§3109. Promoting accountable public programs that reduce poverty, alleviate hardship and increase sustainable employment for low-income families with children

The department shall implement a system of accountability to measure access to and the performance of certain programs administered by the department under this Subtitle to ensure that those programs are working effectively to improve the health and well-being of program participants. [PL 2019, c. 485, §1 (NEW).]

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Federal poverty level" has the same meaning as in section 3762, subsection 1, paragraph C. [PL 2019, c. 485, §1 (NEW).]

B. "Food supplement" means the federal supplemental nutrition assistance program administered by the State pursuant to section 3104. [PL 2019, c. 485, §1 (NEW).]

C. "TANF" has the same meaning as in section 3762, subsection 1, paragraph E. [PL 2019, c. 485, §1 (NEW).]

D. "WIC" means the Women, Infants and Children Special Supplemental Food Program described in section 3107. [PL 2019, c. 485, §1 (NEW).]

2. Identify measures of child and family economic security. Beginning October 15, 2019 and annually thereafter, the department shall obtain and compile the following data for the State regarding child and family economic security from those sources reasonably available to the department, including, but not limited to, data collected and maintained by the department, data available from the Department of Labor and the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services or other state or federal agencies and such other data as can reasonably be obtained from other public or private sources upon request. The data must include:

A. The ratio of families with children receiving TANF cash assistance to the number of families with children and income at or below 100% of the federal poverty level in the current year and in the previous 4 years; [PL 2019, c. 485, §1 (NEW).]

B. The percentage of children under 5 years of age receiving TANF cash assistance that also receive assistance from WIC in the current year and in the previous 4 years; [PL 2019, c. 485, §1 (NEW).]

C. The percentage of children under 5 years of age receiving food supplement assistance that also receive assistance from WIC in the current year and in the previous 4 years; [PL 2019, c. 485, §1 (NEW).]

D. For all families for whom TANF cash assistance has terminated:

(1) The number and percentage of families with no quarterly earnings from unsubsidized employment:

(a) At the time participation in the program was terminated;

(b) During the 2nd quarter after participation in the program was terminated; and

(c) During the 4th quarter after participation in the program was terminated;

(2) The number and percentage of families with quarterly earnings from unsubsidized employment that are below 50% of the federal poverty level:

(a) At the time participation in the program was terminated;

(b) During the 2nd quarter after participation in the program was terminated; and
(c) During the 4th quarter after participation in the program was terminated;

(3) The number and percentage of families with quarterly earnings from unsubsidized employment that are at least 50% but below 100% of the federal poverty level:
   (a) At the time participation in the program was terminated;
   (b) During the 2nd quarter after participation in the program was terminated; and
   (c) During the 4th quarter after participation in the program was terminated;

(4) The number and percentage of families with quarterly earnings from unsubsidized employment that are at least 100% but below 150% of the federal poverty level:
   (a) At the time participation in the program was terminated;
   (b) During the 2nd quarter after participation in the program was terminated; and
   (c) During the 4th quarter after participation in the program was terminated;

(5) The number and percentage of families with quarterly earnings from unsubsidized employment that are at least 150% but below 200% of the federal poverty level:
   (a) At the time participation in the program was terminated;
   (b) During the 2nd quarter after participation in the program was terminated; and
   (c) During the 4th quarter after participation in the program was terminated;

(6) The number and percentage of families with quarterly earnings from unsubsidized employment that are at least 200% of the federal poverty level:
   (a) At the time participation in the program was terminated;
   (b) During the 2nd quarter after participation in the program was terminated; and
   (c) During the 4th quarter after participation in the program was terminated;

(7) The mean and median income of families with no quarterly earnings from unsubsidized employment:
   (a) At the time participation in the program was terminated;
   (b) During the 2nd quarter after participation in the program was terminated; and
   (c) During the 4th quarter after participation in the program was terminated;

(8) The number and percentage of families receiving income from the federal supplemental security income program or federal social security disability benefits:
   (a) At the time participation in the program was terminated;
   (b) During the 2nd quarter after participation in the program was terminated; and
   (c) During the 4th quarter after participation in the program was terminated; [PL 2019, c. 485, §1 (NEW).]

E. Cumulative data on the highest level of educational attainment of adult parents or caretaker relatives receiving TANF cash assistance and cumulative data on the highest level of educational attainment of adult parents or caretaker relatives whose participation in the program was terminated in the prior year; [PL 2019, c. 485, §1 (NEW).]

F. The ratio of persons receiving food supplement assistance to the total number of potentially eligible persons; the ratio of persons 60 years of age or older receiving food supplement assistance to the total number of potentially eligible persons 60 years of age or older; the ratio of nonelderly persons with a disability receiving food supplement assistance to the total number of potentially eligible persons with a disability; the ratio of persons receiving medical assistance to the total number of potentially eligible persons; the ratio of persons receiving the federal supplemental security income program to the total number of potentially eligible persons; and the ratio of persons receiving the federal social security disability benefits program to the total number of potentially eligible persons; [PL 2019, c. 485, §1 (NEW).]
eligible nonelderly persons with a disability; and the ratio of children under 18 years of age receiving food supplement assistance to the total number of potentially eligible children under 18 years of age; [PL 2019, c. 485, §1 (NEW).]

G. The number and percentage of adult parents or caretaker relatives who have children in the household and who are receiving food supplement assistance, grouped by highest level of educational attainment of the adult parent or caretaker relative; [PL 2019, c. 485, §1 (NEW).]

H. The ratio of people participating in the MaineCare program, by eligibility group, to the total number of potentially eligible persons within each group; [PL 2019, c. 485, §1 (NEW).]

I. The number and percentage of applications received by the department for the MaineCare program and the children's health insurance program as defined in section 3174-X, subsection 1, paragraph A, by eligibility group, that are processed in less than 24 hours; that are processed within one to 7 days; that are processed within 8 to 30 days; that are processed within 31 to 45 days; and that are processed more than 45 days after receipt; [PL 2019, c. 485, §1 (NEW).]

J. The average waiting times, by month, for a person calling the department's call center to speak to a person, not including an interactive voice response system; and [PL 2019, c. 485, §1 (NEW).]

K. The number and percentage, by month, of telephone calls to the department's call center that are terminated by a caller prior to the caller's speaking to a person, not including an interactive voice response system. [PL 2019, c. 485, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2019, c. 485, §1 (NEW).]

3. Measuring the effect of department initiatives to improve child and family economic security; report. The department shall examine and use the data related to program measures compiled pursuant to subsection 2 and consider how department programming can contribute to improvements in child and family economic security, including increased ability to meet basic needs, improved educational levels and increased incomes. Beginning January 15, 2021, and annually thereafter, the department shall present the data collected pursuant to subsection 2 along with an assessment of how these measures can be improved through department programming to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters for the committee's review. The department shall also identify any obstacles to improving the economic security for children, families and individuals and make recommendations for addressing those obstacles, which may include improved coordination between agencies of State Government. The committee's review must include the opportunity for public comment on the department's presentation and the committee may introduce any legislation that it considers necessary to address barriers faced by the department in improving economic security for children, families and individuals in this State. [PL 2019, c. 485, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2019, c. 485, §1 (NEW).