Reimagining TANF to Center Black Families



Reimagining Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) by centering the needs of Black families would improve the well-being and economic security of all families with children.



Establish a federal minimum benefit so that no family falls below a certain income level.

Bar behavioral

requirements, time limits, and other

eligibility exclusions.



End and bar mandatory work requirements.



Refocus TANF agencies on helping families to address their basic needs and improve their long-term well-being.



Change TANF's funding structure to prioritize cash assistance, address funding inequities between states, and maintain value over time.

Acknowledging and eliminating policies rooted in an anti-Black legacy would open pathways to opportunity for parents and children.

Increasing eligibility to receive cash assistance Increasing state spending on TANF cash assistance

Ending mandatory work requirements

Slavery and Jim Crow laid the foundation for the economic, behavioral, and reproductive control policies that have permeated the TANF program and restricted families' access to the cash assistance they need.

Source: Ife Floyd et al., "TANF Policies Reflect Racist Legacy of Cash Assistance," CBPP, 2021, https://www.cbpp.org/research/family-income-support/tanf-policies-reflect-racist-legacy-of-cash-assistance