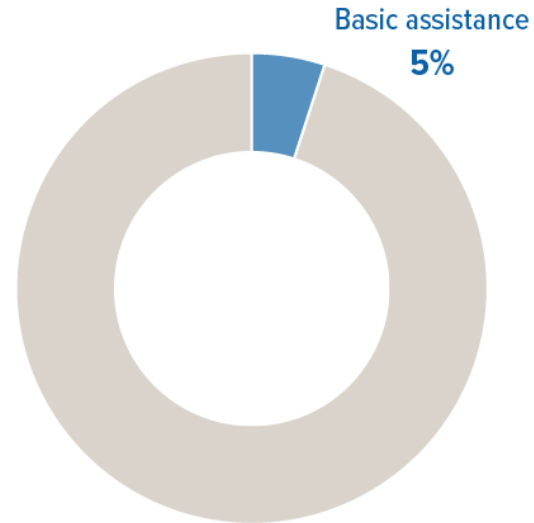


North Carolina TANF Spending

In 2021 North Carolina spent about \$553 million in federal and state funds under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. **It spent 5 percent of these funds on basic assistance**, generally as cash assistance to TANF families. In 2021, North Carolina ranked 48th among the states and Washington, D.C. for percent of TANF funds spent on basic assistance.



Federal and State TANF Spending by Category, 2021

	North Carolina		National
	Millions of dollars	Share of spending	Share of U.S. spending
Basic Assistance	\$31	5%	23%
Work Activities	\$5	1%	8%
Work Supports and Supportive Services	\$0	0.1%	2%
Child Care	\$218	38%	16%
Administration and Systems	\$64	11%	11%
Tax Credits	\$0	0%	9%
Pre-K	\$77	13%	10%
Child Welfare	\$150	26%	9%
Other Services	\$32	6%	14%
Total	\$553	100%	100%

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

	2006	2011	2016	2018	2021
Basic Assistance	\$94	\$58	\$46	\$37	\$31
Work Activities	\$47	\$94	\$6	\$5	\$5
Child Care	\$177	\$203	\$180	\$217	\$218

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

- In 2021 North Carolina was awarded its TANF block grant of \$300 million and an additional \$36 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, North Carolina has accumulated \$44 million in unspent TANF block grant funds, equal to 15 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 North Carolina failed to meet these requirements and was subject to the 80 percent MOE obligation.

2021 TANF Allocation and MOE Obligation for North Carolina

Federal Funds Awarded	\$336 million
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75% MOE Obligation	\$154 million
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2021 Federal and MOE TANF Expenditures for North Carolina

Federal Spending	\$322 million
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MOE Spending	\$231 million
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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 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'.