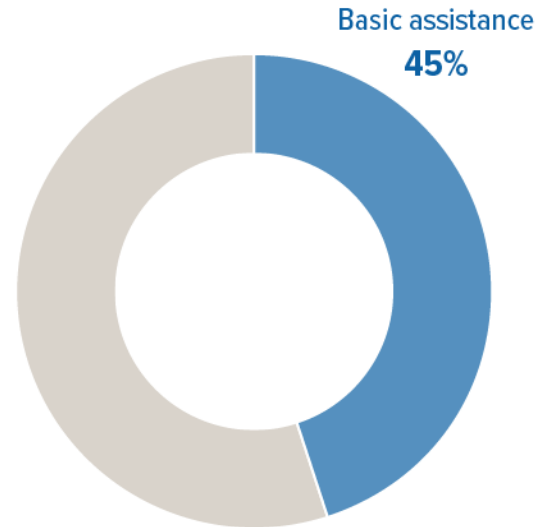


District of Columbia TANF Spending

In 2019, the District of Columbia spent about \$368 million in federal and state funds under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. It spent 45 percent of these funds on basic assistance, generally as cash assistance to TANF families.



Federal and State TANF Spending by Category, 2019

	Millions of dollars	DC Share of spending	National Share of U.S. spending
Basic Assistance	\$165	45%	21%
Work Activities	\$35	9%	10%
Work Supports and Supportive Services	\$0	0.1%	3%
Child Care	\$59	16%	16%
Administration and Systems	\$11	3%	10%
Tax Credits	\$24	6%	9%
Pre-K/Head Start	\$0	0%	8%
Child Welfare	\$0	0%	8%
Other Services	\$74	20%	14%
Total	\$368	100%	100%

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

	2001	2006	2011	2016	2019
Basic Assistance	\$67	\$62	\$67	\$100	\$165
Work Activities	\$23	\$21	\$23	\$38	\$35
Child Care	\$62	\$81	\$67	\$60	\$59

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

- In 2019, the District of Columbia was awarded its TANF block grant of \$92 million and an additional \$11 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 2019, the District of Columbia has accumulated \$31 million in unspent TANF block grant funds, equal to 34 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 poor 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 2019, the District of Columbia met these requirements and was subject to the 75 percent MOE obligation.

2019 TANF Allocation and MOE Obligation for DC

Federal Funds Awarded	\$103 million
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75% MOE Obligation	\$70 million
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2019 Federal and MOE TANF Expenditures for DC

Federal Spending	\$121 million
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MOE Spending	\$248 million
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The annual federal TANF block grant has been frozen since its creation and lost about 40 percent of its value between 1997 and 2019 due to inflation.

