

## **CLINTON ADMINISTRATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS RELATED TO WELFARE REFORM**

### **Welfare caseloads are down**

Due in part to both the Administration's emphasis on welfare reform and its policies to strengthen the economy, welfare caseloads are down by almost 10 percent since President Clinton took office in January 1993. The number of AFDC recipients has fallen from 14 million in January 1993 to 12.8 million in January 1996, a decline of approximately 10 percent. (Source: *Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*)

### **The poverty rate is down**

From 1993 to 1994, there was a significant decrease in the number of poor and in the poverty rate. The number of poor decreased by 1.2 million between 1993 and 1994, from 39.3 million in 1993 to 38.1 million in 1994, after four straight years of increases. The poverty rate decreased from 15.1 to 14.5 percent between 1993 and 1994. (Source: *1995 Current Population Survey, Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce*)

### **Teen pregnancy rates are down**

According to the CDC, the birth rate for teens aged 15-19 declined 4 percent from 1991 to 1993. The birth rate for teens 15-17 declined 2 percent from 1991 to 1992, and remained stable in 1993. Teen pregnancy rates declined from 1991 to 1992 in 30 of 41 reporting states. (Source: *"State-Specific Pregnancy and Birth Rates Among Teenagers -- United States, 1991-92," Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, September 22, 1995*)

### **Food Stamps rolls are down**

In January 1996, 25.9 million people were receiving food stamps, down from 26.8 million people in January 1993. The number of food stamp recipients has been lower in each of the last 16 months than for the same month in the previous year. This participation decline has resulted in savings of more than \$800 million since August 1994. (Source: *Program Information Division, Food and Consumer Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture*)

### **Work and training activities among welfare recipients are up**

The number of adult recipients participating in work and training activities is up dramatically since the President took office. In 1992, about 510,000 welfare recipients participated in the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training Program (JOBS). According to preliminary data, about 650,000 welfare recipients participated in JOBS in 1995, an increase of 28 percent over 1992. (Source: *Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*)

### **Child support collections are up**

Since taking office, the Clinton Administration's partnership with states has yielded unprecedented financial support for children. From 1992 to 1995, collections grew by nearly 40 percent and paternity establishments rose by more than 40 percent. In 1995, the federal-state child support enforcement system collected a record \$11 billion from non-custodial parents, up from \$8 billion in FY 1992. Preliminary data for paternity establishment show an estimated 735,000 in FY 1995, up from 554,205 in FY 1992. Under legislative proposals supported by the President, child support collections could increase by \$24 billion over the next 10 years. (Source: *Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*)

## THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION'S ACTIONS TO REFORM WELFARE

Under President Clinton's leadership, America's welfare system has changed profoundly. Three out of four AFDC recipients are now covered by reforms approved by the Clinton Administration. Welfare caseloads are down, the poverty rate is down, teen pregnancy rates are down, and Food Stamp rolls are down, while work and training activities among recipients are up, and child support collections have reached a record high.

### State Welfare Demonstrations

Since taking office, the Clinton Administration has approved 58 welfare-to-work programs in 37 states -- more than all previous administrations combined. In an average month, these welfare demonstrations cover more than 10 million people -- approximately 75 percent of all AFDC recipients. With our support, states are reforming welfare by requiring work, time-limiting assistance, making work pay, improving child support enforcement, and encouraging parental responsibility. *"As senators dicker over welfare policy ... President Clinton has fostered what amounts to a quiet revolution ... While Republicans talk wholesale overhaul, the Clinton Administration lets states cut rolls."* New York Times, 8/13/95.

### Self-sufficiency

Due in part to the Administration's emphasis on welfare reform and its policies to strengthen the economy, welfare caseloads have decreased by almost 10 percent since President Clinton took office. Participation in the Food Stamps program has dropped by one million people -- with a savings of approximately \$800 million. In addition, the number of adult recipients participating in work and training activities is up dramatically since the President took office. Monthly participation in the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Program (JOBS) program increased from an average of 510,000 per month in FY 1993 to an average of 600,000 per month in FY 1994, an increase of nearly 18 percent.

### THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION'S RECORD

- o The Administration has freed 37 states from red tape to reform their own welfare systems. Welfare rolls have decreased by almost 10 percent since President Clinton took office.
- o Child support collections have grown by nearly 40 percent since 1992 -- to a record \$11 billion. The President also issued a landmark executive order to ensure federal employees pay the support they owe.
- o The teen birthrate has declined two years in a row.

### Work and Responsibility Act of 1994 (H.R. 4605 and S. 2224) and Balanced Budget Plan of 1996

In 1994 and again in 1996, the Clinton Administration proposed sweeping welfare reform plans designed to promote work, encourage parental responsibility, and protect children. These plans impose tough time limits and work requirements, provide more funding for child care, require teen parents to live at home and stay in school, and crack down on child support enforcement. Congress and the National Governors' Association have incorporated a number of provisions from the Clinton plan into their welfare reform proposals. *The President's 1994 proposal represents "the toughest work requirements ever attached to welfare, the first serious effort by any President, Democrat or Republican, to stop the disastrous generational cycle of America's dole society."* New York Times, 7/31/94.

### Record Child Support Enforcement

Between 1992 and 1995, child support collections increased by nearly 40 percent and paternity establishments increased by over 40 percent. In 1995, the federal-state partnership collected a record \$11 billion from non-custodial parents, an increase of \$4 billion, or about 60 percent, over 1991. Since taking office, the President has increased child support enforcement resources by 32 percent. The President also signed an executive order to make sure federal employees pay the support they owe. Under the President's legislative proposals, child support collections could increase by an additional \$24 billion over the next 10 years. Congress and the NGA have included all of the Administration's provisions for child support enforcement in their welfare reform bills.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON WELFARE REFORM

### Question:

Why did the President veto the Conference bill?

### Answer:

The President vetoed the Conference bill for a good reason -- it did too little to move people from welfare to work and too little to protect children. The Conference bill lacked adequate child care to enable single parents to work, a performance bonus to reward success, and an adequate contingency fund to protect states -- and it made deep cuts in help for abused, disabled, and hungry children. By making specific recommendations to improve the vetoed Conference bill, the nation's 50 governors have stated, in effect, that the President was right to veto this flawed legislation. The President will continue to urge Congress to send him a bill that is tough on work and responsibility, not tough on children.

But even if Congress fails to act, we'll keep moving ahead on welfare reform. Since taking office, the Clinton Administration has freed a record 37 states from red tape in order to help them reform their own welfare systems. These welfare-to-work programs are making work and responsibility a way of life for more than 10 million people, or 75 percent of all welfare recipients. If Congress fails to send him a bill that gets the priorities right, President Clinton will continue his commitment to ending welfare as we know it -- one state at a time.

## **THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTS REAL WELFARE REFORM**

### **The Conference bill**

President Clinton vetoed the Conference bill because it was not real welfare reform. The bill would have done too little to move people from welfare to work and included deep budget cuts and structural changes in child welfare, school lunch, aid for disabled children, and other programs that have nothing to do with real reform. In addition, the bill eliminated the guaranteed medical coverage that single parents need as they move into entry-level jobs. It also weakened key work provisions, such as the maintenance of effort requirement and the performance bonus to reward states for moving people into work. The NGA's welfare reform proposal was, in effect, a bipartisan statement that the President was right to veto the flawed legislation passed by Congress.

### **The Administration's Proposal**

Since taking office, the President has been working to enact real, bipartisan welfare reform that is motivated by the urgency of reform rather than an extremist agenda that could hurt children. In his balanced budget plan, the President has proposed a sweeping welfare reform proposal that would provide time-limited, conditional assistance in return for work; give states new flexibility to design their own approaches to reform; preserve the national commitment to nutrition assistance, foster care, and adoption assistance; strengthen child support enforcement; and protect states during economic downturns or population growth -- while saving \$40 billion. This plan builds on the sweeping welfare reform bill the President proposed in 1994 and reflects the President's fundamental principles for reform, such as time-limits, real work requirements, and adequate child care. These critical elements are also included in the NGA's bipartisan welfare reform proposal.

### **Ending Welfare as We Know it -- One State at a Time**

Since taking office, the Clinton Administration has given a record 37 states freedom from red tape to help them reform their own welfare systems -- granting more waivers than the two previous administrations combined. These welfare-to-work programs are making work and responsibility a way of life for more than 10 million people. The President has repeatedly called for bipartisan welfare reform legislation this year. But if Congress fails to send him a bill that gets the priorities right, President Clinton will continue his commitment to ending welfare as we know it -- one state at a time.

## **Welfare Reform Talking Points**

"I say to those who are on welfare -- and especially to those who have been trapped on welfare for a long time -- for too long our welfare system has undermined the values of family and work instead of supporting them. The Congress and I are near agreement on sweeping welfare reform. We agree on time limits, tough work requirements, and the toughest possible child support enforcement. But I believe we must also provide child care so that mothers who are required to go to work can do so without worrying about what is happening to their children."

State of the Union Address, 1/23/96

**We want real reform.** President Clinton has repeatedly called for a bipartisan welfare reform bill that's tough on work and responsibility, not tough on children. In his balanced budget plan, the President has proposed a sweeping welfare reform proposal that includes tough work requirements, time-limited assistance, more funding for child care, incentives to reward states for placing people in jobs, tough child support enforcement, and protections for children -- while saving \$40 billion over seven years. The President is determined to enact real, bipartisan welfare reform that is motivated by the urgency of reform rather than an extremist agenda that could hurt children.

**A bipartisan step forward.** President Clinton vetoed the legislation drafted by the Congressional majority because it lacked adequate child care to enable single parents to work, a performance bonus to reward success, and an adequate contingency fund to protect states -- and because it made deep cuts in help for abused, disabled, and hungry children. By making specific recommendations to improve the bill, the nation's 50 governors have stated, in effect, that the President was right to veto this flawed legislation. The NGA's actions have increased the possibility that Republican and Democrats in Congress will produce a bipartisan bill that gets the job done. However, while we applaud the NGA's contributions, we do have concerns about achieving our common national objectives and maintaining the federal-state partnership necessary to reach them.

**The fundamental elements of reform.** The President has consistently said that welfare reform is first and foremost about work. That means providing adequate child care to enable recipients to leave welfare for work; rewarding states for placing people in jobs; guaranteeing health care coverage for poor families; requiring states to continue to invest funds in a work-oriented welfare system; and protecting states and families in the event of economic downturn or population growth. It does not mean using welfare reform as a cover for budget cutting at the expense of our poorest children.

**Continuing to work with Congress.** The President remains committed to working with Congress and the NGA leadership to enact real welfare reform. There is bipartisan consensus around the country on the fundamental elements of real welfare reform, and it would be a tragedy if this Congress missed the opportunity to achieve it. The Senate's original legislation had strong bipartisan support, and the NGA welfare proposal was another important bipartisan step forward, especially in the areas of child care, the performance bonus, and the contingency fund for states. Congress should build on this bipartisan progress and pass a bill that gets the job done.

**We'll still get the job done.** Since taking office, the Clinton Administration has given a record 37 states freedom from red tape to reform their own welfare systems -- granting more waivers than the two previous administrations combined. These welfare-to-work programs are making work and responsibility a way of life for more than 10 million people. The President has repeatedly called for bipartisan welfare reform legislation this year. But if Congress fails to send him a bill that gets the priorities right, President Clinton will continue his commitment to ending welfare as we know it -- in each and every state.

**Question:**

How can you say that the President is committed to enacting welfare reform when he has already vetoed the two bills Congress sent him?

**Answer:**

The President has led the way on welfare reform. As governor, he helped develop the Family Support Act of 1988, bipartisan legislation supported by 96 senators, including Senator Dole, to strengthen families and move people from welfare to work. In 1994, he proposed the most sweeping welfare reform legislation in history. That bill was based on the President's fundamental principles for welfare reform -- work requirements, time limits, child care, and the toughest possible child support enforcement. In 1995, the President brought together Democratic and Republican governors, state legislators, local officials, and members of Congress at Blair House for a constructive bipartisan dialogue that uncovered important common ground.

In his 1996 balanced budget plan, the President has proposed a comprehensive welfare reform proposal that builds on his 1994 legislation. It includes tough work requirements, time-limited assistance, more funding for child care, incentives to reward states for placing people in jobs, tough child support enforcement, and protections for children (it maintains the school lunch program, safeguards Medicaid coverage for poor children, and protects disabled children) -- while saving \$40 billion over seven years.

The President vetoed the Conference bill for a good reason -- it did too little to move people from welfare to work and too little to protect children. The Conference bill lacked adequate child care to enable single parents to work, a performance bonus to reward success, and an adequate contingency fund to protect states -- and it made deep cuts in help for abused, disabled, and hungry children. By making specific recommendations to improve the vetoed Conference bill, the nation's 50 governors have stated, in effect, that the President was right to veto this flawed legislation. The President is committed to enacting real, bipartisan welfare reform -- Congress must only send him a bill that gets the priorities right.

Under President Clinton's leadership, America's welfare system has changed profoundly. Three out of four AFDC recipients are now covered by reforms approved by the Clinton Administration. Welfare caseloads are down, the poverty rate is down, teen pregnancy rates are down, and food stamp rolls are down, while work and training activities among recipients are up and child support collections have reached a record high.

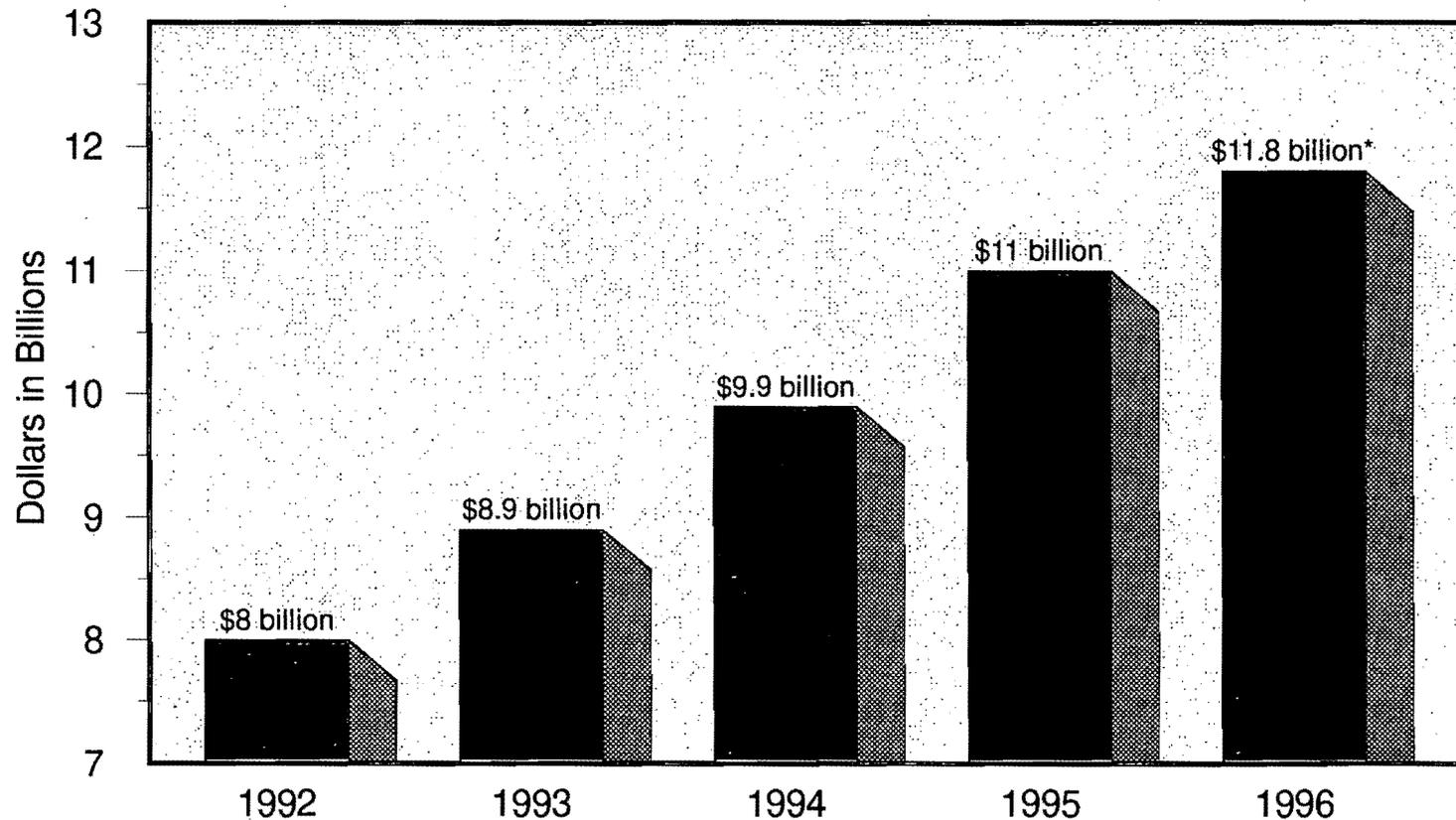
**Question:**

If the President is so committed to welfare reform, where's his bill?

**Answer:**

The President has presented his plan to Congress -- in 1994 and again in 1996, in his balanced budget plan. The President's 1996 plan builds on his landmark 1994 proposal to promote work, encourage parental responsibility, and protect children. His plan would impose tough time limits and work requirements, provide more funding for child care, require teen parents to live at home and stay in school, and crack down on child support enforcement -- while saving \$40 billion over seven years. Both Congress and the National Governors' Association have incorporated a number of provisions from the Clinton plan into their own welfare reform proposals.

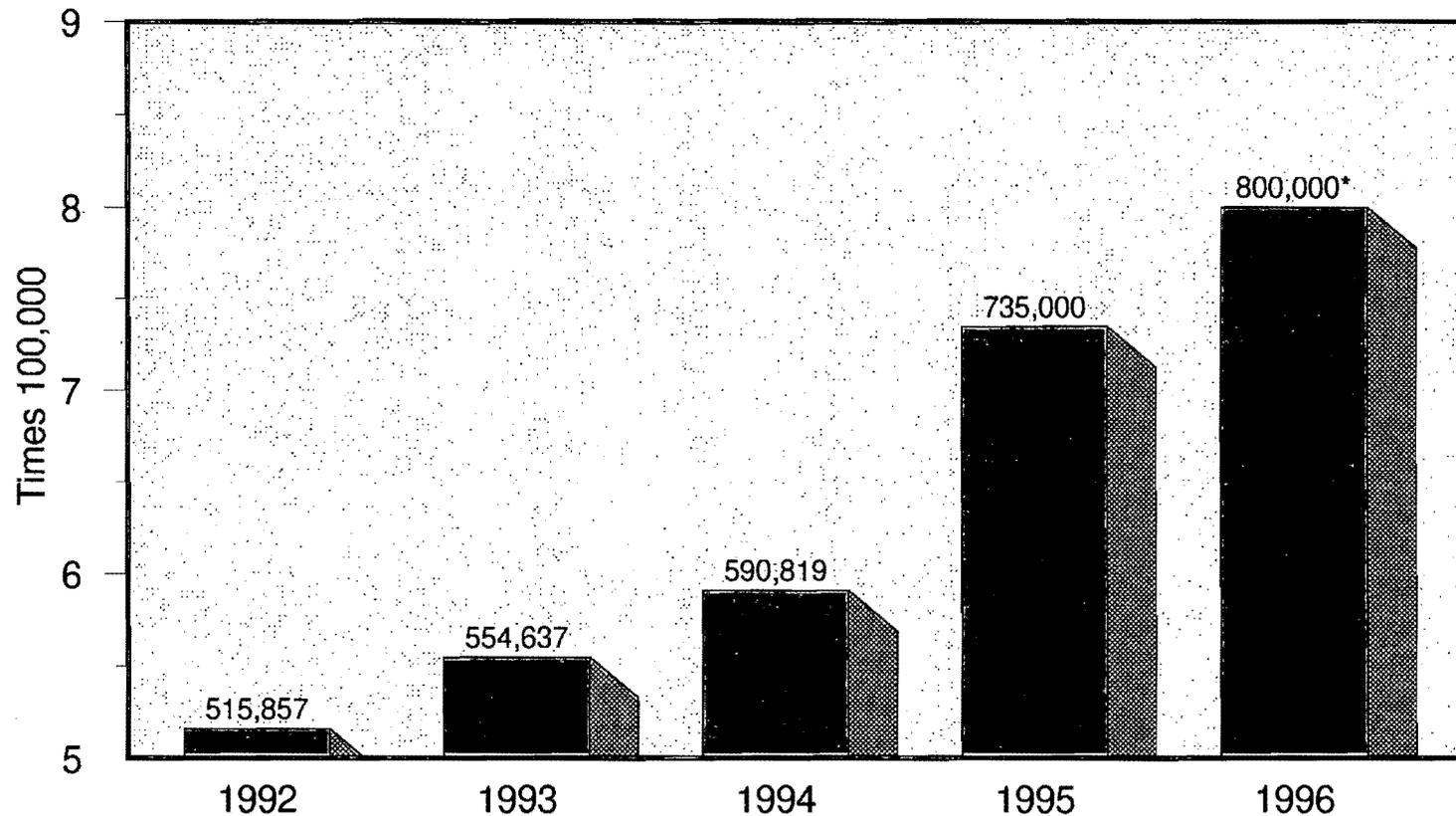
# Child Support Collections Have Increased Under the Clinton Administration



Source: Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

\*Preliminary Estimate

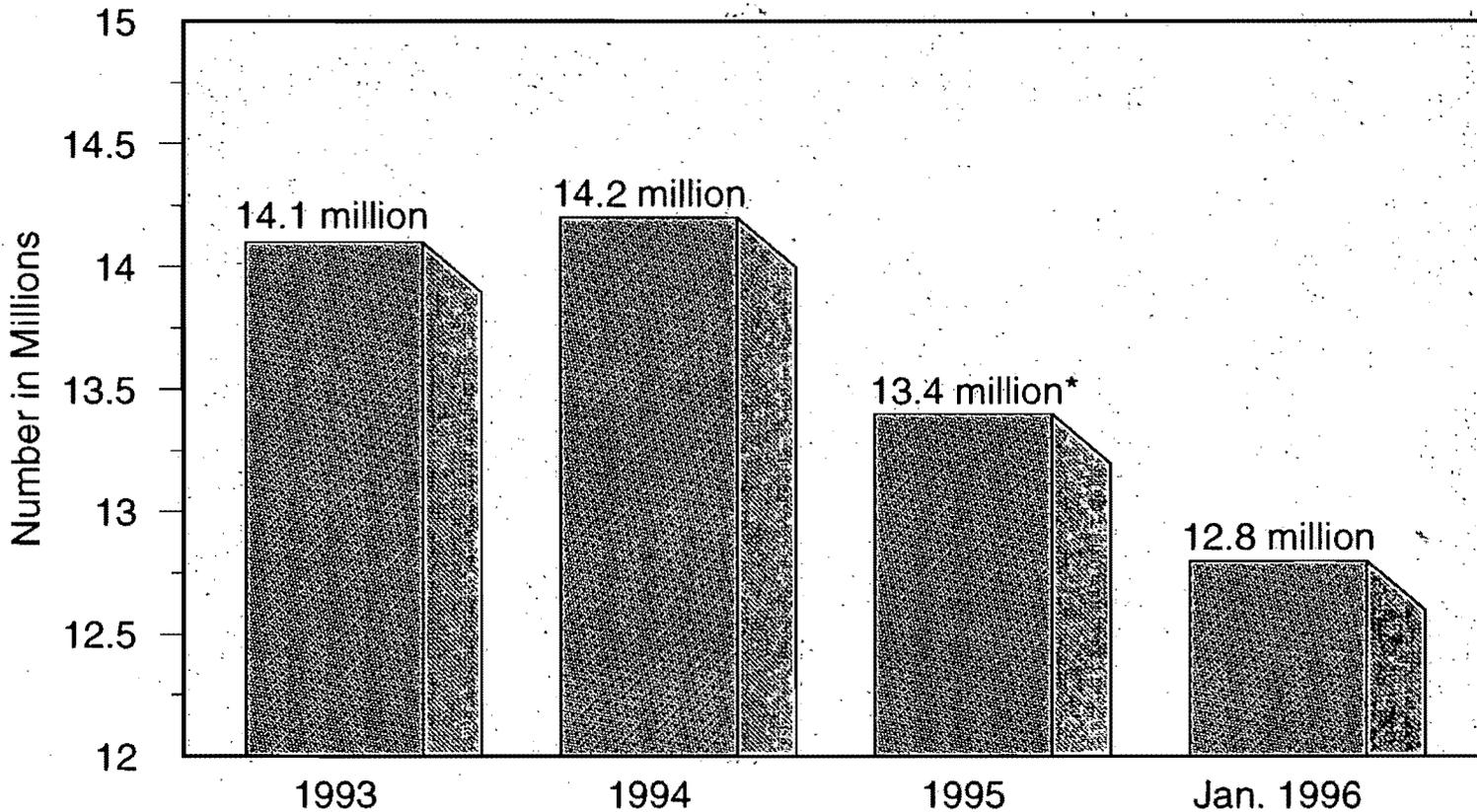
# Paternity Establishments Have Increased Under the Clinton Administration



Source: Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

\*Preliminary Estimate (All Numbers Rounded)

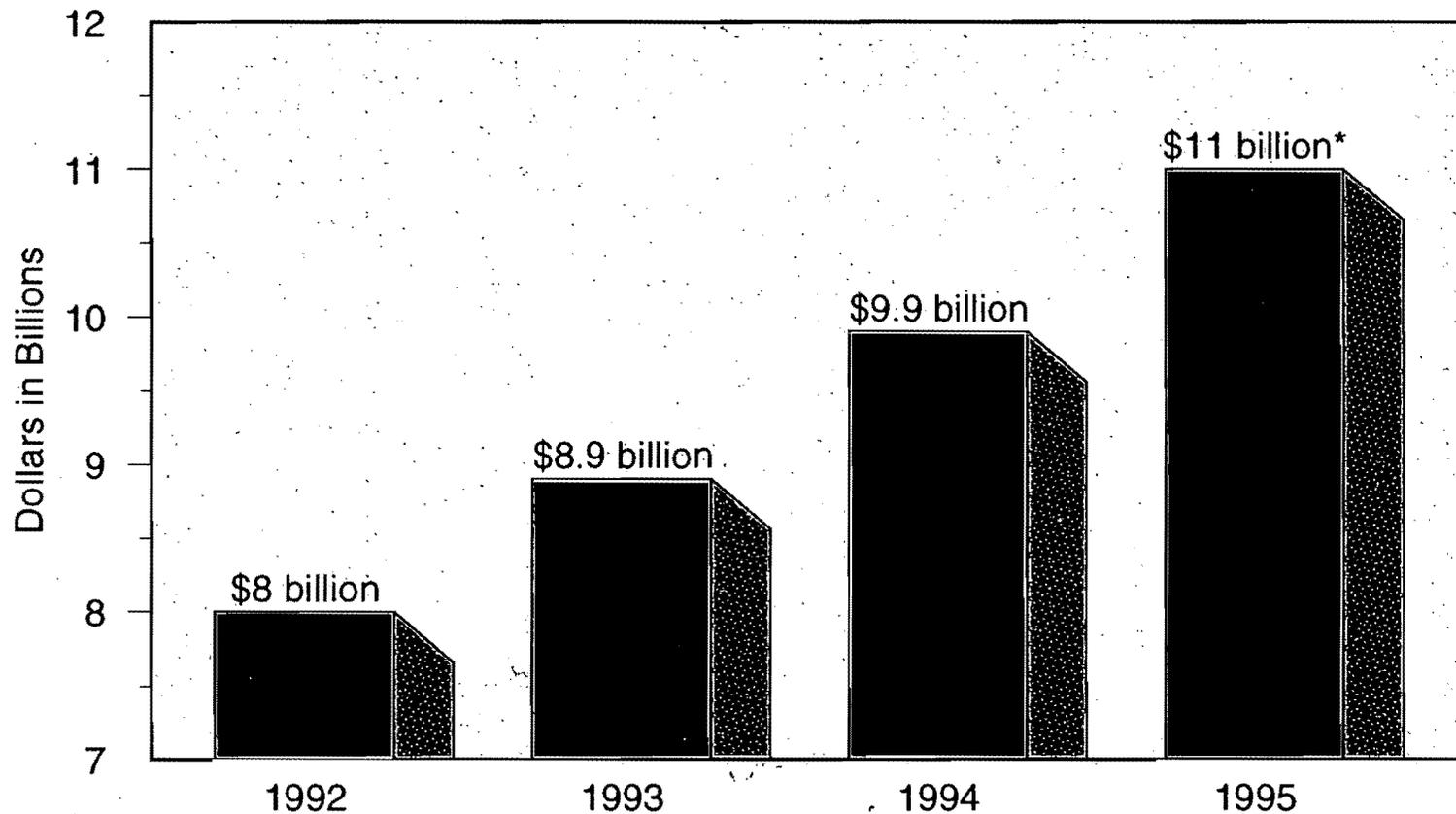
# The Total Number of AFDC Recipients Has Declined Under the Clinton Administration



Source: Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

\*Preliminary Estimate

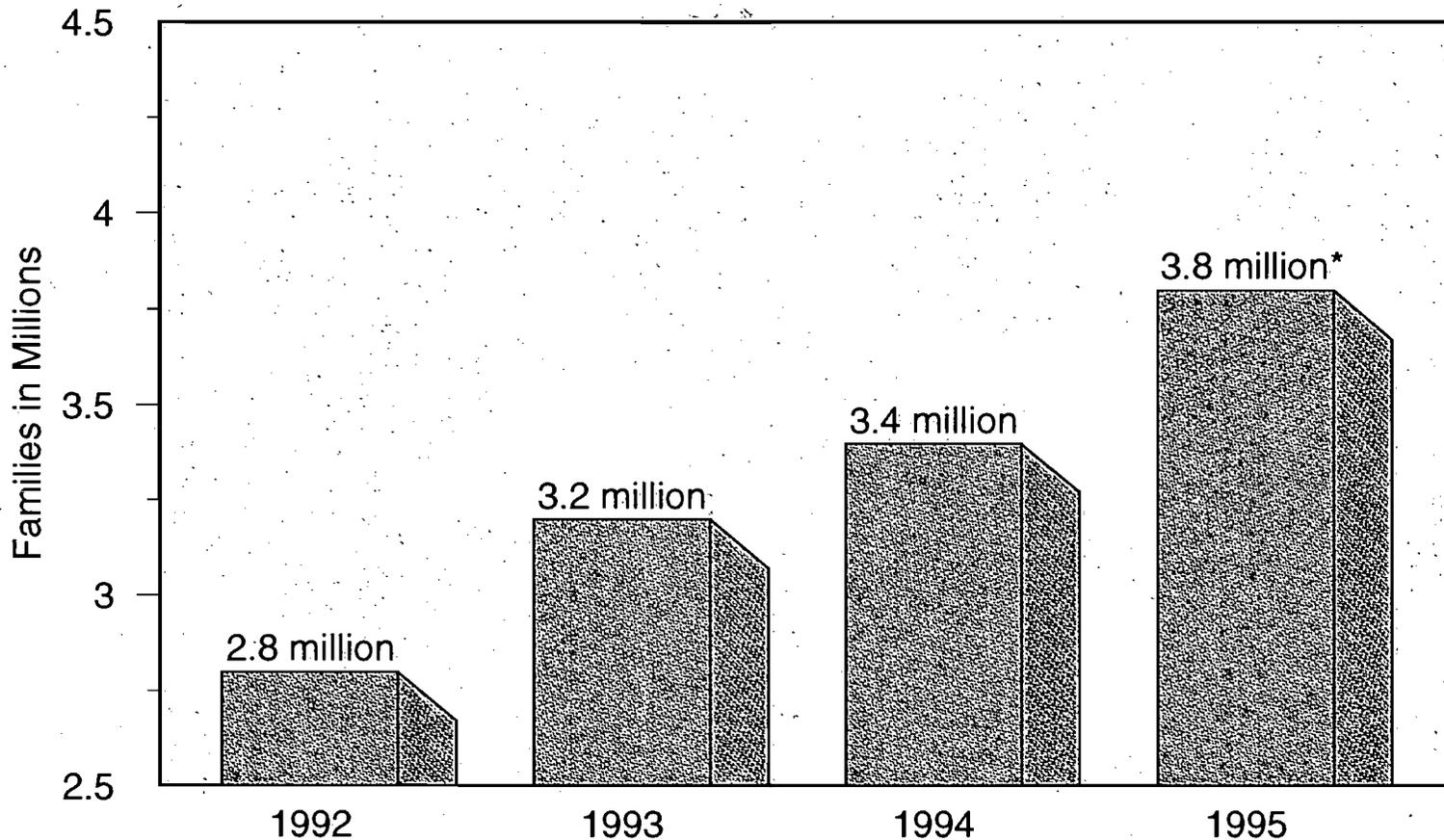
# Child Support Collections Have Increased Under the Clinton Administration



Source: Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

\*Preliminary Estimate

# Families Served by Child Support Enforcement Have Increased Under the Clinton Administration



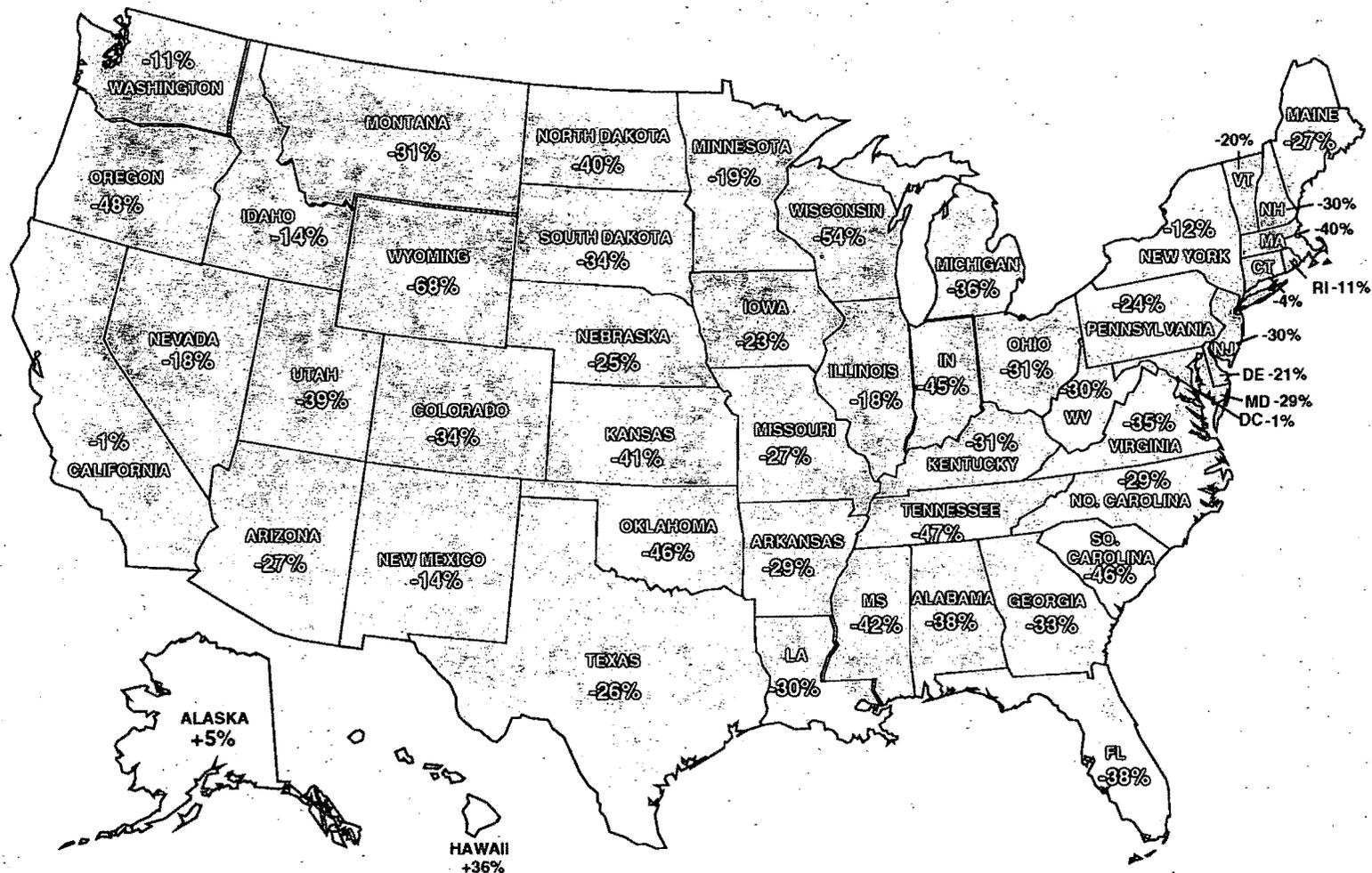
Source: Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

\*Preliminary Estimate





## MORE THAN 3 MILLION FEWER PEOPLE ON WELFARE SINCE 1993



Footnote: Nationwide, the number of AFDC recipients has fallen from 14.1 million to 10.7 million since January 1993, an average of 24 percent as of May 1997.

**DRAFT**

**ALABAMA**

**STATISTICS RELATED TO WELFARE REFORM**

**AFDC:** The total number of AFDC recipients in Alabama has decreased from 141,746 in January 1993, to an estimated 108,080 in January 1996.

**Teen Pregnancy:** According to the CDC, the birth rate for teens aged 15-19 declined four percent from 1991 to 1993. The birth rate for teens 15-17 declined two percent from 1991 to 1992, and remained stable in 1993. Teen pregnancy rates, currently unavailable for 1993, declined from 1991 to 1992 in 30 of 41 states that reported data to CDC. In Alabama, teen pregnancy rates dropped by 3.9 percent.

**Child Support Enforcement:** In FY 1995, Alabama distributed \$141,212,499 in child support collections, up from \$98,140,974 in FY 1992.

**WELFARE REFORM DEMONSTRATIONS APPROVED BY THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION**

None

**PENDING WAIVER REQUESTS**

**ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND**

Republican Governor Fob James established a Commission on Welfare Reform which was to present a bill by the end of March, 1996. It has not done so. Commission Chair, Rep. Jim Carns (R-Birmingham), has suggested the State provide more dollars for day care but offered no substantive policy proposed. The State legislative session is scheduled to end May 20, 1996.

## ARIZONA

### STATISTICS RELATED TO WELFARE REFORM

**AFDC:** The total number of AFDC recipients in Arizona has decreased from 194,119 in January 1993, to an estimated 171,617 in January 1996.

**Teen Pregnancy:** According to the CDC, the birth rate for teens aged 15-19 declined four percent from 1991 to 1993. The birth rate for teens 15-17 declined two percent from 1991 to 1992, and remained stable in 1993. Teen pregnancy rates, currently unavailable for 1993, declined from 1991 to 1992 in 30 of 41 states that reported data to CDC. In Arizona, teen pregnancy rates dropped by 2.5 percent.

**Child Support Enforcement:** In FY 1995, Arizona distributed \$93,811,661 in child support collections, up from \$46,447,054 in FY 1992.

### WELFARE REFORM DEMONSTRATIONS APPROVED BY THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION

**EMPOWER** (Employing and Moving People Off Welfare and Encouraging Responsibility) establishes a time limit on adult AFDC benefits of 24 months in any 60-month period. Additional AFDC benefits will not be provided to families for children conceived while on AFDC or conceived within 12 months after leaving AFDC, if the family later reapplies for benefits.

Families can put aside \$100 a month in Individual Development Accounts, up to \$9000, for training and education. Transitional Child Care and Medicaid will be extended from 12 months as currently allowed to 24 months after leaving AFDC.

An additional three-year pilot project will operate in the Casa Grande, Eloy and Coolidge areas of Pinal County. The pilot will provide work experience by placing participants in subsidized jobs for 9 to 12 months, funded by AFDC grants and cashed-out food stamp allotments; months spent in a subsidized job will not count toward the time limit. All child support collections will be passed through to the family, without affecting eligibility.

Arizona's waiver was received on Aug. 3, 1994 and approved on May 22, 1995.

### PENDING WAIVER REQUESTS

### ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

Since HHS granted the state an 1115 welfare reform waiver in 1995, the Governor and the Legislature have been taking a wait and see posture, until there is federal legislative action. The legislative session ended in mid-April.

## **ARKANSAS**

### **STATISTICS RELATED TO WELFARE REFORM**

**AFDC:** The total number of AFDC recipients in Arkansas has decreased from 73,982 in January 1993, to an estimated 59,101 in January 1996.

**Teen Pregnancy:** According to the CDC, the birth rate for teens aged 15-19 declined four percent from 1991 to 1993. The birth rate for teens 15-17 declined two percent from 1991 to 1992, and remained stable in 1993. Teen pregnancy rates, currently unavailable for 1993, declined from 1991 to 1992 in 30 of 41 states that reported data to CDC. In Arkansas, teen pregnancy rates dropped by 7.6 percent.

**Child Support Enforcement:** In FY 1995, Arkansas distributed \$63,875,135 in child support collections, up from \$42,064,579 in FY 1992.

### **WELFARE REFORM DEMONSTRATIONS APPROVED BY THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION**

Under Arkansas' demonstration, AFDC parents age 16 or younger will be required to attend school regularly or face reductions in benefits if they fail to do so. If appropriate, teen-age parents can meet the requirement by attending an alternative educational program.

In addition, Arkansas will implement a policy of not increasing AFDC benefits when additional children are born into a family receiving welfare. Family planning and group counseling services focusing on the responsibilities of parenthood will be included in the demonstration.

Arkansas' application was received on Jan.-14, 1993, and granted on April 5, 1994.

### **PENDING WAIVER REQUESTS**

### **ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND**

Governor Tuckers's welfare demonstration is in effect in 66 of the state's 76 counties. Currently the Democratic legislature is watching for federal action on welfare before proceeding with statewide welfare reform. The minority community has been critical of the current welfare demonstration.

## CONNECTICUT

### STATISTICS RELATED TO WELFARE REFORM

**AFDC:** The total number of AFDC recipients in Connecticut has increased from 160,102 in January 1993, to an estimated 161,551 in January 1996. [or decreased from 170,719 in January 1995, or 164,265 in 1/94]

**Teen Pregnancy:** According to the CDC, the birth rate for teens aged 15-19 declined four percent from 1991 to 1993. The birth rate for teens 15-17 declined two percent from 1991 to 1992, and remained stable in 1993. Teen pregnancy rates, currently unavailable for 1993, declined from 1991 to 1992 in 30 of 41 states that reported data to CDC. In Connecticut, teen pregnancy rates were not reported.

**Child Support Enforcement:** In FY 1995, Connecticut distributed \$117,723,277 in child support collections, up from \$84,189,705 in FY 1992.

### WELFARE REFORM DEMONSTRATIONS APPROVED BY THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION

Connecticut's "A Fair Chance" initiative is designed to increase supports, incentives, and work expectations for AFDC recipients. It has two components, Pathways and Family Strength.

Pathways requires AFDC recipients to work a minimum of 15 hours a week after two years of AFDC, 25 hours a week after three years, and 35 hours a week after four years. Pathways will also help families leaving welfare increase their incomes by paying the difference between the non-custodial parent's child support payments and a state-established minimum. Family Strength provisions raise the resource limit for AFDC eligibility from \$1000 to \$3000 and extend transitional child care and medical benefits an additional year, to a total of two years.

Family Strength will be implemented statewide and Pathways will be implemented in the New Haven and Manchester areas.

Connecticut's application was received on Dec. 30, 1993, and approved on Aug. 29, 1994.

Connecticut's second project, "Reach for Jobs First," limits Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) payments to 21 months for employable adults, with extensions for good-faith efforts. Recipients must spend at least 12 weeks in jobs search and can keep all that they earn while on AFDC, up to the Federal poverty line for the family's size. Those subject to the time limit are given priority for participation in JOBS, and non-custodial parents may also participate.

Minor parents are required to live in an adult-supervised setting, with the AFDC benefit issued to the adult. The amount of additional AFDC benefits for additional children

born to families is reduced by half. Transitional child care and Medicaid are available to those who become employed within six months of losing AFDC eligibility for any reason. Medicaid coverage is provided for 24 months and child care for as long as the family's income is less than 75 percent of the State's median income. There are progressive sanctions for failure, without good cause, to comply with JOBS or child support requirements, including elimination of benefits to the full family for a third offense. The state is also making administrative changes to simplify eligibility procedures.

#### Issues:

Governor Rowland's request for welfare reform waivers to implement Reach for Jobs First was received by HHS on August 10, 1995 and approved on December 18, 1995. There was one component of the demonstration which was not approved and three others which were significantly modified from the original application. The component which was not approved was the state's request to allow them to pay lower AFDC benefits to families which recently moved to Connecticut. Because the Department of Justice and the HHS Office of the General Counsel determined that a waiver to allow a two-tier payment system as proposed by Connecticut raised constitutionality issues, HHS did not approve the state's request. However, questions were raised because a similar request had been approved under the previous administration in two other states and this administration did not withdraw the waiver authority in those instances. Further, representatives from the state legislature indicated that denial of the waiver request might have significant cost implications for the state because they had projected large budget reductions from this provision.

In addition, the final approved demonstration modified the state's original proposal regarding the time limit, the family benefit cap, and the provision of support services, such as child care, during periods of job search. Regarding the time limit, the state's application provided few exceptions or extensions. Through discussions with the state, the final demonstration provides extensions to the time limit for those who have played by the rules but, through no fault of their own, are not employed or do not have jobs which increase the family income to meet basic needs (i.e., the level of the AFDC payment standard in Connecticut for the family size). The family benefit cap now provides for exceptions and protections and the terms and conditions clarified that AFDC recipients who were required to undertake periods of job search would be provided with participation allowances for child care and transportation expenses if needed.

#### PENDING WAIVER REQUESTS

#### ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

The Rowland Administration and the legislature are not considering major welfare initiatives in 1996.

## FLORIDA

### STATISTICS RELATED TO WELFARE REFORM

**AFDC:** The total number of AFDC recipients in Florida has decreased from 701,842 in January 1993, to an estimated 575,553 in January 1996.

**Teen Pregnancy:** According to the CDC, the birth rate for teens aged 15-19 declined four percent from 1991 to 1993. The birth rate for teens 15-17 declined two percent from 1991 to 1992, and remained stable in 1993. Teen pregnancy rates, currently unavailable for 1993, declined from 1991 to 1992 in 30 of 41 states that reported data to CDC. In Florida, teen pregnancy rates were not reported.

**Child Support Enforcement:** In FY 1995, Florida distributed \$374,014,543 in child support collections, up from \$252,472,760 in FY 1992.

### WELFARE REFORM DEMONSTRATIONS APPROVED BY THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION

Florida is implementing a "Family Transition Program" for AFDC recipients in two counties. Under the plan, most AFDC families will be limited to collecting benefits for a maximum of 24 months in any five-year period.

Individuals who exhaust their transitional AFDC benefits but are unable to find employment will be guaranteed the opportunity to work at a job paying more than their AFDC grant. The demonstration also provides a longer period of eligibility -- 36 months in any six-year period -- for families at a high-risk of becoming welfare dependent.

Medicaid and child care benefits will be available in the demonstration. Local community boards will play a large role in overseeing the program.

Other elements of the demonstration include an increase in the earnings disregard formula and asset ceilings, as well as a statewide requirement that AFDC parents must ensure that their children have been immunized.

Florida's waiver request was received on Sept. 21, 1993, and granted on Jan. 27, 1994.

Florida's first demonstration implemented a "Family Transition Program" for AFDC recipients in Escambia and Alachua Counties. The "Family Transition Program Expansion," which extends the project to six additional counties, was the first to be reviewed under a "fast track" 30-day period. Counties eligible for participation are Lee, Duval, Pinellas, St. Lucie, Orange, and Volusia Counties. It will operate for eight years.

Florida's second waiver request was received on August 2, 1995, and granted on September 6, 1995.

## PENDING WAIVER REQUESTS

Florida's "Family Responsibility Act" would require teens to stay in school to age 18, and employment. AFDC benefits would not be increased for additional children conceived while receiving AFDC. The application was received October 4, 1995.

## ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

The Republican-controlled Senate is proposing a statewide expansion of Governor Chiles' welfare reform waiver, the Family Transition Program. Such expansion is to be financed through substantial cuts in state human services staff. The Chiles Administration and the Democrat-controlled House is opposed and hopes to forestall consideration of the statewide expansion this year. Labor, advocates and religious organizations have been supportive of Governor Chile's approach and timeline to reforming welfare.