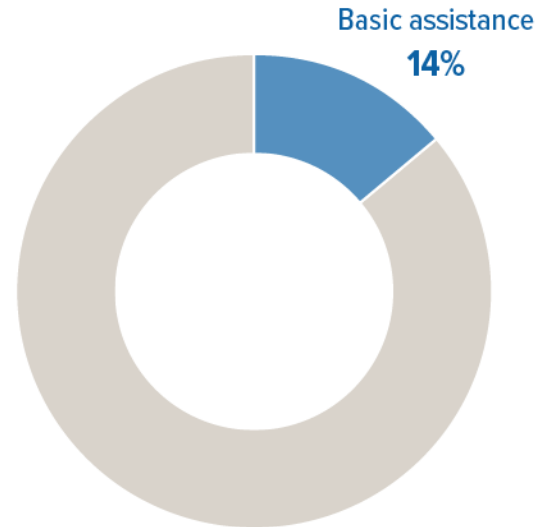


Washington TANF Spending

In 2019, Washington spent about \$1 billion in federal and state funds under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. It spent 14 percent of these funds on basic assistance, generally as cash assistance to TANF families. In 2019, Washington ranked 31st among the states and the District of Columbia for percent of TANF funds spent on basic assistance.



Federal and State TANF Spending by Category, 2019

	Washington		National Share of U.S. spending
	Millions of dollars	Share of spending	
Basic Assistance	\$142	14%	21%
Work Activities	\$100	10%	10%
Work Supports and Supportive Services	\$4	0.4%	3%
Child Care	\$144	14%	16%
Administration and Systems	\$88	9%	10%
Tax Credits	\$0	0%	9%
Pre-K/Head Start	\$50	5%	8%
Child Welfare	\$4	0.4%	8%
Other Services	\$476	47%	14%
Total	\$1000	100%	100%

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

	2001	2006	2011	2016	2019
Basic Assistance	\$288	\$284	\$306	\$159	\$142
Work Activities	\$157	\$187	\$115	\$146	\$100
Child Care	\$214	\$179	\$197	\$208	\$144

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

- In 2019, Washington was awarded its TANF block grant of \$379 million and an additional \$44 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, Washington has accumulated \$112 million in unspent TANF block grant funds, equal to 30 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, Washington met these requirements and was subject to the 75 percent MOE obligation.

2019 TANF Allocation and MOE Obligation for Washington

Federal Funds Awarded	\$423 million
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75% MOE Obligation	\$256 million
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2019 Federal and MOE TANF Expenditures for Washington

Federal Spending	\$359 million
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MOE Spending	\$649 million
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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.

