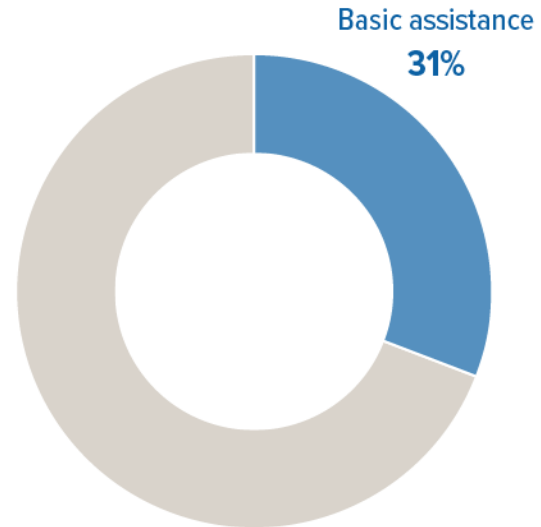


Tennessee TANF Spending

In 2019, Tennessee spent about **\$188 million** in federal and state funds under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. **It spent 31 percent of these funds on basic assistance**, generally as cash assistance to TANF families.



Federal and State TANF Spending by Category, 2019

	Tennessee		National Share of U.S. spending
	Millions of dollars	Share of spending	
Basic Assistance	\$58	31%	21%
Work Activities	\$19	10%	10%
Work Supports and Supportive Services	\$1	1%	3%
Child Care	\$0	0%	16%
Administration and Systems	\$27	14%	10%
Tax Credits	\$0	0%	9%
Pre-K/Head Start	\$82	44%	8%
Child Welfare	\$0	0%	8%
Other Services	\$1	1%	14%
Total	\$188	100%	100%

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

	2001	2006	2011	2016	2019
Basic Assistance	\$123	\$104	\$131	\$71	\$58
Work Activities	\$49	\$37	\$93	\$21	\$19
Child Care	\$111	\$92	\$91	\$19	\$0

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

- In 2019, Tennessee was awarded its TANF block grant of \$191 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 2019, Tennessee has accumulated \$732 million in unspent TANF block grant funds, equal to 383 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, Tennessee met these requirements and was subject to the 75 percent MOE obligation.

2019 TANF Allocation and MOE Obligation for Tennessee

Federal Funds Awarded	\$191 million
------------------------------	---------------

75% MOE Obligation	\$83 million
---------------------------	--------------

2019 Federal and MOE TANF Expenditures for Tennessee

Federal Spending	\$73 million
-------------------------	--------------

MOE Spending	\$115 million
---------------------	---------------

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.

