

# Legislative Report



TO: Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee  
FROM: Gene Hermanson, Administrator  
Human & Community Services Division  
DATE: August 1, 2022  
SUBJECT: TANF Parents as Scholars SFY 2022 Report

## **Overview:**

During the 2011 Legislative session, Senate Bill 385 created the Parents as Scholars Program (PAS) and is codified in 53-4-209, MCA. This statute allows select cash recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to attend an approved vocational/educational program for a period that is longer than the allowable 12-month time limit under Federal Regulation (45 CFR 261.33). This supports TANF cash recipients in the full-time pursuit of education, with attendance in High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) certificates, associate degree, or baccalaureate degree programs.

## **SFY 2022 Outcomes:**

- Nine individuals benefited from the PAS program in SFY 2022
  - Eight Single parents
  - One Two-parent
- Average number of children: 2
- Three individuals completed their education goal through TANF
  - Associates: Human Services (1)
  - Bachelors: Social Work (2)
- Two individuals are continuing in the program
- Four individuals did not complete their educational goal through PAS
  - Sanction/failure to comply (1)
  - Gained employment, closed TANF (1)
  - Case closed due to no TANF redetermination (2)

## **Success Stories:**

### ***Bridgette Langley***

Graduating with my bachelors degree was always a dream of mine that didn't seem possible. On May 14th 2022 I walked across the stage at the University of Montana and was awarded my bachelors degree in social work. The past three years of hard work, sleepless nights, and endless homework had paid off. Not only did I graduate in three years, but I graduated summa cum laude and was awarded the President's Outstanding Student Award.

Without the support of Parents as Scholars, it would have been almost impossible to graduate, let alone graduate with honors and awards. I believe that this program should be expanded as I know that the only way out of poverty is through education. In the fall, I will begin my social work graduate program in Organizational Leadership at the University of Montana where I will

focus my education on restorative justice, criminal justice reformation and substance use disorders.

**JanTeesa Fisher**

Parents as Scholars was extremely beneficial for me because it allowed me more time to focus on school. I had extra hours to study for weekly exams, midterms, and finals. Although I only got approved for a few months it really did make an impact on my schedule. From being a fulltime mom, student and intern it got really difficult to make time for studying and homework.

This is such a blessing and great program to be under while in school. It allowed full-time students who are parents to be able to go to school and still get hours. Especially single parents, this helped me by opening up my schedule to study and work towards receiving my bachelor’s degree in social work.

Now that I have graduated and earned my BSW, the real work has begun. I’ve been applying for different social service jobs around the area. Preferably one that will meet criteria for my graduate program practicum hours. But I’m still open to any job that is brought to my attention.

**Parents as Scholars Overview SFY 2014-2022:**

SYF 2014		SFY 2015		SFY 2016	
<b>Enrolled</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>Enrolled</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>Enrolled</b>	<b>47</b>
Single Parent	32	Single Parent	37	Single Parent	41
Two Parent	4	Two Parent	4	Two Parent	6
Average # Children	2	Average # Children	2	Average # Children	2
<b>Closed due to Employment</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Closed due to Employment</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Closed due to Employment</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Graduated</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Graduated</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Graduated</b>	<b>14</b>
Diploma:		Diploma:		Diploma:	
GED	1	HI SET	3	HI SET	4
Certificate:		Certificate:		Certificate:	
Cosmetology	1	Cosmetology	8	Cosmetology	6
Associates:		Associates:		Associates:	
Dental Hygiene	1	Mental Health Direct Care	1	Nursing	1
Dental Assistant	1	Information Technology	1	Bachelors:	
Business	1	Bachelors:		Accounting	1
Bachelors:		Mechanics	1	Biology	1
Nursing	1	Nursing	1	Management Info Systems	1
		Psychology	1		

SFY 2017		SYF 2018		SYF 2019	
<b>Enrolled</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>Enrolled</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>Enrolled</b>	<b>32</b>
Single Parent	34	Single Parent	31	Single Parent	31
Two Parent	8	Two Parent	4	Two Parent	1
Average # Children	2	Average # Children	2	Average # Children	2
<b>Closed due to Employment</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Closed due to Employment</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Closed due to Employment</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Graduated</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Graduated</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Graduated</b>	<b>16</b>
Diploma:		Certificate:		Certificates:	
HI SET	3	Cosmetology	1	Cosmetology	4
Certificate:		Associates:		Licensed Practical Nurse	1
Cosmetology	1	Business Management	1	Associates:	
Diesel Technology	1	Bachelors:		Accounting	1
Bachelors:		Education	3	General Studies	2
Education	1			Nursing & Pre-Nursing	2
Nursing	1			Social Work	1
Psychology	1			Bachelors:	
English	1			Crop Science	1
				Electrical Engineering	1
				Human Services	1
				Elementary & early childhood education	2
SYF 2020		SYF 2021		SYF 2022	
<b>Enrolled</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Enrolled</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Enrolled</b>	<b>9</b>
Single Parent	18	Single Parent	9	Single Parent	8
Two Parent	3	Two Parent	1	Two Parent	1
Average # Children	2	Average # Children	2	Average # Children	2
<b>Closed due to Employment</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Closed due to Employment</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Closed due to Employment</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Graduated</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Graduated</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Graduated</b>	<b>3</b>
Certificates:		Certificates:		Certificates:	
Cosmetology	2	Cosmetology	2		
Associates:		Associates:		Associates:	
General Studies	2	Dental Hygiene	1	Human Services	1
Nursing (R.N.)	3	Bachelors:		Bachelors:	
Bachelors:		Chemical Dependency	1	Social Work	2
Criminal Justice/P	1	Counseling		Diploma:	
Social Work	1	Diploma:			
Psychology	1	HiSET	1		
Business/Native American Studies	1				