

December 6, 2013

Patrick O'Donnell, Clerk of the Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 2018  
P.O. Box 94604  
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Mr. O'Donnell,

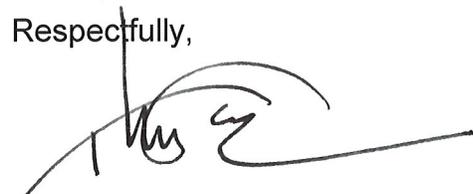
Nebraska Revised Statute 43-517 requires the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to report annually to the Legislature information regarding the number of Employment First participants who are, or who have been engaged in an Associate's Degree educational program the past year, the graduation rates of participants, the number of participants making satisfactory progress in their educational pursuits and the length of time these individuals participate in education.

The report also includes the monthly earnings educational level attained and employment status of these participants at six and twelve months after terminating participation. The final information requested is a summary of activities performed by the Department to promote postsecondary educational opportunities to participants in the Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) program.

The report is attached.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 402-471-1878.

Respectfully,



Thomas D. Pristow, MSW, ACSW, Director  
Division of Children and Family Services  
Department of Health and Human Services

**Nebraska Revised Statute 43-517  
Report to the Legislature**

**Associate's Degree Information – October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013**

<b>Month</b>	<b># of Participants Pursuing an Associate's Degree</b>	<b># of Participants Making Satisfactory Progress</b>	<b>Average # of Months in Vocational Training</b>	<b># Participants Who Graduated This Month</b>
10/12	376	359	7.85	3
11/12	403	387	8.04	2
12/12	358	352	8.74	13
01/13	333	318	7.76	2
02/13	360	348	8.42	5
03/13	334	307	9.02	9
04/13	328	314	8.18	10
05/13	318	303	8.91	10
06/13	245	233	8.07	6
07/13	196	187	6.2	4
08/13	235	224	5.7	1
09/13	295	286	5.57	3

**Employment Information – October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013**

Data for 12 months of employment retention was not available until August 2013, which is the first month DHHS was able to capture the information.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Average Hourly Earnings</b>	<b>Employed Six Months</b>	<b>Employed Twelve Months</b>
10/12	\$10.98	142	*
11/12	\$11.40	158	*
12/12	\$10.88	121	*
01/13	\$11.48	131	*
02/13	\$11.70	165	*
03/13	\$11.90	139	*
04/13	\$11.74	91	*
05/13	\$11.98	106	*
06/13	\$11.42	93	*
07/13	\$12.17	76	*
08/13	\$12.38	90	165
09/13	\$11.28	126	217

**Education Level on Employment – October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013**

Information on Educational Level Attained is provided beginning February 2013 through April 2013.

Month	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	12 Grade	Certificate or Diploma	Associates Degree	Bachelor's Degree
02/13	7	77	14	14	3
03/13	6	82	10	15	4
04/13	15	110	13	20	1

**Summary of Activities – Promoting Post-Secondary Education**

On entry into Employment First, participants are assessed to determine their current educational levels, their career interests, as well as any barriers they may have to attain economic self-sufficiency. Following the assessment, case managers discuss with the participant activities they may engage to reach their ultimate career goal. When the participant's goal requires additional training or education, it is encouraged by the case manager and included as a work activity on the participant's plan.