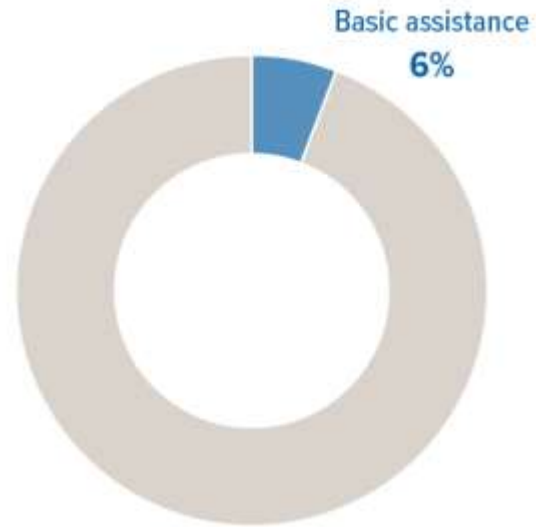


New Jersey TANF Spending



In 2021 New Jersey spent about **\$1.4 billion** in federal and state funds under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. **It spent 6 percent of these funds on basic assistance**, generally as cash assistance to TANF families. In 2021, New Jersey ranked 46th among the states and Washington, D.C. for percent of TANF funds spent on basic assistance.



Federal and State TANF Spending by Category, 2021

	New Jersey		National
	Millions of dollars	Share of spending	Share of U.S. spending
Basic Assistance	\$82	6%	23%
Work Activities	\$61	4%	8%
Work Supports and Supportive Services	\$14	1%	2%
Child Care	\$149	10%	16%
Administration and Systems	\$54	4%	11%
Tax Credits	\$397	28%	9%
Pre-K	\$609	42%	10%
Child Welfare	\$0	0%	9%
Other Services	\$71	5%	14%
Total	\$1400	100%	100%

Federal and State TANF Spending on Select Activities (millions of dollars)

	2006	2011	2016	2018	2021
Basic Assistance	\$159	\$235	\$122	\$82	\$82
Work Activities	\$147	\$84	\$80	\$81	\$61
Child Care	\$70	\$122	\$152	\$166	\$149

Federal TANF Allocation and State Maintenance-of-Effort (MOE) Amounts

- In 2021 New Jersey was awarded its TANF block grant of \$403 million.
- Since unspent block grant funds can be carried over to future years, a state may spend more or less than its annual block grant allocation in any given year. As of 2021, New Jersey has accumulated \$141 million in unspent TANF block grant funds, equal to 35 percent of its block grant.
- Every year each state must also spend, from its own funds, at least 80 percent of its historical spending on low-income families with children. (A state may spend more than its minimum.) This “MOE” requirement can be reduced to 75 percent if a state meets specific work participation rate requirements. In 2021 New Jersey met these requirements and was subject to the 75 percent MOE obligation.

2021 TANF Allocation and MOE Obligation for New Jersey

Federal Funds Awarded	\$403 million
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75% MOE Obligation	\$300 million
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2021 Federal and MOE TANF Expenditures for New Jersey

Federal Spending	\$309 million
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MOE Spending	\$1.1 billion
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The annual federal TANF block grant has been frozen since its creation and lost about 47 percent of its value between 1997 and 2021 due to inflation.



Source: The spending data are based on CBPP analysis of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services TANF financial data. New Jersey's TANF block grant amount has been adjusted to exclude Tribal TANF and research expenditures.