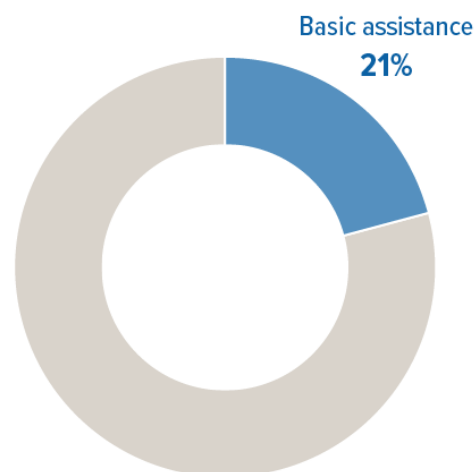


National TANF Spending

In 2019, the 50 states plus the District of Columbia spent about \$30.9 billion in federal and state funds under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. States spent 21 percent of these funds on basic assistance, generally as cash assistance to TANF families.



Federal and State TANF Spending by Category, 2019

	National Spending 2019	
	Billions of dollars	Share of spending
Basic Assistance	\$6.5	21%
Work Activities	\$3.2	10%
Work Supports and Supportive Services	\$0.8	3%
Child Care	\$5.0	16%
Administration and Systems	\$3.1	10%
Tax Credits	\$2.8	9%
Pre-K	\$2.6	8%
Child Welfare	\$2.6	8%
Other Services	\$4.2	14%
Total	\$30.9	100%

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

	2001	2006	2011	2016	2019
Basic Assistance	\$10.1	\$9.9	\$9.6	\$7.4	\$6.5
Work Activities	\$2.7	\$2.4	\$2.6	\$2.8	\$3.2
Child Care	\$5.3	\$5.4	\$5.5	\$5.1	\$5.0

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

- In 2019, states were awarded \$16.2 billion in block grant funds and an additional \$592 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 2019, the states have accumulated \$5.9 billion in unspent funds, equal to 36 percent of the total 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.

2019 TANF Allocation and MOE Obligation for States

Federal Funds Awarded	\$16.8 billion
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80% MOE Obligation	\$11 billion
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2019 Federal and MOE TANF Expenditures for States

Federal Spending	\$16.2 billion
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MOE Spending	\$14.7 billion
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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.

