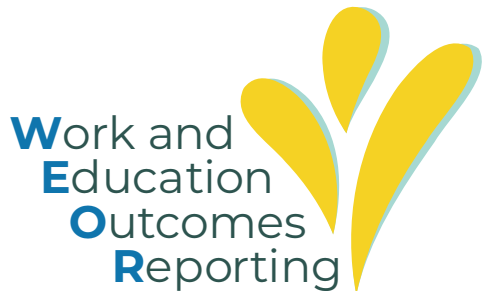


Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Education Outcomes Reporting

- Information Session -



June 17, 2025

TANF Outcomes Technical Assistance and Logistics (TOTAL)



Introductions



Today's Objectives



- Clarify reporting requirements, calculations and definitions for the **Secondary School Diploma or Recognized Equivalent Attainment Rate (Secondary School Attainment Measure)**
- Provide additional resources to assist in data collection

Agenda



1. Introductions
2. Secondary School Attainment Measure:
Reporting Eligibility and Definitions
3. Report Requirements
4. Case Studies
5. Data Elements and Sources





Eligibility and Definitions



[Background] Education Outcomes Reporting

NEW annual reporting requirement:

All states and territories must report the **Secondary School Diploma or its Recognized Equivalent Attainment Rate** of families receiving or exiting TANF, starting with the federal fiscal year **2025**.

Note: Tribes are not required to report.

Each annual report is due 45 days after the end of the fiscal year.

IMPORTANT: The first report is due on **November 14th, 2027**.

States will need to collect secondary school attainment data on families receiving or exiting TANF during the federal fiscal year **2025 (October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025)** and federal fiscal year **2026 (October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026)**.

[Definition] Eligibility



An individual is **eligible** in a given federal fiscal year if:

in at least one reporting month they met ALL of the following criteria at the same time:

- Less than **24 years*** of age,

AND

- **Enrolled** in high school or an equivalency program,

AND

- **Work-eligible individual**** status

**For the purposes of the Secondary School Attainment Measure, states have the flexibility to determine how to calculate an individual's age and whether someone meets the "less than 24 years of age" criterion based on their caseload management systems.*

***Work-eligible individual as defined in 45 CFR Part 261.2(n)*

[Definition] Diploma

A **secondary school diploma** is a “regular high school diploma” as that term is defined in 21 U.S.C. 7801 (43), the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). 45 CFR 265.2(e)(1).

A **recognized equivalent** to a secondary school diploma is a certification recognized by a state that signifies that a student has completed the state’s requirements for a high school education. 45 CFR 265.2(e)(2).

[Definition] Exit



Exit is the date that a family with a work-eligible individual (WEI) ceases to receive assistance from the TANF program.

Note: The last day of assistance cannot be determined until 90 days or three months have elapsed since the participant last received assistance.

For reporting purposes, a family means:

- a) all individuals receiving assistance as part of a family under the state's TANF program; and
- b) the following additional persons living in the family, if not included under (a) above:
 - (1) Parent or caretaker relative of any minor child;
 - (2) A minor child; and
 - (3) Any person whose income or resources are counted in determining the family's eligibility for or amount of assistance.

[Definition] Exiter



A work-eligible individual will be included as an exiter in these measures only when their **family** ceases to receive assistance.

A work-eligible individual will **NOT** meet the definition of an exiter when the needs of the work-eligible individual are removed from the assistance payment, but the family continues to receive assistance and the individual remains work-eligible.

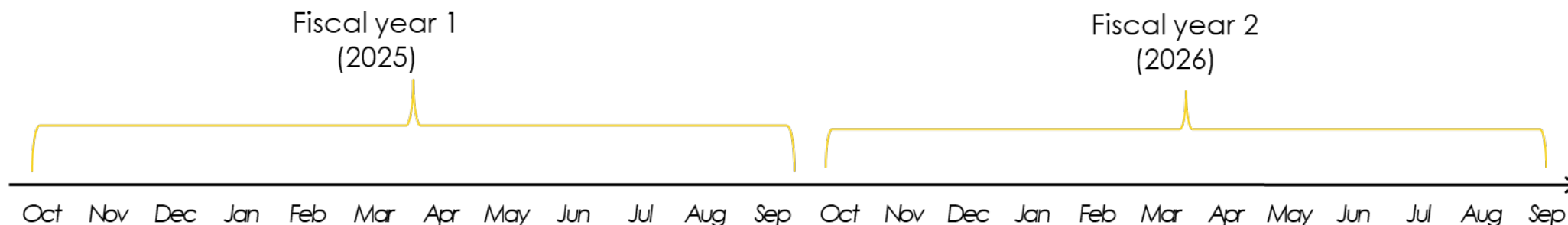
An individual in the family must have been “a work-eligible individual,” as defined in 45 CFR 261.2(n)(1), in their last month of assistance.

****For the secondary education attainment measure, count the individual as an exiter if they ever met the exit definition at any time during the reporting period. Once an exiter, always an exiter during the reporting period.**



[Definition] Time Period

To be included in the Secondary School attainment rate, the individual must obtain a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent...



During the reporting period if a current recipient

or



During the reporting period or during the following fiscal year if an exiter



Report Requirements



Reporting Template

TANF Secondary School Diploma or its Recognized Equivalent Attainment Rate		
1. Reporting period covered:	mm/yyyy - mm/yyyy	
2. Current recipient - denominator	Number of eligible individuals, current recipients who did not exit	
3. Exiter - denominator	Number of eligible individuals who exited during reporting period	
4. Current recipient - numerator	Number of eligible individuals, current recipients who did not exit, who attained diploma in reporting period	
5. Exiter - numerator	Number of eligible individuals who exited during reporting period, who attained diploma within 1 year of exit	
6. Current recipient - calculated rate	Current recipient secondary school attainment rate	#DIV/0!
7. Exiter - calculated rate	Exiter secondary school attainment rate	#DIV/0!
8. Total calculated rate	Combined secondary school attainment rate	#DIV/0!
9. Data Sources: Attach a description of the data sources.		

Reporting Elements



- Reporting period covered
- **Current recipient secondary school attainment rate**
 - Number of eligible current recipients who did not exit (Denominator)
 - Number of eligible current recipients who obtained diploma in reporting period (Numerator)
- **Exiter secondary school attainment rate**
 - Number of eligible individuals who exited during the reporting period (Denominator)
 - Number of eligible individuals who exited during reporting period and who obtained diploma within one year of exit (Numerator)
- **Total secondary school attainment rate**
- Description of data sources

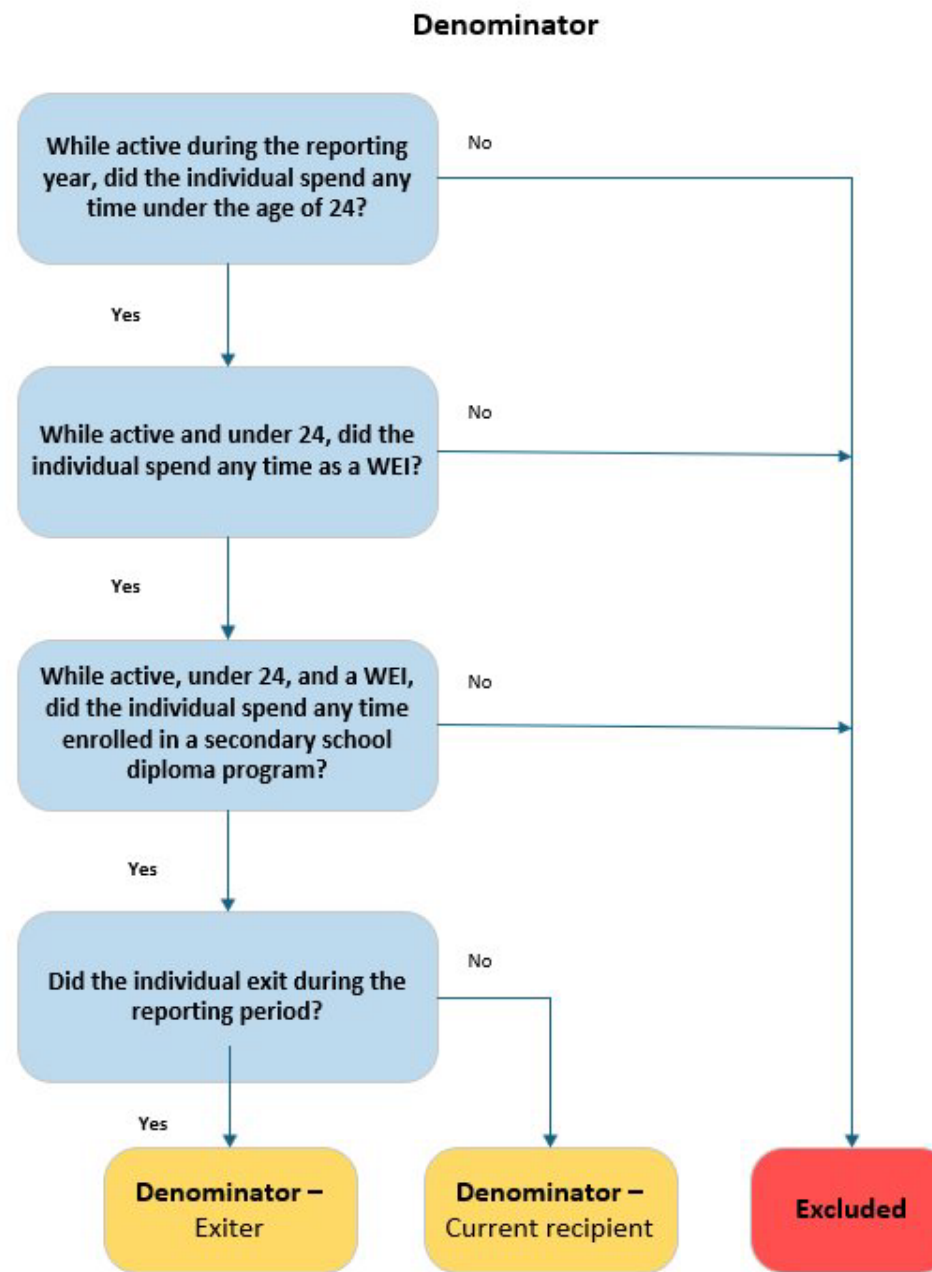


Report and Calculation Example

TANF Secondary School Diploma or its Recognized Equivalent Attainment Rate		
1. Reporting period covered:	mm/yyyy - mm/yyyy	
2. Current recipient - denominator	Number of eligible individuals, current recipients who did not exit	500
3. Exiter - denominator	Number of eligible individuals who exited during reporting period	45
4. Current recipient - numerator	Number of eligible individuals, current recipients who did not exit, who attained diploma in reporting period	30
5. Exiter - numerator	Number of eligible individuals who exited during reporting period, who attained diploma within 1 year of exit	2
6. Current recipient - calculated rate	Current recipient secondary school attainment rate	0.060
7. Exiter - calculated rate	Exiter secondary school attainment rate	0.044
8. Total calculated rate	Combined secondary school attainment rate	0.058
9. Data Sources: Attach a description of the data sources.		

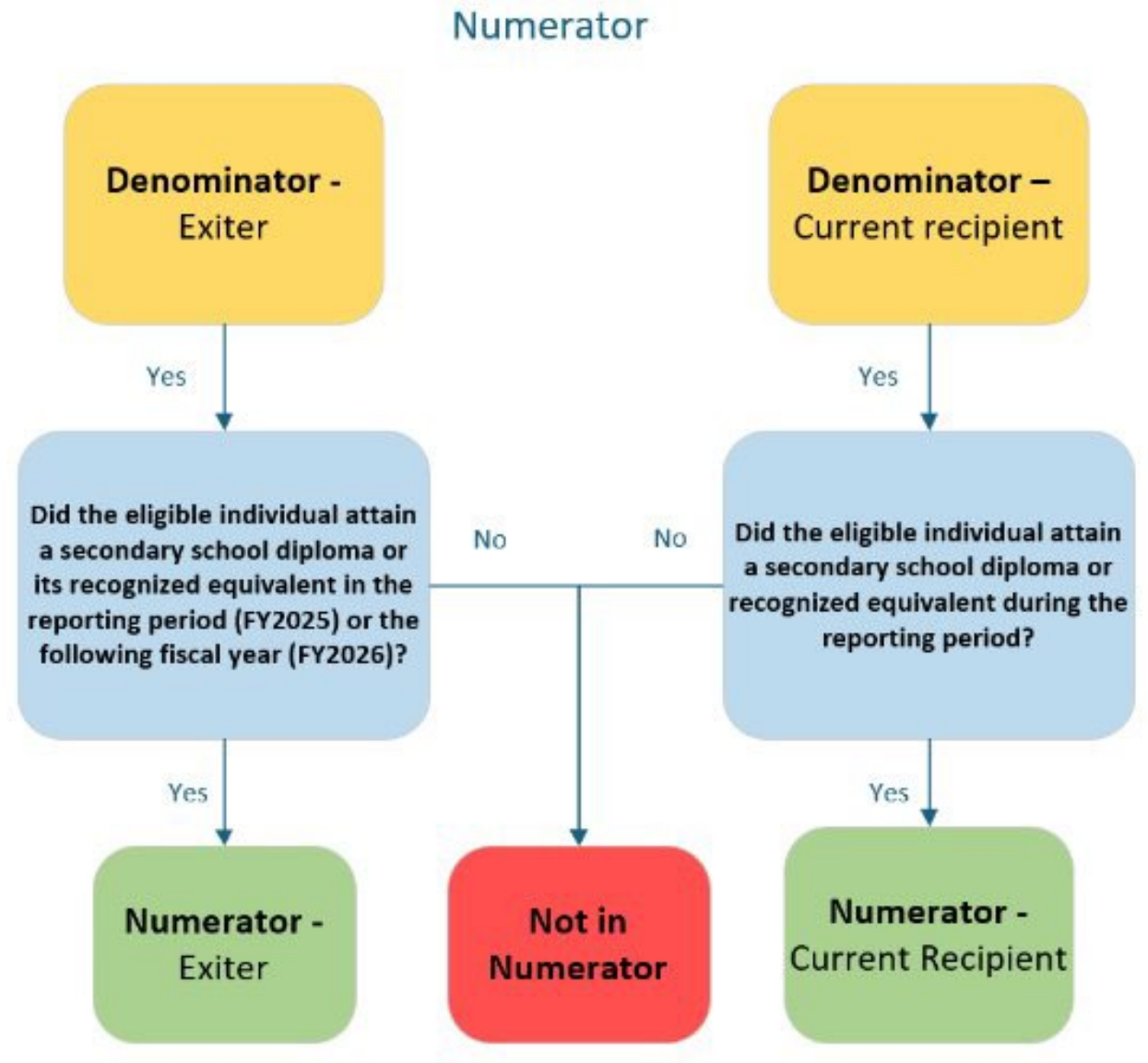
<u>Current Recipient Rate</u>		<u>Exiter Rate</u>		<u>Total Rate</u>
$\frac{30}{500}$	+	$\frac{2}{45}$	=	$\frac{32}{545}$
↓		↓		↓
.060 (6.0% rate)		.044 (4.4% rate)		.058 (5.8% rate)

Steps to determine if individuals should be included in the denominator



Note: "Active" = receiving TANF assistance

Steps to determine if individuals should be included in the numerator





Case Studies



Case Scenarios



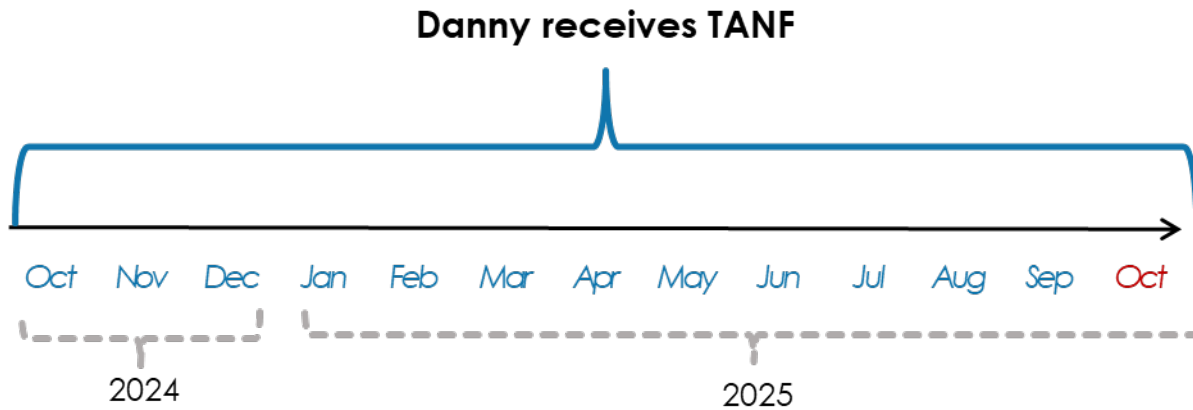
The next few slides describe several case scenarios. In all the cases, for the relevant fiscal year, the TANF recipient is simultaneously in at least one month:

- Less than 24 years old
- Work eligible
- Enrolled in a secondary school diploma program

The individual is therefore eligible to be included in the denominator.

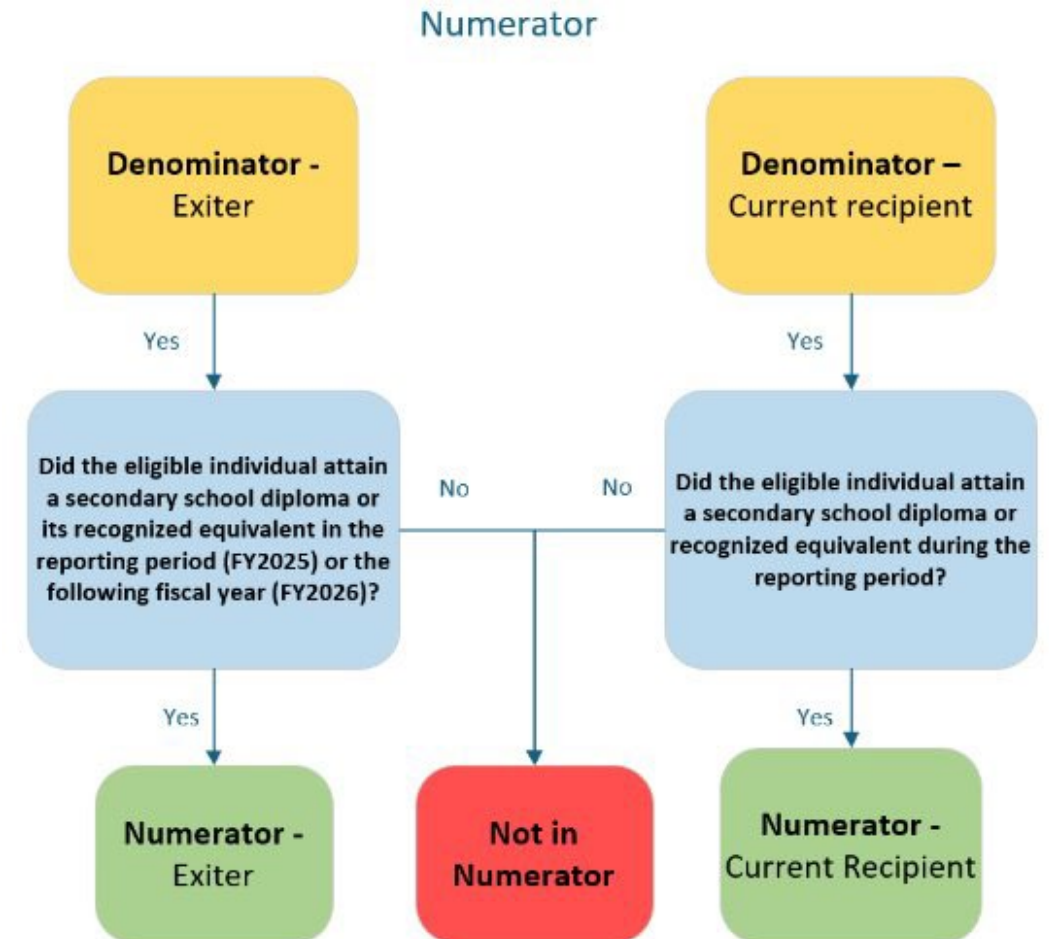
The overarching questions for each scenario are whether the individual is counted in the denominator as a “current recipient” or as an “exiter,” and whether their diploma would count towards the corresponding numerator.

Case 1 - Which denominator and numerator category should Danny be included in?

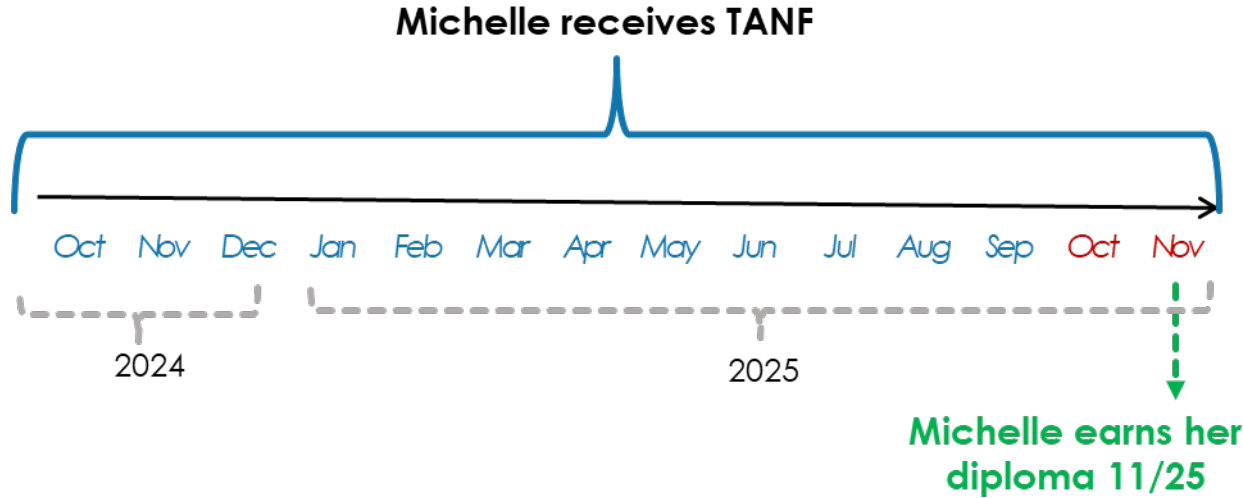


Answer: Danny is receiving TANF assistance throughout the reporting period and should be included in the current recipient denominator.

Danny did not receive a diploma during the reporting period, so he is NOT included in the numerator.

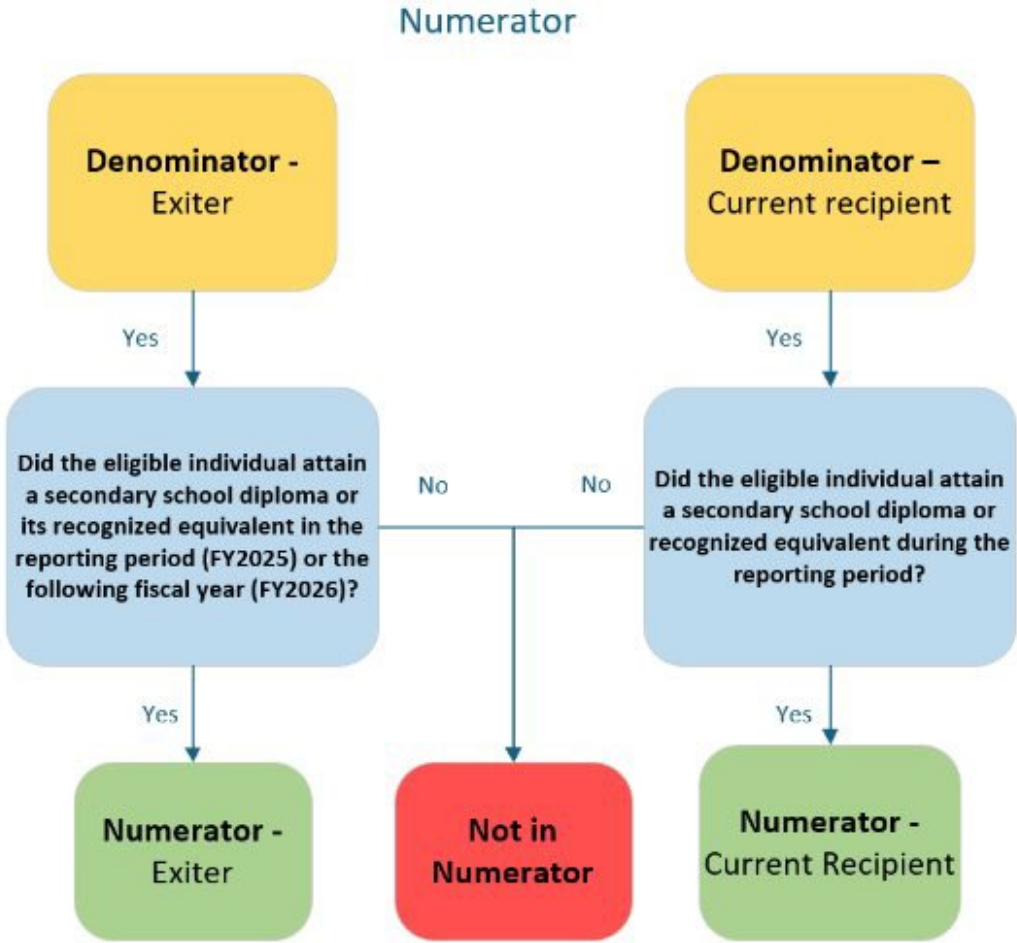


Case 2 – Which denominator and numerator category should Michelle be included in?

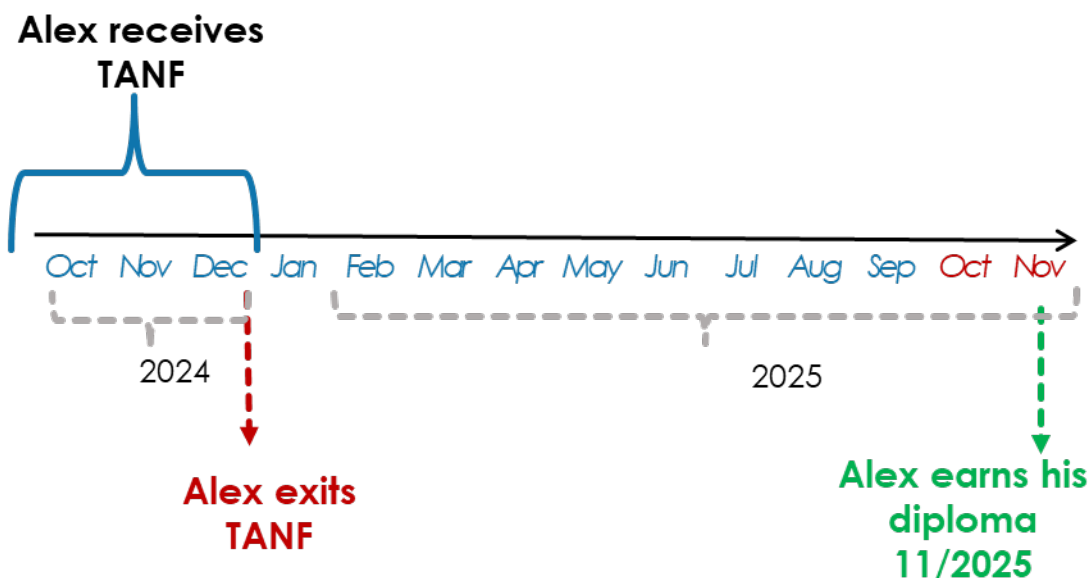


Answer: Michelle is receiving TANF assistance throughout the reporting period and should be included in the current recipient denominator.

Michelle received her diploma, but it was not during the 2025 fiscal year, so she is NOT included in the numerator. (She may however be included in the numerator for the next reporting period if she meets the eligibility criteria).

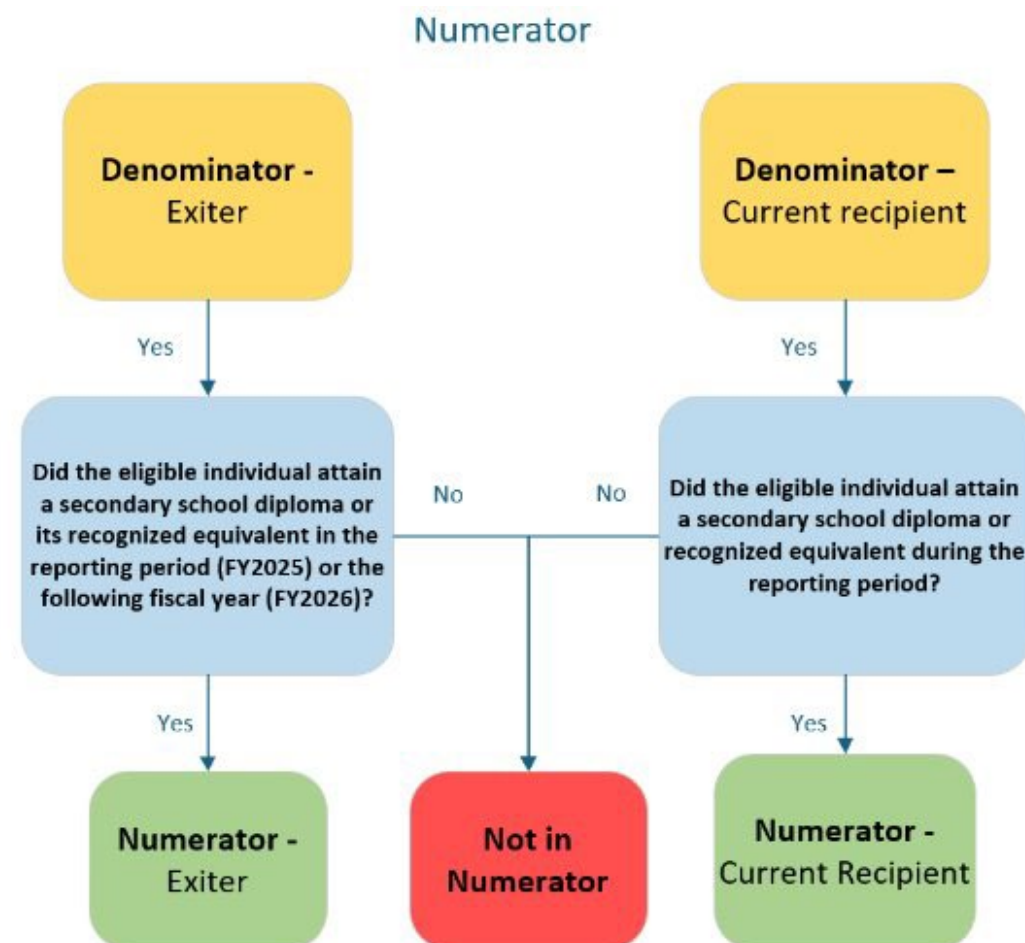


Case 3 – Which denominator and numerator category should Alex be included in?

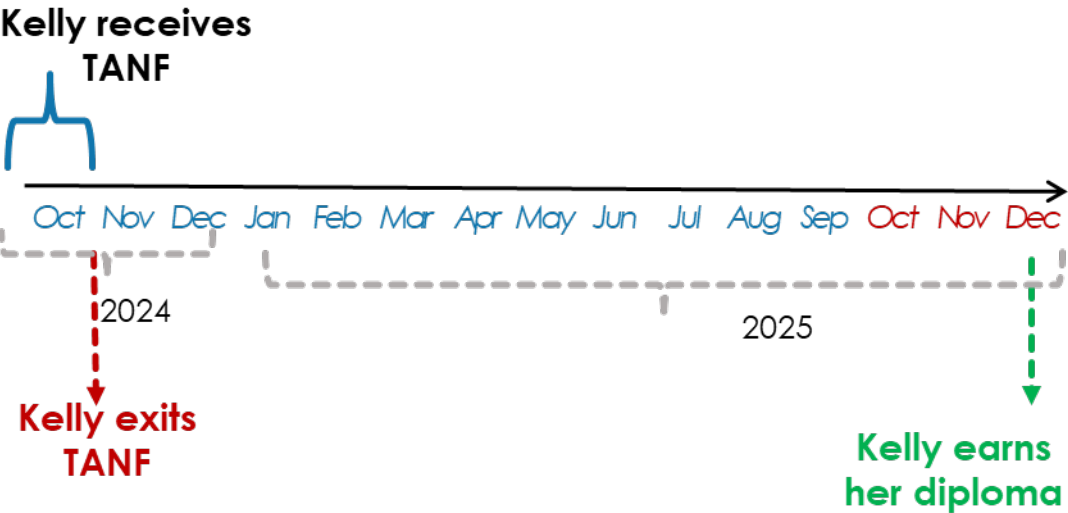


Answer: Alex is included in the exiter denominator because he stopped receiving TANF assistance for at least 90 days.

Alex is also included in the numerator because he received his diploma in FY2026.

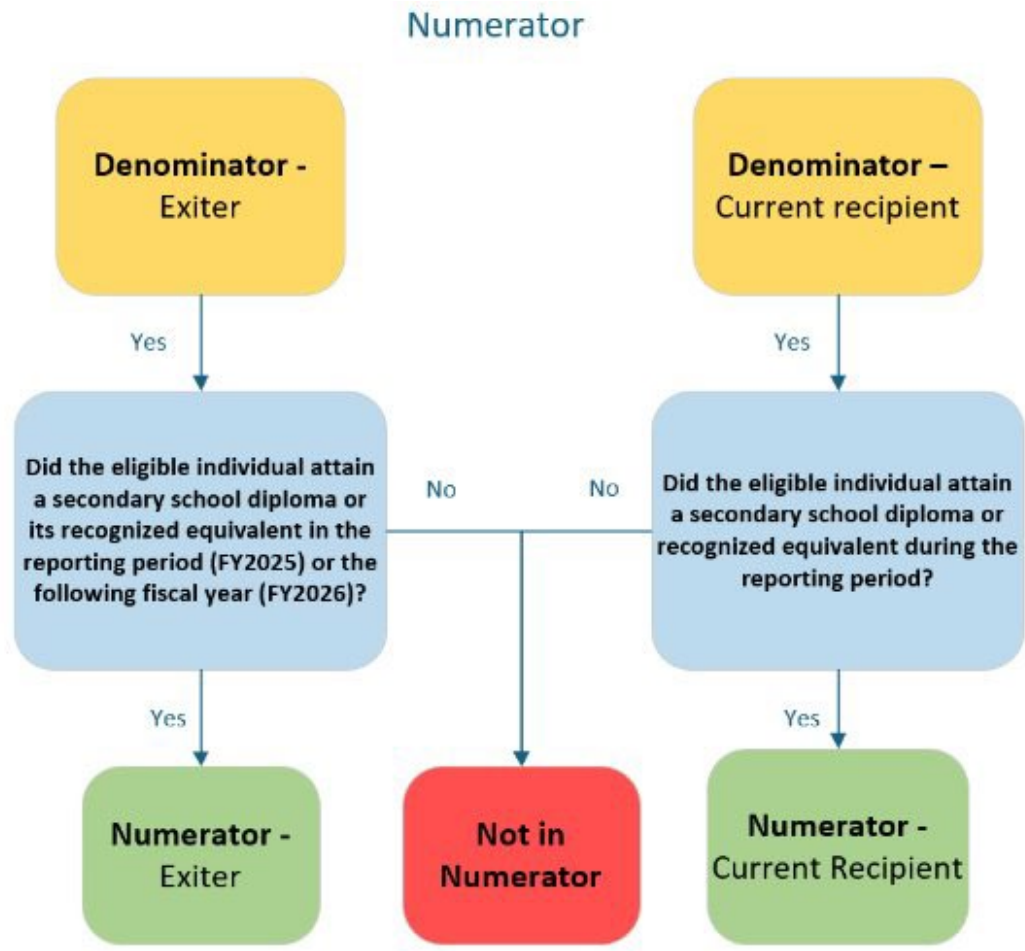


Case 4 – Which denominator and numerator category should Kelly be included in?

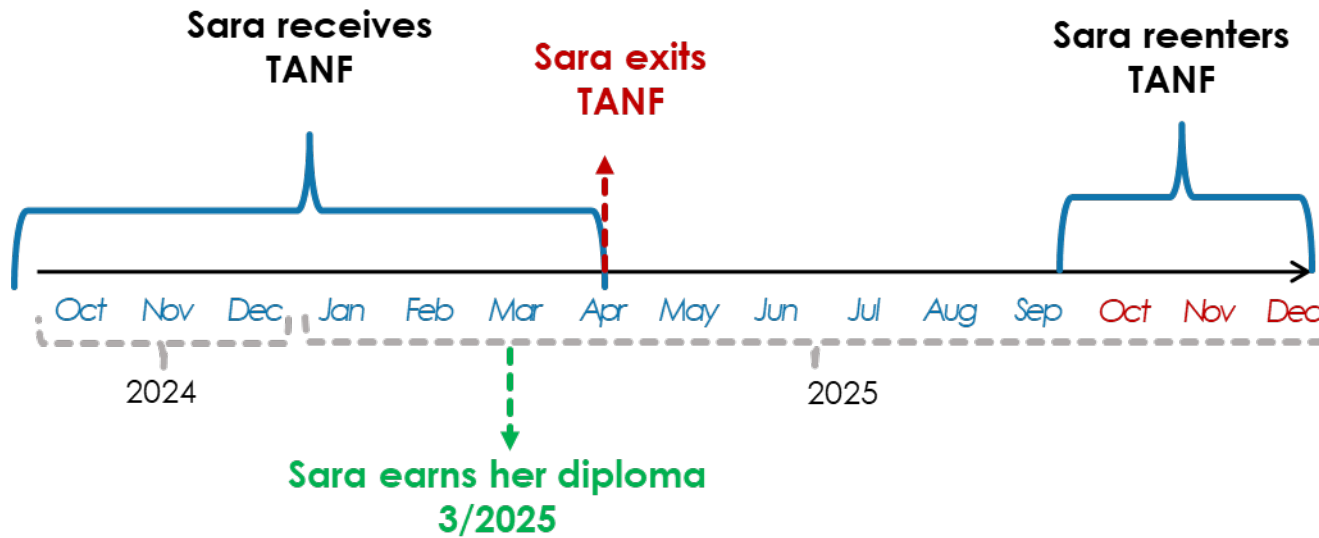


Answer: Kelly is included in the exiter denominator because she stopped receiving TANF assistance for at least 90 days during the reporting period.

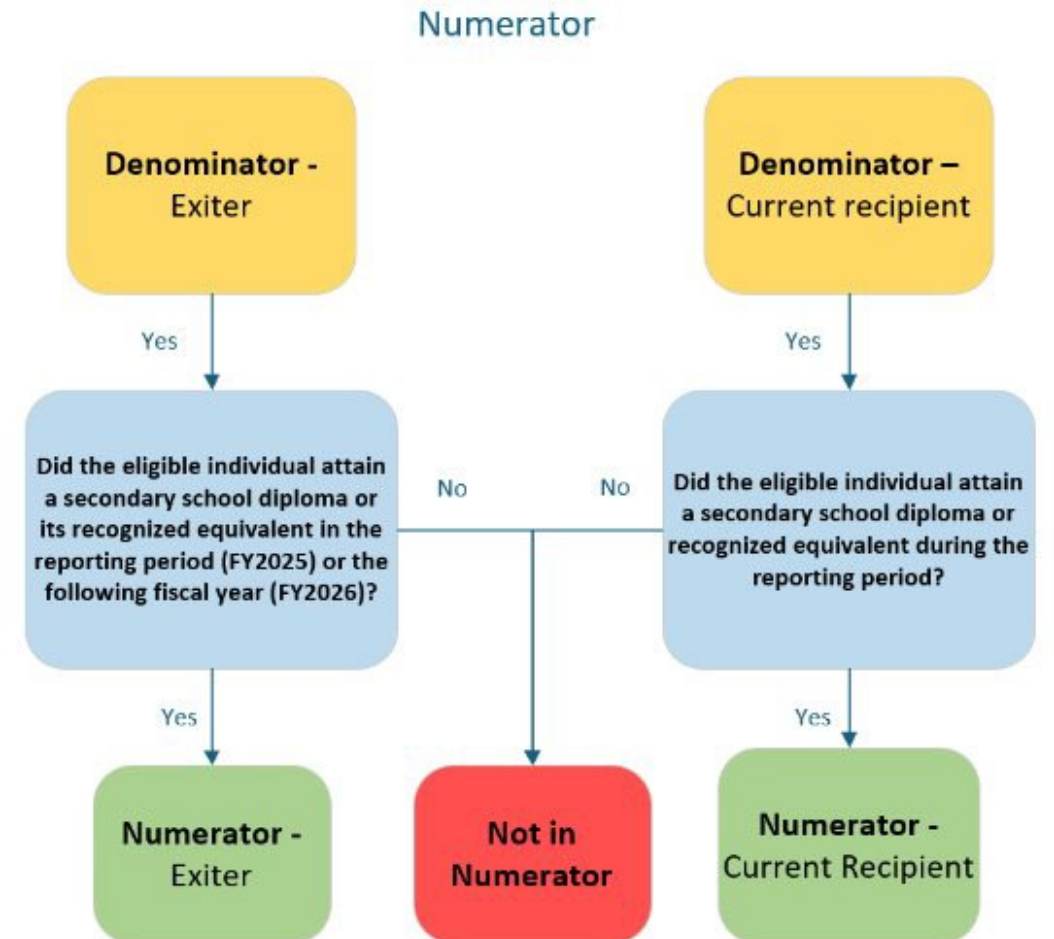
Kelly is included in the numerator because she received her diploma in FY2026.



Case 5 – Which denominator and numerator category should Sara be included in?



Answer: Sara is included in the exiter denominator because she exited during the reporting period, and she is in the numerator because she attained her diploma during the reporting year.





Q&A





Data Elements and Sources



Data needed

To check eligibility

- Age
- Work-eligible individual (WEI) status
- Enrollment in secondary education

To determine if current recipient or exiter

- Case status
- Exit date

To calculate rate

- Secondary school diploma or alternative completion date

Possible Data Sources

- **State Education System:** Centralized data on public K–12 and higher education (e.g., enrollment, graduation).
- **Local Secondary School or Equivalent Systems:** School district-level data on enrollment and completion.
- **Self-Reported from Participants:** Survey or interview data.
- **TANF Work Program Data:** Tracks participant-level data on work-related activities, such as enrollment, services received, attendance, and program outcomes.
- **Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS/P20W):** Linked data from preschool through workforce, enabling long-term tracking.
- **Community College or State Postsecondary System:** Collects data on college enrollment and participation in secondary school equivalency programs.



Q&A



Poll



What additional technical assistance would be helpful? (Select all that apply)

1. Additional survey guidance
2. Additional school records data acquisition guidance
3. Programming code and documentation to determine eligibility, numerator, and denominator
4. Review additional case scenarios
5. Other (please specify)

Use the Zoom poll feature to vote

UPCOMING EVENTS

**1. July Office Hours:
Education Outcomes Special Topic –
Obtaining data through client self report
Date: July 31, 2025**

**2. September Info Session:
Education Outcomes Special Topic –
Obtaining data from State Longitudinal
Data Systems
Date: TBD**



Additional guidance:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/law-regulation/tanf-provisions-fra-2023>

Final report forms and instructions:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/programs/tanf/reporting-instructions>

Secondary School Attainment Measure Instructions:

<https://acf.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ofa/2A.Instructions-secondary-school-attainment-measure.pdf>

Technical Assistance Resources: <https://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/total>

For questions and requests for assistance, contact the TANF Data Division:
tanfdata@acf.hhs.gov

