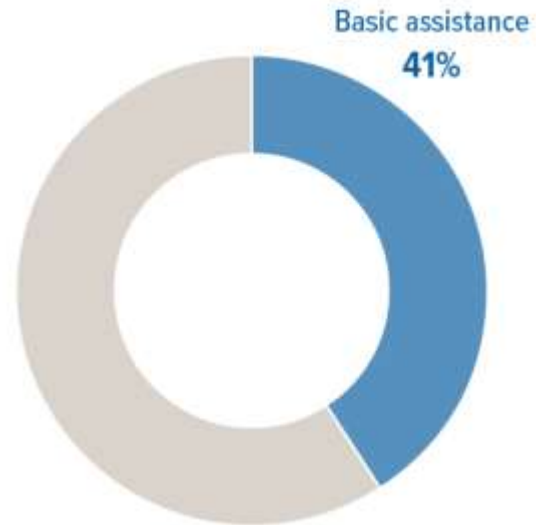


Tennessee TANF Spending

In 2021 Tennessee spent about **\$271 million in federal and state funds** under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. **It spent 41 percent of these funds on basic assistance**, generally as cash assistance to TANF families.



Federal and State TANF Spending by Category, 2021

	Tennessee		National Share of U.S. spending
	Millions of dollars	Share of spending	
Basic Assistance	\$110	41%	23%
Work Activities	\$20	7%	8%
Work Supports and Supportive Services	\$2	1%	2%
Child Care	\$8	3%	16%
Administration and Systems	\$30	11%	11%
Tax Credits	\$0.1	0.02%	9%
Pre-K	\$83	31%	10%
Child Welfare	\$15	5%	9%
Other Services	\$3	1%	14%
Total	\$271	100%	100%

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

	2006	2011	2016	2018	2021
Basic Assistance	\$104	\$131	\$71	\$18	\$110
Work Activities	\$37	\$93	\$21	\$8	\$20
Child Care	\$92	\$91	\$19	\$0	\$8

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

- In 2021 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 2021, Tennessee has accumulated \$798 million in unspent TANF block grant funds, equal to 418 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 Tennessee met these requirements and was subject to the 75 percent MOE obligation.

2021 TANF Allocation and MOE Obligation for Tennessee

Federal Funds Awarded	\$191 million
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75% MOE Obligation	\$83 million
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2021 Federal and MOE TANF Expenditures for Tennessee

Federal Spending	\$182 million
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MOE Spending	\$88 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 based on CBPP analysis of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services TANF financial data. Tennessee's TANF block grant amount has been adjusted to exclude Tribal TANF and research expenditures.