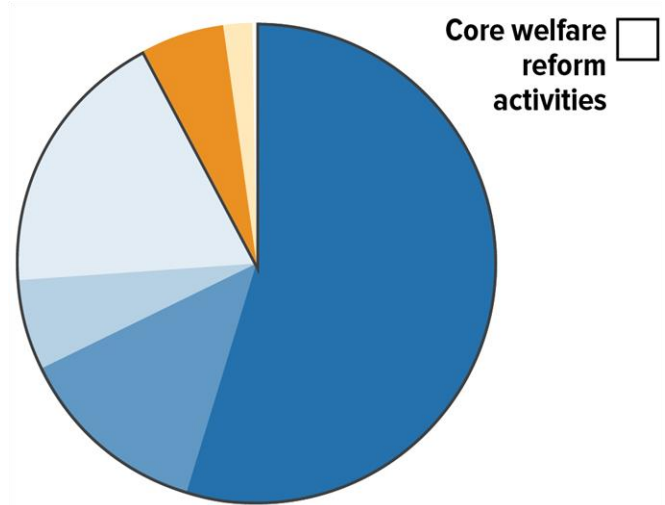


Kentucky TANF Spending

In 2015, Kentucky spent about \$254 million in federal and state funds under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. It spent 92 percent of these funds on core welfare reform activities, which include basic assistance, work activities and supports, and child care.



Federal and State TANF Spending by Category, 2015

	Kentucky		National
	(millions of dollars)	(share of spending)	(share of U.S. spending)
Core			
Basic Assistance	\$140	55%	25%
Work Activities	\$33	13%	7%
Work Supports and Supportive Services	\$16	6%	3%
Child Care	\$47	18%	17%
Non-core			
Administration and Systems	\$14	6%	10%
Tax Credits	\$0	0%	8%
Pre-K	\$0	0%	6%
Child Welfare	\$0	0%	7%
Other Services	\$5	2%	18%

Share of Kentucky's Federal and State TANF Spending on Core Welfare Reform Activities

	2001	2015
Basic assistance	44%	55%
Work activities	13%	13%
Child care	21%	18%

TANF Provides a Safety Net for Few Poor Families

In 2015, for every 100 poor families with children in Kentucky, only 19 received TANF cash assistance, down from 44 in 2001. During this time, the number of families with children below 50 percent of the poverty line more than doubled. Kentucky cut spending on work activities and child care to help poor families 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 2015 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 2015, Kentucky spent \$153 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 2015, Kentucky claimed \$101 million in MOE spending.

Annual TANF Allocations and MOE Obligations for Kentucky

TANF block grant amount	\$181 million
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80% MOE obligation	\$72 million
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75% MOE obligation	\$67 million
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Source: The spending data are CBPP analysis of US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) TANF financial data. The 2001 TANF families are HHS' TANF caseload data; the 2015 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, '2015' represents the average for '2014-2015'.