

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the results of a second round of follow-up surveys on the status families who left the Work First program in August 1998 as a result of reaching the 24-month time limit. These families were the very first to leave the program as a result of the time limit.

The first round of surveys was administered by MAXIMUS between December 1998 and March 1999, about 4 to 7 months after the families reached the time limit.* In the first round, we were able to complete surveys with 247 (78.4 percent) of the 315 families who left Work First due to time limits in August 1998.

The surveys for the current report were administered between September and December 1999, approximately 13 to 16 months after the families reached the time limits. Under the Evaluation Plan, the second round of surveys was targeted only at the 247 families who were surveyed during the first round. A total of 221 of these families (89.5 percent) were re-surveyed in the second round. The current report presents data for these 221 families. Changes in the status of these families are examined by comparing the results of both rounds of surveys on key outcome measures.

A. REVIEW OF THE MAJOR FINDINGS

The major findings from the report are presented below. In each section, we compare the status of families at the second round of surveys with their status at the first round.

Employment Status

At the second round of surveys, xx percent of the families reported that they were working for pay. This represents an increase compared to the xx percent who were working at round 1.

Earnings

Unemployed Respondents

Other Household Income and Benefits

Other Indicators of Family Well-Being

Child Care Arrangements and Costs

* The results of the first round of surveys were presented in a report entitled "Status of Families Leaving Work First Due to the 24-Month Time Limit," MAXIMUS, May 1999.

Receipt of Services and Anticipated Needs

Comparisons to Life on Welfare

B. ONGOING SURVEYS

Under the current evaluation design, no future follow-up surveys are planned for the 315 families who were the first to leave the Work First program in August 1998. However, MAXIMUS is conducting ongoing surveys of a larger group of families who have left Work First for any reason. These follow-up surveys are currently focusing on about 1,900 families who left Work First in eight counties between December 1998 and April 1999. A report on these families is expected to be issued in April 2000. MAXIMUS is also conducting follow-up surveys of families who accepted lump-sum payments under the Work First Diversion Assistance program. An initial report on 317 families who accepted diversion assistance was submitted to DHHS in January 2000