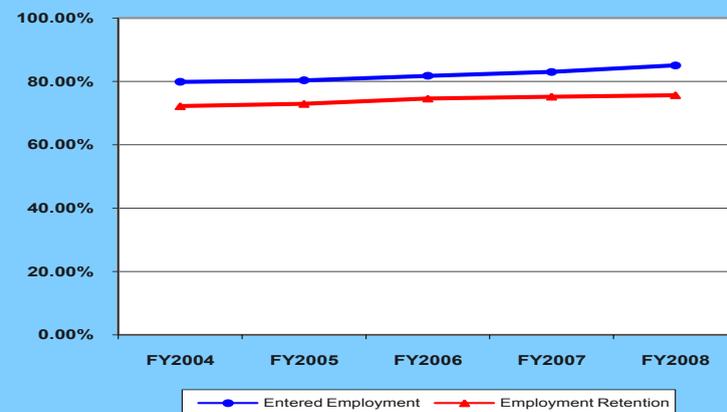
**FY2008 Program Results:**  
**Number Applications Processed:** 286,301  
**Number Applications Approved:** 53,304

## Programs That Directly Serve Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and State Program Recipients

### Choices

Choices, Texas' employment and training program for adults receiving cash assistance, has continued to successfully assist TANF and SP adults to enter employment. Through its "Pay for Performance/Work First" model, the program serves adults by preparing, training, and placing them in work. The Choices program is administered by the Texas Workforce Commission and by Local Workforce Development Boards through contractors that operate workforce centers across the state. The program results below show, in FY 2008, Choices served 34,543 adults, resulting in an entered employment rate of 85.1%. Data points and trend lines for this measure have been revised from previous years due to a technical correction in methodology. The employment retention rate shows steady improvement from 72.2% in FY2004 to 75.7% in FY2008.

**Choices Program Entered Employment Rate & Employment Retention Rate FY2004-FY2008**



**Federal Administrative Agency:** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families  
**State Administrative Agency:** Texas Workforce Commission  
**Purpose of Program:** Employment and training activities for TANF and SP adults  
**Target Population:** TANF and SP adults  
**Participant Eligibility:** Adults required or volunteering to participate in work activities  
**Types of Services:** Job readiness activities, vocational and other training, educational activities, job search, support services, case management

**FY2008 Program Results:**  
**TANF and SP adults served:** 34,543  
**Entered Employment Rate:** 85.1%

## Other Programs Available to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and State Program Recipients

### Self-Sufficiency Fund

The Self-Sufficiency Fund provides training for employment opportunities for adult recipients of TANF, and individuals at risk of becoming dependent on public assistance. Self-Sufficiency Fund grants deliver customized training solutions that support businesses' workforce hiring efforts and skills upgrading for their current workers. To apply for a Self-Sufficiency Fund grant, a business, business consortium, or trade union partners with an eligible grant recipient that will deliver the training and is either a community or technical college, or the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX), or a local community-based organization. The training is customized to the requirements of the business. The business agrees to hire the individuals who successfully complete the training. The program results below show the number of trainees served and the number of participating employers.

**Federal Administrative Agency:** None  
**State Administrative Agency:** Texas Workforce Commission  
**Purpose of Program:** Provides customized training  
**Target Population:** Adult TANF recipients, and individuals at risk of becoming dependent on public assistance  
**Participant Eligibility:** Eligible for above named programs  
**Types of Services:** Customized training with grants awarded to public community and technical colleges, TEEX, and community-based organizations

**FY2008 Program Results:**  
**Number Trainees Served:** 2,407  
**Number of Participating Employers:** 110

### Adult Education

The Adult Education program is authorized under Title II of the Workforce Investment Act, titled Adult Education and Family Literacy. The program provides services to adults to become literate and to obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency. These skills might include: academic skills training, workforce readiness, parenting skills, English as a second language, or GED preparation. Adult education providers are strongly encouraged to form collaborative partnerships with local workforce development boards, local support service providers, and employers. The program results below show the number of TANF and SP adults in adult education services.

**Federal Administrative Agency:** U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Department of Education  
**State Administrative Agency:** Texas Education Agency  
**Purpose of Program:** Provide basic education to adults  
**Target Population:** Adults  
**Participant Eligibility:** None  
**Types of Services:** Adult basic education, English as a second language, GED preparation, workforce readiness, and similar services

**FY2008 Program Results:**  
**Number TANF and SP served:** 9,046  
**Number of Contact Hours:** 803,017  
**Percent Completing Level:** 39%  
**Percent Continuing to Next Level:** 34%  
**Number of GEDs Completed:** 571  
**Percent of GEDs Completed:** 49%

## Other Programs Available to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and State Program Recipients

### Application Assistance Programs

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (RSDI) are two federal programs that provide cash assistance and other benefits for the disabled or those otherwise unable to work. A portion of the TANF and SP population is often eligible for these programs. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) contracts for services to assist TANF and SP individuals through the application and appeals process. The contractor identifies individuals who are likely eligible, assists them to apply, gathers supporting documentation, and assists with the appeals process if the initial claim is denied. The program results below show the number of individuals who were accepted for SSI or RSDI and the number of individuals who have pending initial claims.

**Federal Administrative Agency:** None  
**State Administrative Agency:** Health and Human Services Commission  
**Purpose of Program:** To assist TANF and SP individuals in the application and appeals process for SSI and RSDI  
**Target Population:** TANF and SP adults  
**Participant Eligibility:** Same as TANF  
**Types of Services:** Application assistance, assistance with paperwork such as doctor's referrals, and assistance with appeals

**Due to program changes, data related to this program are no longer tracked in the same manner as in previous years. The reporting agency (HHSC) has implemented an in-house strategy for identifying and providing application assistance to TANF clients. Data tracked for FY 2008 indicate 6,775 individuals have been contacted and 621 have applied for assistance.**

### Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Title I-B

TANF adults are eligible to receive Workforce Investment Act (WIA) services. Core services are available to all adults, and intensive services are available to adults who are unable to find employment through core services alone. Intensive services are individualized and may include more intensive assessments, individual counseling, employment planning, and prevocational and vocational training. WIA also offers services to dislocated workers, unemployed because of plant closures, company downsizing, or significant changes in market conditions.

**Federal Administrative Agency:** U.S. Department of Labor  
**State Administrative Agency:** Texas Workforce Commission  
**Purpose of Program:** Employment and training for adults  
**Target Population:** Adults seeking employment, employment information, or upgrading of skills  
**Participant Eligibility:** None for core services  
**Types of Services:** Core services include skill assessment, labor market information, consumer reports on training programs, and job search. Access to job training.

**FY2008 Program Results:**  
**Number of adults served:** 35,927  
**Number of dislocated workers served:** 12,135