

Parents As Scholars

State Fiscal Year 2015

Legislative Report

History:

During the 2011 Legislative session, Senate Bill 385 created the *Parents As Scholars* Program (PAS). This bill allows select cash recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to attend an approved vocational/educational program for a period of time that is longer than the allowable limit under Federal Regulation (45 CFR 261.33). This bill supports TANF cash recipients in the full-time pursuit of education, with attendance in High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) certificates, associate's degree, or baccalaureate degree programs. PAS participation is limited, with 25 statewide slots available. Slots are awarded through a regional lottery with five regions established based on proportionate TANF caseloads. As participants complete their education or lose eligibility for TANF, openings occur. The participants attend a variety of schools in a variety of programs. Some students are studying for their Hi-Set diploma, while others are attending trade schools, tribal colleges or a component of the Montana University System.

SFY 2015 Outcomes:

- **41** individuals benefited from the PAS program in SFY 2015
- **16** individuals graduated from their education placement
 - **3** – HiSET
 - **8** – Certificate
 - **2** – Associate Degrees
 - **3** – Bachelor Degree
- **10** individuals closed their TANF cases due to earned income
- **3** individuals closed their TANF cash voluntarily
- **1** individual closed due to non-compliance

M.M. is a single mother of one. She exhausted her vocational months and applied for the Parents as Scholars program. After receiving a PAS slot, she was able to continue participating in an average of 18 credits per semester and graduated from MSU-Northern in May of 2015 with her bachelors in Diesel Technology. M.M. is now working for Kiewit Equipment Group as an Equipment Engineer in Englewood Colorado. In October she will be eligible for full medical benefits for herself and her dependent through her employer.

Overview SFY 2012-2015:

SFY 2012		SYF 2013		SYF 2014		SFY 2015	
Enrolled	42	Enrolled	35	Enrolled	36	Enrolled	41
Single Parent	40	Single Parent	33	Single Parent	32	Single Parent	37
Two Parent	2	Two Parent	2	Two Parent	4	Two Parent	4
Average # Children	2	Average # Children	2	Average # Children	2	Average # Children	2
Closed due to Employment	3	Closed due to Employment	8	Closed due to Employment	5	Closed due to Employment	10
Graduated	13	Graduated	6	Graduated	6	Graduated	16
Certificates:		Certificates:		Diploma:		Diploma:	
Cosmetology	3	Cosmetology	3	GED	1	HiSET	3
Dental Assistant	1	Associates:		Certificate:		Certificate:	
Associates:		Medical Office Specialist	1	Cosmetology	1	Cosmetology	8
Paralegal	1	Bachelors:		Associates:		Associates:	
Nursing	2	Community Health	1	Dental Hygiene	1	Mental Health Direct Care	1
Business	2	Electrical Engineering	1	Dental Assistant	1	Information Technology	1
Medical Assisting	2			Business	1	Bachelors:	
Mental Health Direct Care	1			Bachelors:		Mechanics	1
Bachelors:				Nursing	1	Nursing	1
Photography	1					Psychology	1

Success Stories:

Single mother of one child. She attended MSU Bozeman and was enrolled in the accelerated nursing program. While on TANF cash assistance, she exhausted her vocational months by attending classes and clinicals. She enrolled in the Parents as Scholars program in February 2014. During school, she obtained employment as a Certified Nursing Assistant. She graduated in August 2014, obtained her Registered Nurse license in September 2014, and now works full-time as a Registered Nurse.

A.Y. was enrolled in the nursing program through City College and was studying to earn her Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) certificate. She earned her LPN certificate in July 2014 and gained full time employment at the Billings Clinic earning \$20/hour. A.Y. is currently working towards earning her Registered Nurse degree to advance her career with Billings Clinic.