

J82 Cases and Coding

Short Version ☺

- 1) **STOP combining work hours of two individuals onto one of the parents, and**
- 2) **START adding mom and dad codes to the children on JPI cases.**

Long Version ☺

A few months ago, it came to our attention that many of the two-parent JOBS Participation Incentive (JPI) J82 families were not counting as 'met' participation. Some field staff had discovered that, when both parents were working and hours were entered on each adult separately, the system was only reading the hours from one of the adults rather than both hours combined. As a means to address this, branches began lumping the hours together on one adult, hoping the system would read the higher amount and participation would be captured. It did work in the short term.

HOWEVER ...

While we appreciate the creativity, the TANF program does need the coding to be accurate. Accurate in this case means that the participation hours are attached to the individual that is actually working. If total entered on an individual is not supported with verification of work hours, the case is subject to errors when audited.

We have fixed the statewide participation report and those cases with both adults working should now reflect the total hours for the family in determining if they end up in the 'met' participation category. There should be no more incentive to incorrectly coding the hours.

One additional J82 problem we are having at the Federal Data level is that if the Mom and Dad fields are not coded then the system is unable to 'see' the case as a two parent. We are requesting that folks get into the habit of adding mom & dad codes to each child on the case to improve our federal data outcomes.

Thank you for your continued hard work!