

TANF Cash Assistance Should Reach Many More Families in Rhode Island to Lessen Hardship

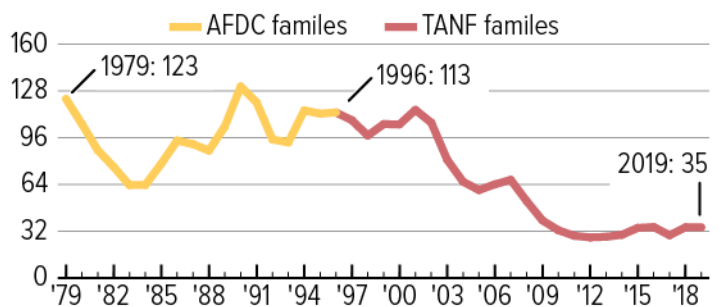


In 2018-19, for every 100 families living in poverty in Rhode Island, only 35 received TANF cash assistance. This “TANF-to-poverty ratio” has fallen 78 points since 1995-96. If TANF reached the same share of families in poverty that its predecessor AFDC did in 1996, 9,240 more families in Rhode Island would be helped by TANF now.

TANF-to-poverty ratio

	1995/96	2018/19
Rhode Island	113	35
National	68	23

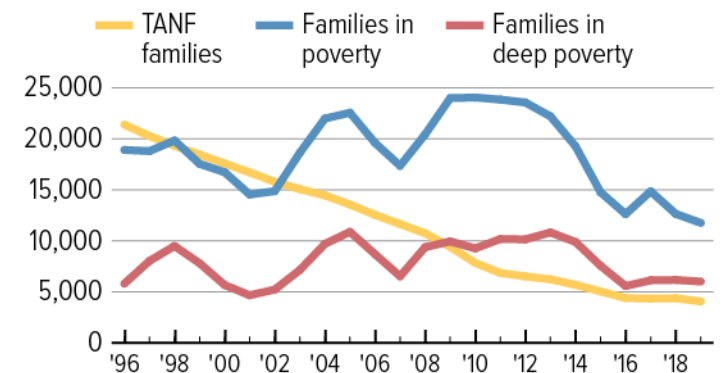
Number of Families in Rhode Island Receiving AFDC/TANF Cash Assistance for Every 100 Families with Children in Poverty



Families with children

	1995/96	2018/19
Receiving AFDC/TANF	21,397	4,066
In poverty	18,911	11,760
In deep poverty	5,808	6,013

Changes in AFDC/TANF Cases and the Number of Families with Children in Poverty and Deep Poverty in Rhode Island



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, “2019” represents “2018-2019.” AFDC/TANF caseload data from Department of Health and Human Services and (since September 2006) caseload data collected from state agencies. All ratios are rounded and point differences between ratios may appear inexact due to rounding.