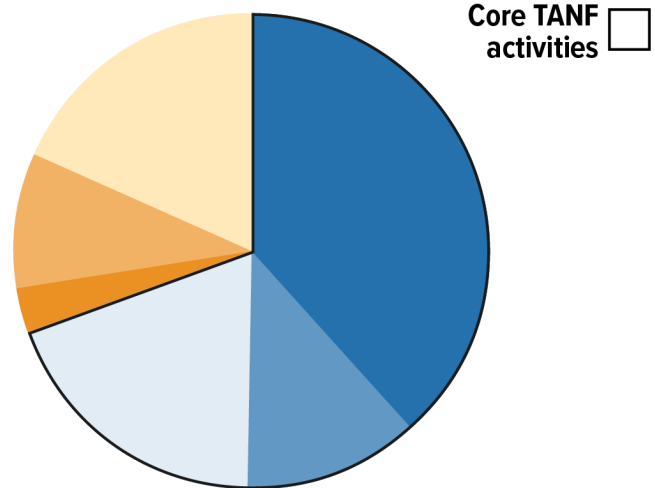


District of Columbia TANF Spending

In 2017, DC spent about \$317 million in federal and state funds under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. It spent 70 percent of these funds on core activities, which include basic assistance, work activities and supports, and child care.



Federal and State TANF Spending by Category, 2017

	DC (millions of dollars)	DC (share of spending)	National (share of U.S. spending)
Core			
Basic Assistance	\$122	38%	23%
Work Activities	\$38	12%	11%
Work Supports and Supportive Services	\$1	0.4%	3%
Child Care	\$60	19%	16%
Non-core			
Administration and Systems	\$10	3%	11%
Tax Credits	\$29	9%	9%
Pre-K	\$0	0%	8%
Child Welfare	\$0	0%	7%
Other Services	\$58	18%	13%

Share of DC's Federal and State TANF Spending on Core Activities

	2001	2006	2011	2017
Basic assistance	35%	29%	26%	38%
Work activities	12%	10%	10%	12%
Child care	33%	38%	27%	19%

TANF Provides a Safety Net for Few Poor Families

While its spending on child care has fluctuated between 2001 and 2017, the share of its TANF dollars that D.C. spends on child care has significantly decreased since 2001. Child care is a critical support for poor families to find and keep jobs.



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, D.C. spent \$136 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, D.C. claimed \$181 million in MOE spending.

Annual TANF Allocations and MOE Obligations for DC

TANF block grant amount	\$93 million
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80% MOE obligation	\$75 million
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75% MOE obligation	\$70 million
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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.'