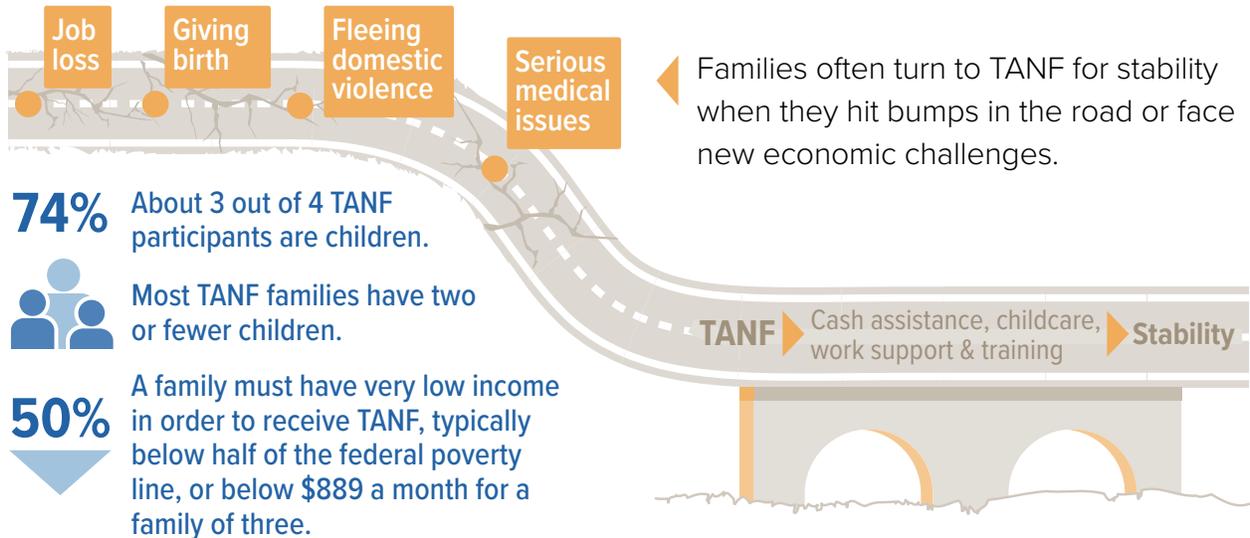


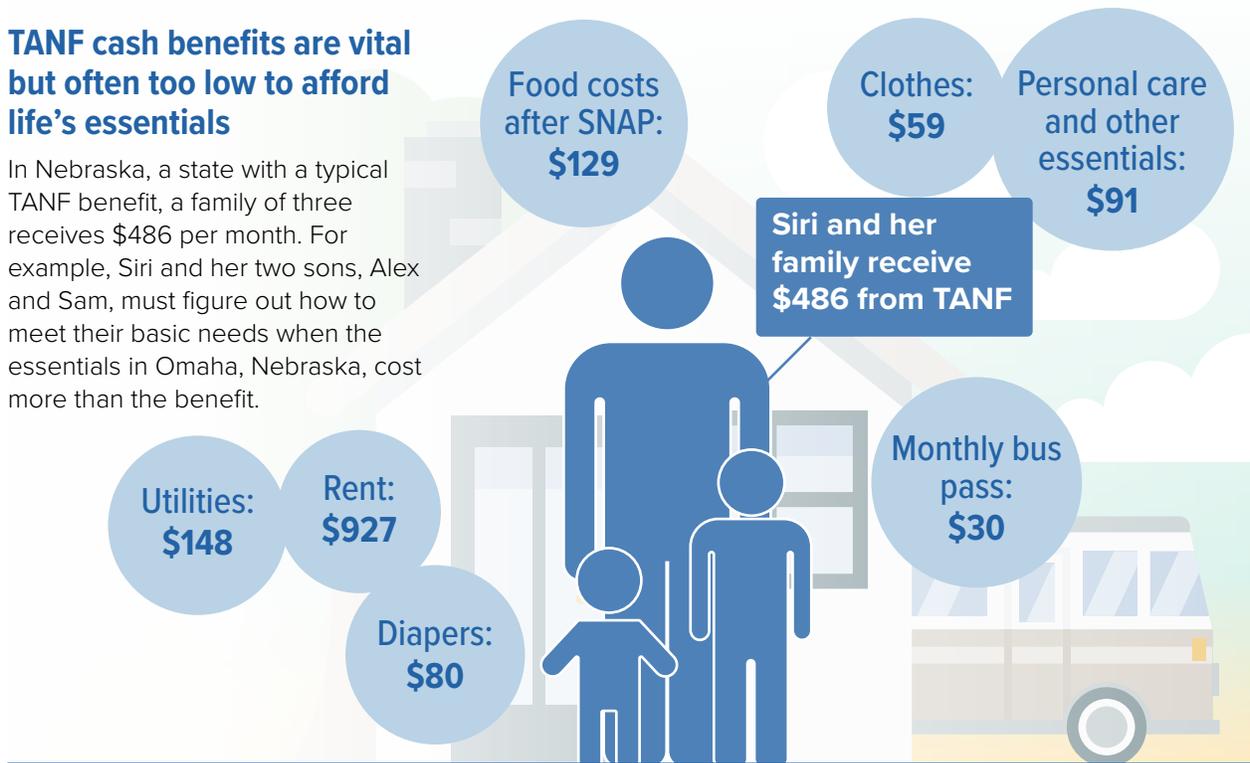
TANF Cash Assistance Is Vital to Families' Ability to Meet Their Basic Needs

Cash benefits from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families can help families afford basic needs, but the program fails to help millions of families with low incomes that struggle to make ends meet.



TANF cash benefits are vital but often too low to afford life's essentials

In Nebraska, a state with a typical TANF benefit, a family of three receives \$486 per month. For example, Siri and her two sons, Alex and Sam, must figure out how to meet their basic needs when the essentials in Omaha, Nebraska, cost more than the benefit.



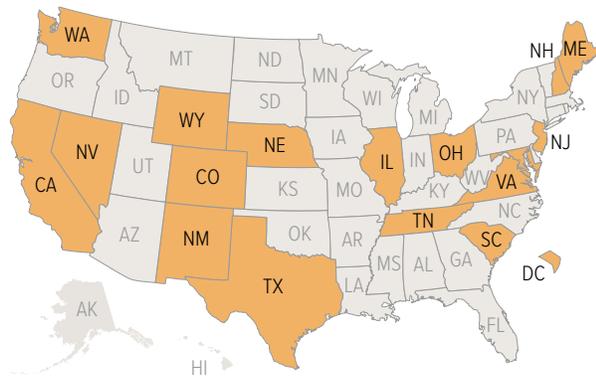
TANF leaves out many families in poverty

TANF's reach has declined dramatically. In 2017, for every 100 families in poverty, only 23 received direct financial assistance from TANF — down from 68 families in 1996.



Some states are boosting benefits to help families get by, set children up for long-term success

Some 17 states and D.C. have raised TANF cash benefits since 2017. Still, these and other states should do more to reclaim the lost value of benefits and lift families out of deep poverty.



Increased income from programs like TANF can help families like Siri and her children flourish and succeed in the long term. Research shows adequate income from programs like TANF can lead to:

-  Fewer underweight births
-  Improved academic performance
-  Higher school attendance and graduation rates
-  Increased earnings in adulthood
-  Longer lifespan

Sources: *TANF participant characteristics*: “Characteristics and Financial Circumstances of TANF Recipients, Fiscal Year 2017,” Department of Health and Human Services. *TANF eligibility standards*: “Welfare Rules Database,” Urban Institute. *Life’s essentials graphic*: Omaha Public Power District, Omaha Metro, National Diaper Bank Network, U.S. Department of Agriculture’s “Cost of Raising a Child Calculator.” *TANF leaves out many families graphic*: “TANF Reaching Few Poor Families,” Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. *TANF’s long-term impacts*: “Economic Security Programs Help Low-Income Children Succeed Over Long Term, Many Studies Find,” Center on Budget and Policy Priorities