

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Department: Social Services

HB Section(s): 11.155

Program Name: Cash Assistance

Program is found in the following core budget(s): Temporary Assistance

1a. What strategic priority does this program address?

Move families to economic independence

1b. What does this program do?

The Department of Social Services (DSS), Family Support Division (FSD) is providing cash benefits to meet basic needs and a variety of employment opportunities to help low-income Missouri families overcome barriers to self-sufficiency with the assistance of a cash benefit, employment opportunities, and other program resources. FSD determines eligibility for and administers the Temporary Assistance (TA) program providing cash assistance to families based on income and family size for a period not to exceed a lifetime total of 45 months with some exceptions. Prior to being approved for benefits, the applicant must sign a personal responsibility plan, complete an orientation to benefits and requirements, and register on jobs.mo.gov. The state does not extend TA past 45 months unless there is a documented hardship (domestic violence, substance abuse treatment, mental health, or family crisis). Parents/caretakers are exempt from the lifetime limit if they are age 60 and over, or permanently disabled. Missouri extended lifetime limits to 49 months during the COVID-19 pandemic, due to hardships. Any participant who was due to close for meeting the forty five (45) month Lifetime Limit and did not qualify for any exemptions during the months of March, April, May and June 2020 received the Hardship Extension. This extension stopped for households reaching their 45th month effective July 2020.

Applicants who attest to using a controlled substance and refuse treatment or applicants who refuse to complete an attestation stating they do not use controlled substances are not authorized to receive benefits on themselves. However, their child(ren) in the household can receive benefits. In addition, applicants who have a prior felony drug conviction cannot receive benefits for themselves. TA recipients cannot access cash benefits at ATMs in unauthorized locations including liquor stores, gaming establishments, and establishments that provide adult entertainment.

TA recipients are referred to Missouri Work Assistance (MWA) providers for employment and training services, unless they meet a federally defined reason they do not have to participate. The parents/caretakers must comply with the minimum required work participation hours per week. Failure to comply with MWA will result in a 50% reduction in benefits after 10 weeks, and the family no longer receiving benefits after 16 weeks. To receive benefits again following termination, the TA participant has to participate in work activities for the required hours for two consecutive weeks and provide the requested documentation or provide documentation indicating they meet a federally defined reason they do not have to participate in work activities.

TA recipients who earn wages or additional wages after becoming eligible and receiving TA, while on benefits, will have a portion of their income disregarded. TA recipients no longer receiving TA due to increased wages earned from employment will receive a six (6) month transitional benefit of \$50. The disregarded earnings and transitional benefits are intended to help recipients stabilize household incomes.

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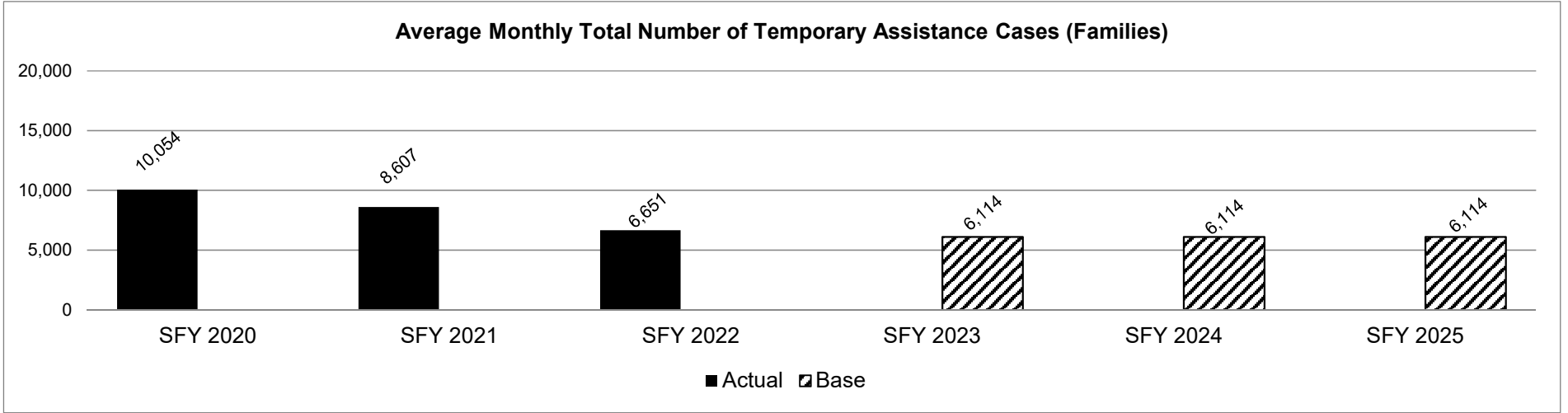
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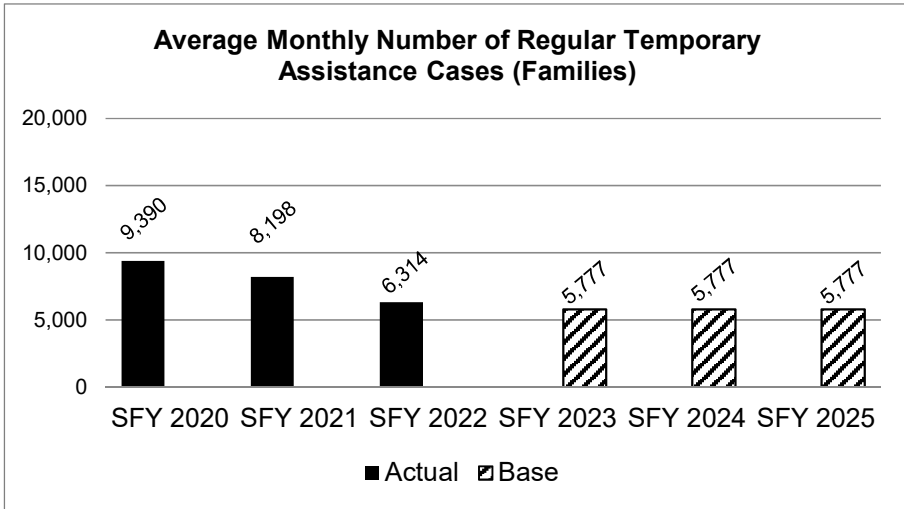
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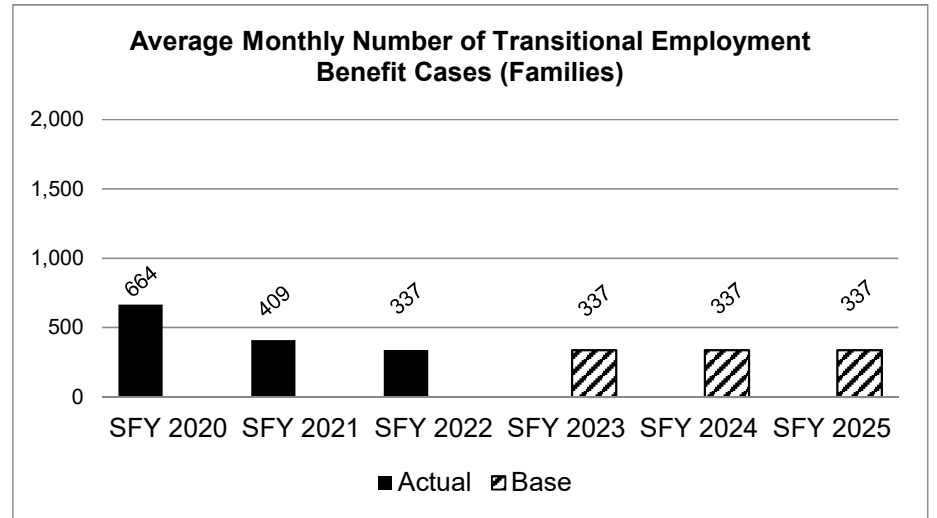
2a. Provide an activity measure(s) for the program.



Projections are based on current caseload numbers.



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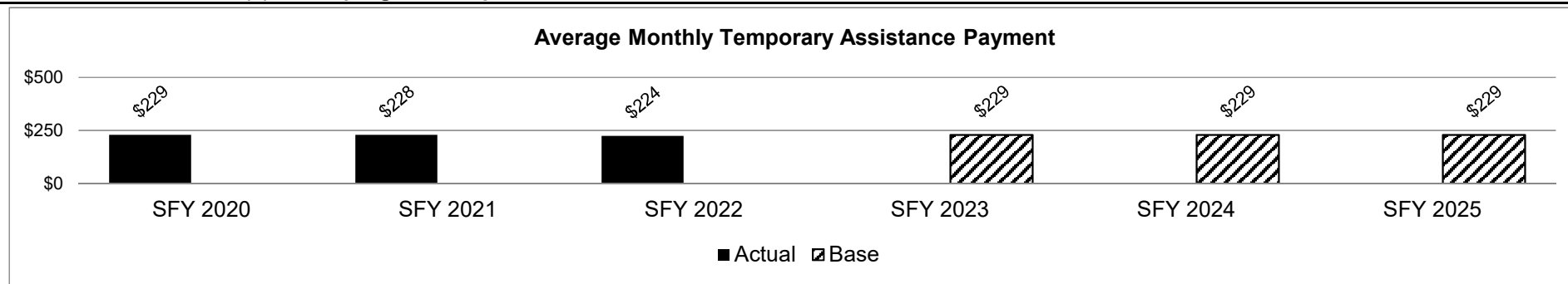
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2b. Provide a measure(s) of the program's quality.

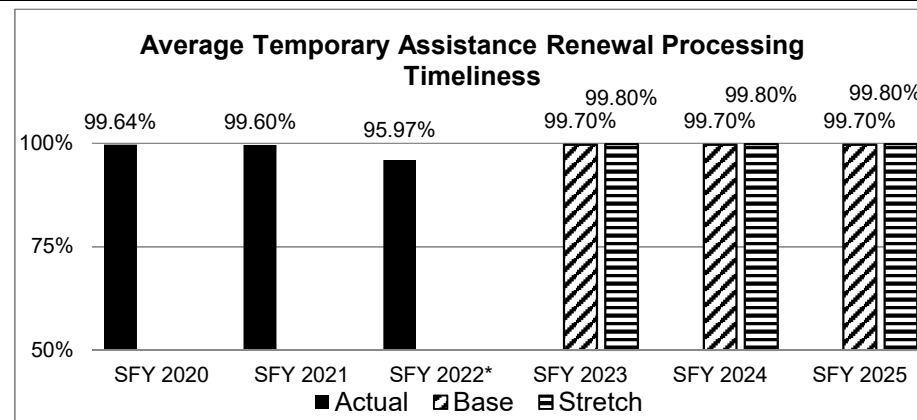
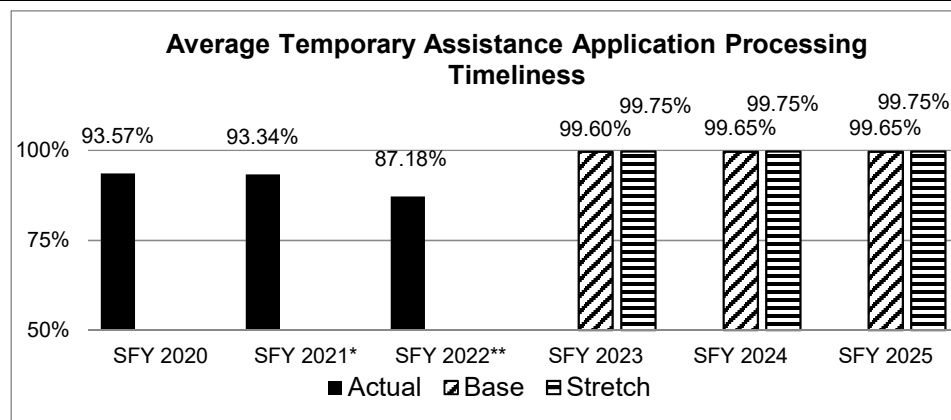
Refer to 2b of the MWA program description HB Section 11.150, as TA-Cash Assistance recipients are referred to MWA unless exempt.

2c. Provide a measure(s) of the program's impact.



Projections are based on current caseload numbers.

2d. Provide a measure(s) of the program's efficiency.



*SFY 2021 data reflect a decrease that occurred as a result of changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**SFY 2022 decline is a result of a transition from a short form application, which required an interview, to a long form now available online as of July 25, 2022.

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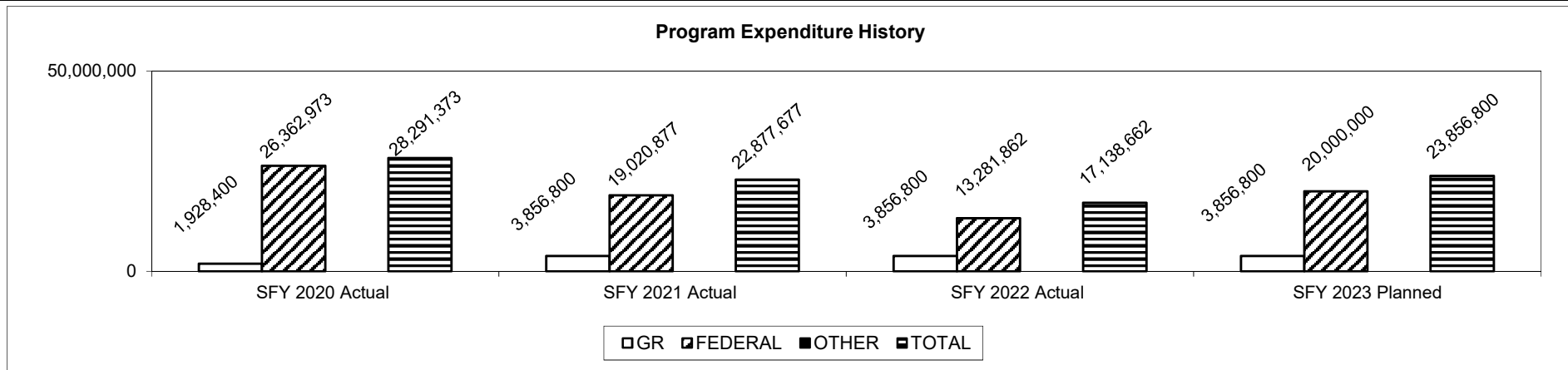
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3. Provide actual expenditures for the prior three fiscal years and planned expenditures for the current fiscal year. (Note: Amounts do not include fringe benefit costs.)



4. What are the sources of the "Other " funds?

N/A

5. What is the authorization for this program, i.e., federal or state statute, etc.? (Include the federal program number, if applicable.)

State statute: Section 208.040, RSMo. Federal law: PL 104-193 and PRWORA of 1996.

6. Are there federal matching requirements? If yes, please explain.

Expenditures for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) are claimed based on program requirements. Expenditures of the TANF block grant are reimbursed at 100% FF, not to exceed the block grant amount. State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) is required to earn the full TANF block grant. Expenditures that meet MOE requirements are used to satisfy the amount required to earn the TANF block grant.

7. Is this a federally mandated program? If yes, please explain.

No.