



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF STATE BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT**



Employment First State for Individuals with Disabilities

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

KRISTIN WALKER
STATE BUDGET DIRECTOR

June 28, 2023

TO: Senator Phil Berger
President Pro Tempore

Representative Tim Moore
Speaker of the House

FROM: Kristin Walker *Kristin Walker*

SUBJECT: Report on Number of State Employees Receiving Work First

Pursuant to G.S. 108A-27.10(b), the Director of the Budget shall report to the General Assembly at the beginning of every fiscal year the number of permanent State employees who have been Work First Program recipients during the previous calendar year. According to the attached report prepared by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the 2018 increase to minimum salary for State employees results in no permanent state employees being eligible to receive Work First Family Assistance.

Due to the current minimum salary making permanent State employees ineligible for this program, the Office of State Budget and Management would recommend the elimination of the reporting requirement in G.S. 108A-21.10(b).

If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact Assistant State Budget Officer Jennifer Neisner at Jennifer.neisner@osbm.nc.gov.

cc:

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**Annual Report on the Number of Permanent State Employees
Receiving Work First Benefits**

N.C.G.S. 108A-27.10 (b)



Report to the

The Office of State Budget Management

By

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

May 15, 2023

Background

North Carolina General Statute 108A-27.10 (b) requires the Director of the Budget to submit an annual report to the North Carolina General Assembly the number of permanent state employees who have been Work First recipients during the previous calendar year.

Overview North Carolina's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program

North Carolina's TANF program, known as Work First, promotes a strengths-based, family-centered practice. The Work First program is based on the premise that parents have a responsibility to support themselves and their children. The program provides low-income parents with cash assistance and other services to help them become employed and move toward self-sufficiency. Biological parents, adoptive parents and stepparents may receive assistance for a child and must be included in the payment for the family, unless they are disqualified from the program. Non-parent caretakers can receive services and support which may prevent children from entering the foster care system unnecessarily.

DHHS is committed to ensuring TANF/Work First benefits and services are provided to low-income families and program assistance is used in a manner consistent with the requirements of NCGS 108A-27.10 (b); which also serve to promote the integrity of the TANF/Work First program and the responsible stewardship of public funds.

Data Collection Process

The query parameters for this report consist of the number of permanent state employees with income that meet the maximum net family annual income eligibility standard for Work First Family Assistance.

Results

In 2018 the North Carolina General Assembly increased the minimum salary for state employees to \$31,200/annually and \$2,600/monthly. Based on income guidelines for Work First participation, no permanent state employees are eligible to receive Work First Family Assistance.