TANF Should Reach Many More Families in Alabama

In 2017-18, for every 100 families living in poverty in Alabama, only 8 received TANF. This “TANF-to-poverty ratio” has fallen 24 points since 1995-96. If TANF reached the same share of families in poverty that its predecessor AFDC did in 1996, 25,700 more families in Alabama would be helped by TANF now.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TANF-to-poverty ratio</th>
<th>1995/96</th>
<th>2017/18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Families with children</th>
<th>1995/96</th>
<th>2017/18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Receiving AFDC/TANF</td>
<td>43,100</td>
<td>8,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In poverty</td>
<td>132,700</td>
<td>106,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In deep poverty</td>
<td>61,800</td>
<td>49,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TANF monthly benefit level</th>
<th>Share of federal poverty level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>$215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median state benefit</td>
<td>$486</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source note: TANF = Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; AFDC = Aid to Families with Dependent Children. CBPP analysis of poverty and deep poverty data from the Census' Current Population Survey. CBPP uses two-year averages of the poverty data and the TANF-to-poverty ratios to improve the reliability of the data at the state level. Single year labels represent two-year averages for state data. For example, “2018” represents “2017-2018.” AFDC/TANF caseload data from Department of Health and Human Services and (since September 2006) caseload data collected from state agencies. TANF benefit levels compiled by CBPP from various sources and are current as of July 1, 2019. Benefit levels represented are the maximum benefit for a family of three. The change in the value of the benefits since 1996 is adjusted for inflation using the CPI-U-RS. All ratios are rounded and point differences between ratios may appear inexact due to rounding.