

NEBRASKA

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DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Jim Pillen, Governor

December 1, 2023

The Honorable Jim Pillen
Governor of Nebraska
State Capitol Room 2316
Lincoln, NE 68509

Mr. Brandon Metzler
Clerk of the Legislature
State Capitol Room 2028
Lincoln, NE 68509

Subject: Employment Educational Activities Report

Dear Governor Pillen and Mr. Metzler:

Nebraska Revised Statute § 43-517 requires the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to report annually to the Legislature regarding employment educational activities for those participating in the Aid to Dependent Children program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tony Green".

Tony Green, Interim Director
Division of Children and Family Services

Division of Children and Family Services

Employment Educational Activities Report

December 2023

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-517

Employment First Program

The purpose of the Employment First Program is to provide temporary, transitional support for Nebraska families to achieve economic self-sufficiency through training, education, and employment preparation. To be eligible for the Employment First program, a work-eligible individual must meet the eligibility requirements for the Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) program.

Monthly Earnings, Educational Level, and Employment Status

As of April 1, 2023, six months after terminating participation in the ADC program, 42 out of 46 participants remained employed. These participants' average monthly earnings were \$2,317.82. The participants reported the following education levels:

- Between one and five participants have less than a 12th-grade education;
- Sixteen have a 12th-grade education;
- Twelve have received a certificate or diploma beyond high school;
- Seven have an associate degree, and,
- Between one and five participants have a bachelor's degree.

*Values between one and five have been suppressed for privacy protection.

Twelve months after terminating participation in the ADC program, 34 of the 42 participants listed in the previous section remained employed on October 1, 2023. The participants' average monthly earning was \$2,294.85. The participants had the following reported education levels:

- Between one and five participants have less than a 12th-grade education;
- Eight have a 12th-grade education;
- Fourteen have received a certificate or diploma beyond high school;
- Between one and five have an associate degree, and,
- Between one and five have a bachelor's degree.

*Values between one and five have been suppressed for privacy protection.

Current Participants Pursuing an Associate Degree

In September 2023, 32 Employment First participants were engaged in an associate degree educational program. All 32 of these participants were making satisfactory progress in their educational pursuits. These participants spent an average of 2.37 months in education to fulfill their work requirements under the program.

Activities Promoting Post-Secondary Education for Participants

The Department provides individual assessments for participants upon entry into Employment First (EF). These assessments determine current educational levels, and career interests, and identify any barriers to attaining economic self-sufficiency. Following an assessment, case managers engage participants to identify activities they may participate in to help them reach their ultimate career goals. An EF caseworker assists participants in meeting their goals by providing information about the job market, specific careers, wages, addressing barriers to employment, and providing support in seeking childcare and transportation assistance.

When the participant's goal requires additional training or education, it is included as a work activity on the participant's EF service plan. DHHS encourages post-secondary education as an activity to help participants reach their career goals. EF participants enrolled in post-secondary education gain crucial technical skills that can lead to securing full-time employment and significant income gains after completing the degree or training program before their ADC benefits end.