

Self-Sufficiency Programs

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Overview

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Presentation Outline

- Federal and state program overview
- Who we serve
- TANF service delivery overview
- Community partnerships

Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families







- 1) A federal block grant
- 2) States have flexibility on program design
- 3) Must meet work participation requirements and spending criteria

Oregon's TANF Program

- An economic stability and employment program
- A family preservation and children's program

Client Profile



	Single mother, two children
	No job; Income less than \$616 per month
	Receives \$506 per month in TANF cash assistance
	May live with family or share low-income apartment with others
	Limited transportation options
	Family stability challenges such as homelessness or domestic violence

Oregon's TANF Program

Who does TANF Reach?

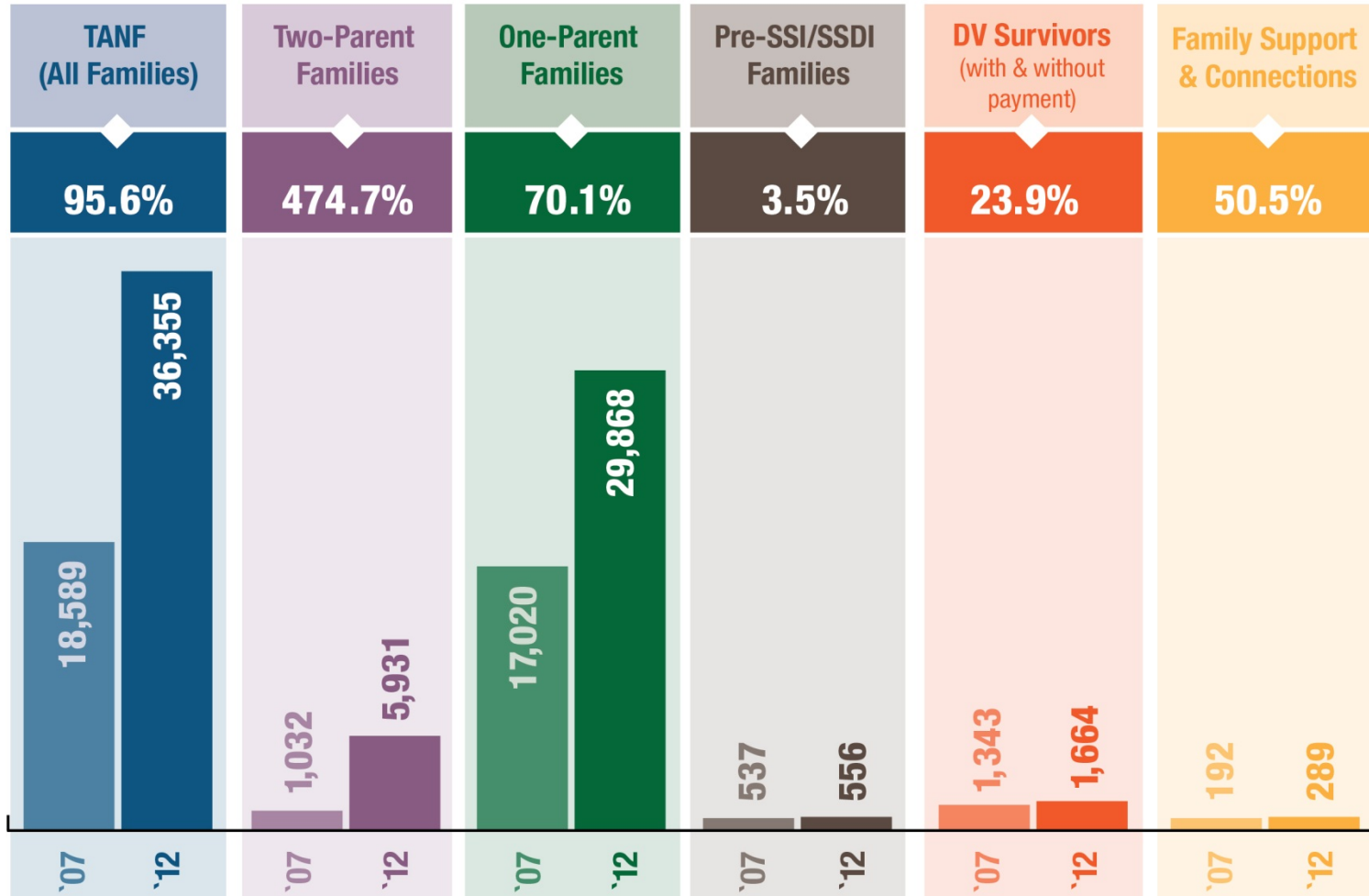
- Currently serve 36,355 families, including 64,124 children
- Overall a **96%** caseload increase since 12/07
- Two-parent caseload **475%** higher since 12/07
- Total number of people on TANF represents 2.5% of the Oregon population
- Represents about 1/3 of Oregon children living in poverty
- Approximately 50% of children receiving TANF are between ages 0 and 5

Oregon's TANF Program

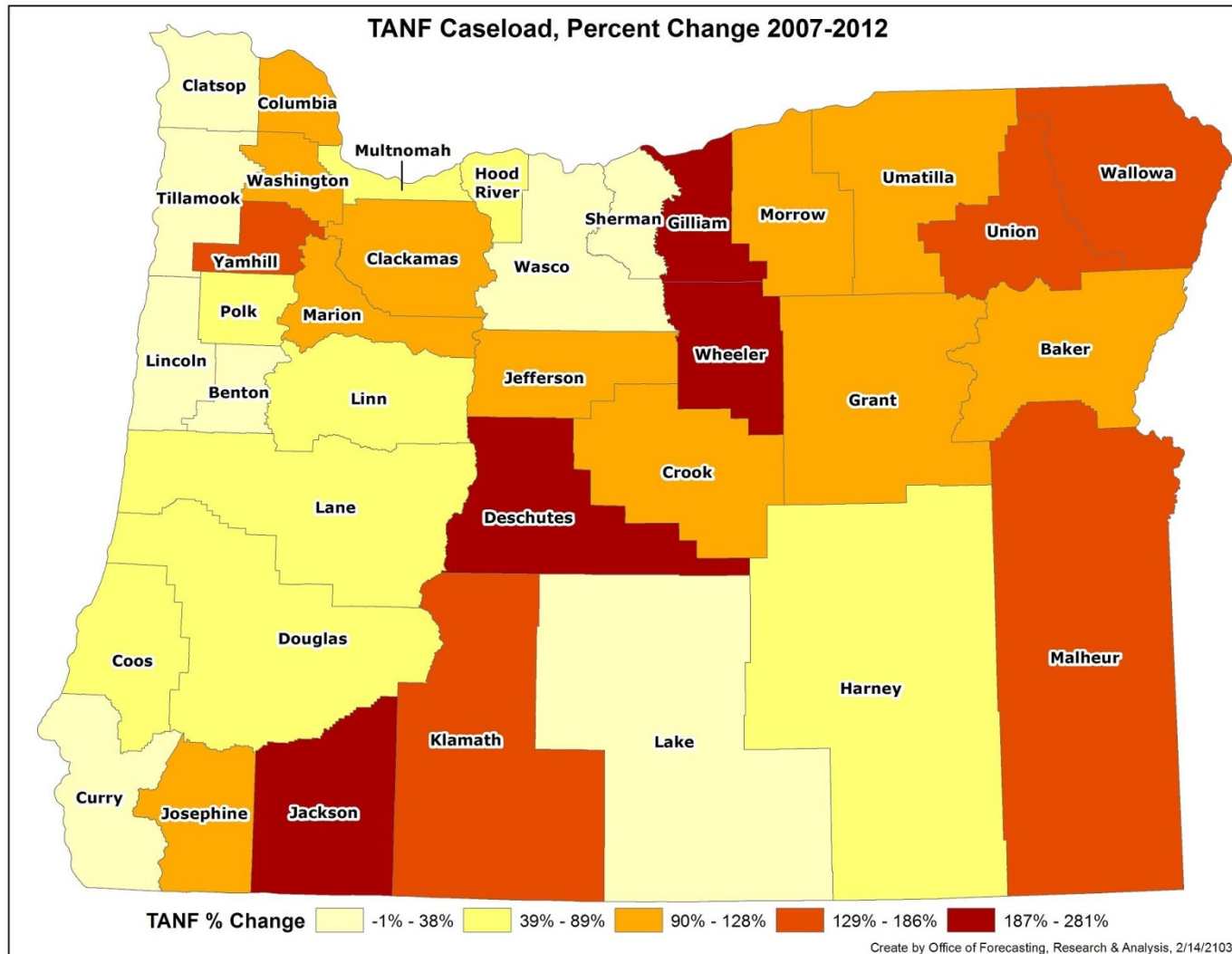
- TANF provides short term cash assistance to families with children
- To qualify, a family must earn below 38% of the Federal Poverty Level (family of three \$616 per month)
- Maximum cash payment is \$506 per month for a family of 3 (about 31% of FPL).
- Approximately 96% of all families receiving TANF have no earnings.
- TANF-funded Job Opportunity and Basic Skills (JOBS) program provides: employment, training, barrier removal, life skills and services designed to help clients return to work and become self sufficient.
- Approximately 38% of children in foster care had been on the TANF program within the previous two months before entering foster care.

Oregon's TANF Program

TANF-Related Caseload Trends



TANF Caseload 2007 to 2012



Self-Sufficiency Programs

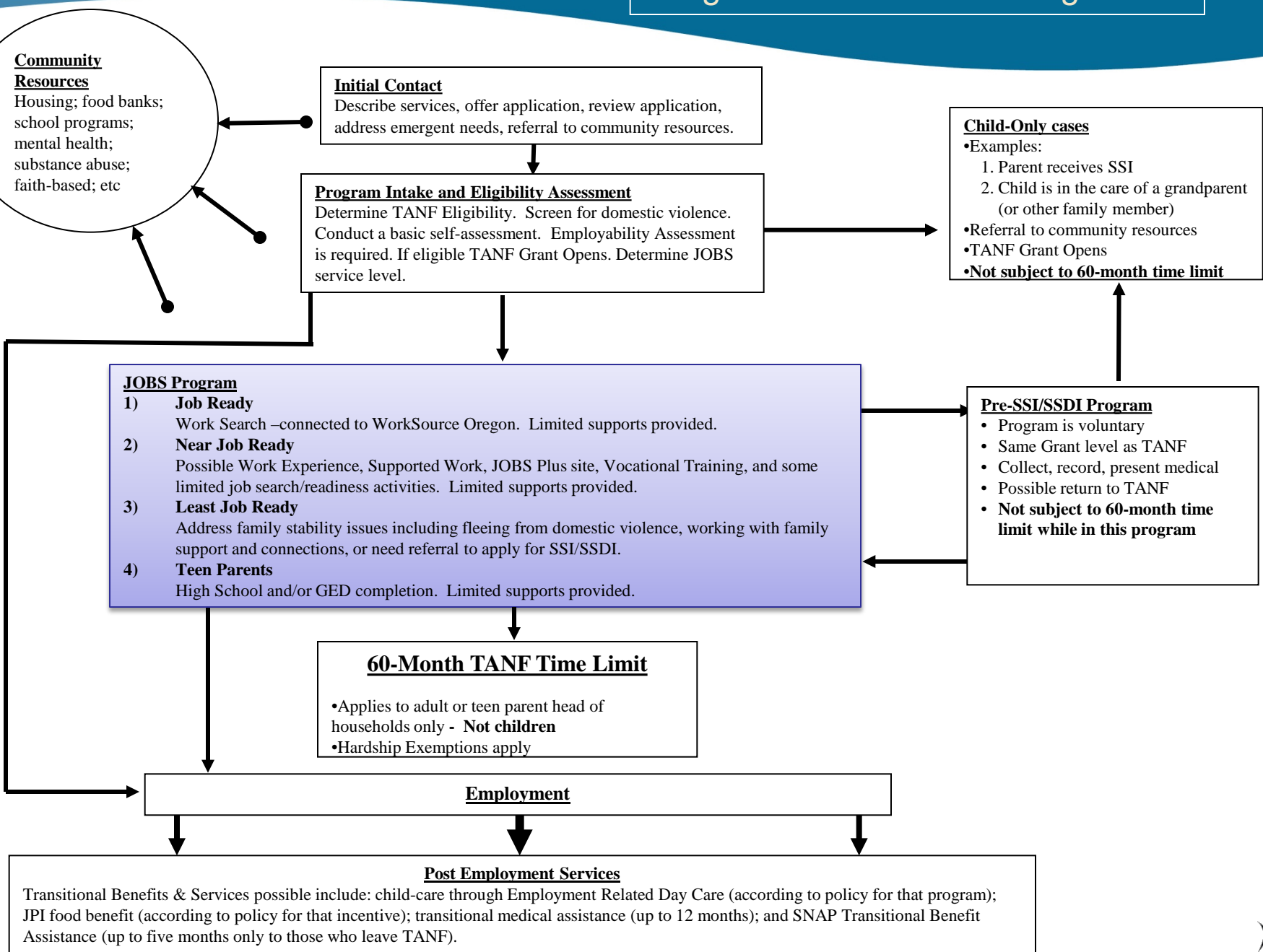
Service Delivery Overview



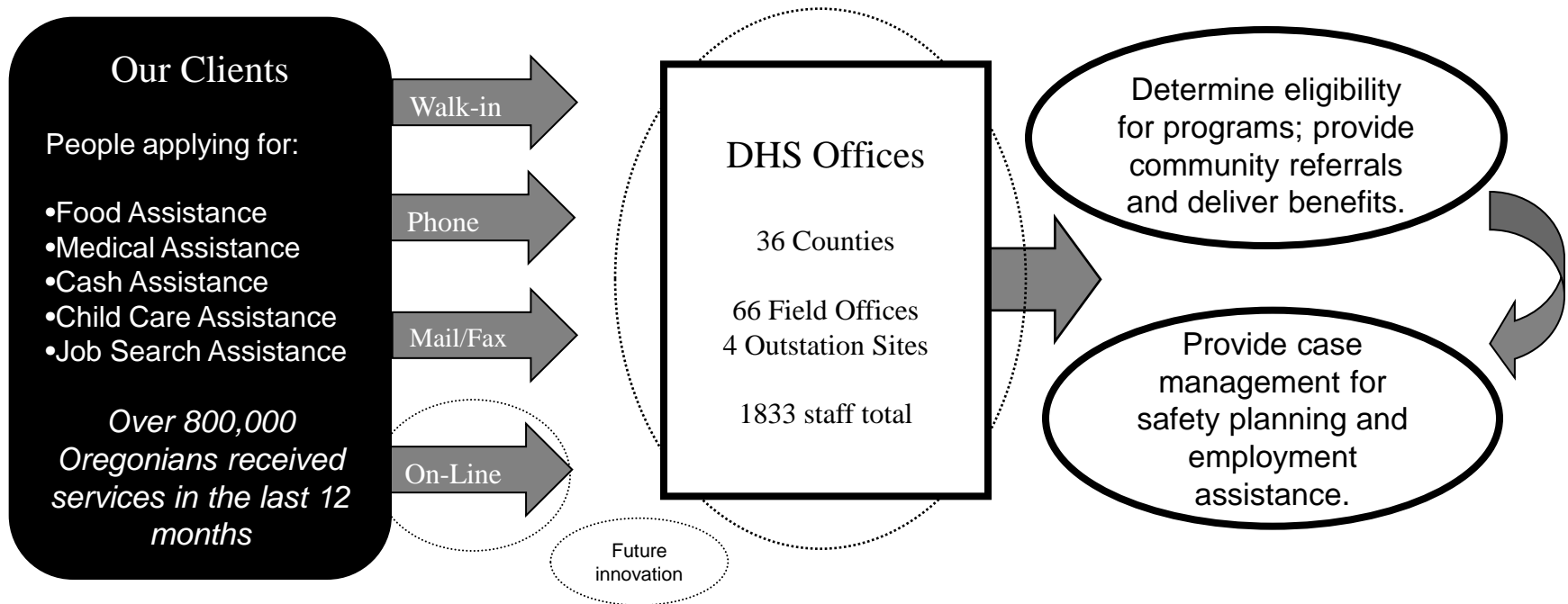
TANF Programs

Pre-TANF	TANF	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening for family stability • Determination of eligibility for TANF and other programs • Payments up to 100% of TANF grant for basic needs • 45-day max. participation 	<p style="text-align: center;">Job Opportunity & Basic Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job Search • Work Experience or Supported Work • JOBS Plus • Paid work • Self-employment 	
	<p style="text-align: center;">Other TANF Components</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">Pre-SSI/SSDI</p> <p>Help applying for federal disability benefits</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Domestic Violence</p> <p>Grant to escape or remain free from domestic violence</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">TANF Refugee</p> <p>Serves families admitted to U.S. as refugees, asylees, victims of trafficking, etc.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Family Support & Connections</p> <p>Contracted services to serve families at risk of child abuse or neglect</p>

Oregon Current TANF Design 2012



Self-Sufficiency Programs Service Flow



Types of Services:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP – Food Assistance)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF – Cash Assistance)
- Temporary Assistance for Domestic Violence Survivors (TA-DVS – Emergency Cash Assistance)
- Employment Related Day Care (ERDC – Child Care Assistance)
- Job Opportunity and Basic Skills (JOBS – Employment Assistance)
- Refugee Services

TANF and JOBS Program Changes

Current number of JOBS Mandatory: 25,297. Due to funding reductions JOBS serves 4,026, or 15.9%

HB 2469

- Pre-TANF Program with employability screenings and assessments
- Post TANF
- Retention payments
- Enhanced Pre-SSI/SSDI Program
- Fuller range of JOBS activities funded, including barrier removal and training activities.

Reductions 11-13

- Funded TANF caseload
- JOBS budget reduced by about 50%, resulting in 75% of contractor FTE cut (From 426 FTE to 104)
- Maintained 2009-11 reductions and added reductions in TANF benefits and support services
- Prioritization of services and Service limits introduced

GRB

- Funds projected caseload
- Maintains previous reductions in TANF and JOBS Programs
- Implements 36-month time limit

TANF and JOBS Program Changes

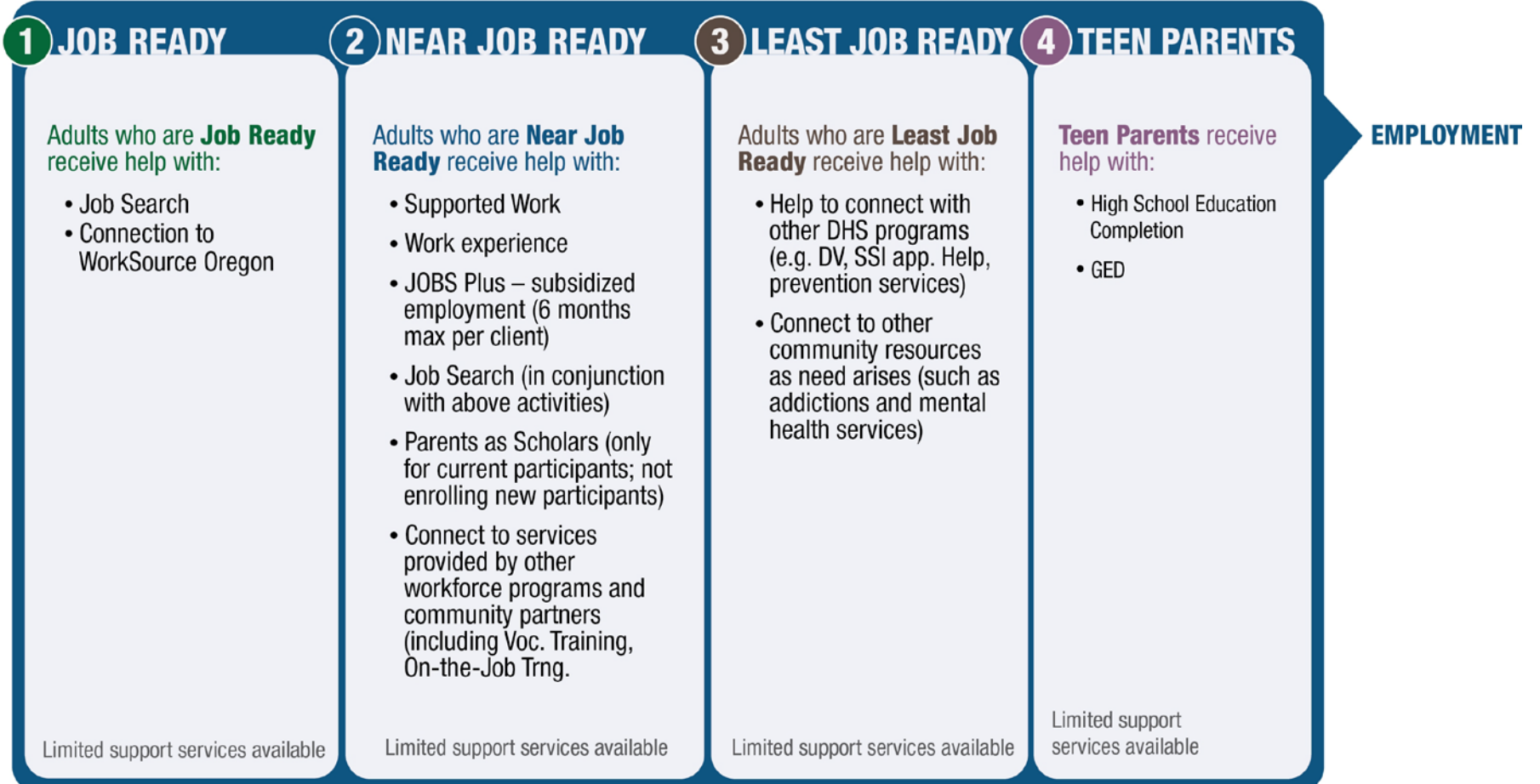
Date	Reduction
02/2009	Monthly Post TANF payment for families newly employed and off TANF reduced from \$150 to \$100 per month
04/2009	Payments to TANF applicants for basic living expenses (such as shelter or utilities) reduced from 200% of TANF grant to 100% of TANF grant ** This reduction was restored 07/2009
05/2009	Established a household income limit at 185% of the Federal Poverty Line for Caretaker Relatives (e.g. grandparents caring for grandchildren in the absence of a parent) applying for TANF
	Implemented a “job quit” penalty which denied TANF for families with adults whose actions resulted in their job loss
07/2009	JOBS program funding reduced by \$10 million
02/2010	JOBS program funding further reduced by an additional \$5 million
10/2010	Monthly Post TANF payment reduced from \$100 to \$50 per month
10/2010	Eliminated the Cooperation Incentive Payment, an additional payment given to TANF recipients who develop and participate in a JOBS program case plan. Half of the payment amount was added to the monthly TANF grant
10/2010	JOBS program budget further reduced by 50% of the 2009-2011 budget.

TANF and JOBS Program Changes

Date	Reduction
07/2011	Payments to TANF applicants for basic living expenses reduced from 200% of TANF grant to 100% of TANF grant. Limited these payments to personal incidentals only
07/2011	Stopped new enrollment into Parents as Scholars except to those already in the program
07/2011	Reduced the Family Support and Connections child abuse prevention budget by approximately 5.8%
10/2011	Temporarily eliminated the Pre-SSI/SSDI enhanced grant and brought cash assistance payments for families with disabilities to the same levels as families in the TANF program
10/2011	Modified the upfront TANF eligibility process to require an employability screening and an orientation of the JOBS program
10/2011	Modified the TANF/JOBS re-engagement and disqualification process
05/2012	<p>Modified time limits for all families in the TANF program in three ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clarified that a person cannot receive TANF beyond 60 months in this or another state 2. Applied time limits to two parent families 3. Eliminated the economic hardship exemption (which previously suspended time limit counting for families)
05/2012	Suspended the Post TANF program
05/2012	Modified TANF eligibility under the “job quit” penalty to extend the period of ineligibility to 4 months (previously 60 days)

TANF JOBS Program

Current number of clients with mandatory JOBS participation: **25,297**.
Due to funding reductions, **JOBS serves 4,026 or 15.9% of clients**.



JOBS Program – Reduction Impacts

JOBS Service Array 2009–2011

- Job Search
- Work Experience/Supported Work
- Subsidized employment (JOBS Plus)
- High School Diploma or GED (adults and teen parents)
- Adult Basic Education
- English as a Second Language
- Life Skills
- JOBS Skills Training
- Community Services Program
- Vocational Training
- On-the-Job Training
- Employment Retention
- Parents as Scholars
- Program Entry/Holistic Orientation
- Child Related activities
- Domestic Violence
- Drug and Alcohol
- Mental Health
- Learning Disability Assessments
- Short-Term Medical Issues
- Rehabilitative Services

Support Service Payments according to need:

- Child Care
- Transportation
- Housing
- Other

JOBS Service Array 2011–2013

- Job Search
- Work Experience/Supported Work
- Subsidized employment (JOBS Plus)
- High School Diploma or GED (teen parents)

- Job Participation Incentive (JPI)

Support Service Payments:

- Child Care (family cap/mo; lifted March 2012)
- Transportation
- Other
- Limited payments based on type of activity

JOBS Service Array 2013–2015

- Job Search
- Work Experience/Supported Work
- Subsidized employment (JOBS Plus)
- High School Diploma or GED (teen parents)

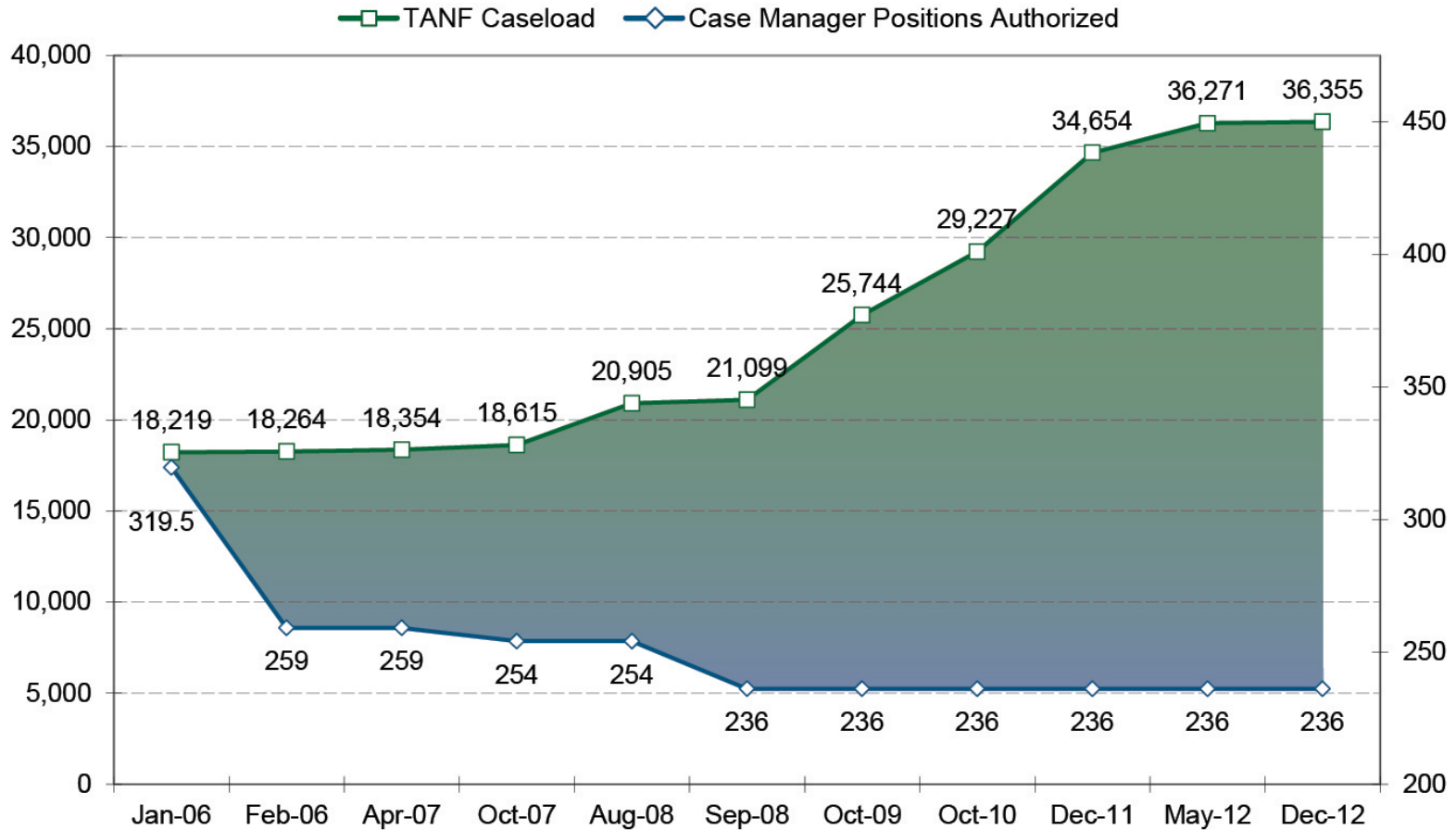
- Job Participation Incentive (JPI)

Support Service Payments:

- Child Care
- Transportation
- Other
- Limited payments based on type of activity

TANF Caseloads and Staffing

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Caseload and Case Manager Positions Authorized



TANF and JOBS Program Challenges

- Reduced capacity and resources (limited JOBS contractors)
- Limited DHS case management staff
- Potential Federal penalties related to participation
- Slow economic recovery

TANF – Program Integrity

Fraud is an agency priority. DHS takes a multi-pronged approach to building program integrity in its public assistance programs through fraud investigation and prevention efforts

Staff training and verification points within screening process

Checks and balances that include steps to make sure two staff members are involved in opening benefit accounts

Data mining to identify potential fraud

Monitoring Oregon Trail Card usage and centralizing the process for replacing lost or stolen cards

TANF fraud rate is 2012 was 1.5 percent

How do I report possible fraud?

Call the DHS Fraud Hotline at 1-888-372-8301

Submit a report online at www.oregon.gov/DHS/aboutdhs/fraud/

Self-Sufficiency Programs

Community Partnerships



Community Partnerships

**In serving families, DHS cannot do it alone.
Partnerships and coordination are key to effectively achieving results.**

- **Early Learning Council**

Working on improving quality in systems that serve children under five, such as changes within ERDC regarding health and reading requirements for children in care.

- **Coordinated Care Organizations**

Working on Modernization of DHS IT systems that will help health care consumers access services online by 2014. Also working on coordinating with CCOs on case planning and referrals for key services such as mental health and treatment services.

- **Workforce System**

Working closely with Workforce Investment Act (WIA) providers, including increasing referrals to WIA services for work-ready TANF adults and planning to better connect DHS and Workforce data systems within future Modernization design.

- **TANF Redesign Workgroups**

Worked with groups such as TANF Alliance and Family Services Review Commission on strategies for improving services.



TANF Workgroups

Workgroups convened in Spring and Fall of 2012

Membership: staff, district leadership, labor representatives, JOBS contractors, and community partners such as the TANF Alliance, Hunger Relief Task Force, Oregon Law Center, Albina Ministerial Alliance, and JOIN.

The workgroups focused on three main areas:

- 1. Pre-TANF and front-end services.**
- 2. Ongoing TANF and Family Stability.**
- 3. Placement and Retention.**



Issues Identified

Program Considerations

- **Research** of other TANF programs across the country
- A **point-in-time analysis** of those who became employed, but later returned to TANF
- **Risk of Child Welfare Involvement:** Families with longer term poverty, domestic violence, or who had longer term health or mental health issues are at a greater risk of being involved with Child Welfare.
- **Caseload, Program Reductions and Staffing:** Staffing and program budget issues have greatly impacted staff ability to work with families.



TANF Workgroups

Themes Common to All Areas

- **Targeted case management**
- **Improve assessment process**
- **Increase training for case managers**

Pre-TANF

- **Restore availability of payments for job seekers** who may not need an ongoing TANF grant but may need one-time help with paying rent or utilities. Consider early employment incentive payment.

Ongoing TANF

- **Increase performance-based contracts** for job placement and other services
- **Streamline** the re-engagement process
- **Narrow focus of Family Support and Connections contracts** to families with a greater risk of Child Welfare involvement

Employment and Retention

- **Create glide path off of TANF** to eliminate financial 'cliff' after finding a job
- **Specialize job development** to broaden reach and to align with Sector Strategies

Summary

TANF is designed to help:

- Break the cycle of poverty
- Help Oregonians transition to jobs
- Support the healthy development of young children
- Keep families stable

Next Steps:

- TANF Legislative Concepts
- Policy Choices (36-month time limit in GRB)