

CHAPTER VI: USE OF CHILD CARE AND OTHER SERVICES

This chapter presents findings on the use of child care and other services by respondents who were still off Work First at the time of the survey interview. The services examined in this chapter are designed to help families remain self-sufficient. The chapter also presents findings on anticipated needs for services among respondents in the future.

A. USE OF CHILD CARE

Respondents were asked whether they used child care, the type of child care used, whether they paid for the child care, and whether they received help in paying for child care. Respondents who did not use child care were asked their reasons for not using child care. The major findings in this section are as follows:

Percent Using Child Care

- Almost 60 percent of respondents with children under 18 reported that they used paid or unpaid child care (Exhibit VI-1). The percentage was highest in County B (62.0 percent) and lowest in County F (56.5 percent), County A (58.6 percent), and County C (58.9 percent).

Reasons for Not Using Child Care

- As shown in Exhibit VI-2, almost half (47.2 percent) of the respondents who were not using child care indicated that the reason for not using child care was that they were not working. Almost 37 percent of those not using child care said that their children were old enough to look after themselves. Another 6 percent indicated that their children were in school while the parent was working.
- An additional 4.8 percent stated that they could not afford child care and 1.9 percent said they could not find a provider who met their needs or whom they could trust.

**EXHIBIT VI-1
PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18 USING
CHILD CARE, BY COUNTY**

County A	County B	County C	County D	County E	County F	Total
58.6%	62.0%	58.9%	60.2%	59.6%	56.5%	59.7%

**EXHIBIT VI-2
RESPONDENTS WHO WERE NOT USING CHILD CARE --**

REASONS FOR NOT USING CHILD CARE

Reason for Not Using Child Care	Percent*
Not working	47.2%
Children old enough to look after themselves	36.6%
Children in school while I work	6.0%
Can't afford to pay for child care	4.8%
Child's other parent or sibling cares for him/her	3.0%
Work at home or take children to work	2.6%
Can't find child care provider that meets my needs/I trust	1.9%
Attending school or job training	0.9%
Other	2.6%

* Percentages do not add to 100% because more than one answer was allowed

Type of Child Care Used

- Exhibit VI-3 shows that 74.9 percent of respondents who were using child care were paying for the child care. The percentage was highest in County A and County B and lowest in County F.
- Child care centers accounted for 38.9 percent of the child care being used. Respondents in County A and County B made the most use of child care centers (43.6 percent).
- After child care centers, the next most common type of child care was a paid relative or other person not in the respondent's home (21.4 percent of the respondents who used child care).
- The next most common type of child care was an unpaid relative or other person in the respondent's home.
- Respondents in County C were more likely to be using before- and after-school programs than respondents in other counties (12.3 percent).

**EXHIBIT VI-3
RESPONDENTS USING CHILD CARE --
TYPE OF CHILD CARE USED, BY COUNTY**

TYPE	County A	County B	County C	County D	County E	County F	Total
<i>Paid Care</i>							
Child care center	42.9%	43.6%	35.5%	36.2%	36.4%	35.9%	38.9%
Relative/other not in home	26.0%	17.9%	23.2%	20.6%	20.6%	17.9%	21.4%
Before/after school	3.2%	7.8%	12.3%	2.8%	8.5%	7.7%	7.1%
Family child care home	3.9%	2.8%	4.5%	5.0%	2.4%	0.0%	3.5%
Relative/other living in home	1.9%	1.7%	2.6%	5.7%	3.0%	5.1%	3.0%
Church	0.6%	2.2%	0.6%	0.7%	0.6%	0.0%	1.0%
TOTAL PAID	78.5%	76.0%	78.7%	71.0%	71.5%	66.6%	74.9%
<i>Unpaid Care</i>							
Relative/other not in home	14.3%	14.0%	12.3%	16.3%	19.4%	20.5%	15.5%
Relative/other living in home	5.8%	8.9%	8.4%	9.9%	6.7%	12.8%	8.2%
Head Start	1.3%	1.1%	.6%	2.8%	2.4%	0.0%	1.6%
TOTAL UNPAID	21.4%	24.0%	21.3%	29.0%	28.5%	33.3%	25.3%

Type of Child Care Used, by Age of the Youngest Child

- Exhibit VI-4 shows the type of child care used by respondents, by the age of the youngest child.
- The data show that respondents whose youngest child was aged 0-5 were much more likely to use a child care center (48.1 percent) than respondents whose youngest child was 6 or older (8.3 percent).
- Largely as a result of this, respondents whose youngest child was aged 0-5 were also much more likely to use paid child care (78.1 percent) than respondents whose youngest child was aged 6 or older (63.8 percent).
- As expected, respondents with older children were much more likely to use before and after school programs (24.5 percent) than respondents with younger children.
- Respondents with older children were also much more likely to use unpaid friends or relatives (36.2 percent) than respondents with children aged 0-5 (20.0 percent).
- The data in Exhibit VI-4 confirm that child care costs can typically be much higher if families have pre-school children.

**EXHIBIT VI-3
TYPE OF CHILD CARE USED, BY AGE
OF THE YOUNGEST CHILD**

TYPE	Age of Child	
	0-5 years	6+ years
<i>Paid Care</i>		
Child care center	48.1%	8.3%

Relative/other not in home	20.8%	23.3%
Before/after school	1.9%	24.5%
Family child care home	3.4%	3.6%
Relative/other living in home	3.1%	2.6%
Church	0.8%	1.6%
TOTAL PAID	78.1%	63.8%
<i>Unpaid Care</i>		
Relative/other not in home	13.1%	23.3%
Relative/other living in home	6.9%	12.9%
Head Start	1.9%	0.0%
TOTAL UNPAID	21.9%	36.2%

Assistance in Paying for Child Care

- Of the respondents who reported that they used paid child care, 52.8 percent said that they were receiving assistance from the county in paying for child care (Exhibit VI-5). The percentage was highest in County C (55.6 percent) and County B (55.2 percent), and lowest in County D (47.6 percent) and County E (51.7 percent).

**EXHIBIT VI-5
RESPONDENTS USING PAID CHILD CARE – PERCENT RECEIVING
HELP FROM THE COUNTY**

County A	County B	County C	County D	County E	County F	Total
52.8%	55.2%	55.6%	47.6%	51.7%	53.8%	52.8%

- As shown in Exhibit VI-6, those receiving help from the county in paying for child care were more somewhat more likely to have attended college (56.0 percent).
- Blacks were more likely than whites to be receiving help from the county if they were paying for child care.
- Younger respondents who were paying for child care were more likely to be receiving help than older respondents.
- Respondents who were earning between \$400 and \$800 a month were less likely to be receiving help than persons earning more per month.
- Persons who were not living with another adult were more likely to be receiving help paying for care than other respondents.

- Persons who left welfare for reasons unrelated to a job were somewhat less likely to be receiving help with their child care payments.

**EXHIBIT VI-5
RESPONDENTS USING PAID CHILD CARE – PERCENT
RECEIVING HELP FROM THE COUNTY, BY SELECTED
CHARACTERISTICS**

Characteristic	Percent
<i>Education</i>	
Did not complete high school or GED	47.4%
Completed high school or GED only	54.0%
Attended college	56.0%
<i>Ethnicity</i>	
Black	56.0%
White	45.0%
<i>Age</i>	
18-24	54.2%
25-29	54.5%
30-34	50.8%
35-39	51.0%
40+	45.9%
<i>Monthly Earnings</i>	
\$1-\$400	57.1%
\$401-\$800	42.9%
\$801-\$1,200	57.1%
\$1,201-\$1,600	58.1%
\$1,601+	50.0%
<i>Presence of Other Adults</i>	
No other adults	56.5%
One or more other adults	45.0%
<i>Reason Left Welfare</i>	
Found job/returned to work	56.6%
Got a higher paying job/more hours	53.4%
Other	44.4%

Reasons for Not Getting Help With Child Care Payments

- Among respondents who were using paid child care but were not getting help with the payments, Exhibit VI-7 shows the reasons given for not getting help. (Data are not provided for County F because of the small number of respondents who were using paid child care and not receiving help. However, the data for County F are reflected in the total column).
- Almost 27 percent of these respondents reported that they did not know they could get help or did not know how to apply. The percentage was highest in County A at 30.5 percent.

- About 20 percent of the persons who were using paid child care but not getting help indicated that they had applied but been found ineligible. The percentage was highest in County B (27.9 percent).
- About 8 percent of the respondents reported that they were on a waiting list for subsidized child care. For respondents paying for care and not getting help, County B had the highest percentage on a waiting list (21.3 percent), followed by County C (10.9 percent).
- About 7.7 percent of respondents reported that they had not gotten around to applying. Another 7.4 percent did not want to deal with the county's requirements, 6.0 percent indicated that they did not want or need help.

**EXHIBIT VI-7
RESPONDENTS WHO WERE USING PAID CHILD CARE BUT NOT
GETTING HELP FROM THE COUNTY -- REASONS FOR NOT
GETTING HELP**

REASON	County A	County B	County C	County D	County E	Total
Didn't know could get help/didn't know how to apply	30.5%	19.7%	23.6%	31.5%	29.3%	26.8%
Applied but did not qualify	18.6%	27.9%	20.0%	16.7%	17.2%	20.1%
Waiting for a response/on waiting list	3.4%	21.3%	10.9%	3.7%	1.7%	8.0%
Planning to apply but haven't taken the necessary steps	11.9%	1.6%	3.6%	9.3%	12.1%	7.7%

Didn't want to deal with county's requirements	5.1%	6.6%	9.1%	5.6%	8.6%	7.4%
Don't need/don't want help	8.5%	1.6%	9.1%	7.4%	5.2%	6.0%
Provider I want to use is not licensed	1.7%	0.0%	5.5%	1.9%	6.9%	3.3%
Provider didn't want to deal with county's requirements	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	3.7%	8.6%	3.0%
Didn't want to use day care center/problem with provider	3.4%	1.6%	1.8%	5.6%	3.4%	3.0%
County said it did not have funding	0.0%	1.6%	0.0%	5.6%	0.0%	1.3%
Got help from another source	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	1.9%	1.7%	1.0%

- Among respondents who were using paid child care and not getting help from the county, Exhibit VI-8 shows the percentage who did not know that they could get help, by selected characteristics.
- The data indicate that blacks were somewhat more likely than whites to cite lack of knowledge of child care assistance as the reason for not getting help.
- Persons with higher earnings were more likely to indicate lack of knowledge of child care assistance as the reason for not getting help.

**EXHIBIT VI-8
RESPONDENTS WHO WERE USING PAID CHILD CARE
AND NOT GETTING HELP – PERCENT WHO DID
NOT KNOW THEY COULD GET HELP**

Characteristic	Percent
<i>Education</i>	
Did not complete high school or GED	28.9%
Completed high school or GED only	25.9%
Attended college	26.1%
<i>Ethnicity</i>	
Black	31.5%
White	21.0%
<i>Monthly Earnings</i>	
\$1-\$400	33.3%
\$401-\$800	37.5%
\$801-\$1,200	21.4%
\$1,201-\$1,600	27.5%
\$1,601+	14.0%
<i>Age</i>	
18-24	22.4%
25-29	21.6%
30-34	44.8%
35-39	20.8%
40+	30.0%
<i>Reason Left Welfare</i>	
Found job/returned to work	29.7%
Got a higher paying job/more hours	14.3%
Other	23.5%

Costs of Child Care

- The median out-of-pocket costs for child care among respondents paying for care were \$128.00 per month (Exhibit VI-9). The highest median monthly costs were in County A (\$140) and County E (\$132) and the lowest cost was in County C (\$109).
- About 26 percent of respondents reported paying more than \$200 per month for child care. The percentage was highest in County A (30.9 percent).

EXHIBIT VI-9
RESPONDENT'S MONTHLY COST OF CHILD CARE, BY COUNTY

	County A	County B	County C	County D	County E	County F	Total
\$1 to \$50	3.6%	4.1%	5.9%	4.5%	10.8%	4.5%	5.7%
\$51 to \$100	26.4%	28.7%	28.4%	25.8%	14.7%	40.9%	25.6%
\$101 to \$150	25.5%	30.3%	30.4%	30.3%	30.4%	22.7%	29.1%
\$151 to \$200	13.6%	12.3%	12.7%	14.6%	15.7%	9.1%	13.5%
\$201+	30.9%	24.6%	22.5%	24.7%	28.4%	22.7%	26.1%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
MEDIAN	\$140.00	\$129.90	\$109.00	\$126.00	\$132.00	\$113.13	\$128.00

B. RECEIPT OF JOB TRAINING, EDUCATION, PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE AND OTHER SERVICES SINCE LEAVING WORK FIRST

This section presents survey findings on the respondents' use of services such as job training, education, job placement, and other "self-sufficiency" services since leaving Work First. The major findings in this section are as follows:

- As shown in Exhibit VI-10, about 20 percent of respondents reported that they had received job training or education since leaving Work First. Another 8.1 percent had received job placement assistance and 7.7 percent had received assistance with transportation, including 14 percent of respondents in County F.
- Very few respondents had received mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, or domestic violence assistance.
- As indicated in Exhibit VI-11, persons who were not currently working were somewhat more likely than employed respondents to have received help with job placement, transportation, and mental health counseling. Employed respondents were slightly more likely to have received help with job training or education.
- Data in Exhibit VI-12 show that 39.6 percent of the respondents who received job training or education received that service from a community or technical college or university. The next most frequent job training provider was an employer (29.0 percent).

EXHIBIT VI-10

PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS WHO HAD RECEIVED DIFFERENT SERVICES SINCE LEAVING WORK FIRST, BY COUNTY

SERVICE	County A	County B	County C	County D	County E	County F	Total
Job training or education	19.6%	20.5%	19.4%	19.2%	20.3%	23.9%	20.0%
Job placement assistance	8.0%	7.8%	5.4%	8.2%	10.8%	9.9%	8.1%
Transportation assistance	6.5%	9.1%	5.4%	6.5%	8.7%	14.1%	7.7%
Mental health counseling	4.3%	4.2%	4.3%	4.1%	5.2%	4.2%	4.4%
Vocational rehabilitation	2.9%	3.9%	3.2%	2.9%	2.4%	1.4%	3.0%
Substance abuse treatment	2.9%	2.9%	2.2%	2.9%	1.0%	1.4%	2.3%
Domestic violence assistance	1.4%	2.0%	3.2%	1.6%	1.4%	1.4%	1.9%

*Percentages do not add to 100% because more than one answer was allowed.

**EXHIBIT VI-11
PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS RECEIVING SERVICES SINCE LEAVING WORK FIRST, BY CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

Service	Currently Working	Not Working
Job training or education	20.9%	18.1%
Job placement assistance	7.3%	10.0%
Transportation assistance	6.9%	9.3%
Vocational rehabilitation	2.3%	4.6%
Substance abuse treatment	2.2%	2.7%
Domestic violence assistance	2.0%	1.8%
Mental health counseling	3.5%	6.6%

**EXHIBIT VI-12
ENTITIES PROVIDING JOB TRAINING OR EDUCATION TO RESPONDENTS**

Entity	Percent
Community/technical college or university	39.6%
Employer	29.0%
County agency	9.9%
Training provider	5.8%
Employment Security Commission	1.7%
Community Based Organization	3.4%
Other	10.6%

- Among respondents who had received job training or education, Exhibit VI-13 shows that the most common type of activity was occupational skills training

(58.4 percent), followed by a course at a community college or university (28.0 percent), and GED instruction or high school completion (9.9 percent).

- Exhibit VI-13 shows that among respondents who were unemployed, job placement assistance had been received more often by blacks than by whites, by persons over 30, and by persons who were currently looking for work.

**EXHIBIT VI-13
TYPE OF JOB TRAINING OR EDUCATION RECEIVED BY
RESPONDENTS SINCE LEAVING WORK FIRST**

Type	Percent
GED instruction or high school diploma	9.9%
Occupational skills training	58.4%
Course at community college or university	28.0%
Other	7.2%
Total	100.0%

**EXHIBIT VI-14
PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED RESPONDENTS WHO HAD
RECEIVED JOB PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE SINCE LEAVING
WORK FIRST, BY SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS**

Characteristics	Percent
<i>Education</i>	
Did not complete high school or GED	8.0%
Completed high school or GED only	11.0%
Attended college	12.1%
<i>Ethnicity</i>	
Black	12.9%
White	5.8%
<i>Age</i>	
18-24	8.9%
25-29	7.7%
30-34	12.6%
35-39	9.3%
40+	13.1%
<i>Job Search Status</i>	
Currently looking for work	12.8%
Not looking for work	4.6%

C. ANTICIPATED NEEDS FOR SERVICES IN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS

This section provides data on the types of services that respondents felt they would need in the next six months. It should be noted that respondents were in many cases already getting

the assistance they identified and were simply indicating that they wished to continue receiving this type of assistance. The major findings in this section are as follows:

- As indicated in Exhibit VI-15, assistance with child support was the service that respondents most often felt they would need in the next six months (55.1 percent). This was true across all of the counties.
- Child care assistance was the next most common identified service need (50.1 percent of respondents).
- Almost 44 percent saw a need for continued job training or education. This could include continued training by an employer. The percentage was highest in County B (49.0 percent) and County A (48.2 percent) and lowest in County C (36.3 percent).
- Housing assistance was identified by 43 percent of respondents, although this includes persons who were already getting help with rent subsidies or other low-cost housing. In County A and County B, about half of the respondents saw a need for housing assistance.
- About 26 percent of respondents saw a need for transportation assistance, including almost a third of respondents in County B.
- More than 20 percent anticipated a need for help in family budgeting.
- Almost 10 percent saw a need for mental health counseling, but very few respondents cited a need for domestic violence counseling or substance abuse treatment.
- As indicated in Exhibit VI-16, persons who were not currently working were much more likely than employed persons to see a need for job counseling or job search but were only somewhat more likely to see a need for job training or education.
- Unemployed respondents were more likely to see a need for emergency food or clothing and for transportation assistance in the next six months.
- Unemployed respondents were also somewhat more likely than employed respondents to see a need for mental health counseling.

**EXHIBIT VI-15
PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS ANTICIPATING SPECIFIC
SERVICE NEEDS IN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS, BY COUNTY**

Service	County A	County B	County C	County D	County E	County F	Total
Child support assistance	54.0%	57.5%	50.7%	58.8%	54.6%	54.9%	55.1%

Child care assistance	54.0%	52.6%	50.4%	49.8%	44.7%	46.5%	50.1%
Job training or education	48.2%	49.0%	36.3%	38.4%	44.7%	43.7%	43.6%
Housing assistance	50.4%	51.6%	38.5%	40.4%	34.9%	33.8%	42.9%
Emergency food or clothing	38.4%	37.6%	20.9%	31.8%	32.0%	35.2%	32.4%
Job counseling or job search	34.8%	35.0%	23.7%	25.3%	32.4%	32.4%	30.5%
Transportation assistance	33.7%	32.4%	16.9%	18.0%	29.2%	29.6%	26.5%
Budgeting assistance	23.9%	27.8%	16.5%	21.6%	20.1%	23.9%	22.2%
Mental health counseling	9.8%	10.5%	9.0%	12.2%	7.4%	11.3%	9.8%
Domestic violence assistance	0.4%	2.6%	2.5%	2.0%	1.8%	0.0%	1.8%
Substance abuse treatment	1.1%	2.9%	0.7%	1.6%	1.1%	0.0%	1.4%

**EXHIBIT VI-16
PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS ANTICIPATING SERVICE NEEDS IN
THE NEXT SIX MONTHS, BY CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

Service	Currently Working	Not Working
Job counseling or job search	21.2%	51.4%
Job training or education	40.3%	50.8%
Child support assistance	57.0%	50.8%
Child care assistance	50.6%	49.0%
Housing assistance	41.3%	46.3%
Emergency food or clothing	27.9%	42.4%
Transportation assistance	20.9%	39.0%
Budgeting assistance	21.8%	23.1%
Mental health counseling	8.3%	13.1%
Substance abuse treatment	1.3%	1.8%
Domestic violence assistance	1.8%	1.8%