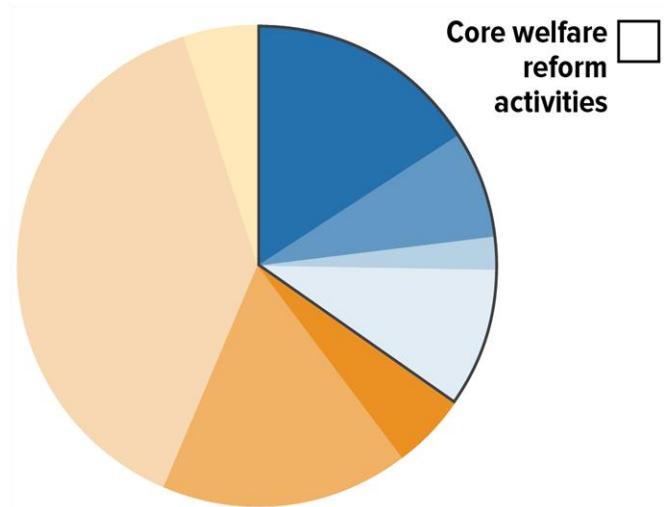


New Jersey TANF Spending

In 2015, New Jersey spent about **\$1.18 billion in federal and state funds** under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. **It spent 35 percent of these funds on core welfare reform activities**, which include basic assistance, work activities and supports, and child care. New Jersey ranked 39th among states in the share of TANF funds spent on core activities.



Federal and State TANF Spending by Category, 2015

Core	New Jersey		National
	(millions of dollars)	(share of spending)	(share of U.S. spending)
Basic Assistance	\$191	16%	25%
Work Activities	\$85	7%	7%
Work Supports and Supportive Services	\$25	2%	3%
Child Care	\$112	9%	17%
Non-core			
Administration and Systems	\$59	5%	10%
Tax Credits	\$195	17%	8%
Pre-K	\$456	39%	6%
Child Welfare	\$0	0%	7%
Other Services	\$59	5%	18%

Share of New Jersey's Federal and State TANF Spending on Core Welfare Reform Activities

	2001	2015
Basic assistance	33%	16%
Work activities	5%	7%
Child care	10%	9%

TANF Provides a Safety Net for Few Poor Families

In 2015, for every 100 poor families with children in New Jersey, only 20 received TANF cash assistance, down from 49 in 2001. During that time, New Jersey cut spending on basic assistance, even as the number of families with children below 50 percent of the poverty line grew substantially.



Federal TANF Allocations and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Requirements

- The annual federal TANF block grant has been frozen since its creation and lost about a third of its value between 1997 and 2015 due to inflation.
- Since unspent block grant funds can be carried over to future years, a state may spend more or less than its federal block grant allocation in any given year. In 2015, New Jersey spent \$419 million in federal TANF funds.
- Every year each state must also spend, from its own funds, at least 80 percent of its historical spending on poor families with children. (In some cases this “MOE” requirement can be reduced to 75 percent.) In 2015, New Jersey claimed \$763 million in MOE spending.

Annual TANF Allocations and MOE Obligations for New Jersey

TANF block grant amount	\$404 million
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80% MOE obligation	\$320 million
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75% MOE obligation	\$300 million
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Source: The spending data are CBPP analysis of US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) TANF financial data. The 2001 TANF families are HHS' TANF caseload data; the 2015 TANF families are from state agency TANF caseload data collected by CBPP. The CBPP analysis of families in poverty and deep poverty uses data from Census' Current Population Survey. The individual years CBPP uses to describe caseloads, poverty and deep poverty trends represent two-year averages; for example, '2015' represents the average for '2014-2015'.