

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Department: Social Services

HB Section(s): 11.150

Program Name: Community Work Support

Program is found in the following core budget(s): Missouri Work Programs

1a. What strategic priority does this program address?

Coordinate and align work programs to support meaningful, sustainable employment

1b. What does this program do?

Missouri Department of Social Services (DSS) is administering the Missouri Work Assistance (MWA) program funded through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant. The grant funding is awarded through the Office of Administration's bid process and was allocated to Better Family Life (BFL), City of Springfield, Family and Workforce Centers of America, Local Investment Commission (LINC), MERS Goodwill, and Equus. These funds allow Temporary Assistance (TA) recipients the opportunity to receive job readiness, employability skills, short-term training, and wrap-around services to reduce the need for government benefits through family supporting employment. The MWA providers also serve SkillUP recipients.

DSS also administers the SkillUP program funded through TANF to help unemployed and underemployed Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients by providing employment and training opportunities for recipients who are 16-24 years old, or 25 years and older with a child(ren). SkillUP rapidly connects SNAP recipients to employment or better employment with increased wages through short-term training programs and skill building. This program aligns with DSS' mission of empowering Missourians to live safe, healthy, and productive lives. MWA providers also provide SkillUP Services. All SkillUP activity measures are reflected in the SkillUP section.

TANF funds also support Department of Corrections (DOC) Reentry Efforts as the agencies share many recipients who have historically been provided benefits. The current projects include supporting efforts in the Tipton Reentry Center, Kansas City Reentry Center, Community Supervision Centers, purchasing a truck simulator in Southeast Missouri, offering pre-release Microsoft classes and certification and purchasing non-drivers licenses and birth certificates. These projects will continue to expand and be streamlined and will include participant tracking and reporting of outcomes. TANF funds are also being used to support research projects to determine reasons clients are not engaging in employment. This partnership is a benefit to these individuals and their families, taxpayers and communities and is intended to reduce the long-term dependency on government benefits, reduce the overall cost to taxpayers for benefit programs and incarceration, reduce the need for additional correctional facilities, assist with family reunification, reduce intergenerational poverty, and provide safer communities.

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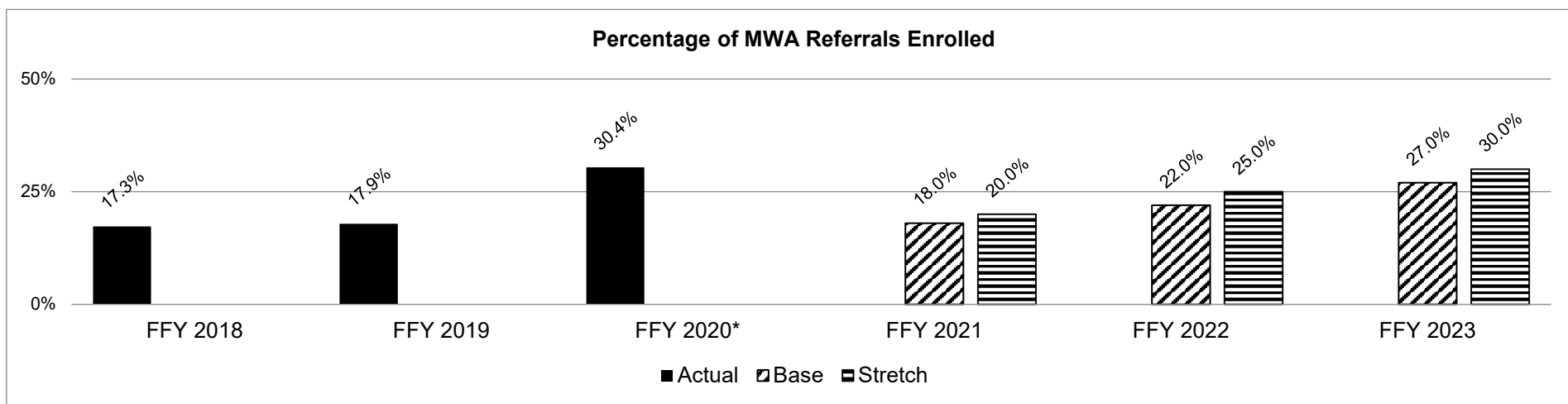
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2a. Provide an activity measure(s) for the program.

TA recipients who are mandatory and voluntary participants are electronically referred to MWA contractors to provide employment and training services. The participant is assessed by addressing participant's goals, strengths, and barriers. Participants must engage in work activities for a required number of hours depending on the household composition, which lead to employment or will no longer receive TA.

If a mandatory participant chooses not to participate in the MWA program for the required hours, there is a 16 week process in which TA benefits are reduced by 50% and then the case is closed for non-cooperation.

Note: The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) requires states to meet a Work Participation Rate (WPR); however, Missouri's required rate is nominal as the caseload continues to decrease. Missouri does not currently focus on the WPR, and instead focuses on the participant's best interest and outcomes. ACF is considering legislative changes to measure outcomes.



Note: The graph was changed from SFY to FFY, prior years changed accordingly.

FFY 2018 and FFY 2020 actual was updated to reflect more accurate data.

*The increase in FFY 2020 enrollments is due to economic, educational, policy and other impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

FFY 2021 data will be available May 2022.

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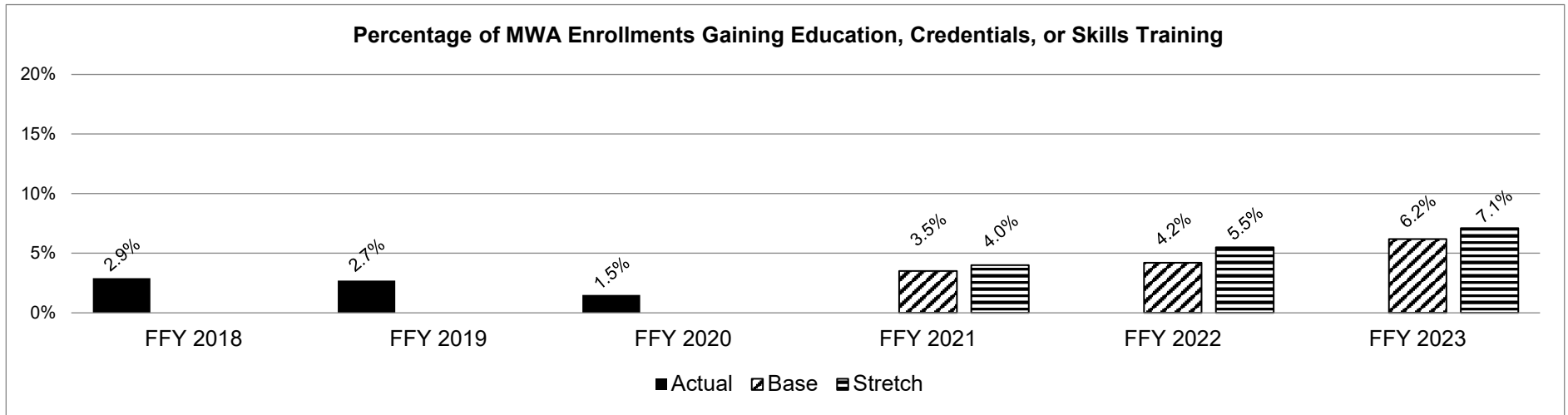
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2b. Provide a measure(s) of the program's quality.



The values of the MWA program are to ensure participants are offered a wide array of personalized services based on an Employability Plan to lead to a family supporting environment.

Note: The graph was changed from SFY to FFY, prior years changed accordingly.

FFY 2018 actual was updated to reflect more accurate data.

FFY 2021 data will be available May 2022.

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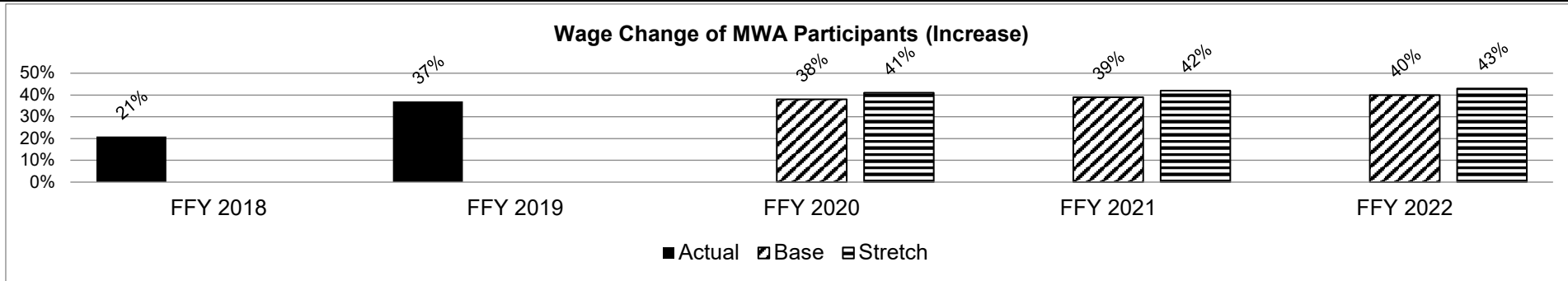
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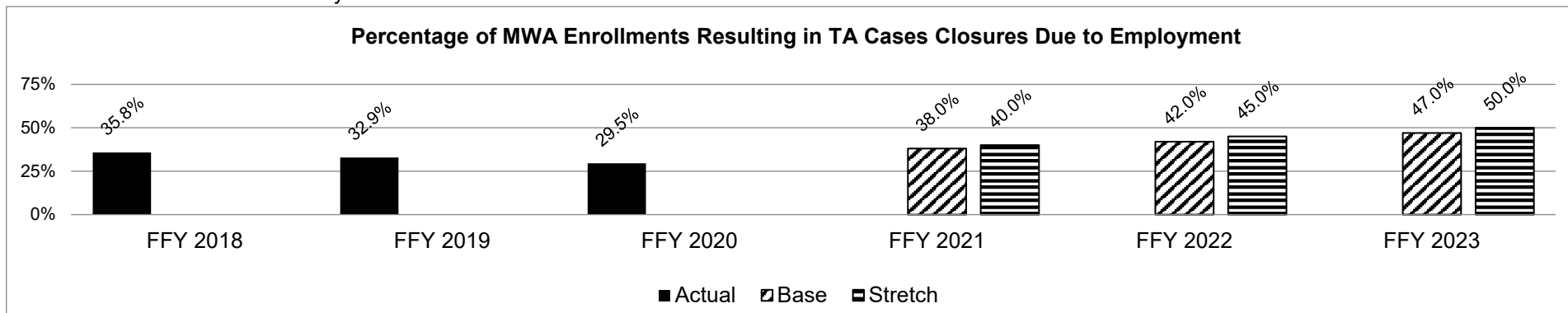
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2c. Provide a measure(s) of the program's impact.



In order to become self-sufficient and non-reliant on government benefits, the MWA participant's wages must increase. The wage change (increase) of MWA participants is four quarters prior to leaving the program compared to four quarters after leaving the program. This was a new measure in FFY 2018; therefore, there is no data to report prior to FFY 2018.

FFY 2020 data will be available in May 2022.



TA case closures due to employment is important as case closures due to other reasons such as meeting time limits and not complying may result in a longer reliance on government and other benefits and intergenerational poverty.

Note: The graph was changed from SFY to FFY, prior years changed accordingly. The anticipated reductions in employment closures is due to adverse economic impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

FFY 2019 and FFY 2020 actual was updated to reflect more accurate data.

FFY 2021 data will be available in May 2022.

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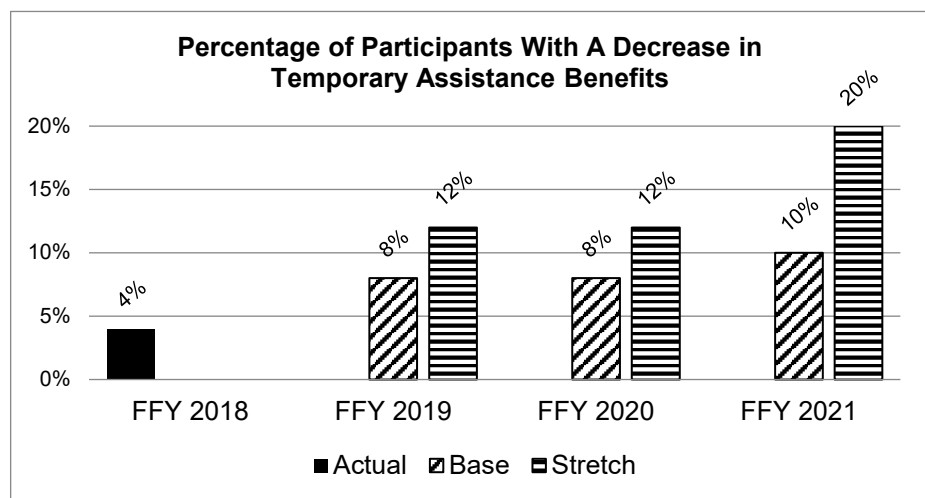
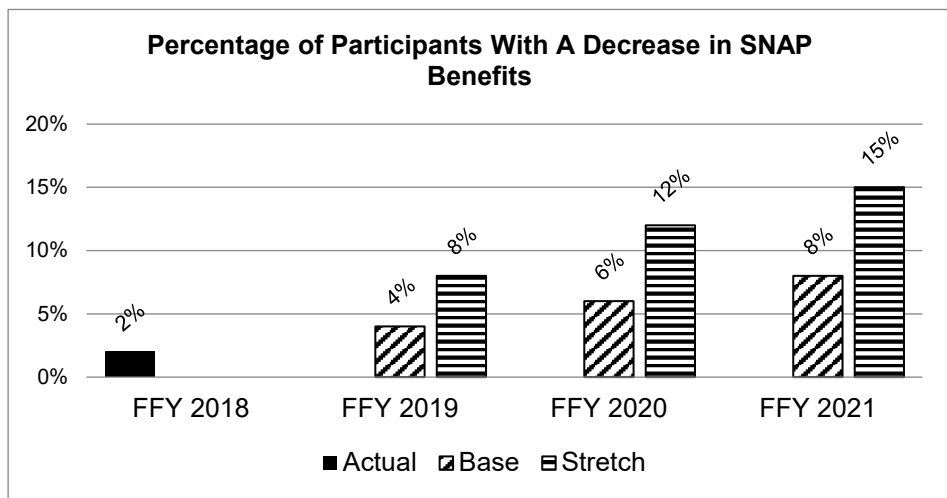
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2d. Provide a measure(s) of the program's efficiency.



The benefit level reduction of MWA participants is four quarters prior to leaving the program compared to four quarters after leaving the program. This was a new measure in FFY 2018; therefore, there is no data to report prior to FFY 2018. FFY 2019 and FFY 2020 data will be available in May 2022.

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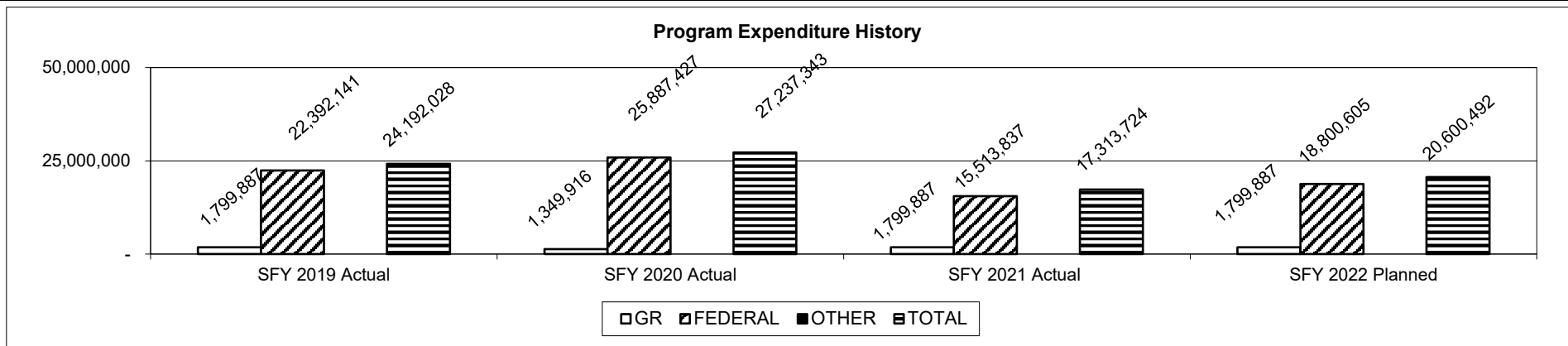
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3. Provide actual expenditures for the prior three fiscal years and planned expenditures for the current fiscal year. (Note: Amounts do not include fringe benefit costs.)



SFY 2022 Planned is net of reverted.

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.

There is a state Maintenance of Effort (MOE) required to earn the TANF block grant. Expenditures from other programs also provide state MOE required to earn the TANF block grant.

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

Yes. PL 104-193 and PRWORA of 1996.