

## TANF CASELOADS FALL AGAIN IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2010

TANF caseloads declined in the second quarter of 2010 as they had in the first quarter.<sup>1</sup> Cumulatively, over these two quarters caseloads fell in thirty five states and the national caseload decreased by 1.8%, falling from 1,931,819 families in December 2009 to 1,896,278 families in June 2010.<sup>2</sup>

The reasons for the TANF caseload decline in the first half of 2010 can not be known for certain based on the currently available information. However, over this same six month period the national Food Stamp caseload increased by 7%.<sup>3</sup> The increased Food Stamp participation suggests that the decreased TANF participation was not due to decreased need.<sup>4</sup>

The number of children receiving TANF in June 2010 (3,393,372) was but 22% of the number of children reported as being poor in 2009 (15,451,000) in the recently released U.S. Census Bureau report.<sup>5</sup> Since the beginning of the 'Great Recession' in December 2007, the Food Stamp caseload has increased 55% but the TANF caseload only 11%.

(December 2010. For further information, contact Timothy Casey, [tcasey@legalmomentum.org](mailto:tcasey@legalmomentum.org))

(Supported in part by a grant from the Open Society Foundations.)

---

<sup>1</sup> For the first quarter statistics, see the Legal Momentum report *TANF Caseload Fell Nationally And In Thirty Four States In The First Quarter Of 2010* (Oct. 2010), available at <http://www.legalmomentum.org/our-work/women-and-poverty/resources--publications/tanf-caseload-fell-nationally.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> The TANF figures cited here were derived from the HHS tables at [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/data-reports/caseload/caseload\\_current.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/data-reports/caseload/caseload_current.htm). The figures include families in separate state programs funded with maintenance of effort dollars. The figure cited for June 2010 assumes that Alaska – which did not report its second quarter totals – had the same number of recipient families as it had reported for March (3,296).

<sup>3</sup> Food Stamp participation increased from 17,886,338 households in December 2009 to 19,143,488 households in June 2010 according to the USDA table titled "SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM," available at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/34SNAPmonthly.htm>

<sup>4</sup> For a broader discussion of TANF participation, see the Legal Momentum reports *The Sanction Epidemic in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program*, available at <http://www.legalmomentum.org/assets/pdfs/sanction-epidemic-in-tanf.pdf>; *The Bitter Fruit Of Welfare Reform: A Sharp Drop In The Percentage Of Eligible Women And Children Receiving Welfare*, available at <http://www.legalmomentum.org/assets/pdfs/lm-tanf-bitter-fruit.pdf>; *Not Enough: What TANF Offers Family Violence Victims* (joint report), available at <http://www.legalmomentum.org/assets/pdfs/not-enough-what-tanf-offers.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2009*, U.S. Census Bureau, P60-238 (2010), available at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2010pubs/p60-238.pdf>.