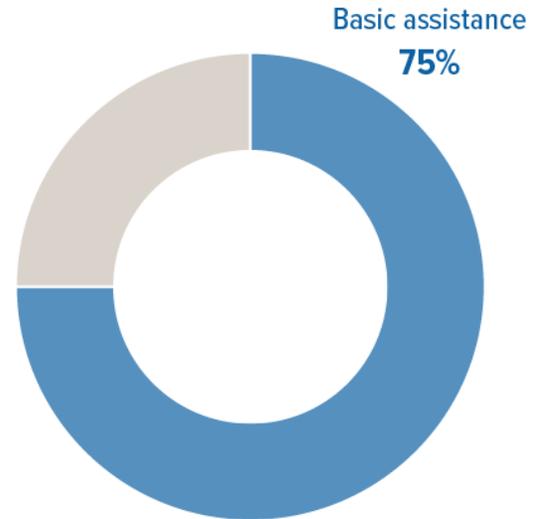


Kentucky TANF Spending

In 2021 Kentucky spent about **\$221 million** in federal and state funds under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. **It spent 75 percent of these funds on basic assistance**, generally as cash assistance to TANF families.



Federal and State TANF Spending by Category, 2021

| | Kentucky | | National Share of U.S. spending |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | Millions of dollars | Share of spending | |
| Basic Assistance | \$164 | 75% | 23% |
| Work Activities | \$21 | 10% | 8% |
| Work Supports and Supportive Services | \$3 | 1% | 2% |
| Child Care | \$19 | 9% | 16% |
| Administration and Systems | \$13 | 6% | 11% |
| Tax Credits | \$0 | 0% | 9% |
| Pre-K | \$0 | 0% | 10% |
| Child Welfare | \$0 | 0% | 9% |
| Other Services | \$0.4 | 0.2% | 14% |
| Total | \$221 | 100% | 100% |

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

| | 2006 | 2011 | 2016 | 2018 | 2021 |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Basic Assistance | \$101 | \$105 | \$144 | \$172 | \$164 |
| Work Activities | \$24 | \$31 | \$31 | \$29 | \$21 |
| Child Care | \$75 | \$61 | \$27 | \$36 | \$19 |

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

- In 2021 Kentucky was awarded its TANF block grant of \$181 million.
- 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, Kentucky has accumulated \$72 million in unspent TANF block grant funds, equal to 40 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 Kentucky met these requirements and was subject to the 75 percent MOE obligation.

2021 TANF Allocation and MOE Obligation for Kentucky

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Federal Funds Awarded | \$181 million |
|------------------------------|---------------|

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| 75% MOE Obligation | \$67 million |
|---------------------------|--------------|

2021 Federal and MOE TANF Expenditures for Kentucky

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Federal Spending | \$148 million |
|-------------------------|---------------|

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| MOE Spending | \$73 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.

