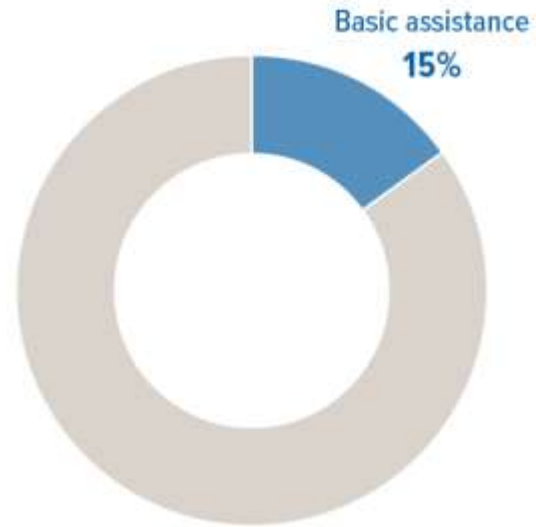


Washington TANF Spending

In 2021 Washington spent about **\$1.1 billion** in federal and state funds under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. **It spent 15 percent of these funds on basic assistance**, generally as cash assistance to TANF families. In 2021 Washington ranked 32nd among the states and Washington, D.C. for percent of TANF funds spent on basic assistance.



Federal and State TANF Spending by Category, 2021

	Washington		National Share of U.S. spending
	Millions of dollars	Share of spending	
Basic Assistance	\$158	15%	23%
Work Activities	\$119	11%	8%
Work Supports and Supportive Services	\$0.7	0.1%	2%
Child Care	\$173	16%	16%
Administration and Systems	\$45	4%	11%
Tax Credits	\$0	0%	9%
Pre-K	\$64	6%	10%
Child Welfare	\$35	3%	9%
Other Services	\$485	45%	14%
Total	\$1100	100%	100%

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

	2006	2011	2016	2018	2021
Basic Assistance	\$284	\$306	\$159	\$136	\$158
Work Activities	\$187	\$115	\$146	\$102	\$119
Child Care	\$179	\$197	\$208	\$227	\$173

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

- In 2021 Washington was awarded its TANF block grant of \$379 million and an additional \$45 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 2021, Washington has accumulated \$142 million in unspent TANF block grant funds, equal to 37 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 Washington met these requirements and was subject to the 75 percent MOE obligation.

2021 TANF Allocation and MOE Obligation for Washington

Federal Funds Awarded	\$424 million
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75% MOE Obligation	\$272 million
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2021 Federal and MOE TANF Expenditures for Washington

Federal Spending	\$408 million
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MOE Spending	\$667 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. Washington's TANF block grant amount has been adjusted to exclude Tribal TANF and research expenditures.