

SB

51

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 110601
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0601
PHONE: (907) 465-3030
FAX: (907) 465-3068

January 28, 2004

Honorable Fred Dyson, Chairman
Senate Health, Education and
Social Services Committee
Alaska State Capitol; Rm. 121
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Dyson,

The Department of Health and Social Services respectfully requests a hearing in the Senate Health, Education and Social Services Committee on Senate Bill 51 "An Act relating to contracts for the provision of state public assistance to certain recipients in the state; providing for regional public assistance plans and programs in the state; relating to grants for Alaska Native family assistance programs; relating to assignment of child support by Alaska Native family assistance recipients; relating to paternity determinations and genetic testing involving recipients of assistance under Alaska Native family assistance programs; and providing for an effective date."

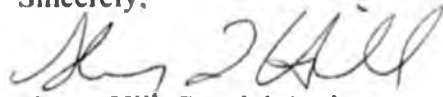
This bill would reauthorize the Alaska Native Family Assistance Grant Program established in Chapter 96, SLA 2000 as a temporary pilot program. In addition to reauthorizing the pilot program on a permanent basis in statute, the bill also would allow the remaining nine Alaska native nonprofit organizations authorized in federal law to participate in the program.

The bill was previously heard by the Senate (CRA) Committee and moved from committee without amendment. All members present signed the committee report "do pass."

A copy of Governor Murkowski's transmittal letter providing additional information on the proposal and the associated fiscal notes should be on file with the committee.

Your favorable consideration of this request will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sherry Hill".

Sherry Hill, Special Assistant
Office of the Commissioner

cc: Kevin Jardell, Legislative Director
Office of the Governor

Katherine Farnham, Director
Division of Public Assistance

SB51

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI
GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR@GOV.STATE.AK.US



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

P.O. Box 110001
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0001
(907) 465-3500
FAX (907) 465-3532
WWW.GOV.STATE.AK.US

January 11, 2005

The Honorable Ben Stevens
President of the Senate
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of art. III, sec. 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to the Alaska Native family assistance grant program. This bill would reauthorize the Alaska Native family assistance grant program, which was enacted in ch. 96, SLA 2000 as a temporary pilot program.

The federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunities Reconciliation Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-193) (PRWORA) gave Alaska Native and American Indian tribes the authority to assume responsibility for providing public assistance and self-sufficiency services by administering the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF) independent of state welfare agencies. The law also set out the methodology for federal financing of tribal TANF programs, but did not address state financing or any state maintenance-of-effort provisions. In response, ch. 96, SLA 2000 was enacted into law, authorizing the Department of Health and Social Services (department) to award and administer federally authorized tribal TANF providers in Alaska with Native Family Assistance Program (NFAP) grants on a pilot program basis. The financing was limited to only four of the 13 Alaska Native nonprofit organizations authorized in PRWORA: Tanana Chiefs Conference, Tlingit-Haida Central Council, Association of Village Council Presidents, and the Metlakatla Indian Community of the Annette Islands Reserve. Each of these organizations, except Metlakatla, is now operating a tribal TANF program and receiving financing from the department in the form of an Alaska Native family assistance grant. This temporary law program will sunset on June 30, 2005.

In addition to reauthorizing the pilot program on a permanent basis in statute, this bill also would include the other nine Alaska native nonprofit organizations authorized in federal law to operate tribal TANF programs: Arctic Slope Native Association, Kawerak, Inc., Maniilaq Association, Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Bristol Bay Native Association, Aleutian and Pribilof Island Association, Chugachmiut, Kodiak Area Native Association, and Copper River Native Association.

COMMITTEE COPY

The Honorable Ben Stevens

January 11, 2005

Page 2

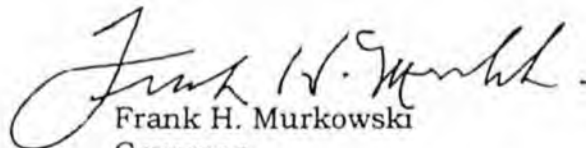
From the outset, the State of Alaska has supported the establishment and development of the tribal TANF programs. The NFAP program affirms the state's interest in promoting regional responsibility and local control for public assistance programs in Alaska. Families served by tribal TANF programs have been successful in moving families from welfare to work. The local presence and familiarity with village and community life puts the tribal administrators in the best position to implement the program and to successfully promote self-sufficiency for their clients.

Since enactment of ch. 96, SLA 2000, three Alaska Native groups not currently authorized to receive Alaska Native family assistance grants are either actively planning a tribal TANF program or have expressed interest in beginning the planning process. Cook Inlet Tribal Council plans to begin operating a tribal TANF program in July 2005 and is currently receiving technical support from the department. The Bristol Bay Native Association has submitted a letter of intent to begin operating a tribal TANF program in July 2005, and Chugachmiut has also advised the department of its interest in developing a tribal TANF program.

Funding for tribal TANF program operations comes from the federal TANF block grant and is supplemented by state grant funds that would otherwise be spent to serve the same number of Alaska Native families receiving assistance from the state's temporary assistance program. Enacting this bill will not take away the state oversight of TANF program operations. Tribal providers who receive NFAP grants enter into a contractual agreement with the State of Alaska to provide timely and accurate cash assistance, eligibility services, case management and other welfare-to-work services, supportive services, child care assistance, and administrative support to all eligible families living within their service area. Furthermore, the contract requires tribal providers to report monthly to the Division of Public Assistance (DPA) and allows DPA to monitor and evaluate the tribal program to assure grant money is being used to serve eligible families.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely yours,


Frank H. Murkowski
Governor

Enclosure

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: SB 51
 (S) Publish Date: 1/12/05
 Dept. Affiliated: Health & Social Services

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):
 Title REAUTHORIZATION OF NATIVE FAMILY ASSISTANCE GRANTS PROGRAM

RDU Public Assistance
 Component Tribal Assistance

Sponsor (RLS) BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR
 Requester GOVERNOR

Component No. 2336

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims	4,093.8	4,093.8	4,093.8	4,093.8	4,093.8	4,093.8
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	4,093.8	4,093.8	4,093.8	4,093.8	4,093.8	4,093.8

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES (0)						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match	3,685.8	3,685.8	3,685.8	3,685.8	3,685.8	3,685.8
1004 GF						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
1007 Interagency Receipts	408.0	408.0	408.0	408.0	408.0	408.0
Other(Specify Type - do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	4,093.8	4,093.8	4,093.8	4,093.8	4,093.8	4,093.8

Estimate of any current year (FY2005) cost: _____

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2006 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Under federal law, 12 Alaska Native regional non-profits and the village of Metlakatla are authorized to receive federal funds for the administration of tribal TANF programs. This legislation reauthorizes the Alaska Native family assistance grant program established under Chapter 96, SLA 2000, and gives the Department of Health & Social Services the ability to award and administer state grants to Native non-profit organizations to supplement their federally approved Tribal TANF Assistance programs. Approval of this legislation would maintain support for the three organizations currently running Tribal TANF programs and receiving state supplemental Native family assistance grant funds: TANF - Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (T&H) and Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP). In addition to reauthorizing the existing programs this bill would also include the other nine Alaska native non-profit organizations authorized in federal law to operate tribal TANF programs. Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) plans to begin operating a tribal TANF program in July 2005. The fiscal note assumes implementation of the CITC

Prepared by: Katherine Farnham
 Division: Public Assistance
 Approved by: Joel S. Gilbertson, Commissioner
 Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Phone 269-7930
 Date/Time 12/07/2004
 Date 12/10/2004

COMMITTEE COPY

FISCAL NOTE
FN # 1

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 51

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

Analysis Continued:

program as planned and reflects the associated budget impacts.

State supplemental grant to CITC to operate tribal TANF in the Anchorage service area:

Funding for Native TANF program operation comes from the federal TANF block grant and is supplemented by state grant funds that would otherwise be spent to serve the same Native welfare recipients. This fiscal note reflects the 'transfer' of \$4,093.8 state funding to the Tribal Assistance component from the ATAP component to supplement the federal TANF for the operation of tribal TANF by CITC. Funds provided by this state grant will be used for the purpose of providing temporary assistance benefits to eligible families through CITC's tribal TANF program.

<u>Summary of all component impacts for CITC's NEAP</u>	Total	Federal	GFM	I/A
ATAP component	(6,727.0)	(563.2)	(5,755.8)	(408.0)
Tribal Assistance	4,093.8		3,685.8	408.0
Work Services component	(1,346.4)	(1,346.4)	-	-
Child Care Benefits component	<u>(931.5)</u>	<u>(931.5)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total net fiscal impact for CITC Native TANF	(4,911.1)	(2,841.1)	(2,070.0)	-

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 2
 Bill Version: SB 51
 (S) Publish Date: 1/12/05
 Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction)

Title REAUTHORIZATION OF NATIVE FAMILY ASSISTANCE GRANTS PROGRAM RDU Public Assistance
 Component Work Services

Sponsor (RLS) BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Requester GOVERNOR Component No. 2337

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims	(1,346.4)	(1,346.4)	(1,346.4)	(1,346.4)	(1,346.4)	(1,346.4)
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	(1,346.4)	(1,346.4)	(1,346.4)	(1,346.4)	(1,346.4)	(1,346.4)

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES (0)						

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	(1,346.4)	(1,346.4)	(1,346.4)	(1,346.4)	(1,346.4)	(1,346.4)
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	(1,346.4)	(1,346.4)	(1,346.4)	(1,346.4)	(1,346.4)	(1,346.4)

Estimate of any current year (FY2005) cost: _____

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2006 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation reauthorizes the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) to award and administer state funds under the Alaska Native family assistance grant program to support the operation of federally approved Tribal TANF programs. In addition to reauthorizing the existing programs this bill would also allow DHSS to provide grants to the other nine Alaska native non-profit organizations authorized in federal law to operate tribal TANF programs. Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) plans to begin operating a tribal TANF program in July 2005.

The fiscal note assumes implementation of the CITC program as planned and reflects the budget impacts. Work Services is a budget category for case management staff and supportive service payments that assist TANF clients from welfare to work. This fiscal note deletes \$1,346.4 federal authority for the decline in Work Services component expenditure due to the transfer of the existing Native Temporary Assistance caseload in Anchorage to CITC.

Prepared by: Katherine Farnham Phone 269-7930
 Division: Public Assistance Date/Time 12/07/2004
 Approved by: Joel S. Gilbertson, Commissioner Date 12/10/2004
 Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

COMMITTEE COPY

FISCAL NOTE
FN # 2

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 51

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION
Analysis Continued: Work Services

<u>Summary of all component impacts for CITCs NEAP</u>	Total	Federal	GFM	I/A
ATAP component	(6,727.0)	(563.2)	(5,755.8)	(408.0)
Tribal Assistance	4,093.8		3,685.8	408.0
Work Services component	(1,346.4)	(1,346.4)	-	-
Child Care Benefits component	<u>(931.5)</u>	<u>(931.5)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total net fiscal impact for CITC Native TANF	(4,911.1)	(2,841.1)	(2,070.0)	-

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 3
 Bill Version: SB 51
 (S) Publish Date: 1/12/05
 Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):

Title REAUTHORIZATION OF NATIVE FAMILY ASSISTANCE GRANTS PROGRAM

RDU Public Assistance

Component ATAP

Sponsor (RLS) BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Requester GOVERNOR

Component No. 220

Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims	(6,727.0)	(6,727.0)	(6,727.0)	(6,727.0)	(6,727.0)	(6,727.0)
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	(6,727.0)	(6,727.0)	(6,727.0)	(6,727.0)	(6,727.0)	(6,727.0)

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES (0)						

FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	(563.2)	(563.2)	(563.2)	(563.2)	(563.2)	(563.2)
1003 GF Match	(5,755.8)	(5,755.8)	(5,755.8)	(5,755.8)	(5,755.8)	(5,755.8)
1004 GF						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
1007 Interagency Receipts	(408.0)	(408.0)	(408.0)	(408.0)	(408.0)	(408.0)
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	(6,727.0)	(6,727.0)	(6,727.0)	(6,727.0)	(6,727.0)	(6,727.0)

Estimate of any current year (FY2005) cost: _____

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2006 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS:

(Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation reauthorizes the Department of Health & Social Services (DHSS) to award and administer state funds under the Alaska Native family assistance grant program to support the operation of federally approved Tribal TANF programs. The three organizations currently running programs and receiving Native family assistance grants are: Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) in the interior Doyon region, Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (T&H) in SE Alaska, and the Association of Village Council Presidents in the YK Delta. Approval of this legislation maintains state support for these programs at the current, status quo level (no fiscal impact or change for existing Native family assistance programs). In addition to reauthorizing the existing programs this bill would also allow DHSS to provide grants to the other nine Alaska native non-profit organizations authorized in federal law to operate tribal TANF programs. Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) plans to begin operating a tribal TANF program in July 2005. This fiscal note assumes implementation of the CITC program on July 1, 2005 and reflects the associated budget impacts.

Prepared by: Katherine Farnham
 Division: Public Assistance
 Approved by: Joel S. Gilbertson, Commissioner
 Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Phone 269-7930
 Date/Time 12/07/2004
 Date 12/10/2004

**FISCAL NOTE
FN # 3**

**STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

BILL NO. SB 51

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

Analysis Continued:

State supplemental grant to CITC to operate tribal TANF in the Anchorage service area:

Funding for tribal TANF program operations comes from the federal TANF block grant and is supplemented by state grant funds that would otherwise be spent to serve the same number of Native families receiving assistance from the State's temporary assistance program. This fiscal note reflects the 'transfer' of \$4,093.8 in state funding from the ATAP component to the Tribal Assistance component to support the operation of tribal TANF administered by CITC. Funds provided by this state grant supplement CITC's federal TANF block grant and will be used for purpose of providing temporary assistance payments to eligible families through the CITC tribal TANF program.

Native Operated TANF programs & Changes in MOE

The state maintenance of effort (MOE) requirement for TANF is based on the state share of AFDC expenditures in FFY1994. In order to earn the annual TANF block grant, states must spend at least 75-80 percent of their FFY 1994 spending. Federal law allows designated Native organizations to operate their own TANF programs and to receive TANF grants directly from the federal government. The federal grants for Native TANF reduce the state block grant amount dollar for dollar. In addition, the required state maintenance of effort (MOE) is reduced.

State general funds savings of roughly \$25 million have been previously deleted from the ATAP budget to a level equal to the minimum 75% MOE amount. Due to CITC implementing a new tribal TANF program, DHSS can reduce the required MOE by an additional \$2,070.0 million GF. This fiscal note changes ATAP component funding sources by deleting \$2,070.0 GF (MOE) and replacing with federal TANF authority. The change in fund source assumes a reduction in state TANF MOE amount due to the implementation of the CITC tribal TANF program.

Delete excess Federal TANF - ATAP caseload transfers to CITC

This fiscal note deletes \$2,633.2 federal budget authority for the projected decline in ATAP component formula payments due to the transfer of the existing Native Temporary Assistance caseload in Anchorage to CITC.

Summary ATAP component impacts

	Total	Federal	GFM	I/A
"Transfer" to Tribal Assistance component	(4,093.8)	-	(3,685.8)	(408.0)
Delete GFM to the revised MOE floor	-	2,070.0	(2,070.0)	-
Delete excess federal TANF federal authority	<u>(2,633.2)</u>	<u>(2,633.2)</u>	-	-
ATAP component net change	(6,727.0)	(563.2)	(5,755.8)	(408.0)

**Summary of all component impacts
for CITCs NEAP**

	Total	Federal	GFM	I/A
ATAP component	(6,727.0)	(563.2)	(5,755.8)	(408.0)
Tribal Assistance	4,093.8		3,685.8	408.0
Work Services component	(1,346.4)	(1,346.4)	-	-
Child Care Benefits component	<u>(931.5)</u>	<u>(931.5)</u>	-	-
Total net fiscal impact for CITC Native TANF	(4,911.1)	(2,841.1)	(2,070.0)	-

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 4
 Bill Version: SB 51
 (S) Publish Date: 1/12/05
 Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):

Title REAUTHORIZATION OF NATIVE FAMILY ASSISTANCE GRANTS PROGRAM

RDU Public Assistance
 Component Child Care Benefits

Sponsor (RLS) BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Requester GOVERNOR

Component No. 1897

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims	(931.5)	(931.5)	(931.5)	(931.5)	(931.5)	(931.5)
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	(931.5)	(931.5)	(931.5)	(931.5)	(931.5)	(931.5)
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES (0)						

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	(931.5)	(931.5)	(931.5)	(931.5)	(931.5)	(931.5)
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	(931.5)	(931.5)	(931.5)	(931.5)	(931.5)	(931.5)

Estimate of any current year (FY2005) cost:

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2006 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation reauthorizes the Department of Health & Social Services (DHSS) to award and administer state funds under the Alaska Native family assistance program to support the operation of federally approved Tribal TANF programs. In addition to reauthorizing the existing Native Family Assistance Programs (NFAP), this bill would also allow DHSS to provide grants to the other nine Alaska Native non-profit organizations authorized in federal law to operate tribal TANF programs. Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) plans to begin operating a tribal TANF program in July 2005.

The fiscal note assumes implementation of the CITC program on July 1, 2005, and reflects the associated budget impacts. Child Care benefits are direct subsidies paid to childcare providers for TANF families. This fiscal note deletes \$931.5 federal budget authority for the decline in childcare expenditures due to the transfer of the existing Native Temporary Assistance caseload in Anchorage to CITC.

Prepared by: Katherine Farnham
 Division: Public Assistance
 Approved by: Joel S. Gilbertson, Commissioner
 Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Phone: 269-7930
 Date/Time: 2/07/2004
 Date: 12/10/2004

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 51

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION
Analysis Continued: Child Care Benefits

<u>Summary of all component impacts for CITCs NFAP</u>	Total	Federal	GFM	I/A
ATAP component	(6,727.0)	(563.2)	(5,755.8)	(408.0)
Tribal Assistance	4,093.8		3,685.8	408.0
Work Services component	(1,346.4)	(1,346.4)	-	-
Child Care Benefits component	<u>(931.5)</u>	<u>(931.5)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total net fiscal impact for CITC Native TANF	(4,911.1)	(2,841.1)	(2,070.0)	-

Sectional Analysis

Bill No. SB 51

"An Act relating to contracts for the provision of state public assistance to certain recipients in the state; providing for regional public assistance plans and programs in the state; relating to grants for Alaska Native family assistance programs; relating to assignment of child support by Alaska Native family assistance recipients; relating to paternity determinations and genetic testing involving recipients of assistance under Alaska Native family assistance programs; and providing for an effective date

Section 1:

Amends AS 47.27 by adding a new article authorizing the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) to award and administer Alaska Native family assistance program (NFAP) grants. NFAP grants and programs operated under NFAP grants need not conform to legislative provisions authorizing the state administered Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (ATAP).

Outlines requirements for eligibility for an NFAP grant by specifying:

- which entities are eligible for NFAP grants under this legislation. AS 47.27.070 references the 12 Alaska Native non-profit corporations and the Metlakatla Indian Community of the Annette Islands Reserve;
- only tribes with a federally approved tribal TANF plan and those that agree to operate a tribal family assistance program under an approved plan are eligible for grant;
- the plan approved under this section must be operated on a state fiscal year basis;
- the process the department will use for approving an NFAP grant;
- guidelines for determining the grant amount;
- standards the program must meet for plan approval by the department;
- provisions for safeguarding confidentiality record sharing, data and fiscal record collection and exchange, and termination of the program.

Specifies that a person residing in an area covered by a tribal family assistance plan will be served only through that tribal organization and outlines an appeal process.

Requires that a participant in an Alaska Native family assistance program assign to that program all rights to ongoing child support and cooperate with all CSSD enforcement activities unless the program finds the participant has good cause for refusing to cooperate.

Requires a Native family assistance program to provide CSSD with information needed to make a valid child support assignment, and specifies the applicability of AS 25.27 (Child Support Services Agency) to a recipient under an Alaska Native family assistance program.

Section 2:

Amends AS 47.27 by adding a new article establishing the authority of DHSS to develop and implement regional public assistance plans and programs and authorizes the department to award contracts for the implementation of regional assistance programs. Contracts under this section are exempt from competitive bid requirements of the state procurement code. Under this section, DHSS can only contract for the implementation of a regional public assistance program if:

- an Alaska Native organization is authorized to operate a federally approved tribal assistance program;
- the organization has been awarded an NFAP grant;
- the regional plan will serve eligible state residents not covered by the federally approved tribal assistance program;
- the organization agrees to provide state public assistance identical to that provided by the federally approved tribal family assistance plan;
- the organization provides an appeals process for applicants or recipients that uses the same methodology available under the federally approved plan.

Mandates that recipient records be kept confidential.

Section 3:

Defines "Alaska Native family assistance grant;" "Alaska Native family assistance programs;" "federally approved tribal family assistance plan.

Section 4:

Provides authority for DHSS to adopt transitional regulations

Section 5:

Provides Revisor's instructions.

Section 6

Establishes an effective date of June 30, 2005.

State of Alaska
Department of Health & Social Services

Frank H. Murkowski
Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001
FACT SHEET



Joel Gilbertson
Commissioner
907-465-3030
FAX: 907-465-3068
www.hss.state.ak.us

January 10, 2005

Reauthorization of the Native Family Assistance Program Fact Sheet

- Federal law authorizes 13 Alaska Native regional non-profit agencies to deliver their own unique tribal TANF programs to their members. Currently, three non-profit agencies operate tribal TANF programs that serve 995 families in Alaska.
- These tribal agencies have successfully administered TANF programs that reflect the unique needs and conditions in local communities while moving tribal members from welfare to work. Tribes have the knowledge and experience to provide culturally relevant services to their members.
- Tribal TANF programs are funded with federal dollars; tribal providers receive a share of the state's TANF block grant equal to the amount formerly expended by the state to serve tribal members.
- Both Alaska state and tribal officials agree that federal funds alone are insufficient for operation of a viable tribal TANF program. Moreover, federal law requires Alaska tribal TANF programs be comparable to the state-run TANF program. In response, state law passed in 2000 authorizes the Department of Health and Social Services to supplement four of the 13 non-profit agencies with Native Family Assistance Program grants (NFAP). NFAP grants are based on the amount of state funds formerly expended by the state to serve tribal members. This law will sunset on June 30, 2005. In 2004, the three tribal TANF programs currently operating in Alaska received approximately \$8.7 million in NFAP grants.
- Interest in development of tribal TANF programs in Alaska is on the rise. The Division of Public Assistance reports that three additional Native non-profit organizations have formally begun the process of developing tribal TANF programs.

HB 69:

- Reauthorizes the Native Family Assistance Program and places its provisions in permanent statute.
- Expands eligibility for NFAP grants to all 13 federally authorized tribal TANF providers.
- Ensures the viability of current tribal TANF programs and supports the development of additional locally operated and culturally relevant Tribal TANF programs.



February 9, 2005

COOK INLET
T R I B A L
COUNCIL INC.

Senator Fred Dyson
HESS Committee Chairman
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: SB 51

Dear Chairman Dyson & Members of the HESS Committee,

My name is Molly Merritt-Duren, Department Director of Employment & Training Services for Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) in Anchorage, AK. Cook Inlet Tribal Council strongly supports the passage of SB 51. We are poised and ready to become a Tribal TANF service provider for the Alaska Native and American Indian population living within the Anchorage area (with the option to expand these TANF services to surrounding villages in the future). We are fully prepared to partner with the State of Alaska in this endeavor.

CITC has been providing TANF (Welfare to Work) case management services as a vendor for the State of Alaska since 1997 (8 years). During this tenure CITC has been a key player in the successful decline of State TANF caseloads. Over the past several years we have consistently served between 600-700 families at any given time, with the Tribal TANF estimated caseload to be 794.

The 1994 TANF caseload for Anchorage was 1,123; it is currently 692 (as of 11/2004). During this period, Anchorage experienced an increase in Native population from 12,000 (1990 US Census) to approx. 46,000 (2000 US Census); yet the TANF participant role decreased by 62%.

Allowing CITC to become a Tribal TANF service provider makes the delivery of Tribal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families service delivery uniform throughout the State, as the majority of Alaska Native and American Indians in Alaska are currently being provided TANF services at other Native regional tribal social services agencies including Tanana Chiefs Conference, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes and the Association of Village Council Presidents.

CITC is a fully integrated one-stop employment, social service, and substance abuse treatment agency.

Data and financial reporting & tracking will not be an issue for CITC. CITC will be using the State of Alaska; DHSS Eligibility Management System

670 W. FIREWEED LANE, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503-2578

FAX: (907) 265-7942

PHONE: (907) 265-5900



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interfaced with our own sophisticated information technology (IT) & accounting infrastructure for the delivery of Tribal TANF services.

CITC currently provides IT services for 5 non-profit agencies in 25 locations (413 end users) and accounting services for 39 non-profits, consistently having no financial single audit findings.

We support this bill allowing CITC & other Native regional social service agencies to become a Tribal TANF service provider because it allows us to better serve and strengthen Alaska Native and American Indian families in a culturally respectful manner and to move towards getting families independent from TANF and into work.

Respectfully Submitted,

Molly Merritt-Duren

Molly Merritt-Duren, M.S. Ed
Department Director
Cook Inlet Tribal Council
Employment & Training Services
670 W. Fireweed Lane
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 265-5915
mmerrittduren@citci.com

670 W. FIREWEED LANE, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503-2578

FAX: (907) 265-7942

PHONE: (907) 265-5900

cc: Gloria O'Neill, President/CEO
Cook Inlet Tribal Council

Dr. MJ Longley, Chief of Operations
Cook Inlet Tribal Council

Native Family Assistance Program

Report to the Alaska Legislature on the Pilot Projects



Department of Health and Social Services
Division of Public Assistance
January 2005

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Alaska Native Family Assistance Program Pilot Projects

Executive Summary

The federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) ended the individual entitlement to welfare cash benefits and established a cap on federal funding in the form of a fixed block grant. In exchange for this new method of funding, states were allowed more flexibility in the administration of their Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs.

PRWORA also gave American Indian and Alaska Native organizations authority, as well as access to federal funding, to operate TANF programs through their own tribal organizations. In response, 37 tribal TANF programs currently operate on behalf of 175 tribes and serve over 8,400 families nationwide. A 2001 report published by the National Congress of American Indians estimates that a third of all American Indian and Alaska Native TANF recipients received support through tribal TANF programs in 2001.



PRWORA also specifies which Native entities are eligible to operate tribal TANF programs in Alaska. These are limited to the Metlakatla Indian Community of the Annette Island Reserve and the twelve Alaska Native regional non-profit corporations.

The 21st Alaska Legislature passed Chapter 96, SLA 2000 that allows the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services to supplement four of the thirteen federally authorized tribal TANF providers in Alaska with "Native Family Assistance Program" grants (NFAP). NFAP was authorized as a pilot program with a sunset date of June 30, 2005. The legislation also required the Department of Health and Social Services to deliver a report detailing the status of the tribal TANF pilot programs operating in Alaska, and making recommendations for the reauthorization and expansion of the NFAP program.

Three tribal TANF programs are currently operating in Alaska. The Tanana Chiefs Conference in the Doyon Region, the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes in the Sealaska Region of southeast Alaska, and the Association of Village Council Presidents in the Yukon-Kuskokwim delta Calista Region now serve a total of 970 families, nearly 20% of all families receiving TANF services in Alaska. Consistent with the TANF goal of family self-sufficiency, tribal TANF programs in Alaska strongly support moving tribal members from welfare to work. Since the first Alaska tribal TANF program began operation in 1999, the number of Alaska Native tribal TANF recipients has dropped by over 33 percent.

From the outset, the State of Alaska has supported the establishment and development of the tribal TANF programs. The NFAP program affirms the state's interest in promoting regional responsibility and local control for public assistance programs in Alaska. Families served by

tribal TANF programs have been successful in leaving welfare for employment and self-sufficiency. Moreover, interest in the development of Tribal TANF programs is increasing. Three additional tribal organizations have begun the process of formally planning their tribal TANF program.

The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services makes the following recommendations in regard to the Native Family Assistance Program:

Reauthorize the Native Family Assistance Program.

Across the nation, federal welfare reform has been successful in moving families from welfare to work. The three tribal programs currently operating in Alaska have successfully administered TANF programs that reflect the unique needs and conditions in local communities while effectively moving tribal members towards self-sufficiency through employment. Tribes have a better grasp of social and economic conditions that inform their work and allow them to tailor services based on the unique needs of local communities. This local presence and familiarity with village and community life puts the tribes in the best position to administer their programs and to successfully promote self-sufficiency for their clients.

Both state and tribal officials agree that federal funds alone are insufficient for the successful operation of a tribal TANF program that is comparable to the state run program. Supplementing tribal TANF programs with Native Family Assistance grants will maximize federal block grant funds available to tribes, and will promote effective welfare-to-work service delivery models for rural Alaska. The Alaska Legislature should pass the Governor's proposed legislation that will make the NFAP program permanent.

Expand availability of Native Family Assistance grants to all tribal groups authorized in federal law to operate tribal TANF programs.

Three additional Native non-profits not currently authorized to receive Native Family Assistance Grants are actively planning tribal TANF programs as authorized in federal law. At least one additional non-profit has expressed interest revealing a strong trend toward development of tribal TANF programs in Alaska. Expansion of the availability of Native Family Assistance grants will ensure that all tribal organizations federally authorized to deliver tribal TANF programs will have the opportunity to access the necessary state resources and provide effective and innovative public assistance programs to their members.

Alaska Native Family Assistance Program Pilot Projects

Introduction

The 21st Alaska Legislature passed Chapter 96, SLA 2000 authorizing the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) to award and administer Alaska Native Family Assistance Program (NFAP) grants to Native non-profit organizations operating tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs. The law provides that these grants are available on a pilot basis to four Alaska Native tribal entities: Metlakatla Indian Community of the Annette Island Reserve, the Association of Village Council Presidents, the Tanana Chiefs Conference, and the Tlingit-Haida Central Council. The law also requires DHSS to report to the Governor and the Legislature on the status of these pilot programs, and to make recommendations regarding the continuation of the NFAP program and expansion of the program to make grants available to all Alaska Native non-profit organizations authorized to receive federal funds to operate tribal TANF programs in Alaska. Chapter 96, SLA 2000 will sunset on June 30, 2005.

This report will provide background on the authorization and funding of tribal TANF programs, present information on the status of tribal TANF programs operating in Alaska, and make recommendations as to the continuation and expansion of the NFAP grant program.

Background

The passage of the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), commonly known as "welfare reform," changed the face of welfare in America. After years of growing caseloads, the new law ended the individual entitlement to welfare cash benefits and established a cap on federal funding in the form of a fixed block grant. In exchange for this new method of funding, states were allowed a great deal more flexibility in the administration of their programs. This devolution of authority to states was similarly extended to American Indian and Alaska Native organizations. For the first time in history, Native people were authorized by the federal government to run a major welfare program through their own tribal governments and organizations.

To be eligible to operate a tribal TANF program, a Native entity must complete a Tribal Family Assistance Plan and submit it for approval to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The plan must outline the tribe's approach to providing welfare-related services, specify which entity or entities will be providing the services, define the population and service area, provide that duplicative services will not be provided by a state or other tribe, identify employment opportunities in the area and how the tribe will enhance those opportunities for TANF recipients, and apply certain fiscal accounting and auditing procedures.

As of FY 2002, 36 tribal TANF plans were approved to operate on behalf of 175 tribes serving over 8,400 families nationwide. A 2001 report published by the National Congress of American Indians estimates that a third of all American Indian and Alaska Native TANF recipients

received support through tribal TANF programs in 2001. Figure 1 shows the growth in tribal TANF programs since their inception in 1997.

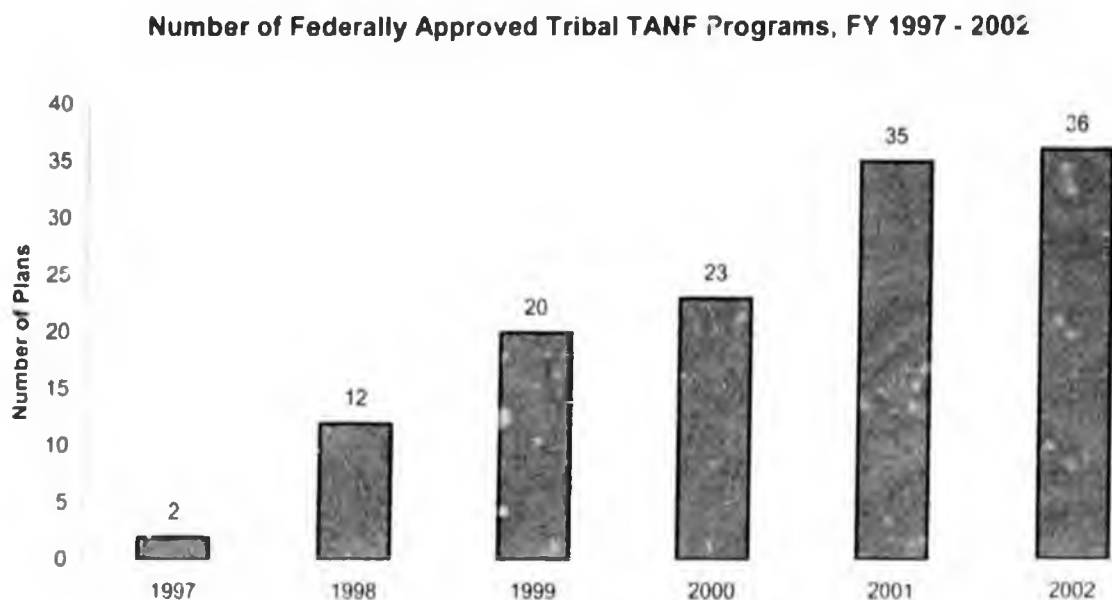


Figure 1

PRWORA also specifies which Native entities are eligible to operate Tribal TANF programs in Alaska. These are limited to the Metlakatla Indian Community of the Annette Island Reserve and the twelve Alaska Native regional non-profit corporations: Arctic Slope Native Association, Kawerak, Inc., Maniilaq Association, Association of Village Council Presidents, Inc., Tanana Chiefs Conference, Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Bristol Bay Native Association, Aleutian and Pribilof Islands Association, Chugachmiut, Tlingit and Haida Central Council, Kodiak Area Native Association, and Copper River Native Association. The law also contains a special rule for Alaska requiring certain aspects of tribal programs to be comparable to the state's TANF program. The federal Department of Health and Human Services in consultation with the tribes and the State of Alaska established these "comparability criteria" to include certain program eligibility criteria, benefit levels, minor parent requirements, work participation and child support enforcement. Chapter 96, SLA 2000, which established the Native Family Assistance Program, mirrors federal law by authorizing the state to coordinate with these Native organizations in the development of their Native family assistance programs.

Alaska currently has three tribal TANF programs serving nearly 20% of all TANF families in Alaska. From the outset, the State of Alaska has supported the establishment and development of the tribal TANF programs. Just as the devolution of authority from the federal government to the state has allowed for the success of welfare reform in Alaska, so has the authority granted to Native organizations provided a better framework for meeting the unique circumstances facing Alaska Native families on welfare. Programs run locally by Native organizations are more culturally relevant, better attuned to local economic circumstances, and better coordinated with other social services provided by Native organizations. Tribal TANF programs provide for an

added measure of Native self-governance and self-determination and ultimately, are better equipped to achieve the purposes of PPWORA.

Funding Tribal TANF: Federal Block Grant & Alaska Native Family Assistance Program

The federal funding provisions regarding tribal TANF programs are contained in Section 412 of PRWORA. The law establishes that the federal Department of Health and Human Services fund tribes who have submitted an approved tribal family assistance plan with a portion of the state's TANF block grant. The share of the state's block grant that is transferred to a tribal TANF program is based on the amount of federal funds spent by the state in 1994 for Native families residing in the service area identified by the tribe in their tribal family assistance plan.

While PRWORA is silent on the issue of state funding for tribal TANF programs, both the state Department of Health and Social Services and the TANF-authorized tribes concur that in order for tribal organizations to successfully operate state-comparable programs, they require both federal and state financial support. This agreement, along with interest of three Alaska tribal entities in providing TANF programs, provided the impetus for passage of Chapter 96, SLA 2000 and the development of the Native Family Assistance Program (NFAP) in Alaska.

The principle that guides the level of state funding provided to tribal TANF programs through NFAP grants is that the amount should be fair and equitable when compared to the level of state funding for the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program. To achieve this end, the state considers the total amount of federal and state money that would otherwise be used to provide Temporary Assistance to Native families living in the designated service area in a given base year. Five funding categories are included: cash benefits, childcare assistance, work services (case management, supportive services, transportation, client training, etc.), eligibility determination services and administration. From this total, the federal block grant and the state's share of child support collected on behalf of the tribal TANF families are deducted. The difference is issued as a Native family assistance grant. The state grant has been considered a block grant so that the Native program operates under the same fixed funding parameters as the state's TANF program.

NFAP grants are negotiated yearly with tribal TANF providers and funds are transferred on a quarterly basis. NFAP grants are expended solely on cash benefit payments, except for administrative costs not to exceed 15 percent of the total grant amount.

There are currently three Tribal TANF programs receiving Native Family Assistance Grants: the Tanana Chief Conference (TCC), the Tlingit and Haida Central Council (T&H), and the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP).

Table 1 shows the amounts granted between FY 1999 and FY 2004.

Native Family Assistance Grants, FY 1999 - 2004

	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	Total
Tanana Chiefs	\$2,405,200	\$2,405,200	\$2,405,200	\$2,405,200	\$2,405,200	\$2,405,200	\$14,431,200
Tlingit & Haida			\$2,575,500	\$2,575,500	\$2,575,500	\$2,575,500	\$10,302,000
Assoc. of Village Council Presidents			\$3,740,400	\$3,740,400	\$3,740,400	\$3,740,400	\$21,733,200
TOTAL	\$2,405,200	\$2,405,200	\$8,721,100	\$8,721,100	\$8,721,100	\$8,721,100	\$39,694,800

Table 1

Native Family Assistance Program Grant Oversight

Tribal providers who receive NFAP grants enter into a contractual agreement with the State of Alaska to provide timely and accurate cash assistance, eligibility services, case management and other welfare-to-work services, supportive services, child care assistance, and administrative support to all eligible families living within their service area. The contract requires tribal providers to report monthly to DPA describing the amount of grant funds expended for TANF program benefits. Contract provisions also include an agreement between tribal providers and the state to share information, work cooperatively and coordinate services to eligible families.

The NFAP contract requires that tribes establish an eligibility and data management computer system that will capture and provide information needed for an interface between the Division of Public Assistance Eligibility Information System (EIS), the Child Support Services Division (CSSD) and the tribal program. The tribal program must agree to cooperate with CSSD to establish paternity and to establish, modify, or enforce a child support order for a dependent child.

The NFAP contract allows DPA to monitor and evaluate the tribal TANF program to assure that grant money is being used to serve eligible families. Such oversight items may include:

- Accurate eligibility and benefit determinations;
- Penalties, sanctions, and disqualification;
- Benefits issuance;
- Maximum payment levels;
- Minor Parent living arrangement and school attendance requirements;
- Child support cooperation;
- Coordination with other public assistance programs such as Medicaid, Food Stamps, Adult Public Assistance, Chronic and Acute Medical Assistance, and General Relief Assistance;
- Adequate case file documentation;
- Adequate and timely notice of adverse actions;
- Tracking 60-month time limit and appropriate exemptions; and
- Fair Hearing and Appeal process.

Should the tribal TANF provider fail to comply with the terms of the NFAP grant, DPA has the authority to suspend the grant until the provider takes corrective action or successfully appeals the suspension. To date, no tribal provider has been found to be out of compliance with the terms of their NFAP grant.

Development of Tribal TANF Programs in Alaska

The decision to assume responsibility for a tribal TANF program is a significant and complex decision for tribal organizations. Operating TANF presents important opportunities, but can also pose risks that may result in harm to the most vulnerable tribal members. To mitigate these risks and to build consensus among members, tribal TANF providers in Alaska undertook a rigorous decision-making and planning process.



The first step in planning for tribal TANF involved consensus building among tribal members. Tribal providers conducted regional, local and village meetings and teleconferences to discuss state and federal welfare reform legislation and its implications for Tribal TANF programs. Region-wide surveys of tribal preferences in program design were conducted and draft concept papers based on consensus elements of the survey were developed and circulated for discussion.

The thirteen Alaska tribes federally authorized to operate TANF programs worked cooperatively with the State of Alaska to reach agreement on the outline for a draft Tribal Family Assistance Plan (TFAP). A group known as the "Single Point of Contact" state and tribal representatives, or SPOC group, met regularly with a Native rights attorney hired by the tribes to come to consensus on such issues as the definition of a tribal service area, who would be served by a tribal TANF program, and the of comparability of state and tribal TANF programs. The SPOC group developed a model TFAP that became the template for Tribal TANF plans in Alaska.

Each tribal provider developed a draft TFAP that was reviewed by villages and communities in the service area. Final drafts of the plans were reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors of each Tribal entity and submitted to the Federal Department of Health and Human Services. Federal staff reviewed each tribe's plan and provided feedback as part of the approval process.

The experiences of Alaska's tribal TANF providers indicate that developing a sound TFAP requires more than meeting statutory requirements and following DHHS rules. The tribes have to define their own objectives and rules, negotiate terms with the state, and assemble resources for planning and start-up. Tribes decide to operate their own TANF program primarily because they believe they provide a better service to their members and achieve better employment outcomes by coordinating with Native employment programs. The TFAP is an opportunity to articulate the mission and goals of the tribal TANF program and to design the program

accordingly, including defining expectations for participation, acceptable work activities and sanction policies.

All three tribal TANF providers worked with the state in developing their TFAPs, and also received federal guidance. State staff provided information and guidance about staffing levels, policy and procedures and information systems needed to operate their programs. The state provided training and technical assistance including the collocation of state staff at tribal program facilities to assist in ongoing training and support.

While the state provided valuable technical assistance to help tribes develop their TANF plans, PRWORA does not provide any start-up funds to support planning or information system development prior to the approval of a tribal plan by DHHS and the subsequent grant award. In-kind support such as useful information, data and insights were garnered from staff working in related federally funded programs such as Native Employment Works (NEW) and the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). This lack of federal start-up, technical assistance and planning funds is a concern of states and has been noted as a deficiency in federal law that must be addressed.

Although the tribal providers in Alaska encountered challenges, they developed transition strategies and implemented tribal TANF operations that enabled start-up and continued service delivery. Important elements of these strategies included gradual transitions to tribal program operation, continuation of state involvement in program operations for an interim period, maintenance of good working relationships with the state TANF agency and adjustment of policies and procedures as needed.

Structure and Philosophy of Tribal TANF Programs in Alaska

Federal law provides tribes the flexibility to design and implement their TANF programs in a manner that addresses the unique needs and circumstances of their members. They can define such elements as the program service area, service population (e.g., all Native families in the service area or only enrolled members of the tribe), time limits, benefits and services, the definition of "family," eligibility criteria, and work activities. Tribes have the ability to establish, through negotiation with the federal Department of Health and Human Services, their own program work participation rate targets and required work hours. Tribes must provide the rationale for proposed work requirements, including how they are consistent with the purposes of TANF and with the economic conditions and resources available to the tribe.

The tribal TANF programs also recognize the role of traditional tribal activities in the lives of their members and have incorporated them into their program structure. They accept traditional activities such as subsistence fishing, hunting, and gathering as well as traditional crafts as legitimate work participation. Because many TANF participants have little experience with work in a cash economy, these traditional activities can be critical to the growth of a sense of responsibility and to the development of employment skills.

The location and accessibility of tribal TANF programs help overcome employment barriers in rural Alaska. Often state TANF offices and resources are not available to village residents living far off the road system. Tribal TANF programs have developed program offices in towns and

villages throughout rural Alaska bringing critical TANF services to families in their own communities. Tribal TANF programs have also been successful in coordinating the various human service programs they offer such as employment, workforce development, training and social services. This holistic approach results in efficient services that promote the health and self-sufficiency of the entire family.

Tribes administering TANF programs have the option to administer their programs utilizing Public Law 102-477, which authorizes the integration of various employment, training, and related services provided by tribal governments under a Bureau of Indian Affairs approved 477 plan. Currently, 11 of the 36 Tribal TANF programs are administered under this program including the three programs in Alaska. The tribes that utilize this option do so to integrate and consolidate their TANF programs with other related and complementary support programs. This allows tribes to simplify their budgeting, operating, and reporting systems, while maximizing their resources and service delivery capabilities. Financial reporting relating to the TANF program has been integrated to the maximum extent possible, while still meeting the minimum statutory requirement for ensuring proper expenditure of TANF funds. Performance reporting must of necessity be maintained separately in order to meet minimum statutory and regulatory reporting requirements.

Tribal TANF providers may also develop their own strategies for achieving the program goal of family self-sufficiency. The tribal TANF programs, like the state's Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (ATAP), have adopted a philosophy that emphasizes work as a means of independence from public assistance. Along with a cash benefit, each program offers services that promote rapid employment, self-sufficiency, and family stability. Tribes have adopted strategies designed to prepare TANF participants for employment including adult education, job skill training, and work experience, and to eliminate barriers to employment by addressing such problems as lack of quality and affordable childcare, domestic violence, health and mental health difficulties, and untreated alcohol or substance abuse.

Status of Tribal TANF Programs in Alaska

Currently, tribal TANF programs in Alaska are serving a total of 970 families. Approximately forty percent of families have one child and 30 percent have two children.

Consistent with the goal of self-sufficiency, tribal TANF programs strongly support moving tribal members from welfare to work with an average of 40 percent of adults engaged in work or work participation activities. Since the first Alaska tribal TANF program began operation in 1999, the number of Alaska Native tribal TANF recipients has dropped by over 33 percent.

While tribal TANF results are below the state caseload reduction of 52 percent, this is a positive result when considering the challenge of securing employment in rural areas served by the state's tribal TANF programs. Figure 2 compares caseload reduction in the Alaska Temporary Assistance program with that of the three tribal TANF programs.

Comparison of Temporary Assistance, TCC, T&H, and AVCP Native TANF Cases

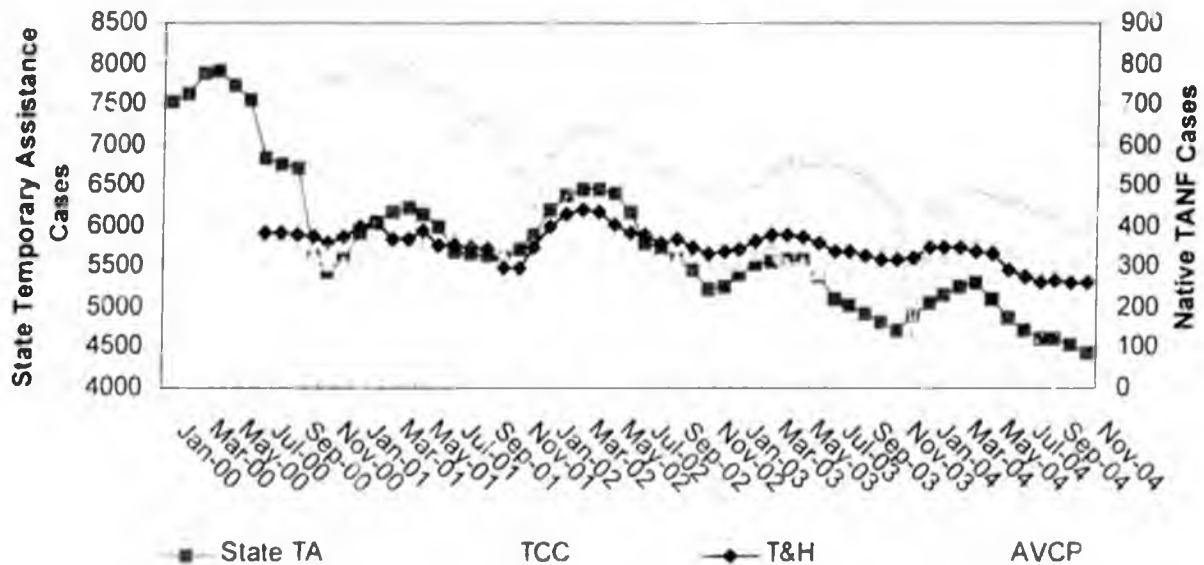


Figure 2

Tanana Chiefs "Athabascan Self-Sufficiency Assistance Partnership Program" (ASAP)

The service area for the ASAP program includes Fairbanks and 42 villages in Doyon Region of interior Alaska. This program serves all families in which the head of the household is Alaska Native or American Indian. The program began operation in October 1998, and in FY 2004 served an average of 315 families per month.

The ASAP program 2003 funding includes \$5,312.1 in federal funding and \$2,405.2 in state funding through the NFAP grant program. During FY 2003 the ASAP program provided services to approximately 1,618 clients including 289 families receiving childcare assistance for 468 children. The program authorized approximately \$1.8 million in cash benefits to eligible recipients and over \$253,000 in direct client or supportive services.

The goal of the ASAP program is to strengthen individuals, their families and their communities by increasing their capacities to support each other through meaningful work and employment, and to develop local resources and jobs to decrease dependency on cash assistance programs. The program is based on four guiding principals: every family has basic needs, which must be met; every family has something to offer their community; it takes a lot of work to meet the needs of a family and a community; and in every community, everyone should support themselves and each other by the work that they do.

Services provided by the ASAP program include case management, on-the-job training, short term job training, counseling and skill building, help with child care expenses, referrals for paid employment, referrals for community work services, structured job search to teach specific job search skills, transitional services including child care assistance and post-employment services, GED or high school instruction, vocational training, and higher education. Additional services

offered to families include financial literacy training, mentorship from members of the local community and linkages to therapeutic treatment options.



An innovative feature of the ASAP program is a one-stop service center in each of the village council offices. This model of service coordination promotes a holistic focus on family needs and allows TCC to deliver a variety of services efficiently and effectively. Prior to the transition to the one-stop service centers, there was a zero percent overall work participation rate for village-based TANF recipients. Now, the ASAP program has met its work participation requirements, put families into work, offered

opportunities for training and matched parents with specialized resources.

The ASAP program has also promoted financial self-sufficiency with the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Program. The program helped 774 recipients apply for the EITC on their tax returns, with approximately \$570,000 realized in tax refunds. During the next fiscal year ASAP will offer EITC preparation seminars through a contract with Alaska Business Development Center and in conjunction with the University of Alaska. This program will assist working TANF recipients as well as those who have left ASAP to participate in the EITC program to augment their household income.

Community collaborations enhance services provided to recipients. In 2003 the ASAP program partnered with the State of Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development to present the Fairbanks Job Fair. Eighty-six employers and over 2,400 individuals participated making this the largest job fair ever in Alaska. Through a partnership with the TCC Tribal College, staff at the ASAP program began the training to become Certified Career Development Facilitators (CDF). CDF's are qualified to work in Career Resource Centers, Welfare to Work programs, as well as a variety of workforce development settings.

Faith-based partnerships are also a feature of ASAP. Love In the Name of Christ (Love, INC) provides "Hope Seminars" focusing on a range of skills including cooking on a tight budget, time and credit management, marriage and family communication, and purchasing and caring for a car. Successful completion of the two-day seminar enables an individual to be eligible for the Love, INC vehicle donation program. Through a partnership with TCC Old Minto Recovery and St. Mathews Church, the ASAP program offers "Strengthening the Families." This eight-week course is designed to strengthen family communication, encourage prevention of substance abuse for the youth, and assist high-risk families with essential skills for rebuilding a healthy family life.

The ASAP program has been successful in reducing the program caseload and putting people to work. During FY 2003, 265 clients were placed in unsubsidized employment. Between FY 2002 and FY 2003, the TCC caseload dropped by 5 percent. Since the time TCC began their

TANF program, their caseload has dropped approximately 16 percent. Figure 3 shows the changes in caseload since the program began.

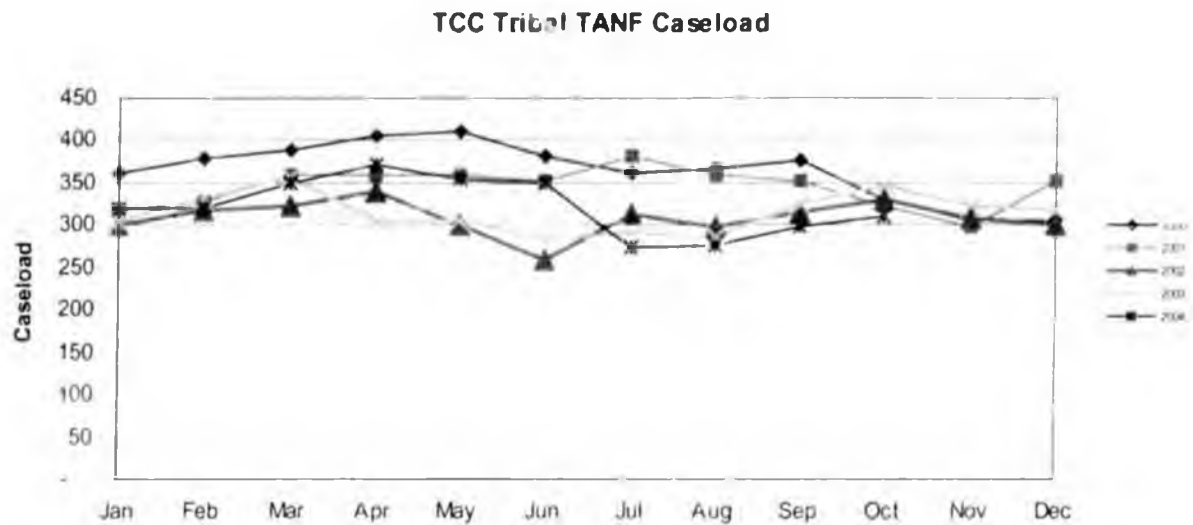


Figure 3

Central Council of Tlingit and Haida TANF Program

The T&H program serves Southeast Alaska, with eligibility restricted to households where at least one member is Alaska Native and enrolled or eligible for membership in a federally recognized tribe in the service area. These tribes include Angoon, Klukwan, Haines, Craig, Douglas, Hoonah, Hydaburg, Kake, Kasaan, Ketchikan, Klawock, Pelican, Petersburg, Saxman, Skagway, Tenakee, Wrangell, Sitka, Yakutat, and Juneau. The program began operation in July 2000. In FY 2003, the T&H program served an average of 315 families per month.

The 2003 T&H TANF program funding includes \$ 2,367,150 million in federal funding and \$2,575,500 in state funding through the Native Family Assistance Grant program. During FY 2003 the T&H TANF program provided services to approximately 350 clients including 208 families receiving childcare assistance for 624 children. The program authorized approximately \$2,642,315 million in cash benefits to eligible recipients and over \$801,000 in direct client or supportive services.

The overriding goal of the T&H tribal TANF program is to assist families to become self-sufficient. The program emphasizes work as a means to self-sufficiency with the expectation that both parents of children needing assistance must work to the extent of their ability. Program participants are encouraged to complete at least a high school education (or its equivalent), so that they can enjoy greater opportunities to obtain work that will produce sufficient income to support their families and contribute to their community. The program aims to discourage unwed pregnancies and works with all sectors of the community to discourage out-of-wedlock pregnancies, especially among teens, and encourages family stability by requiring teen parents to remain in their parents' or another responsible adult's home.

Services provided by the T&H TANF program include case management, adult basic education, employment assessment, adult vocational training and higher education, work experience and on-the-job training, job search skills and post-employment services. A variety of supportive services are offered to families who are actively participating in seeking employment, in school or in training including childcare, transportation, work clothing, tools for work, food and shelter assistance and linkages to therapeutic treatment options.

Service coordination is a key feature of the T&H TANF program. In 1994, T&H was the first Native American agency to utilize PL 102-477 to integrate a variety of services under their Employment and Training Division. Internally, the T&H TANF program coordinates with its Division of Employment and Training to utilize the services of Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation, childcare, Adult Vocational Training, Tribal Employment Rights and the Youth Opportunity Program.

Additional internal coordination includes Central Council Tribal Family and Youth Services, Headstart, and Tribal enrollment services for medical and mental health services. State agency partners in the delivery of services to TANF recipients include the Division of Public Assistance, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Child Support Services, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Office of Children's Service. Community partnerships with the Southeast Regional Resource Center, Catholic Community Services, St. Vincent DePaul, and women's shelters such as Aiding Women and Rape Emergencies (AWARE) help to address the needs of families with barriers to work.

The T&H TANF program has been successful in reducing the program caseload and putting people to work. During FY 2003, 270 clients were placed in unsubsidized employment. Between FY 2002 and FY 2003, the T&H caseload dropped by 5 percent. Since the time T&H began their TANF program, their caseload has dropped approximately 7 percent. Figure 2 below shows the changes in caseload since the program began.

T&H Tribal TANF Caseload

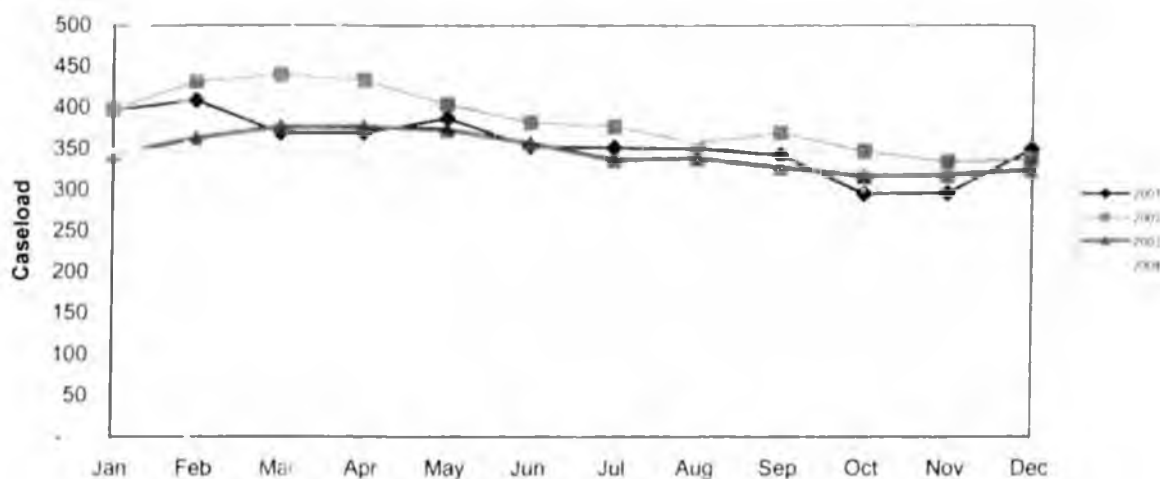


Figure 2

Association of Village Council Presidents TANF Program

The AVCP program serves Bethel and the 56 federally recognized tribes surrounding the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. In order to provide state public assistance in a uniform and cost effective manner, this program is designated as a "regional public assistance program," as it serves all Alaska Native families as well as non-Native families in the service area. This program began operation in October 2000. In FY 2003, the AVCP program served an average of 510 families per month.

The 2003 AVCP TANF program funding included \$5,420.8 in federal funding and \$3,740,400 in state funding through the Native Family Assistance Grant program. During FY 2003 the ASAP program provided services to approximately 550 clients including 18 families receiving childcare assistance for 36 children. The program authorized approximately \$3.4 million in cash benefits to eligible recipients.

The overriding goal of AVCP TANF is to assist families to become self-sufficient through employment. The program provides comprehensive services that meet the basic needs of families throughout the region while improving communities and strengthening individuals. Work and supportive services are offered internally or through referrals to community agencies.

The AVCP TANF program coordinates internally with other AVCP services and programs, in particular the Education, Employment, Training and Childcare Division (EET&CC). Services include adult vocational training, employment services, and Head Start. EET&CC services promote economic and social development of tribal members in order to reduce joblessness and to more fully develop the academic, occupational and literacy skills that make individuals more competitive in the workforce. State agency partners in the delivery of services to TANF recipients include the Division of Public Assistance, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development and Child Support Services in the Department of Revenue.

The AVCP TANF program has been successful in reducing the program caseload and putting people to work. Between FY 2002 and FY 2003, the T&H caseload dropped by 10 percent. Since the time AVCP began their TANF program, their caseload has dropped approximately 40 percent. Figure 5 below shows the changes in caseload since the program began.

AVCP Tribal TANF Caseload

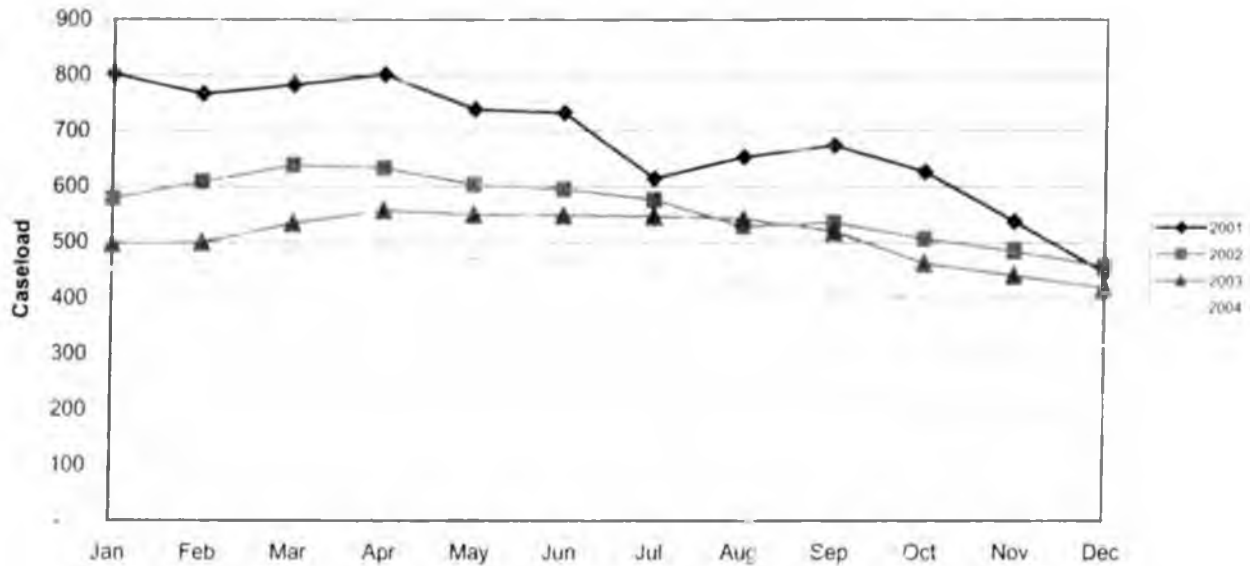


Figure 5

Obstacles and Lessons Learned

A common difficulty for tribes in Alaska was the development, operation and maintenance of computer information systems to support TANF operations. A TANF information system must support enrollment of program participants and help tribes track and report services provided and participant activities. Information systems are also crucial to the exchange of data with TANF partners such as the Alaska Child Support Services Division.

Unlike states, tribes did not receive funding to develop their own TANF information systems. In response, the state provided seed money to tribes to purchase a computer software product designed specifically for tribal TANF programs. The tribes are using this product with varying level of success and continue to struggle with the need to provide accurate data to state and federal agencies.

Because of the limitations of their own computer systems capacity, there is growing interest among tribal TANF providers in contracting with the state for use of the Eligibility Information System (EIS) used to administer programs in the Division of Public Assistance. Cook Inlet Tribal Council, scheduled to begin providing tribal TANF in July 2005, has made the decision to use EIS for at least two years while developing their own system. Two of the three groups currently providing tribal TANF have also expressed interest in converting to EIS. Using the EIS system may yield significant savings and efficiencies, particularly with respect to data transfers between agencies. The state will continue to support usage of EIS for tribal TANF programs in Alaska.

Trends in Tribal TANF

Interest in the development of Tribal TANF programs is on the increase. As of the current date, three additional groups have formally initiated planning for tribal TANF programs.

Cook Inlet Tribal Council. Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc. (CITC) provides social, educational and employment services to Alaska Natives and Native Americans living in the Cook Inlet region. Established in 1983 by Cook Inlet Region, Inc. (CIRI) as a nonprofit social service agency, CITC administers over forty culturally appropriate programs designed to assist individuals and families to achieve self-sufficiency. Annually these programs serve an average of 13,000 Alaska Natives and Native Americans.

Over the last 20 years, Cook Inlet Tribal Council has grown from a staff of fifteen employees and total revenue of \$91,863 to a large and complex Native corporation, with over 245 employees and an annual operating budget in excess of \$31 million in the Year 2003. CITC's continuum of services runs through five departments: Substance Abuse Services, Youth Development Services, Educational Services Systems, Employment and Training Services, and Family Services.

CITC is preparing to add TANF to their comprehensive array of family services. With a planned start date of July 2005, the CITC Tribal TANF program will serve approximately 700 families in the Anchorage area.

Bristol Bay Native Association. The Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA) is an alliance of 30 Tribal Councils from villages in the Bristol Bay area of southwest Alaska. A non-profit service agency, BBNA provides educational, social and workforce development services to families and individuals as well as economic development opportunities for the region. BBNA is in the early planning phase of their TANF program with a scheduled start date of October 2005. The proposed program will serve approximately 125 families in the Bristol Bay region.

Maniilaq. Additionally, the Maniilaq Association has recently begun formal planning for a TANF program to serve Northwest Alaska. Maniilaq is the non-profit Native Consortium located in the hub village of Kotzebue, providing tribal, health and social services to native and non-native residents of the Northwest Arctic Borough and Pt. Hope. The proposed program will serve approximately 145 families.

Recommendations

Reauthorize the Native Family Assistance Program.

Across the nation, federal welfare reform has been successful in moving families from welfare to work. One of the main reasons for this success has been the fact that the federal welfare reform law afforded the states the flexibility to design and run their own unique TANF programs. In the same light, the federal law allows Alaska Native tribes to run their own programs designed by their members, locally controlled, and culturally relevant. Tribes have a better grasp of social and economic conditions that inform their work and allow them to tailor services based on the

unique needs of local communities. This local presence and familiarity with village and community life puts the tribes in the best position to administer their programs and to successfully promote self-sufficiency for their clients.

The Native Family Assistance Grant program affirms the state's interest in promoting regional responsibility and local control for public assistance programs in Alaska. The three tribal programs currently operating have successfully administered TANF programs that reflect the unique needs and conditions in local communities and have been proven effective in moving tribal members towards self-sufficiency through employment. The single regional public assistance program operating in the Yukon-Kuskokwim area of Alaska that serves both Native and non-Native families in the region has been shown to be administratively efficient and cost effective. Reauthorization of the Native Family Assistance program will ensure that tribal groups currently delivering TANF services will continue to provide comparable and culturally relevant services in their own villages and communities, and may also improve the delivery of the Temporary Assistance program in rural areas.

Both state and tribal officials agree that federal funds alone are insufficient for the successful operation of a tribal TANF program that is comparable to the state run program. Supplementing tribal TANF programs with Native Family Assistance grants will maximize federal block grant funds available to tribes, and will promote effective welfare-to-work service delivery models for rural Alaska. The Alaska Legislature should pass the Governor's proposed legislation that will make the NFAP program permanent.

Expand availability of Native Family Assistance grants to all tribal groups authorized in federal law to operate tribal TANF programs.

Two additional Native non-profits not currently authorized to receive Native Family Assistance Grants are actively planning tribal TANF programs as they are authorized to do in federal law. At least one additional non-profit has expressed interest revealing a strong trend toward development of tribal TANF programs in Alaska. Expansion of the availability of Native Family Assistance grants will ensure that all tribal organizations federally authorized to deliver tribal TANF programs will have the opportunity to access the necessary state resources and provide effective and innovative public assistance programs to their members.

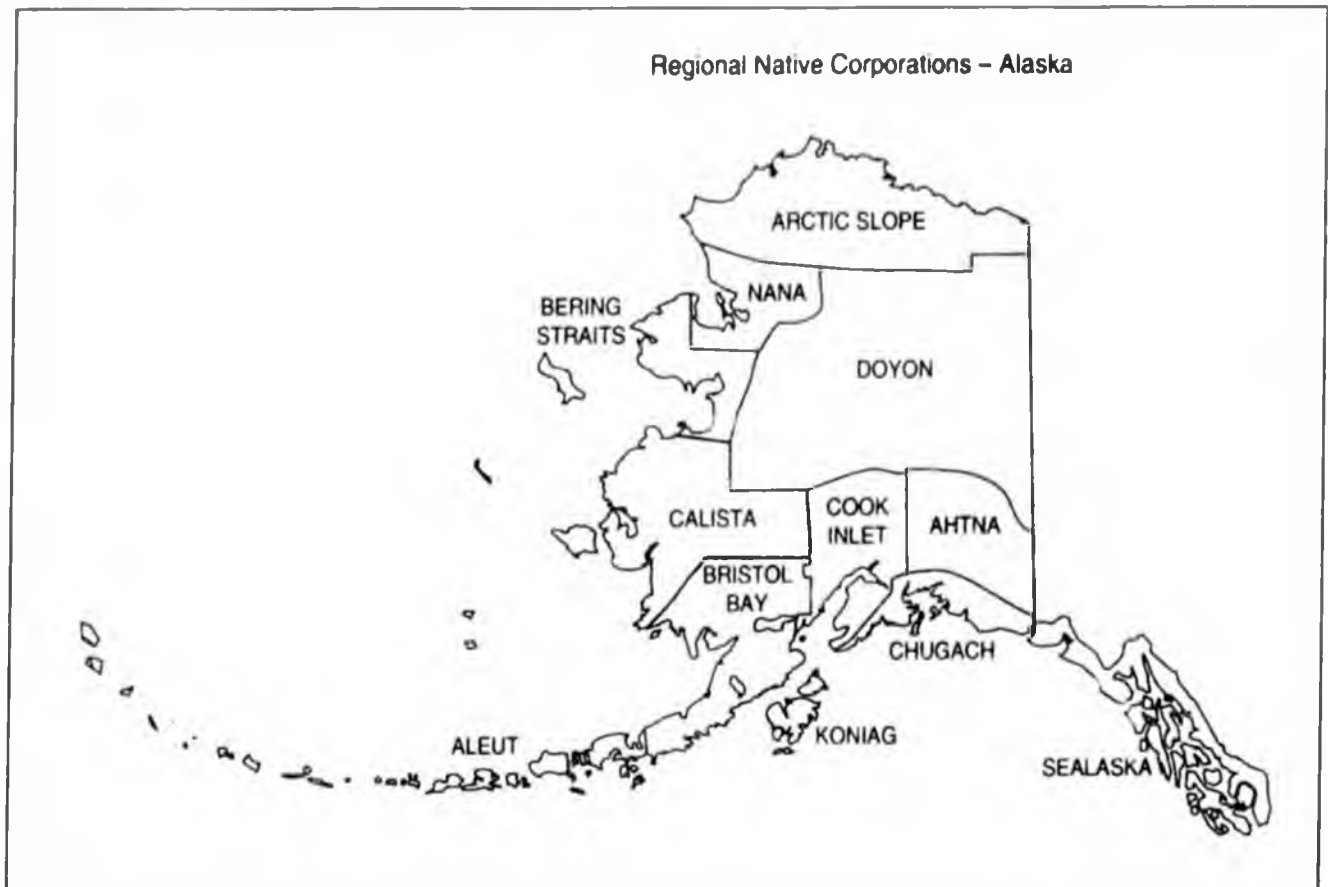
Appendix A

**Table and Map: Regional Native Corporations and their
Non-Profit Organizations**

Regional Native Corporations and their Non-Profit Organizations

Alaska Native Regional Corporations	Regional Non-Profit Organization
Arctic Slope Regional Corporation	Arctic Slope Native Association
Bering Straits Native Corporation	Kawerak, Inc.
Nana	Maniilaq Association
Calista Corporation	Association of Village Council Presidents, Inc
Doyon, Limited	Tanana Chiefs Conference
Cook Inlet Region, Inc.	Cook Inlet Tribal Council
Bristol Bay Native Corporation	Bristol Bay Native Association
Aleut Corporation	Aleutian and Pribilof Islands Association
Chugach Alaska Corporation	Chugachmiut
Sealaska Corporation	Tlingit and Haida Central Council
Koniag, Inc.	Kodiak Area Native Association
Ahtna, Inc.	Copper River Native Association
Metlakatla Indian Community of the Annette Island Reserve *	

* The only Indian Reservation in Alaska



Appendix B

**Selected Sections from PL 104-193, the Personal Responsibility and Work
Opportunities Reconciliation Act (PRWORA)**

Section 412. Direct Funding and Administration by Indian Tribes
Section 419. Definitions

SEC. 412. DIRECT FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION BY INDIAN TRIBES.

(a) GRANTS FOR INDIAN TRIBES-

(1) TRIBAL FAMILY ASSISTANCE GRANT-

(A) IN GENERAL- For each of fiscal years 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002, the Secretary shall pay to each Indian tribe that has an approved tribal family assistance plan a tribal family assistance grant for the fiscal year in an amount equal to the amount determined under subparagraph (B), and shall reduce the grant payable under section 403(a)(1) to any State in which lies the service area or areas of the Indian tribe by that portion of the amount so determined that is attributable to expenditures by the State.

(B) AMOUNT DETERMINED-

(i) IN GENERAL- The amount determined under this subparagraph is an amount equal to the total amount of the Federal payments to a State or States under section 403 (as in effect during such fiscal year) for fiscal year 1994 attributable to expenditures (other than child care expenditures) by the State or States under parts A and F (as so in effect) for fiscal year 1994 for Indian families residing in the service area or areas identified by the Indian tribe pursuant to subsection (b)(1)(C) of this section.

(ii) USE OF STATE SUBMITTED DATA-

(I) IN GENERAL- The Secretary shall use State submitted data to make each determination under clause (i).

(II) DISAGREEMENT WITH DETERMINATION- If an Indian tribe or tribal organization disagrees with State submitted data described under subclause (I), the Indian tribe or tribal organization may submit to the Secretary such additional information as may be relevant to making the determination under clause (i) and the Secretary may consider such information before making such determination.

(2) GRANTS FOR INDIAN TRIBES THAT RECEIVED JOBS FUNDS-

(A) IN GENERAL- The Secretary shall pay to each eligible Indian tribe for each of fiscal years 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002 a grant in an amount equal to the amount received by the Indian tribe in fiscal year 1994 under section 482(i) (as in effect during fiscal year 1994).

(B) ELIGIBLE INDIAN TRIBE- For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term 'eligible Indian tribe' means an Indian tribe or Alaska Native organization that conducted a job opportunities and basic skills training program in fiscal year 1995 under section 482(i) (as in effect during fiscal year 1995).

(C) USE OF GRANT- Each Indian tribe to which a grant is made under this paragraph shall use the grant for the purpose of operating a program to make work activities available to members of the Indian tribe.

(D) APPROPRIATION- Out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated \$7,638,474 for

each fiscal year specified in subparagraph (A) for grants under subparagraph (A).

(b) 3-YEAR TRIBAL FAMILY ASSISTANCE PLAN-

(1) IN GENERAL- Any Indian tribe that desires to receive a tribal family assistance grant shall submit to the Secretary a 3-year tribal family assistance plan that--

(A) outlines the Indian tribe's approach to providing welfare-related services for the 3-year period, consistent with this section;

(B) specifies whether the welfare-related services provided under the plan will be provided by the Indian tribe or through agreements, contracts, or compacts with intertribal consortia, States, or other entities;

(C) identifies the population and service area or areas to be served by such plan;

(D) provides that a family receiving assistance under the plan may not receive duplicative assistance from other State or tribal programs funded under this part;

(E) identifies the employment opportunities in or near the service area or areas of the Indian tribe and the manner in which the Indian tribe will cooperate and participate in enhancing such opportunities for recipients of assistance under the plan consistent with any applicable State standards; and

(F) applies the fiscal accountability provisions of section 5(f)(1) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450c(f)(1)), relating to the submission of a single-agency audit report required by chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code.

(2) APPROVAL- The Secretary shall approve each tribal family assistance plan submitted in accordance with paragraph (1).

(3) CONSORTIUM OF TRIBES- Nothing in this section shall preclude the development and submission of a single tribal family assistance plan by the participating Indian tribes of an intertribal consortium.

(c) MINIMUM WORK PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS AND TIME LIMITS- The Secretary, with the participation of Indian tribes, shall establish for each Indian tribe receiving a grant under this section minimum work participation requirements, appropriate time limits for receipt of welfare-related services under the grant, and penalties against individuals--

(1) consistent with the purposes of this section;

(2) consistent with the economic conditions and resources available to each tribe; and

(3) similar to comparable provisions in section 407(e).

(d) EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE- Nothing in this section shall preclude an Indian tribe from seeking emergency assistance from any Federal loan program or emergency fund.

(e) ACCOUNTABILITY- Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the ability of the Secretary to maintain program funding accountability consistent with--

(1) generally accepted accounting principles, and

(2) the requirements of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.).

(f) PENALTIES-

(1) Subsections (a)(1), (a)(6), and (b) of section 409, shall apply to an Indian tribe with an approved tribal assistance plan in the same manner as such subsections apply to a State.

(2) Section 409(a)(3) shall apply to an Indian tribe with an approved tribal assistance plan by substituting 'meet minimum work participation requirements established under section 412(c)' for 'comply with section 407(a)'.

(g) DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING- Section 411 shall apply to an Indian tribe with an approved tribal family assistance plan.

(h) SPECIAL RULE FOR INDIAN TRIBES IN ALASKA-

(1) IN GENERAL- Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, and except as provided in paragraph (2), an Indian tribe in the State of Alaska that receives a tribal family assistance grant under this section shall use the grant to operate a program in accordance with requirements comparable to the requirements applicable to the program of the State of Alaska funded under this part. Comparability of programs shall be established on the basis of program criteria developed by the Secretary in consultation with the State of Alaska and such Indian tribes.

(2) WAIVER- An Indian tribe described in paragraph (1) may apply to the appropriate State authority to receive a waiver of the requirement of paragraph (1).

SEC. 419. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this part:

- (1) ADULT- The term 'adult' means an individual who is not a minor child.
- (2) MINOR CHILD- The term 'minor child' means an individual who--
 - (A) has not attained 18 years of age; or
 - (B) has not attained 19 years of age and is a full-time student in a secondary school (or in the equivalent level of vocational or technical training).
- (3) FISCAL YEAR- The term 'fiscal year' means any 12-month period ending on September 30 of a calendar year.
- (4) INDIAN, INDIAN TRIBE, AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATION--
 - (A) IN GENERAL- Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the terms 'Indian', 'Indian tribe', and 'tribal organization' have the meaning given such terms by section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).
 - (B) SPECIAL RULE FOR INDIAN TRIBES IN ALASKA- The term 'Indian tribe' means, with respect to the State of Alaska, only the Metlakatla Indian Community of the Annette Islands Reserve and the following Alaska Native regional nonprofit corporations:
 - (i) Arctic Slope Native Association.
 - (ii) Kawerak, Inc.
 - (iii) Maniilaq Association.
 - (iv) Association of Village Council Presidents.
 - (v) Tanana Chiefs Conference.
 - (vi) Cook Inlet Tribal Council.
 - (vii) Bristol Bay Native Association.
 - (viii) Aleutian and Pribilof Island Association.
 - (ix) Chugachmuit.
 - (x) Tlingit Haida Central Council.
 - (xi) Kodiak Area Native Association.
 - (xii) Copper River Native Association.
- (5) STATE- Except as otherwise specifically provided, the term 'State' means the 50 States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa.



Testimony on Native Family Assistance Program
By: Sharon Olsen, Director of Employment & Training
Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

Central Council, through its Employment and Training Division is currently administering a Tribal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TTANF), and has been since July 2000.

Introduction

CCTHITA serves the health, education, employment, human and public service needs of more than 25,901 enrolled members mostly residing in Southeast Alaska. Currently there are 4,968 children, under the age of 18, enrolled in the Tribe and an undetermined amount of children that are either eligible for enrollment or descendants.

Tlingit and Haida's TANF program has averaged over 360 cases per month over the last several months. Less than 18% of the households served are intact 2 parent households. Our TANF program estimates an additional 300+ potential clients due child support who have received benefits in the past and those who were also TANF eligible but chose not to apply.

In many of the rural communities the unemployment rate is as high as 80%. Resources within these communities are limited, and to relocate a client for purposes of training or employment are costly.

Our program emphasizes work as a means to self-sufficiency with the expectation that both parents of children needing assistance work to the extent of their ability. We have more than doubled the number of participants required in our Tribal TANF Plan performance measures. Program participants are encouraged to complete at least a high school education (or its equivalent), so that they can enjoy greater opportunities to obtain work that will produce sufficient income to support their families and contribute to their community. In 2004, our TANF program sponsored an employment seminar "Healthy Choices" in Juneau. Clients were orientated

to program that offer life skills, career exposure and job search. We plan to expand these types of seminars in other communities this year. Clients reported the seminars to be helpful and worthwhile.

Strengthening families is a major goal for 2005 and we have two new programs that will offer a variety of services to families. One of the new programs is our "Fatherhood Initiative" which is to support families by strengthening male involvement through family activities, visitations and support groups. We plan to offer activities and training to families in pre-parenting education, self-esteem, how to reconnect fathers with their children, mentorships and conferences to further promote and support families.

Our Tribal Child Support Unit is the other new program which will be in a planning phase for two years to eventually operate our own Tribal Child Support Unit to serve Southeast Alaska. Currently we work directly with the State Child Support Agency and report any absent parent for each application submitted. Our proposed Child Support program will allow us to be creative while improving child support collections and distributions. We will also concentrate on parent/child relationships and emphasize healthy marriages.

Tlingit and Haida's Employment & Training Division was the first tribe in the nation to be approved to operate an integrated program under PL 102-477. This allows us to consolidate our USHHS, USDOL and DOI/BIA employment, training and related funds into one budget, one reporting system and one plan. Our 477 plan include these services; child care assistance, training, employment preparation and placement, support services (work clothes, transportation, etc.), youth services, general assistance to non-TANF clients, job development and many other related services that help clients find and keep meaningful employment. Recently the Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) rated the PL 102-477 tribal programs the highest of all Indian programs in the Department of the Interior. Other independent studies conducted by Washington University and studies for the Department of Health and Human Services have also concluded that tribes participating in "477" are more successful while doing welfare reform than if they had not participated in the program. In Alaska, all regions, except Maniilaq, are operating under PL 102-477.

CCTHITA Employment and Training Division received the highest award in May 2003 from the US Department of Labor during the National Indian and Native American Employment and Training Conference held in Anchorage, Alaska. Tlingit and Haida was praised by Jim Deluca, Chief of Division of Indian and Native American Programs by saying "If there is one organization that we can depend on for getting their reports in on time and we don't have questions on because of their organization and thoroughness – it is Tlingit and Haida." See attached news release.

Other support programs within T&H Employment and Training include the Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (TVR) program which further enhances our ability to support TANF families. A recent study on welfare reform (U.S. Department of Education, Technical Assistance Circular, RSA-TAC-05-01) indicates that fully one-third of individuals receiving employment-related services from other programs, such as TANF, have specific learning disabilities (SLD) or other cognitive disabilities (U.S. General Accounting Office, "Welfare Reform – More Coordinated Federal Effort Could Help States and Localities Move TANF Recipients With Impairments Toward Employment" October, 2001)

As the Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation program partners more extensively with the TANF program, the number of individuals with such disabilities served by the TVR program is expected to increase. Because the SLD and other cognitive disabilities are often "invisible" disabilities with manifestations that are subtle or appear as other types of problems, such as lack of motivation or emotional disorders, assessment of an individual's functional capacities can be a difficult task. There may be a greater adverse impact on achieving and maintaining employment than those associated with poor academic performance. Alaska Native Students rank second highest in the State of Alaska with students with disabilities; these students who cannot pass their exit exam at the High School will also be our TANF/TVR clients of tomorrow. Without an education or a GED their "invisible" disabilities play a large role in how they see themselves, "not able to work". We are quite worried about the exit exam for our Native students; historically we have been over-represented in the "Special Education" programs in our communities with few teachers or special education tutors to help address the issue of helping our children with disabilities. The drop out rate of Alaska Native children in Juneau is already at a very high level; we see this only increasing for our children this year.

Addressing and supporting our Tribal members with disabilities, including our youth, is demonstrated by strong partnerships within Employment & Training is evident by the increased numbers we serve. With increased permanent funding for the TANF program within Employment & Training will increase our base in which to help our people become self-sufficient.

Our Vocational Training and Resource Center (VTRC) offers Life Skills, Office Skills, Basic Computer training, Financial Planning and other training designed for Tribal TANF clients. The VTRC also offers a wide range of vocational training courses, and a growing number of the courses are now being offered in the communities.

Recommendations

1. We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass the Governor's proposed legislation that will make the Native Family Assistance Program permanent.
2. We support the expansion of the availability of Native Family Assistance grants will ensure that all tribal organizations federally authorized to deliver tribal TANF programs will have the opportunity to access the necessary state resources and provide effective and innovative public assistance programs to their members.

Thank you for your consideration and support of Tribal TANF programs in Alaska. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Sharon Olsen at 907-463-7132 or Dean George, TANF Coordinator at 907-463-7313.

Attachments:

1. Graphs on Tlingit and Haida's TANF Caseloads
2. USDOL "Chief's Award" to Tlingit and Haida



Central Council Tlingit and Haida

PRESS RELEASE

August 14, 2003

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING RECEIVES HIGHEST AWARD FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Congratulations to the Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska's Employment and Training Division; they received the highest award in May 2003 from the U.S. Department of Labor during the National Indian and Native American Employment and Training Conference held in Anchorage, Alaska.

Jim Deluca, Chief of the Division of Indian and Native American Programs (DINAP), praised Tlingit and Haida by saying, "If there is one organization that we can depend on for getting their reports in on time and we don't have questions on because of their organization and thoroughness - it is Tlingit and Haida."



James Deluca & Sharon Olsen

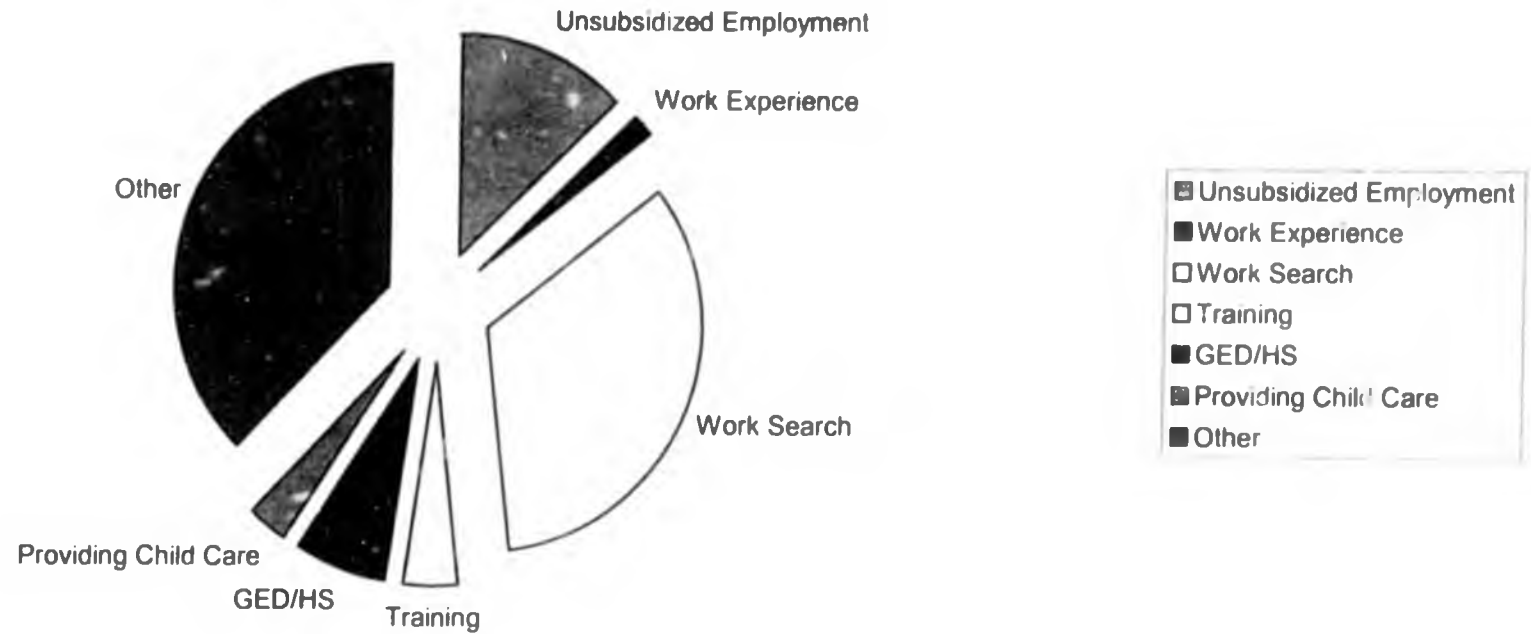
Tlingit and Haida's Employment and Training Division was also recognized for their work on the PL 102-477 Tribal Workgroup and statewide coordination through Alaska Native Coalition on Employment and Training (ANCET).

For Information Contact:

CCTHITA, Employment and Training Division
Sharon Olsen, Director
Toll Free: (800) 344-1432 ext. 7195/7134
Direct Line: (907) 463-7134
E-mail: solsen@ccthita.org

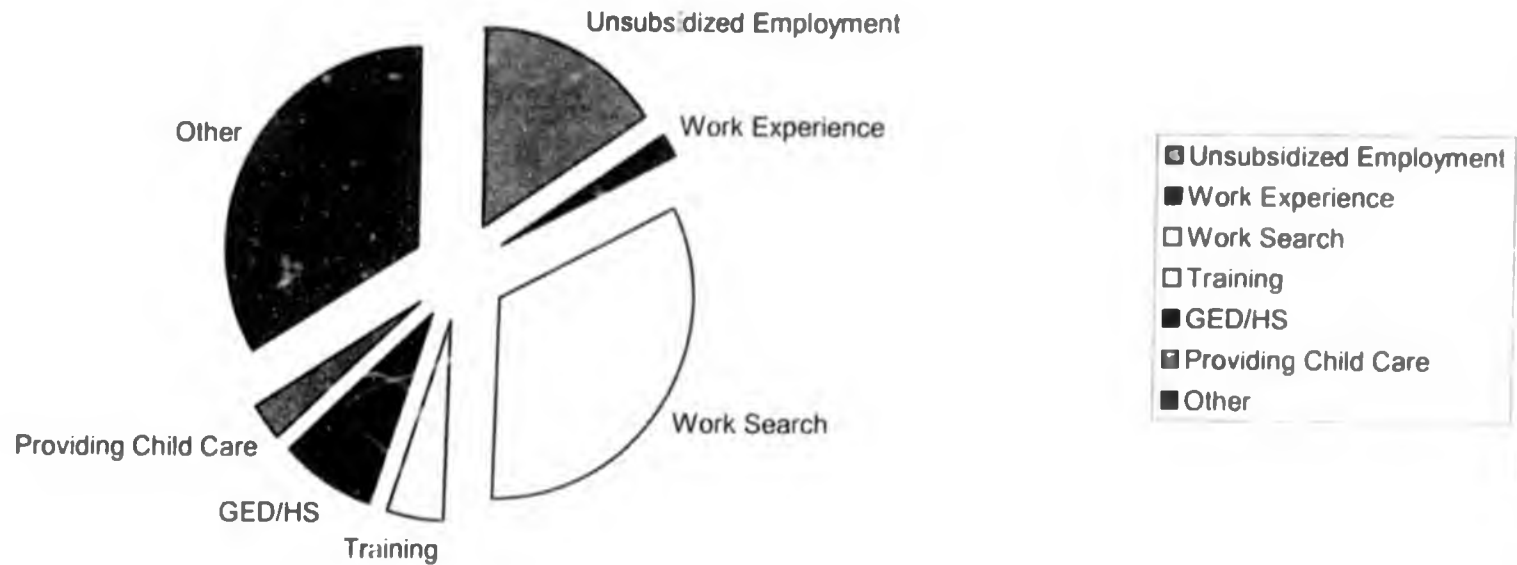
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January
2003



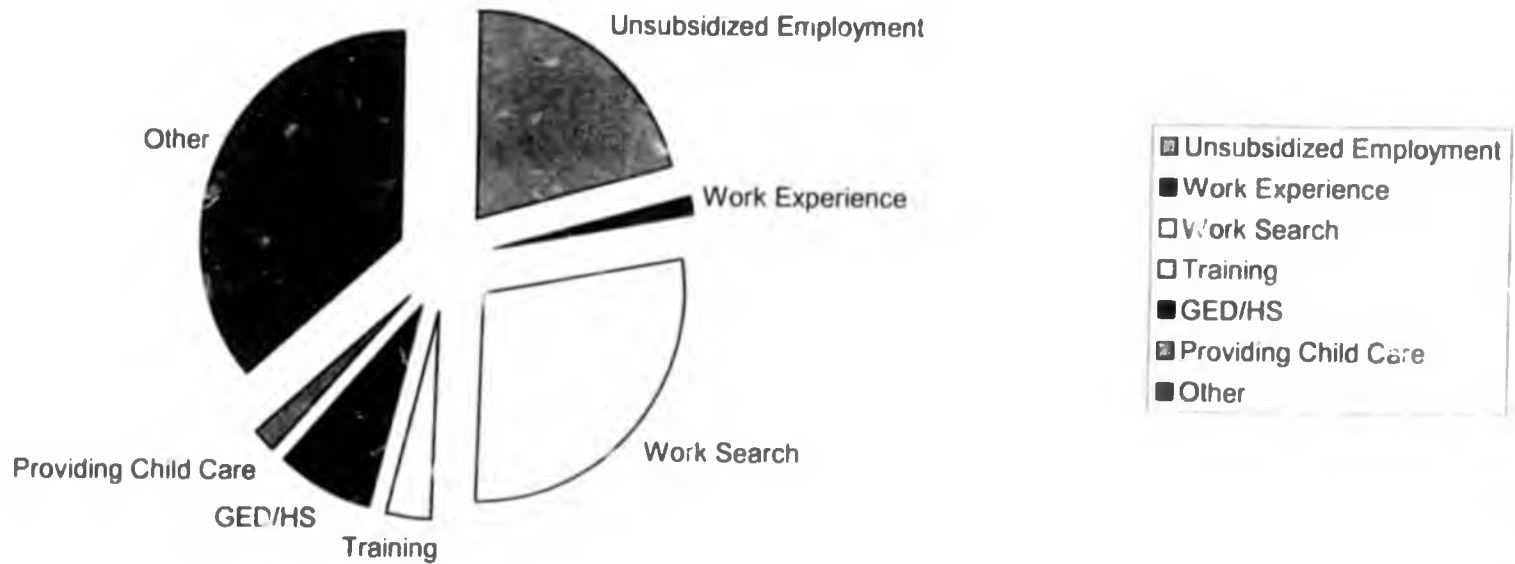
Month	Unsubsidized Employment	Work Experience	Work Search	Training	GED/HS	Providing Child Care	Other (subsistence activities, volunteering community work service, etc.)
January	55	7	145	18	29	14	162

February
2003



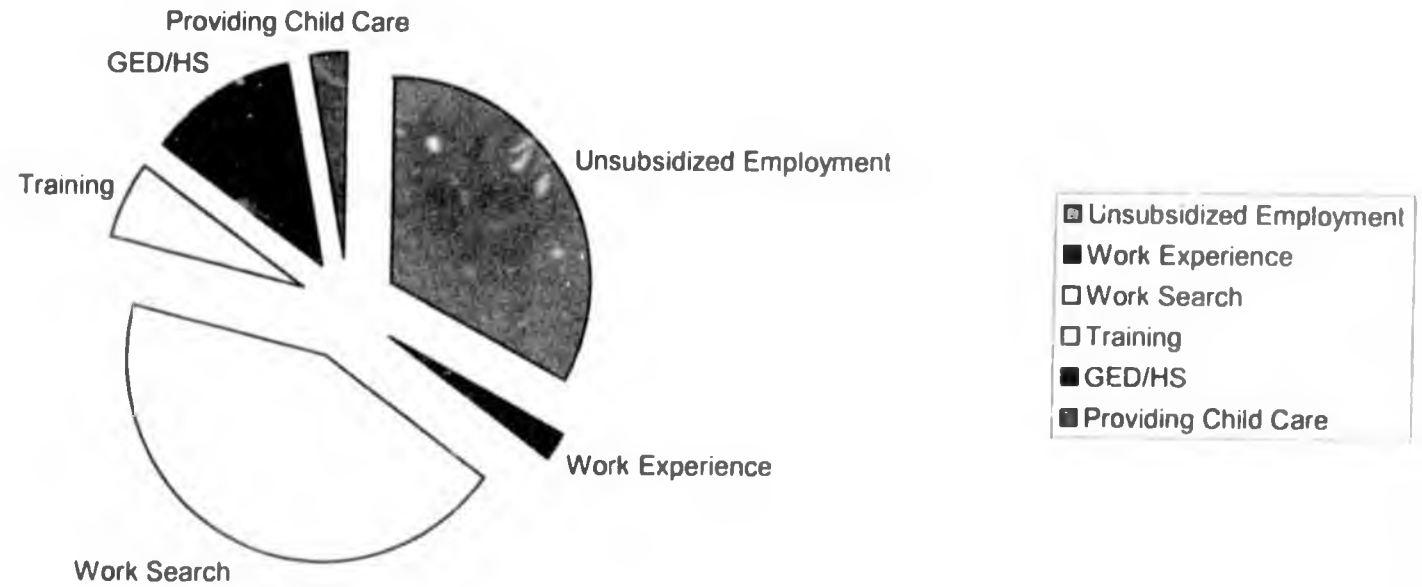
Month	Unsubsidized Employment	Work Experience	Work Search	Training	GED/HS	Providing Child Care	Other (subsistence activities, volunteering community work service, etc.)
February	74	8	155	22	38	15	160

March
2003



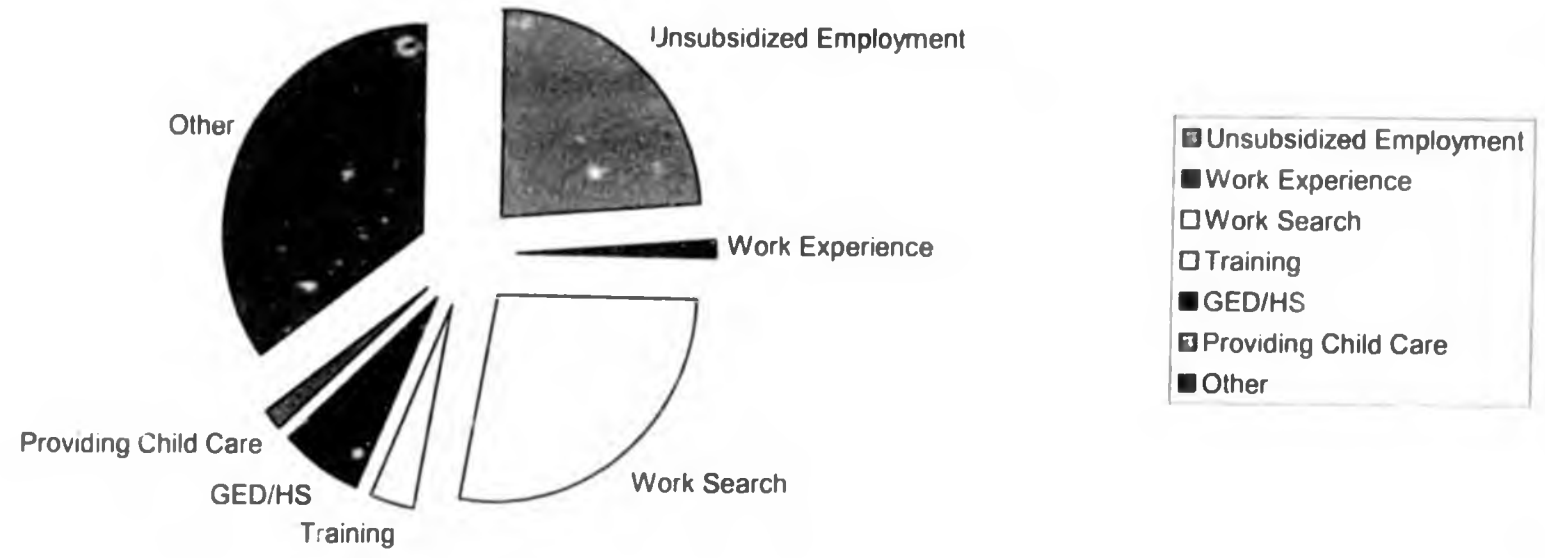
Month	Unsubsidized Employment	Work Experience	Work Search	Training	GED/HS	Providing Child Care	Other (subsistence activities, volunteering community work service, etc.)
March	89	6	119	16	33	8	155

April
2003



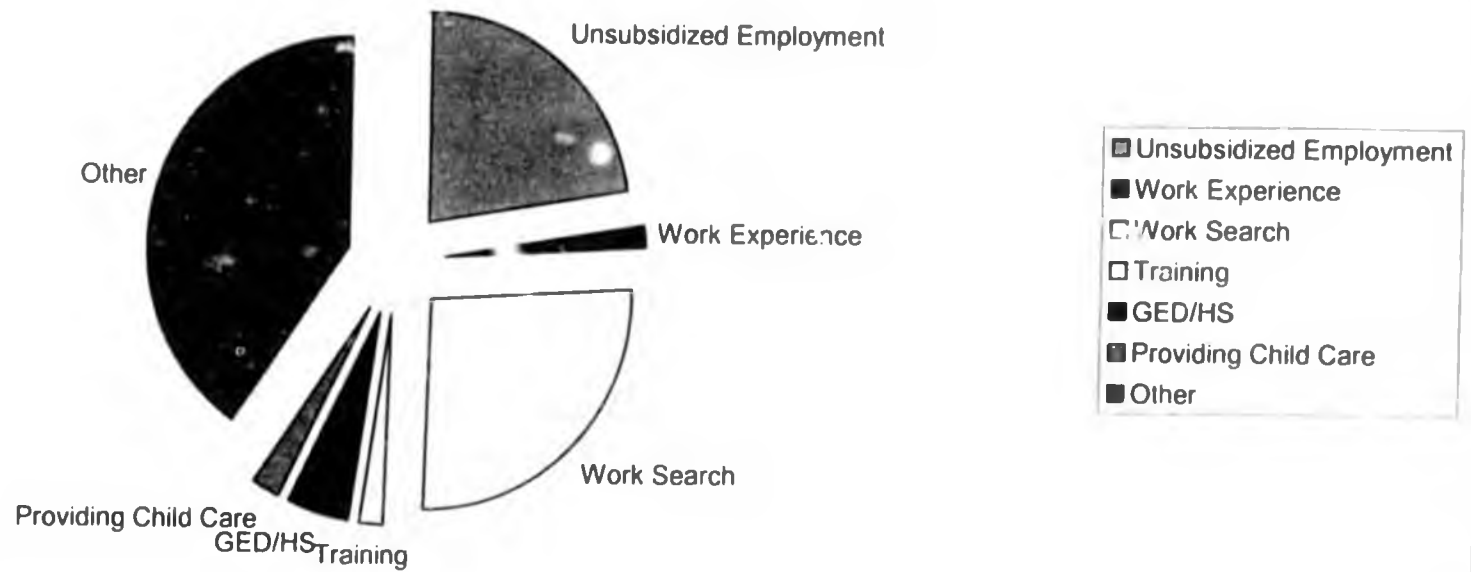
Month	Unsubsidized Employment	Work Experience	Work Search	Training	GED/HS	Providing Child Care	Other (subsistence activities, volunteering community work service, etc.)
April	89	6	119	16	33	8	155

May
2003



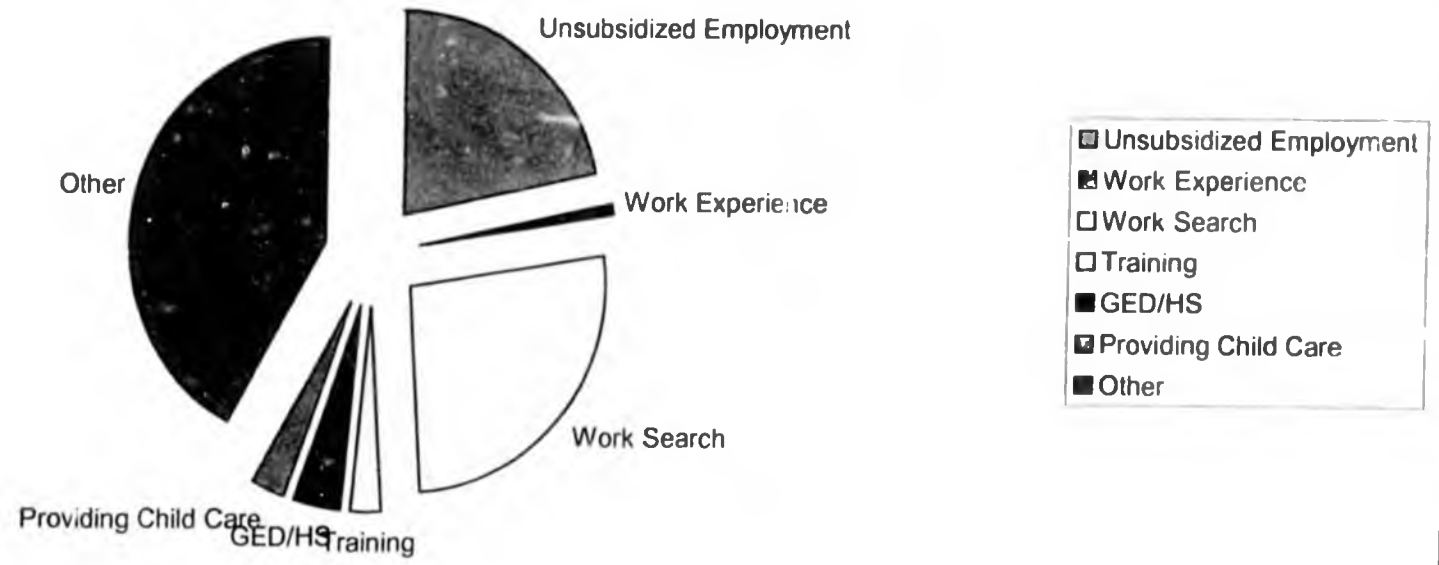
Month	Unsubsidized Employment	Work Experience	Work Search	Training	GED/HS	Providing Child Care	Other (subsistence activities, volunteering community work service, etc.)
May	81	5	93	13	22	6	120

June
2003



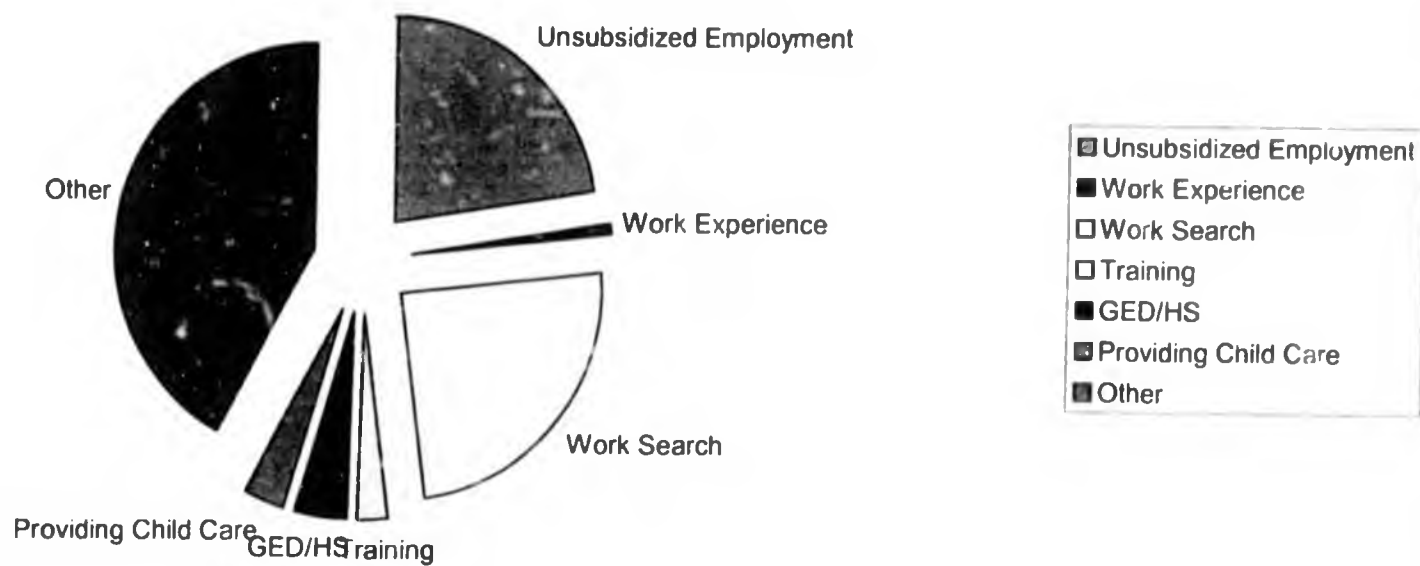
Month	Unsubsidized Employment	Work Experience	Work Search	Training	GED/HS	Providing Child Care	Other (subsistence activities, volunteering community work service, etc.)
June	65	5	75	6	14	7	117

July
2003



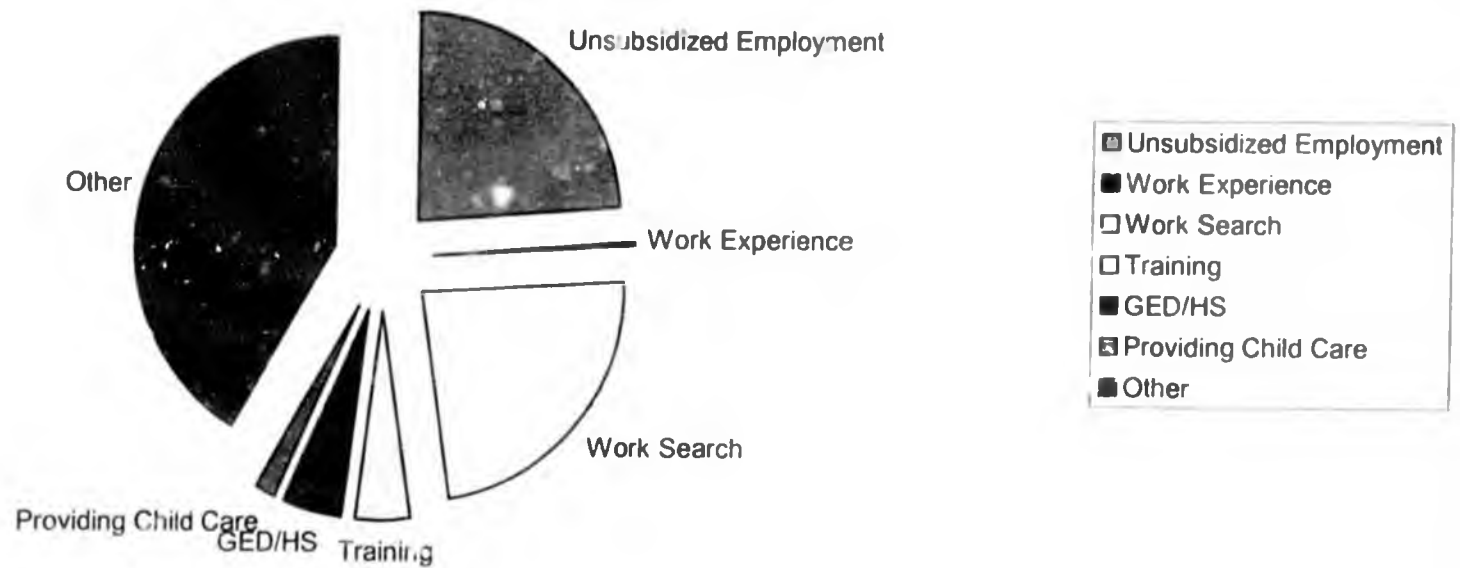
Month	Unsubsidized Employment	Work Experience	Work Search	Training	GED/HS	Providing Child Care	Other (subsistence activities, volunteering community work service, etc.)
July	66	3	81	7	12	9	128

August
2003



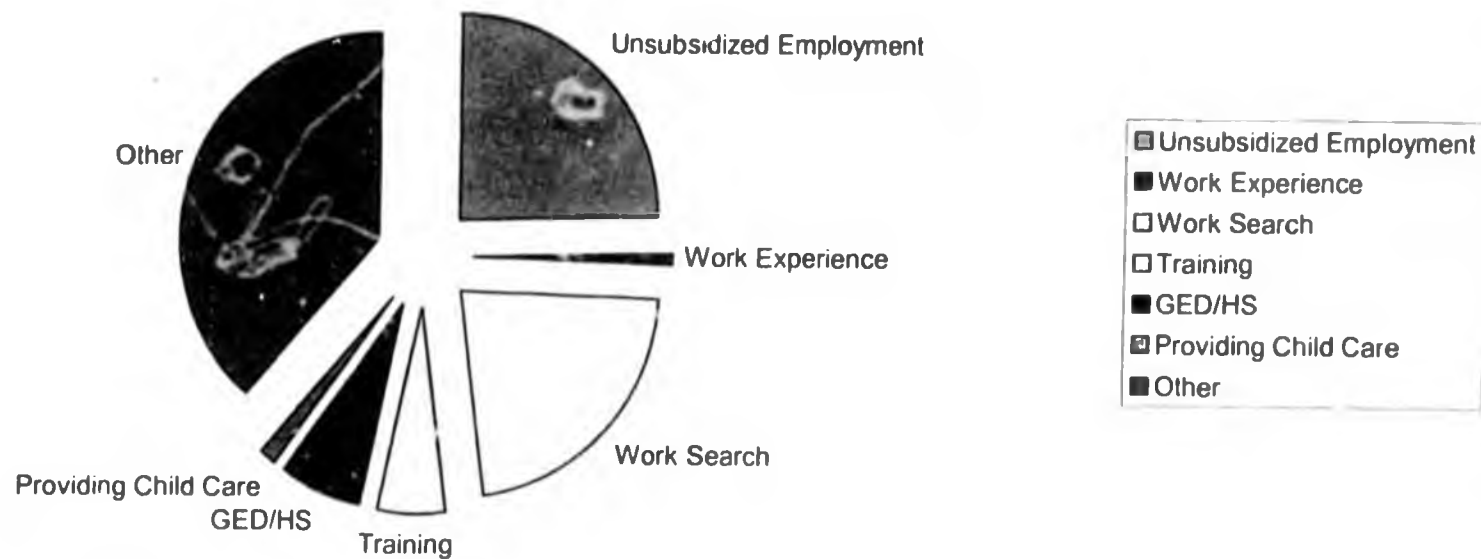
Month	Unsubsidized Employment	Work Experience	Work Search	Training	GED/HS	Providing Child Care	Other (subsistence activities, volunteering community work service, etc.)
August	60	2	65	7	11	9	112

September
2003



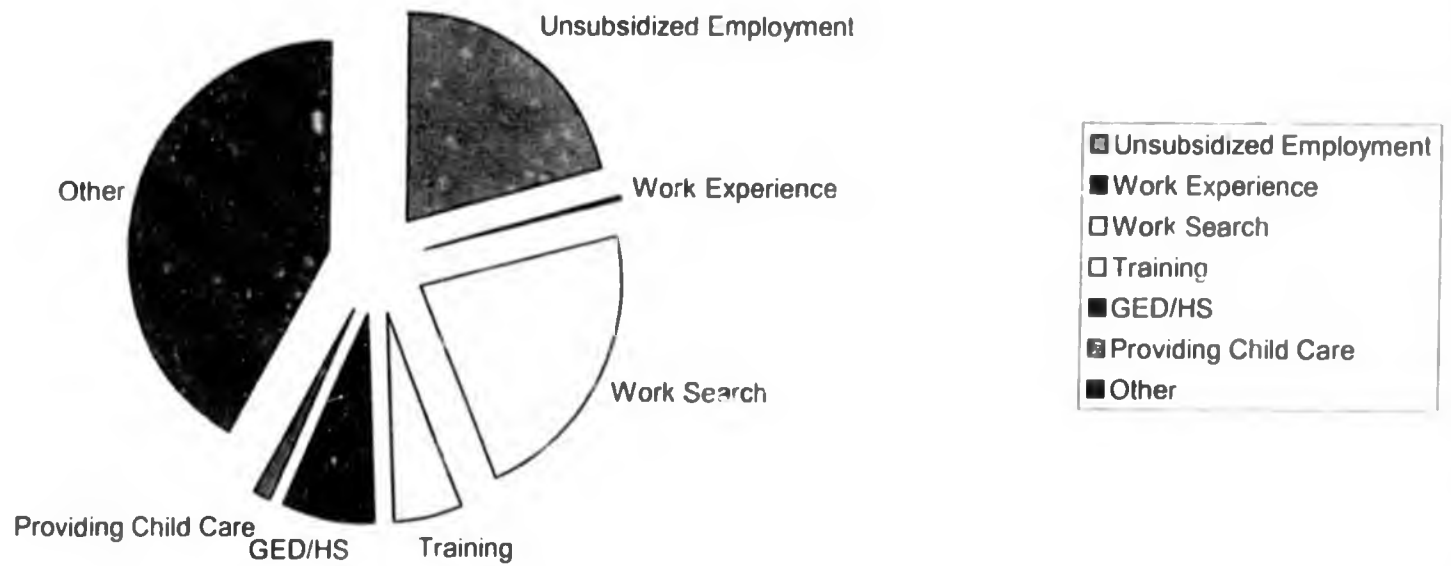
Month	Unsubsidized Employment	Work Experience	Work Search	Training	GED/HS	Providing Child Care	Other (subsistence activities, volunteering community work service, etc.)
September	64	1	62	12	13	4	112

October
2003



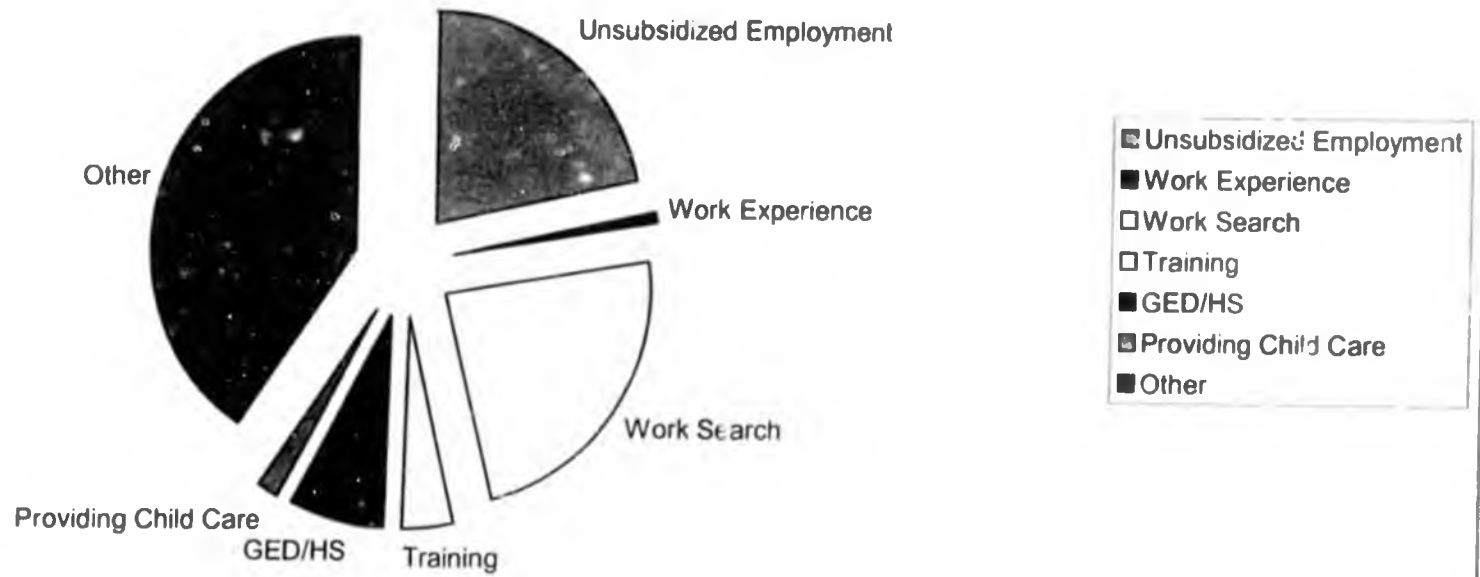
Month	Unsubsidized Employment	Work Experience	Work Search	Training	GED/HS	Providing Child Care	Other (subsistence activities, volunteering community work service, etc.)
October	69	2	62	15	19	4	107

November
2003



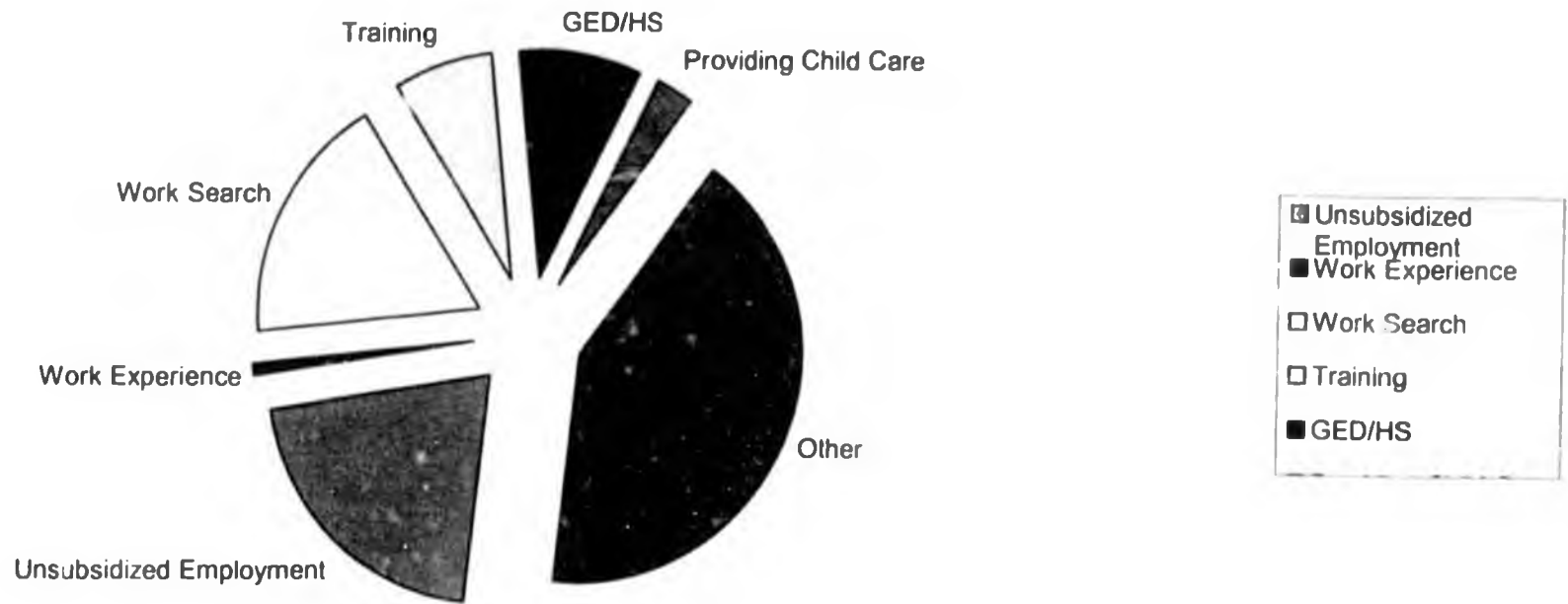
Month	Unsubsidized Employment	Work Experience	Work Search	Training	GED/HS	Providing Child Care	Other (subsistence activities, volunteering community work service, etc.)
November	57	1	62	15	21	4	115

December
2003



Month:	Unsubsidized Employment	Work Experience	Work Search	Training	GED/HS	Providing Child Care	Other (subsistence activities, volunteering community work service, etc.)
December	66	2	72	12	23	5	123

January



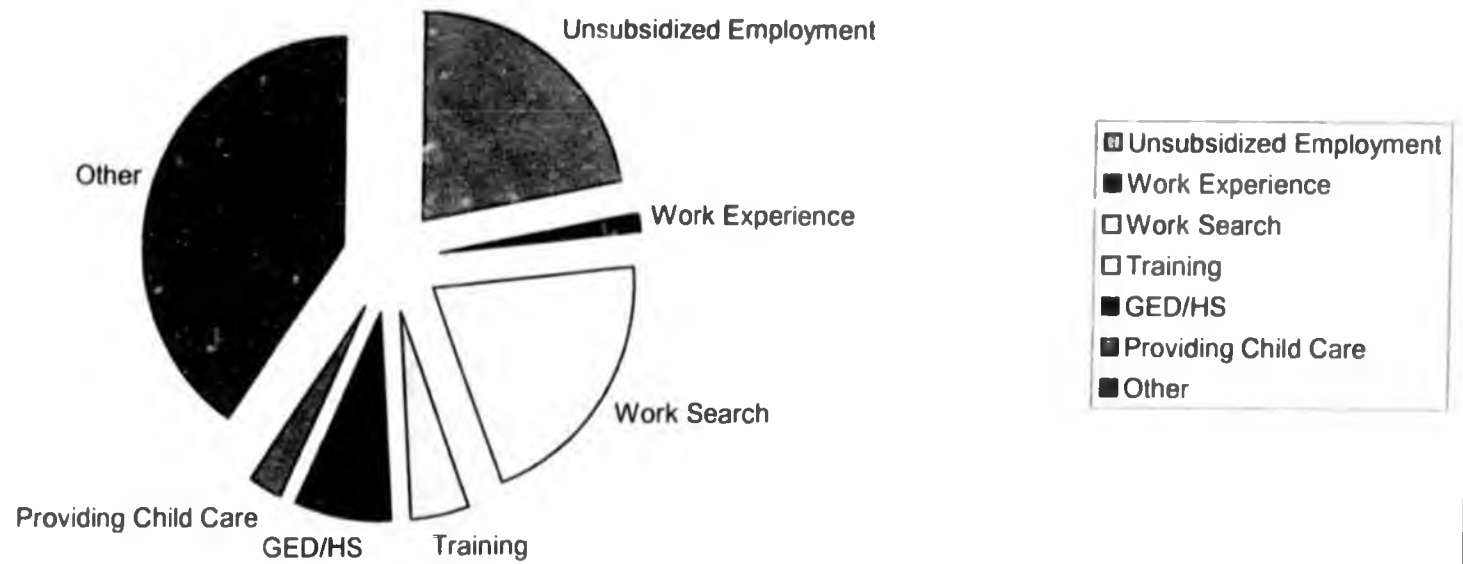
Month	Unsubsidized Employment	Work Experience	Work Search	Training	GED/HS	Providing Child Care	Other (subsistence activities, volunteering community work service, etc.)
January	71	3	60	25	30	9	142

February



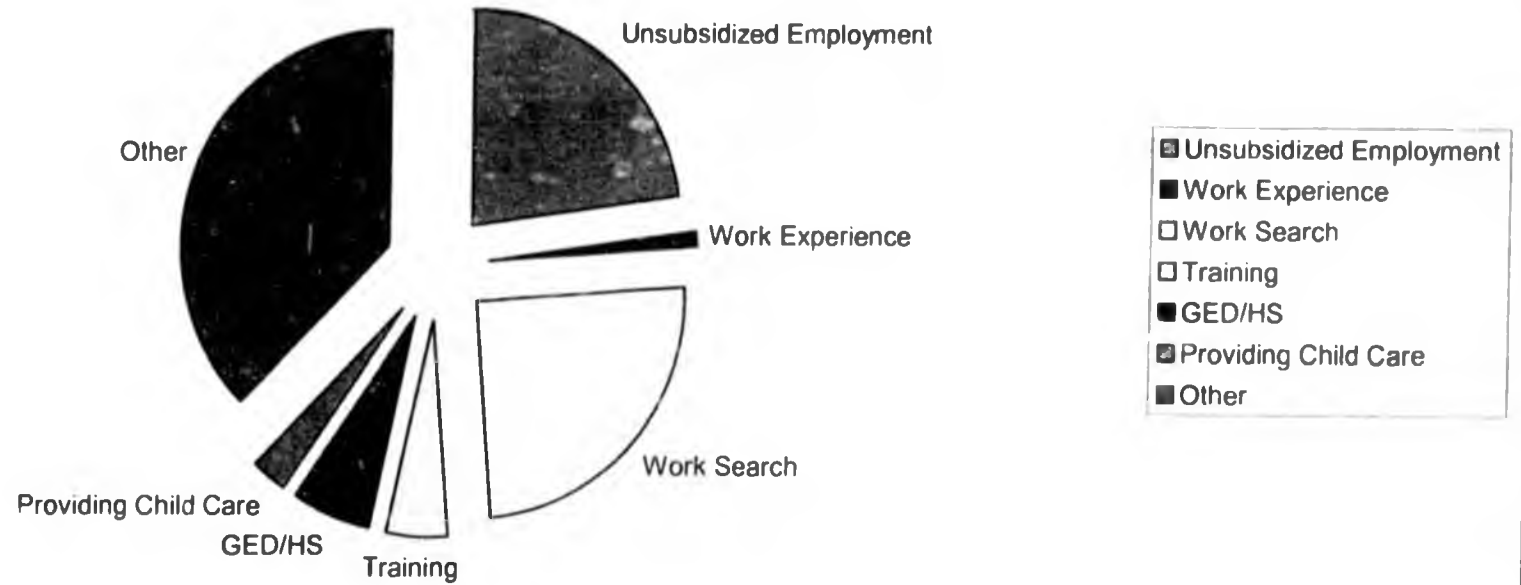
Month	Unsubsidized Employment	Work Experience	Work Search	Training	GED/HS	Providing Child Care	Other (subsistence activities, volunteering community work service, etc.)
February	63	1	76	18	25	9	134

March



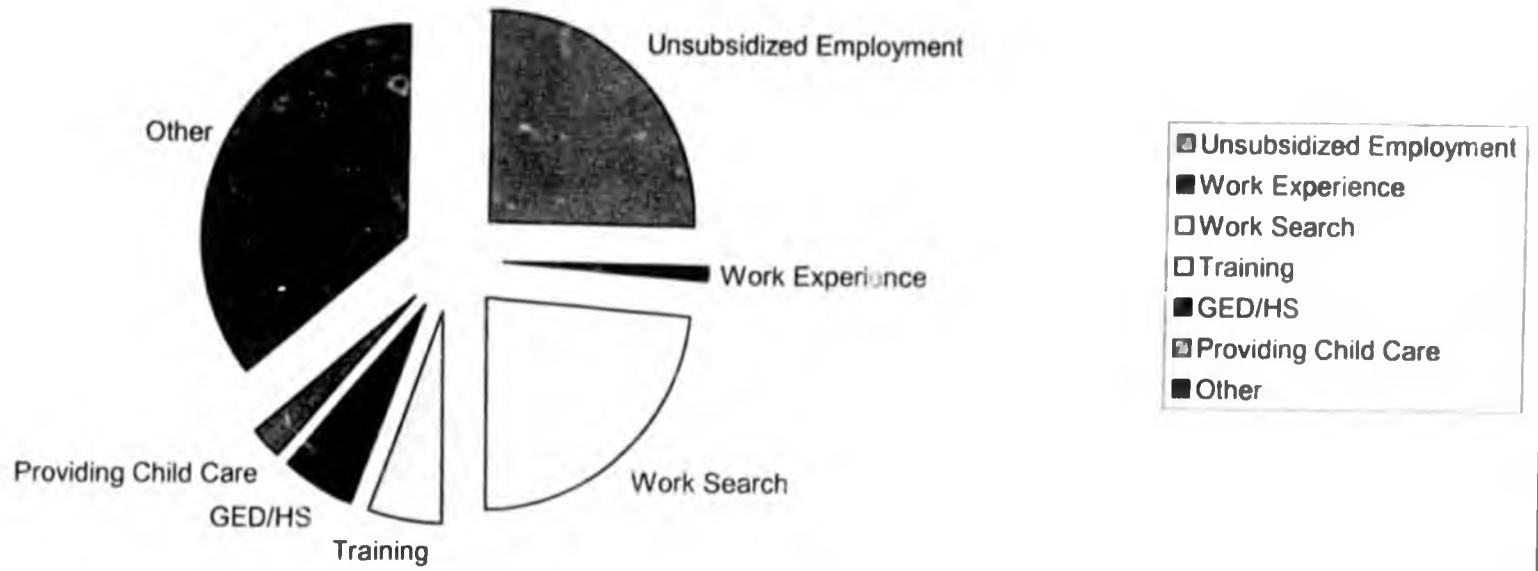
Month	Unsubsidized Work Employment	Work Experience	Work Search	Training	GED/HS	Providing Child Care	Other (subsistence activities, volunteering community work service, etc.)
March	70	4	66	15	25	8	129

April



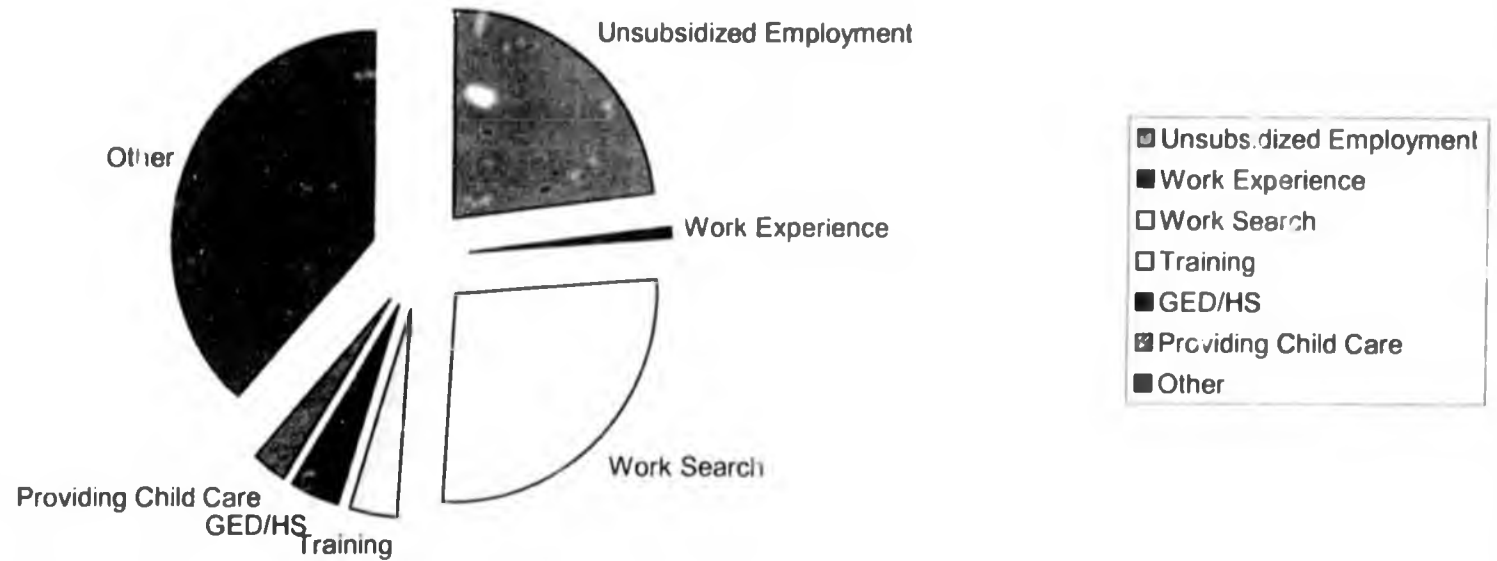
Month	Unsubsidized Employment	Work Experience	Work Search	Training	GED/HS	Providing Child Care	Other (subsistence activities, volunteering community work service, etc.)
April	87	4	95	18	23	11	144

May



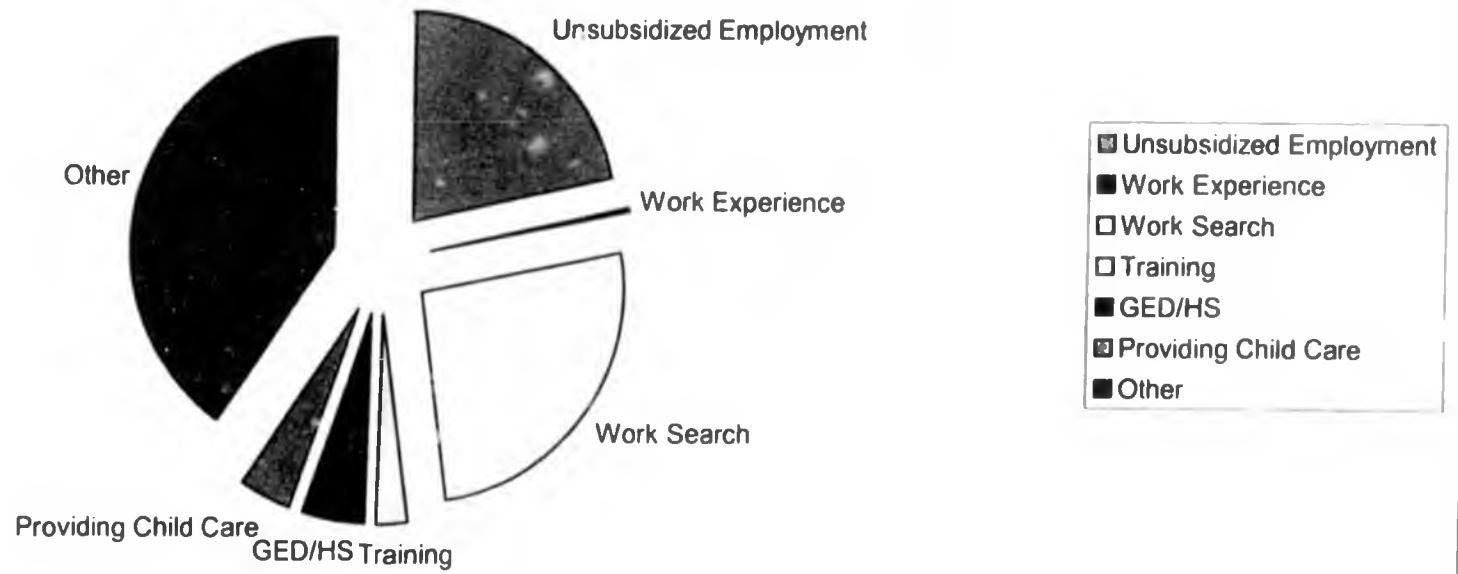
Month	Unsubsidized Employment	Work Experience	Work Search	Training	GED/HS	Providing Child Care	Other (subsistence activities, volunteering community work service, etc)
May	80	3	74	18	18	8	114

June



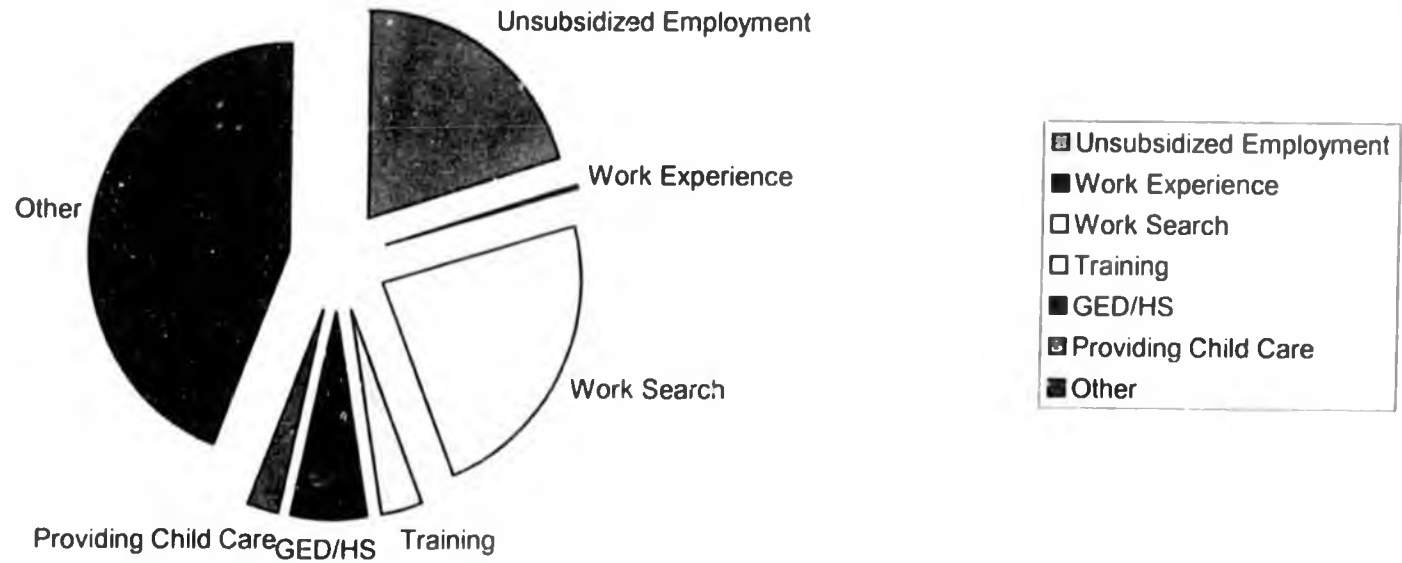
Month	Unsubsidized Employment	Work Experience	Work Search	Training	GED/HS	Providing Child Care	Other (subsistence activities, volunteering community work service, etc.)
June	59	2	69	10	10	7	99

July



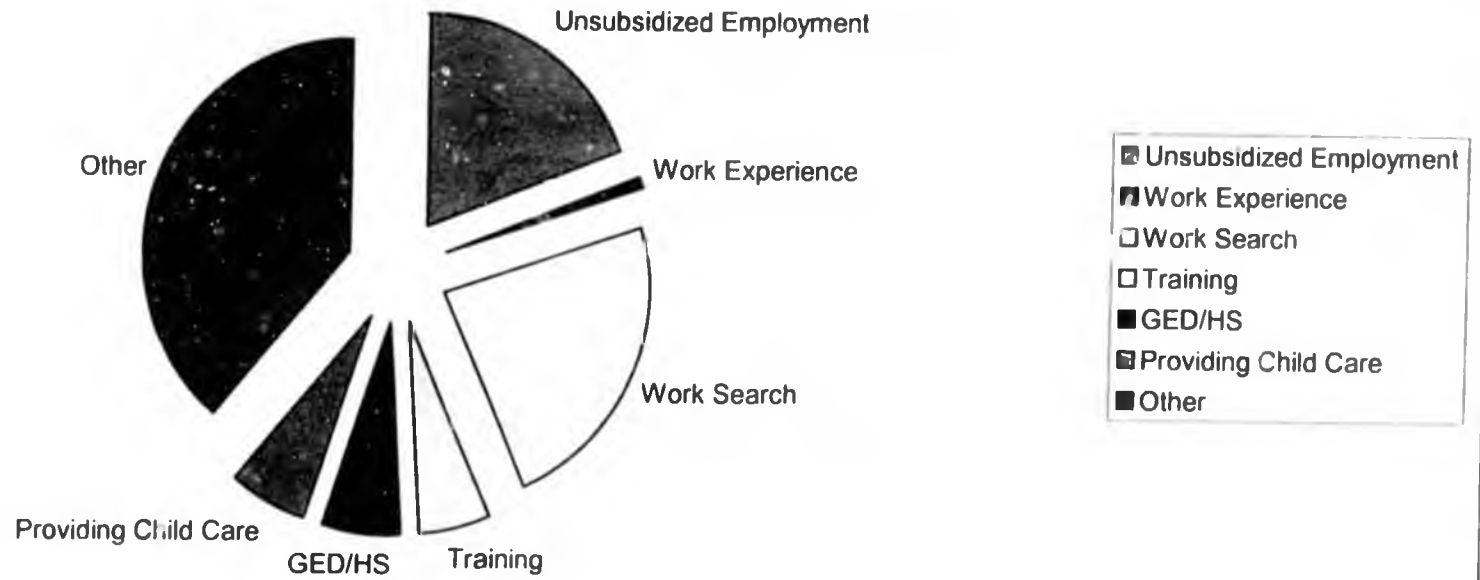
Month	Unsubsidized Employment	Work Experience	Work Search	Training	GED/HS	Providing Child Care	Other (subsistence activities, volunteering community work service, etc.)
July	58	1	69	7	13	11	109

August



Month	Unsubsidized Employment	Work Experience	Work Search	Training	GED/HS	Providing Child Care	Other (subsistence activities, volunteering community work service, etc.)
August	47	1	54	8	14	6	103

September



Month	Unsubsidized Employment	Work Experience	Work Search	Training	GED/HS	Providing Child Care	Other (subsistence activities, volunteering community work service, etc.)
September	48	2	58	14	15	15	97