

SB 30 Consolidated Annual Report

State Fiscal Year 2017



October 1, 2017

Required by Senate Bill 30, 75th Legislature

Executive Summary

In 1997, the 75th Legislature passed SB 30, which required several reports on the following programs:

1. Telephone Collection Program

The telephone collections program is required by Texas Human Resources Code Section 22.0252 for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. For FY17, HHSC collected \$1,274,321 from clients identified for telephone call-out campaigns. During the campaign period the agency attempted to contact 251 clients representing \$952,284 in SNAP and TANF delinquencies. Of the attempted contacts 4 repayment agreements totaling \$6,378 were obtained. Additionally, in FY17 the telephone collection program received 27,945 call from clients who had received written notification of payments owed.

2. Information Matching System Relating to Immigrants and Foreign Visitors

HHSC is required under Texas Human Resources Code 22.0292 to conduct matches for immigrants and foreign visitors with the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Justice to prevent and detect fraud in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs. HHSC eligibility determination business processes continue to utilize the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) system. Automated verification through the SAVE system provides information from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and assists the agency in determining the validity of the immigration documents presented and the benefit eligibility of the non-citizen.

3. Data Matching with Neighboring States and TDCJ

Pursuant to Texas Government Code 531.108, HHSC is charged with identifying individuals who are already receiving benefits in another state. The Commission is also required to prevent and detect fraud committed when an incarcerated individual illegally receives public assistance benefits administered by the Commission. HHSC uses the Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS) to cross check Social Security numbers of active Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. In FY17 HHSC identified \$139,217 in benefits simultaneously received by individuals in both Texas and another state. During this same time period, HHSC identified \$995,128 in benefits received by individuals who were ineligible because of incarceration.

Telephone Collection Program

Section 22.0252, Texas Human Resources Code

Statutory Provision

This statute requires the agency to make telephone calls to attempt to collect overpayments in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs. In 1999, the 76th Legislature adopted House Bill 875, which requires the agency to use an automated system to monitor the results of the telephone collections program and provides guidelines for operating that system.

Background

The telephone collections program is one of several collection efforts federal and state law require. The Treasury Offset Program (TOP) and recovery through the reduction of future benefits also are part of those collection efforts. The agency designated modules in the program known as “call-out campaigns” to allow for evaluation, modification, and avoidance of conflicts with other collection efforts. The agency designed and implemented the first call campaign in fiscal year 1998. The TOP and the telephone collections programs are administered by the Accounts Receivable division at HHSC.

Accomplishments

More than \$1.2 million was collected in FY17 from clients identified for telephone call-out campaigns. Multiple collection methods are used, such as incoming calls from clients after they receive written notification or recoveries from the TOP program. In FY17 the telephone collection program received 27,945 calls from clients who had received written notification of payments owed. HHSC prioritizes calls received from clients over calling clients regarding the money they owe.

During the campaign period the agency attempted to contact 251 clients representing \$952,284 in SNAP and TANF delinquencies. Of the attempted contacts 4 repayment agreements (positive inquiry) totaling \$6,378 were obtained.

Telephone collection program

Time frame	Collections - all sources	Attempted Contacts	Delinquent Amount Associated with Attempted Contacts	Repayment Agreements Negotiated	Delinquent Amount Associated with Payment Plans
9/2009-2/2010	\$557,216.58	265	\$220,639.00	63	\$39,472.00
3/2010-8/2010	\$452,009.86	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
9/2010-2/2011	\$388,357.64	1	\$305.00	0	\$0.00
3/2011-8/2011	\$373,309.15	7	\$1,104.00	0	\$0.00
9/2011-2/2012	\$221,971.68	1,009	\$472,148.21	52	\$33,153.00
3/2012-8/2012	\$152,694.05	237	\$148,847.58	67	\$10,058.37
9/2012-2/2013	\$619,181.80	1,004	\$663,992.65	18	\$7,157.00
3/2013-8/2013	\$647,167.05	412	\$470,021.96	27	\$28,539.38
9/2013-8/2014	\$1,516,746.70	466	\$782,748.50	4	\$4,669.00
9/2014-8/2015	\$1,458,482.39	549	\$1,574,529.80	17	\$41,816.00
9/2015-8/2016	\$1,329,276.23	193	\$509,495.99	12	\$34,589.27
9/2016-8/2017	\$1,274,321.99	251	\$952,284.33	4	\$6,378.00
Total	\$8,990,735.12	4,394	\$5,796,117.02	264	\$205,832.02

Information Matching System Relating to Immigrants and Foreign Visitors

Section 22.0292, Texas Human Resources Code

Statutory Provision

This statute requires the agency to conduct matches for immigrants and foreign visitors with the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Justice to prevent and detect fraud in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs. The statute also requires the agency to submit an annual report to the Governor and Legislative Budget Board on the operation and success of the information matching system for immigrants and foreign visitors.

Background

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 required the consular offices of the U.S. Department of State to develop a system designed to determine whether applicants for immigration to the United States were likely to become public charges.

Accomplishments

HHSC eligibility determination business processes continue to utilize the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) system. HHSC has an integrated system and SAVE is used when determining eligibility for SNAP, TANF and Medical programs. Automated verification through the SAVE system provides information from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and assists the agency in determining the validity of the immigration documents presented and the benefit eligibility of the non-citizen.

Data Matching Efforts from HHSC with Information from Neighboring States and Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Section 531.108, Texas Government Code

Statutory Provision

Texas Government Code 531.108 requires HHSC to submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislative Budget Board on the computerized matching of agency information for the Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program with client information from neighboring states and information from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ).

Background

HHSC is charged with identifying individuals who are already receiving benefits in another state. HHSC is also required to prevent and detect fraud committed when an incarcerated individual illegally receives public assistance benefits administered by HHSC.

Since August 2010, HHSC has participated in the Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS) interstate send file. The PARIS interstate match cross checks Social Security numbers of active SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid clients as sent by State Public Assistance Agencies (SPAA) for a predetermined month within the match quarter. If matched, PARIS sends the matched records back to the respective SPAA for review and investigation as appropriate. Although once a year participation is mandatory for Medicaid, the data provided to the program is at the discretion of each SPAA. Not all states participate for each match quarter or for all programs. In Texas, the PARIS match meets the legislative requirement for HHSC to match with border states to identify duplicate benefits.

TDCJ matches are received monthly and reports certified individuals receiving SNAP, TANF or Medicaid that may have been incarcerated at some time during the certification period.

Accomplishments

From September 1, 2016, through August 31, 2017, the agency identified \$139,217 in benefits simultaneously received by individuals in both Texas and another state. During this same time period, the agency identified \$995,128 in benefits received by individuals who were ineligible because of incarceration.

PARIS Interstate Match

Time frame	Match Count	Referrals Created	Investigations Created	Claims Created	Claim Amounts
9/2009-2/2010	*	*	*	*	*
3/2010-8/2010	3,542	90	35	37	\$45,161
9/2010-2/2011	28,756	452	182	137	\$164,888
3/2011-8/2011	27,074	341	151	152	\$163,158
9/2011-2/2012	30,368	217	112	93	\$82,813
3/2012-8/2012	25,634	243	125	131	\$135,203
9/2012-2/2013	28,322	372	86	117	\$128,421
3/2013-8/2013	30,154	443	197	236	\$295,174
9/2013-8/2014	63,775	455	325	384	\$697,290
9/2014-8/2015	118,316	643	188	218	\$338,132
9/2015-8/2016	148,432	507	267	242	\$439,124
9/2016-8/2017	183,781	287	117	63	\$139,217
Total	688,154	4,050	1,785	1,810	\$2,628,581

*PARIS Interstate Matches were implemented effective August 2010

TDCJ Incarceration Match

Time frame	Referrals Created	Investigations Created	Claims Created	Claim Amounts
9/2009-2/2010	445	374	375	\$234,142
3/2010-8/2010	679	579	560	\$364,729
9/2010-2/2011	422	360	357	\$251,007
3/2011-8/2011	1,010	848	832	\$547,003
9/2011-2/2012	621	493	476	\$302,980
3/2012-8/2012	717	546	534	\$533,272
9/2012-2/2013	552	457	463	\$458,241
3/2013-8/2013	428	374	405	\$372,440
9/2013-8/2014	850	683	720	\$761,225
9/2014-8/2015	655	354	388	\$367,928
9/2015-8/2016	815	582	527	\$752,669
9/2016-8/2017	1,024	1,037	769	\$995,128
Total	8,218	6,687	6,406	\$5,940,764