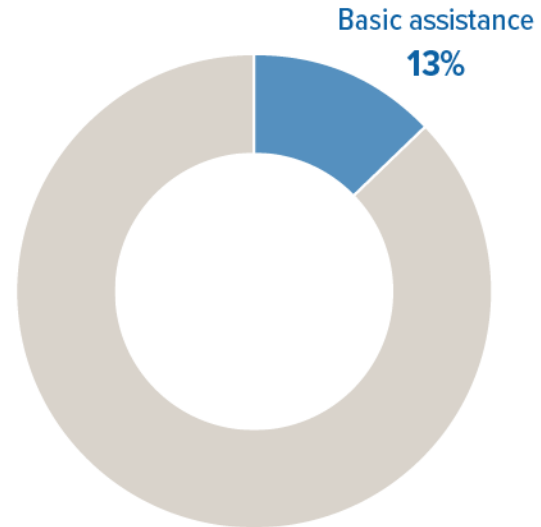


Rhode Island TANF Spending

In 2019, Rhode Island spent about **\$183 million in federal and state funds** under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. **It spent 13 percent of these funds on basic assistance**, generally as cash assistance to TANF families. In 2019, Rhode Island ranked 33rd among the states and the District of Columbia for percent of TANF funds spent on basic assistance.



Federal and State TANF Spending by Category, 2019

	Rhode Island		National
	Millions of dollars	Share of spending	Share of U.S. spending
Basic Assistance	\$24	13%	21%
Work Activities	\$12	7%	10%
Work Supports and Supportive Services	\$2	1%	3%
Child Care	\$45	25%	16%
Administration and Systems	\$9	5%	10%
Tax Credits	\$23	12%	9%
Pre-K/Head Start	\$0	0%	8%
Child Welfare	\$33	18%	8%
Other Services	\$34	19%	14%
Total	\$183	100%	100%

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

	2001	2006	2011	2016	2019
Basic Assistance	\$88	\$65	\$36	\$27	\$24
Work Activities	\$8	\$6	\$10	\$11	\$12
Child Care	\$31	\$52	\$25	\$34	\$45

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

- In 2019, Rhode Island was awarded a reduced TANF block grant of \$94 million. The block grant was reduced due to a federal penalty for failure to meet the work participation rate in 2009 and 2010.
- 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, Rhode Island has accumulated \$13 million in unspent TANF block grant funds, equal to 13 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, Rhode Island failed to meet these requirements and was subject to the 80 percent MOE obligation.

2019 TANF Allocation and MOE Obligation for Rhode Island

Federal Funds Awarded	\$94 million
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80% MOE Obligation	\$64 million
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2019 Federal and MOE TANF Expenditures for Rhode Island

Federal Spending	\$98 million
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MOE Spending	\$84 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.

