Delaware TANF Spending



In 2021 Delaware spent about \$98 million in federal and state funds under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. It spent 6 percent of these funds on basic assistance, generally as cash assistance to TANF families. In 2021, Delaware ranked 45th among the states and Washington, D.C. for percent of TANF funds spent on basic assistance.

Basic assistance

Federal and State TANF Spending by Category, 2021

| | Dela Millions of dollars | ware Share of spending | National Share of U.S. spending |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Basic Assistance | \$6 | 6% | 23% |
| Work Activities | \$13 | 13% | 8% |
| Work Supports and Supportive Services | \$0.5 | 0.5% | 2% |
| Child Care | \$30 | 31% | 16% |
| Administration and Systems | \$47 | 48% | 11% |
| Tax Credits | \$0 | 0% | 9% |
| Pre-K | \$0 | 0% | 10% |
| Child Welfare | \$0 | 0% | 9% |
| Other Services | \$1 | 1% | 14% |
| Total | \$98 | 100% | 100% |

| | 2006 | 2011 | 2016 | 2018 | 2021 |
|---------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Basic Assistance | \$18 | \$26 | \$20 | \$14 | \$6 |
| Work Activities | \$1 | \$1 | \$5 | \$4 | \$13 |
| Child Care | \$35 | \$29 | \$72 | \$76 | \$30 |

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

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

- In 2021 Delaware was awarded its TANF block grant of \$32 million and an additional \$4 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, Delaware has accumulated \$45 million in unspent TANF block grant funds, equal to 139 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 Delaware met these requirements and was subject to the 75 percent MOE obligation.

2021 TANF Allocation and MOE Obligation for Delaware

| Federal Funds Awarded | \$36 million |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 75% MOE | \$22 |
| Obligation | million |

2021 Federal and MOE TANF Expenditures for Delaware

| Federal | \$32 | | |
|----------|---------|--|--|
| Spending | million | | |
| MOE | \$66 | | |
| Spending | million | | |

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.



Source: The spending data are based on CBPP analysis of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services TANF financial data. Delaware's TANF block grant amount has been adjusted to exclude Tribal TANF and research expenditures.