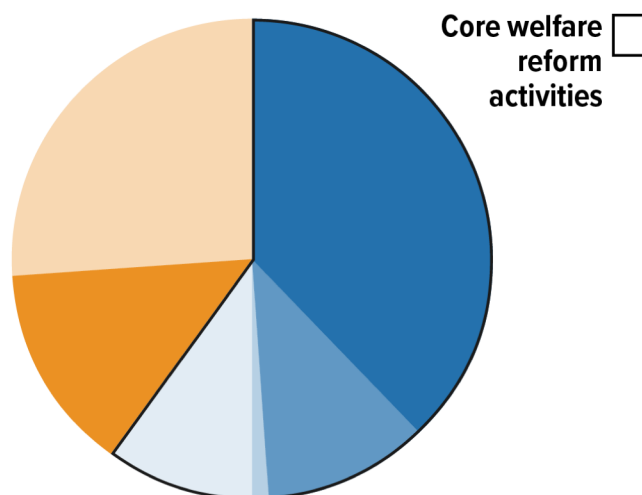


Tennessee TANF Spending

In 2016, Tennessee spent about **\$187 million in federal and state funds** under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. **It spent 60 percent of these funds on core welfare reform activities**, which include basic assistance, work activities and supports, and child care.



Federal and State TANF Spending by Category, 2016

Core	Tennessee		National
	(millions of dollars)	(share of spending)	(share of U.S. spending)
Basic Assistance	\$71	38%	24%
Work Activities	\$21	11%	9%
Work Supports and Supportive Services	\$2	1%	3%
Child Care	\$19	10%	17%
Non-core			
Administration and Systems	\$27	14%	10%
Tax Credits	\$0	0%	9%
Pre-K	\$48	26%	7%
Child Welfare	\$0	0%	7%
Other Services	\$0	0%	13%

Share of Tennessee's Federal and State TANF Spending on Core Welfare Reform Activities

	2001	2006	2011	2016
Basic assistance	35%	31%	31%	38%
Work activities	14%	11%	22%	11%
Child care	31%	28%	21%	10%

TANF Provides a Safety Net for Few Poor Families

In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children in Tennessee, only 23 received TANF cash assistance, down from 43 in 2001. During that time, Tennessee slashed its investments in child care and cut spending on basic assistance and work activities, while the number of families with children below 50 percent of the poverty line remained high.



Federal TANF Allocations and State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Requirements

- The annual federal TANF block grant has been frozen since its creation and lost more than a third of its value between 1997 and 2016 due to inflation.
- Since unspent block grant funds can be carried over to future years, a state may spend more or less than its federal block grant allocation in any given year. In 2016, Tennessee spent \$66 million in federal TANF funds.
- Every year each state must also spend, from its own funds, at least 80 percent of its historical spending on poor families with children. (In some cases, this “MOE” requirement can be reduced to 75 percent.) In 2016, Tennessee claimed \$121 million in MOE spending.

Annual TANF Allocations and MOE Obligations for Tennessee

TANF block grant amount	\$192 million
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80% MOE obligation	\$88 million
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75% MOE obligation	\$83 million
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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 2016 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, '2016' represents the average for '2015-2016'.