

**Form ACF-812, the Report on Engagement in Additional Work Activities for Families  
Receiving Assistance under the TANF and SSP-MOE Programs  
March 2011**

As the state agency responsible for Choices—Texas’s employment and training component of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)—the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) is posting the summary data provided to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) for the March 2011 ACF-812 report.

Please note that in accordance with TANF final regulations (45 CFR §261.2), Texas only counts allowable work activities; therefore, we do not allow individuals to participate in any other activities. TWC believes it is important to note the factors associated with customers who have no countable participation hours.

Texas sampled 109 cases; of these, 43 cases were participating in Choices services, while 66 were not. On its face, this data can be misconstrued if the underlying factors—specifically, the exempt and mandatory status of the customers in the sample data—are not considered.

Of the 66 cases TWC analyzed that had no activities:

- 47 percent (31 cases) were exempt;
- 20 percent (13 cases) received only a partial month of TANF benefits and were unable to be outreached in time to participate in Choices services;
- 14 percent (9 cases) were under sanction;
- 15 percent (10 cases) were mandatory but unresponsive, which initiates the sanction process; and
- .05 percent (3 cases) received a good cause exemption and were not required to participate.

As this data shows, only 15 percent of the nonparticipating cases were mandatory but unresponsive. We reiterate that Texas does not allow or count any activity in the Choices program that does not meet the federal definition of an allowable work activity.