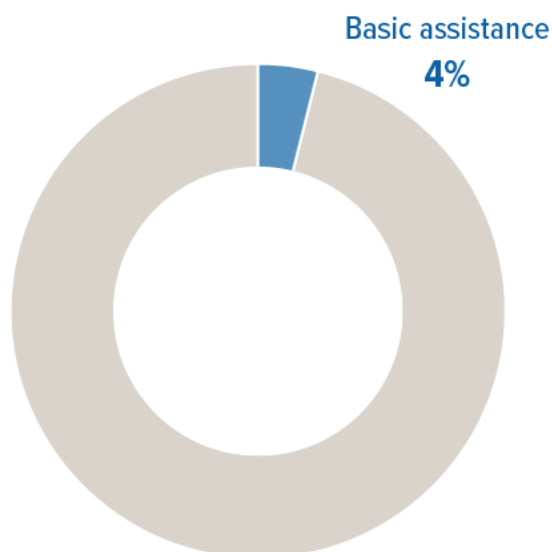


Arkansas TANF Spending

In 2021 Arkansas spent about **\$88 million in federal and state funds** under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. **It spent 4 percent of these funds on basic assistance**, generally as cash assistance to TANF families. In 2021 Arkansas ranked 49th among the states and Washington, D.C. for percent of TANF funds spent on basic assistance.



Federal and State TANF Spending by Category, 2021

	Arkansas		National Share of U.S. spending
	Millions of dollars	Share of spending	
Basic Assistance	\$4	4%	23%
Work Activities	\$11	13%	8%
Work Supports and Supportive Services	\$0.3	0.3%	2%
Child Care	\$5	6%	16%
Administration and Systems	\$15	17%	11%
Tax Credits	\$0	0%	9%
Pre-K	\$30	34%	10%
Child Welfare	\$4	4%	9%
Other Services	\$20	22%	14%
Total	\$88	100%	100%

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

	2006	2011	2016	2018	2021
Basic Assistance	\$15	\$16	\$7	\$4	\$4
Work Activities	\$15	\$28	\$15	\$15	\$11
Child Care	\$28	\$0.9	\$8	\$16	\$5

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

- In 2021 Arkansas was awarded its TANF block grant of \$57 million and an additional \$7 million in contingency funds.
- 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 Arkansas has accumulated \$113 million in unspent TANF block grant funds, equal to 199 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 Arkansas met these requirements and was subject to the 75 percent MOE obligation.

2021 TANF Allocation and MOE Obligation for Arkansas

Federal Funds Awarded	\$63 million
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75% MOE Obligation	\$21 million
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2021 Federal and MOE TANF Expenditures for Arkansas

Federal Spending	\$55 million
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MOE Spending	\$33 million
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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.

