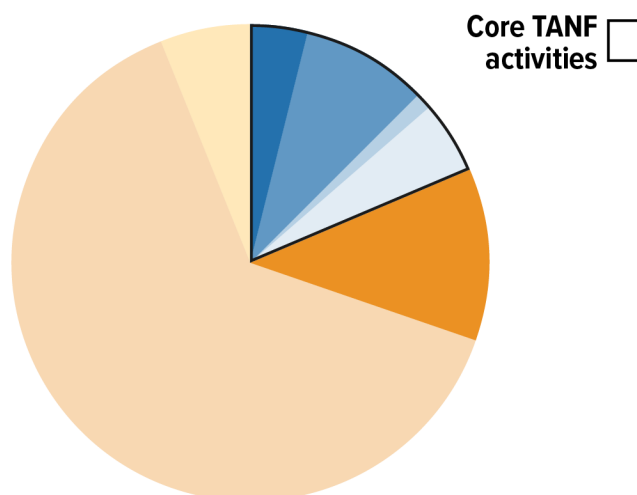


Arkansas TANF Spending

In 2017, Arkansas spent about **\$161 million in federal and state funds** under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. **It spent 18 percent of these funds on core activities**, which include basic assistance, work activities and supports, and child care. In 2017, Arkansas ranked 48th among states and the District of Columbia for percent of TANF funds spent on core activities.



Federal and State TANF Spending by Category, 2017

	Arkansas		National
Core	(millions of dollars)	(share of spending)	(share of U.S. spending)
Basic Assistance	\$6	4%	23%
Work Activities	\$14	9%	11%
Work Supports and Supportive Services	\$1	1%	3%
Child Care	\$8	5%	16%
Non-core			
Administration and Systems	\$18	11%	11%
Tax Credits	\$0	0%	9%
Pre-K	\$105	65%	8%
Child Welfare	\$0.2	0.1%	7%
Other Services	\$9	6%	13%

Share of Arkansas' Federal and State TANF Spending on Core Activities

	2001	2006	2011	2017
Basic assistance	23%	19%	8%	4%
Work activities	24%	18%	17%	9%
Child care	18%	35%	0%	5%

TANF Provides a Safety Net for Few Poor Families

In 2017, for every 100 poor families with children in Arkansas, only 5 received TANF cash assistance, down from 15 in 2001. During this time Arkansas slashed its investments in core activities. Meanwhile, the number of families with children below 50 percent of the poverty line remained high.



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 2017 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 2017, Arkansas spent \$50 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 2017, Arkansas claimed \$111 million in MOE spending.

Annual TANF Allocations and MOE Obligations for Arkansas

TANF block grant amount	\$57 million
80% MOE obligation	\$22 million
75% MOE obligation	\$21 million

Source: The spending data are based on CBPP analysis of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) TANF financial data. 2001 TANF families are from HHS' TANF caseload data; the 2017 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, '2017' represents the average for '2016-2017.'