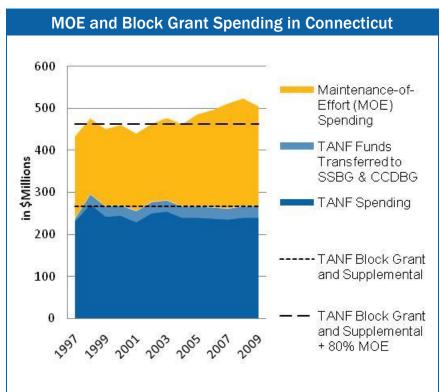
# **Connecticut** | TANF Spending Factsheet



#### The value of the TANF block grant has declined while need remains high.

- State TANF Block Grant amounts, after adjusting for inflation, eroded by 25 percent between fiscal years 1997 and 2009 and by 28 percent by 2011.
- The block grant did not rise or fall to meet Connecticut's changing needs. In 2008-09, 41,308 Connecticut families with children lived in poverty. The number of families in poverty reached a low of 37,000 in 1999-00 and a high of 56,000 in 1996-97.

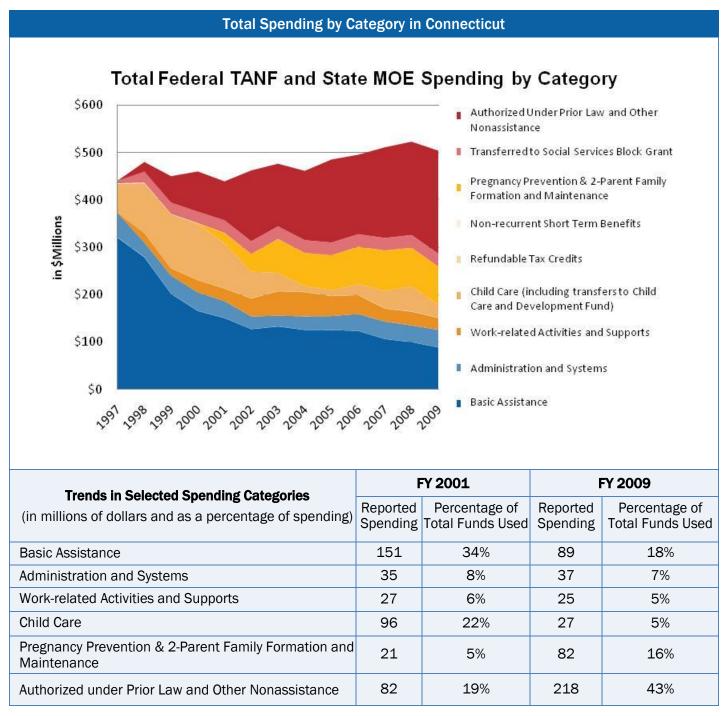
#### The amount of federal TANF and state maintenance-of-effort (MOE) funds spent in a given year varies over time and reflects the condition of the economy and state policy and budgeting choices.



MOE and Block Grant Spending in Connecticut		
In millions of dollars	FY 2001	FY 2009
Total Federal TANF Funds Used	256	267
TANF Funds spent	229	240
Funds transferred to SSBG	27	27
Funds transferred to CCDBG	0	0
Reported MOE Spending 183 237		
Additional background on TANF and MOE funds and technical notes for this fact sheet are available in following pages.		

Spending from federal TANF Block Grant in Connecticut has remained relatively flat since the creation of TANF while MOE spending has increased slightly in recent years.

2009 Federal TANF Allocations		
TANF Block Grant Amount	267	
TANF Supplemental Grant	n/a	
Contingency Fund 0		
Emergency Fund	0	
MOE Obligation		
80% MOE Obligation	196	
75% MOE Obligation	183	



- In fiscal year 2009, Connecticut spent 18 percent of its TANF/MOE expenditures on Basic Assistance, 10 percentage points below the national average for spending in this category. Connecticut has decreased its Basic Assistance spending by 41 percent since 2001.
- Connecticut spent 43 percent of its TANF/MOE expenditures, in the combined Authorized Under Prior Law/Other Nonassistance spending category in fiscal year 2009. Most of this spending was reported as Other Nonassistance. This is an increase of nearly \$136 million from fiscal year 2001. The substantial increase in reported spending in this category first occurred between fiscal years 2006 and 2007, shortly after the DRA was implemented.
- Over the years, Connecticut has pulled back TANF/MOE spending on Child Care and now spends less than a third of what it spent in the late 1990s. In 2009, Connecticut spent 5 percent of its TANF and MOE expenditures on Child Care, less than one-third of the national average for spending in this category.



# **Federal TANF Funds:**

- Each state gets a fixed annual TANF Block Grant (known formally as the State Family Assistance Grant) allocation each year. In addition, some states may get additional TANF federal funds in a year from:
  - Supplemental Grants: Congress created the Supplemental Grants along with the TANF block grant in order to provide additional funds to states potentially disadvantaged by the block grant formula, either due to high population growth or because the state historically had provided relatively small cash grants. Seventeen states receive Supplemental Grants. The amount they receive was constant each year until 2011, when the Supplemental Grants were not fully funded.
  - *Contingency Fund:* Congress created the Contingency Fund as part of the 1996 TANF law to provide additional help to states in hard economic times. Over a third of states received TANF Contingency Funds in 2009.
  - *Emergency Fund:* Congress created the Emergency Fund as part of the 2009 Recovery Act to reimburse states for 80 percent of increased TANF or MOE funding. Every state but one received support from the Fund in 2009 or 2010. The Fund expired on September 30, 2010.
  - *High Performance Bonus.* Through 2004, states could receive additional federal TANF funds for strong performance in meeting the objectives of TANF.
- States can carry over TANF funds (except for Contingency Funds) from year to year, so a state may spend more or less than the federal TANF allocation in a given year.
- A state can transfer up to 30 percent of its block grant funds for a year to the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and up to 10 percent to the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), provided that the total amount transferred does not exceed 30 percent of its current-year block grant.
- The Tribal TANF option allows federally recognized American Indian Tribes within a state, as well as Alaska Native organizations, to receive a portion of the state's TANF block grant directly and then use it to operate their own TANF programs.

- Each year, a state is required to meet a TANF maintenance-of-effort (MOE) obligation. The amount is based on its historical spending, defined as its 1994 contribution to Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and related work programs. States can count as MOE spending any state or third-party spending that benefits members of needy families and meets one of the four purposes of TANF. MOE funds must be spent during the year in which they are claimed.
- To meet its MOE obligation, a state must spend at least 80 percent of its historical spending. This minimum share is reduced to 75 percent for any year in which a state meets the TANF Work Participation Rate (WPR). In order to qualify for the Contingency Fund, a state must meet a 100 percent MOE requirement. Spending on child care and certain non-TANF programs does not count toward this special Contingency Fund MOE requirement.
- Using a formula used by the federal government, states can translate any MOE spending in excess of their minimum MOE requirement into a caseload reduction credit. This helps a state to meet its WPR because the WPR a state must achieve is reduced by one percentage point for every percentage point reduction in the caseload since 2005.
- The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 made it harder for states to meet the TANF WPR. In order to boost their caseload reduction credit, some states found it advantageous to report MOE they had not previously reported. Once the recession hit, some states also reported additional MOE in order to be eligible for TANF Contingency Funds. When states more aggressively identify and report additional MOE spending, it appears to increase total TANF/MOE spending, even if no actual increase in spending occurred. If the excess MOE spending is reported in just a few spending categories, it will significantly change the apportionment of spending across categories.

# **TANF Spending: Technical Notes**



### **Guide to Spending Categories**

CBPP Category	Federal Reporting Categories
Basic Assistance	Basic Assistance
Administration and Systems	Administration Systems
Work-related Activities and Supports <sup>1</sup>	Work Subsidies Education and Training Other Work Activities/Expenses Transportation (all categories) and Other Supportive Services Individual Development Accounts
Child Care	Child Care Assistance and Nonassistance Funds Transferred to Child Care and Development Fund
Refundable Tax Credits	Refundable Earned Income Tax Credit Other Refundable Tax Credits
Nonrecurrent Short-Term Benefits	Nonrecurrent Short-Term Benefits
Pregnancy Prevention& 2-Parent Family Formation and Maintenance	Prevention of Out-of-Wedlock Pregnancies Two-Parent Family Formation and Maintenance
Transferred to Social Services Block Grant	Transferred to Social Services Block Grant
Authorized Under Prior Law and Other Nonassistance <sup>2,3</sup>	Assistance and Non-Assistance Solely Under Prior Law Other Nonassistance

<sup>1</sup> Federal reporting categories separate Assistance and Nonassistance; we combined them for analysis.

<sup>2</sup> Spending on certain pre-TANF activities are permissible even if the expenditures are not otherwise consistent with the purposes of TANF and/or with the prohibitions included in the 1996 welfare law. This spending has been reported as Authorized Under Prior Law since fiscal year 2000.
<sup>3</sup>Prior to fiscal year 2000, states reported Other instead of Other Nonassistance. Other Nonassistance is a catch-all category for expenditures that meet one of the purposes of TANF and which do not fit in any other reporting category.

# **Spending Data Technical Notes**

- Data Source: <u>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services</u> and the <u>Center for Law and Social Policy DataFinder</u> and <u>TANF Spending Analysis</u>.
- When the Total Federal Funds Used exceed the federal Block Grant amount it may be because the state spent funds it had in reserve from previous years or it received additional funds from the TANF Contingency Fund or the TANF Emergency Fund. In some instances, a state was not awarded the Emergency Funds until 2010 for increased TANF/MOE spending that occurred in 2009.
- The TANF Block Grant Amount line in the MOE and Block Grant Spending graph includes Supplemental Grants but excludes Tribal TANF. (Tribal TANF spending is not included in the spending analysis.)
- States can report adjustments for prior years that may appear as "negative expenditures" in the current year. If such negative adjustments exceed current spending in a category, that category will show negative expenditures for the year. In most cases, this reflects changes in the funding stream which expenditures are charged against, rather than real reductions in funds available for an activity. However, in some cases funds may have been recovered from a program or transferred back from SSBG or CCDBG to TANF. For the purposes of the tables, negative expenditures are included as reported by ACF. For the purposes of the charts, negative expenditures are treated as equal to zero.

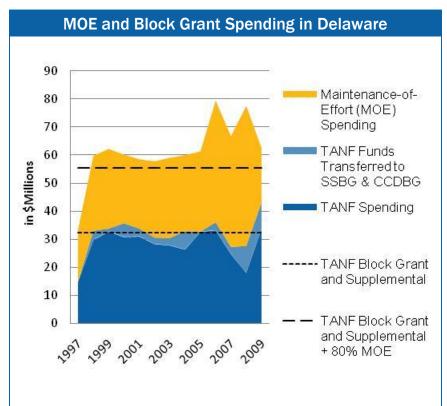
#### **Poverty Data Technical Notes**



#### The value of the TANF block grant has declined while need remains high.

- State TANF Block Grant amounts, after adjusting for inflation, eroded by 25 percent between fiscal years 1997 and 2009 and by 28 percent by 2011.
- The block grant did not rise or fall to meet Delaware's changing needs. In 2008-09, 15,632 Delaware families with children lived in poverty. The number of families in poverty reached a low of 10,000 in 2000-01 and a high of nearly 16,000 in 2008-09.

#### The amount of federal TANF and state maintenance-of-effort (MOE) funds spent in a given year varies over time and reflects the condition of the economy and state policy and budgeting choices.



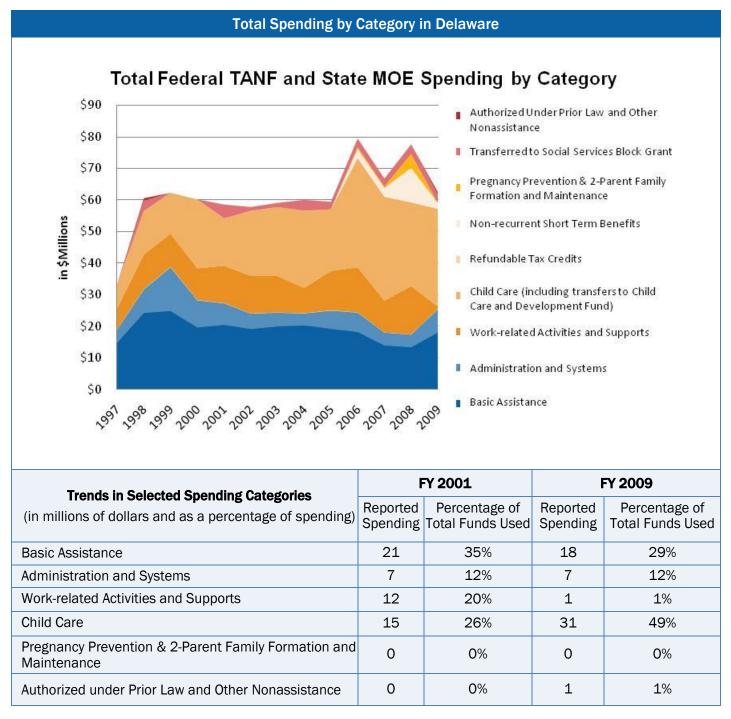
Delaware spending from the TANF Block Grant dropped sharply in 2007 and 2008 but increased it in 2009.

■ The data for Delaware's MOE spending in 2009 appears to be incomplete so it is difficult to draw a conclusion for that year. From 2006-2008, MOE Delaware claimed substantially more than the minimum MOE requirement of 75 or 80 percent of historic state spending, although the increased MOE claimed in recent years does not necessarily represent any increase in state financial effort or in benefits or services available to needy families.

MOE and Block Grant Spending in Delaware		
In millions of dollars	FY 2001	FY 2009
Total Federal TANF Funds Used	34	43
TANF Funds spent	31	34
Funds transferred to SSBG	4	3
Funds transferred to CCDBG	-2	-2
Reported MOE Spending	25	19
Additional background on TANF and MOE funds and technical notes for this fact		

Additional background on TANF and MOE funds and technical notes for this fact sheet are available in following pages.

2009 Federal TANF Allocations		
TANF Block Grant Amount	32	
TANF Supplemental Grant	n/a	
Contingency Fund	6	
Emergency Fund	0	
MOE Obligation		
80% MOE Obligation	23	
75% MOE Obligation	22	



- In fiscal year 2009, Delaware spent 29 percent of its TANF/MOE expenditures on Basic Assistance. Delaware has decreased its Basic Assistance spending by 12 percent since 2001.
- Delaware spent 49 percent of its TANF/MOE expenditures in the Child Care category in fiscal year 2009. Child Care spending increased by nearly \$16 million from fiscal year 2001. Delaware spends a higher percentage of funds in the Child Care category than any other state.



# **Federal TANF Funds:**

- Each state gets a fixed annual TANF Block Grant (known formally as the State Family Assistance Grant) allocation each year. In addition, some states may get additional TANF federal funds in a year from:
  - Supplemental Grants: Congress created the Supplemental Grants along with the TANF block grant in order to provide additional funds to states potentially disadvantaged by the block grant formula, either due to high population growth or because the state historically had provided relatively small cash grants. Seventeen states receive Supplemental Grants. The amount they receive was constant each year until 2011, when the Supplemental Grants were not fully funded.
  - *Contingency Fund:* Congress created the Contingency Fund as part of the 1996 TANF law to provide additional help to states in hard economic times. Over a third of states received TANF Contingency Funds in 2009.
  - *Emergency Fund:* Congress created the Emergency Fund as part of the 2009 Recovery Act to reimburse states for 80 percent of increased TANF or MOE funding. Every state but one received support from the Fund in 2009 or 2010. The Fund expired on September 30, 2010.
  - *High Performance Bonus.* Through 2004, states could receive additional federal TANF funds for strong performance in meeting the objectives of TANF.
- States can carry over TANF funds (except for Contingency Funds) from year to year, so a state may spend more or less than the federal TANF allocation in a given year.
- A state can transfer up to 30 percent of its block grant funds for a year to the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and up to 10 percent to the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), provided that the total amount transferred does not exceed 30 percent of its current-year block grant.
- The Tribal TANF option allows federally recognized American Indian Tribes within a state, as well as Alaska Native organizations, to receive a portion of the state's TANF block grant directly and then use it to operate their own TANF programs.

- Each year, a state is required to meet a TANF maintenance-of-effort (MOE) obligation. The amount is based on its historical spending, defined as its 1994 contribution to Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and related work programs. States can count as MOE spending any state or third-party spending that benefits members of needy families and meets one of the four purposes of TANF. MOE funds must be spent during the year in which they are claimed.
- To meet its MOE obligation, a state must spend at least 80 percent of its historical spending. This minimum share is reduced to 75 percent for any year in which a state meets the TANF Work Participation Rate (WPR). In order to qualify for the Contingency Fund, a state must meet a 100 percent MOE requirement. Spending on child care and certain non-TANF programs does not count toward this special Contingency Fund MOE requirement.
- Using a formula used by the federal government, states can translate any MOE spending in excess of their minimum MOE requirement into a caseload reduction credit. This helps a state to meet its WPR because the WPR a state must achieve is reduced by one percentage point for every percentage point reduction in the caseload since 2005.
- The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 made it harder for states to meet the TANF WPR. In order to boost their caseload reduction credit, some states found it advantageous to report MOE they had not previously reported. Once the recession hit, some states also reported additional MOE in order to be eligible for TANF Contingency Funds. When states more aggressively identify and report additional MOE spending, it appears to increase total TANF/MOE spending, even if no actual increase in spending occurred. If the excess MOE spending is reported in just a few spending categories, it will significantly change the apportionment of spending across categories.

# **TANF Spending: Technical Notes**



### **Guide to Spending Categories**

CBPP Category	Federal Reporting Categories
Basic Assistance	Basic Assistance
Administration and Systems	Administration Systems
Work-related Activities and Supports <sup>1</sup>	Work Subsidies Education and Training Other Work Activities/Expenses Transportation (all categories) and Other Supportive Services Individual Development Accounts
Child Care	Child Care Assistance and Nonassistance Funds Transferred to Child Care and Development Fund
Refundable Tax Credits	Refundable Earned Income Tax Credit Other Refundable Tax Credits
Nonrecurrent Short-Term Benefits	Nonrecurrent Short-Term Benefits
Pregnancy Prevention& 2-Parent Family Formation and Maintenance	Prevention of Out-of-Wedlock Pregnancies Two-Parent Family Formation and Maintenance
Transferred to Social Services Block Grant	Transferred to Social Services Block Grant
Authorized Under Prior Law and Other Nonassistance <sup>2,3</sup>	Assistance and Non-Assistance Solely Under Prior Law Other Nonassistance

<sup>1</sup> Federal reporting categories separate Assistance and Nonassistance; we combined them for analysis.

<sup>2</sup> Spending on certain pre-TANF activities are permissible even if the expenditures are not otherwise consistent with the purposes of TANF and/or with the prohibitions included in the 1996 welfare law. This spending has been reported as Authorized Under Prior Law since fiscal year 2000.
<sup>3</sup>Prior to fiscal year 2000, states reported Other instead of Other Nonassistance. Other Nonassistance is a catch-all category for expenditures that meet one of the purposes of TANF and which do not fit in any other reporting category.

# **Spending Data Technical Notes**

- Data Source: <u>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services</u> and the <u>Center for Law and Social Policy DataFinder</u> and <u>TANF Spending Analysis</u>.
- When the Total Federal Funds Used exceed the federal Block Grant amount it may be because the state spent funds it had in reserve from previous years or it received additional funds from the TANF Contingency Fund or the TANF Emergency Fund. In some instances, a state was not awarded the Emergency Funds until 2010 for increased TANF/MOE spending that occurred in 2009.
- The TANF Block Grant Amount line in the MOE and Block Grant Spending graph includes Supplemental Grants but excludes Tribal TANF. (Tribal TANF spending is not included in the spending analysis.)
- States can report adjustments for prior years that may appear as "negative expenditures" in the current year. If such negative adjustments exceed current spending in a category, that category will show negative expenditures for the year. In most cases, this reflects changes in the funding stream which expenditures are charged against, rather than real reductions in funds available for an activity. However, in some cases funds may have been recovered from a program or transferred back from SSBG or CCDBG to TANF. For the purposes of the tables, negative expenditures are included as reported by ACF. For the purposes of the charts, negative expenditures are treated as equal to zero.

# **Poverty Data Technical Notes**

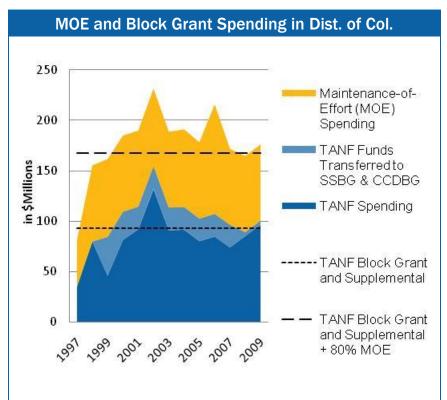
# Dist. of Col. | TANF Spending Factsheet



#### The value of the TANF block grant has declined while need remains high.

- State TANF Block Grant amounts, after adjusting for inflation, eroded by 25 percent between fiscal years 1997 and 2009 and by 28 percent by 2011.
- The block grant did not rise or fall to meet Dist. of Col.'s changing needs. In 2008-09, 13,463 Dist. of Col. families with children lived in poverty. The number of families in poverty reached a low of 12,000 in 1999-00 and a high of 20,000 in 1996-97.

#### The amount of federal TANF and state maintenance-of-effort (MOE) funds spent in a given year varies over time and reflects the condition of the economy and state policy and budgeting choices.

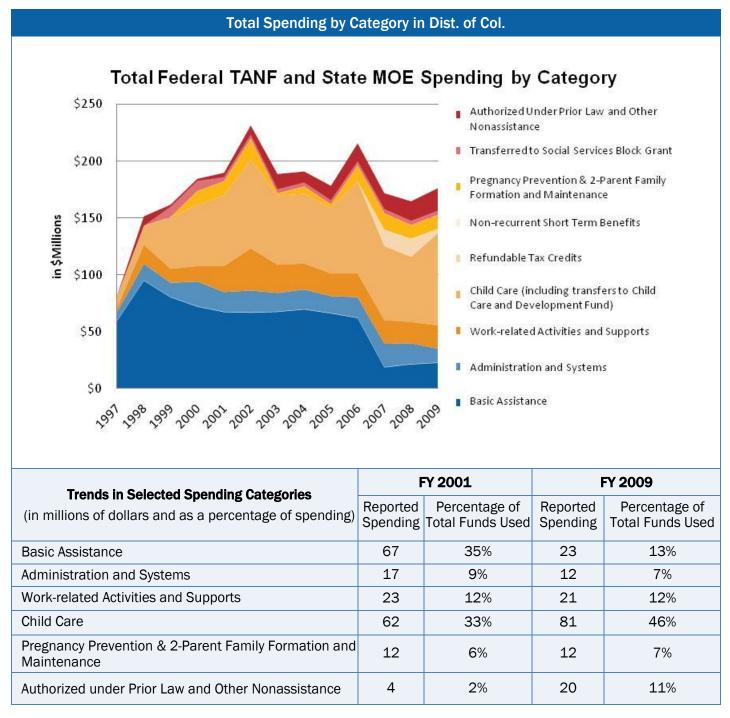


Spending from federal TANF Block Grant in the District of Columbia increased during the 2001-02 recession and during the recent recession.

■ The District of Columbia served a substantial portion of its caseload in a solely state-funded program using no TANF or MOE funds in response to the Deficit Reduction Act so the TANF and MOE spending levels after 2007 do not fully reflect the District's spending on needy families.

MOE and Block Grant Spending in Dist. of Col.		
In millions of dollars	FY 2001	FY 2009
Total Federal TANF Funds Used	115	101
TANF Funds spent	92	97
Funds transferred to SSBG	4	4
Funds transferred to CCDBG	19	19
Reported MOE Spending	75	76
Additional background on TANF and MOE funds and technical notes for this fact		
sheet are available in following pages.		

2009 Federal TANF Allocations		
TANF Block Grant Amount	93	
TANF Supplemental Grant	n/a	
Contingency Fund	0	
Emergency Fund		
MOE Obligation		
80% MOE Obligation	75	
75% MOE Obligation	70	



- In fiscal year 2009, the District of Columbia spent 13 percent of its TANF/MOE expenditures on Basic Assistance. Because the District provided assistance to a substantial portion of families outside of TANF or MOE funds, the decreased spending on Basic Assistance does not represent the complete picture here.
- The District of Columbia spent 46 percent of its TANF/MOE expenditures in the Child Care category in fiscal year 2009. This is an increase of nearly \$19 million from fiscal year 2001. The amount of spending on Child Care has fluctuated between \$58 million and \$81 million in the last five years.
- Spending on basic assistance dropped from 2007 onwards in the wake of the DRA due to the District of Columbia's serving a large share of cash assistance families in a solely state-funded program that does not use TANF or MOE funds.



# **Federal TANF Funds:**

- Each state gets a fixed annual TANF Block Grant (known formally as the State Family Assistance Grant) allocation each year. In addition, some states may get additional TANF federal funds in a year from:
  - Supplemental Grants: Congress created the Supplemental Grants along with the TANF block grant in order to provide additional funds to states potentially disadvantaged by the block grant formula, either due to high population growth or because the state historically had provided relatively small cash grants. Seventeen states receive Supplemental Grants. The amount they receive was constant each year until 2011, when the Supplemental Grants were not fully funded.
  - *Contingency Fund:* Congress created the Contingency Fund as part of the 1996 TANF law to provide additional help to states in hard economic times. Over a third of states received TANF Contingency Funds in 2009.
  - *Emergency Fund:* Congress created the Emergency Fund as part of the 2009 Recovery Act to reimburse states for 80 percent of increased TANF or MOE funding. Every state but one received support from the Fund in 2009 or 2010. The Fund expired on September 30, 2010.
  - *High Performance Bonus.* Through 2004, states could receive additional federal TANF funds for strong performance in meeting the objectives of TANF.
- States can carry over TANF funds (except for Contingency Funds) from year to year, so a state may spend more or less than the federal TANF allocation in a given year.
- A state can transfer up to 30 percent of its block grant funds for a year to the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and up to 10 percent to the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), provided that the total amount transferred does not exceed 30 percent of its current-year block grant.
- The Tribal TANF option allows federally recognized American Indian Tribes within a state, as well as Alaska Native organizations, to receive a portion of the state's TANF block grant directly and then use it to operate their own TANF programs.

- Each year, a state is required to meet a TANF maintenance-of-effort (MOE) obligation. The amount is based on its historical spending, defined as its 1994 contribution to Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and related work programs. States can count as MOE spending any state or third-party spending that benefits members of needy families and meets one of the four purposes of TANF. MOE funds must be spent during the year in which they are claimed.
- To meet its MOE obligation, a state must spend at least 80 percent of its historical spending. This minimum share is reduced to 75 percent for any year in which a state meets the TANF Work Participation Rate (WPR). In order to qualify for the Contingency Fund, a state must meet a 100 percent MOE requirement. Spending on child care and certain non-TANF programs does not count toward this special Contingency Fund MOE requirement.
- Using a formula used by the federal government, states can translate any MOE spending in excess of their minimum MOE requirement into a caseload reduction credit. This helps a state to meet its WPR because the WPR a state must achieve is reduced by one percentage point for every percentage point reduction in the caseload since 2005.
- The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 made it harder for states to meet the TANF WPR. In order to boost their caseload reduction credit, some states found it advantageous to report MOE they had not previously reported. Once the recession hit, some states also reported additional MOE in order to be eligible for TANF Contingency Funds. When states more aggressively identify and report additional MOE spending, it appears to increase total TANF/MOE spending, even if no actual increase in spending occurred. If the excess MOE spending is reported in just a few spending categories, it will significantly change the apportionment of spending across categories.

# **TANF Spending: Technical Notes**



### **Guide to Spending Categories**

CBPP Category	Federal Reporting Categories
Basic Assistance	Basic Assistance
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<sup>1</sup> Federal reporting categories separate Assistance and Nonassistance; we combined them for analysis.

<sup>2</sup> Spending on certain pre-TANF activities are permissible even if the expenditures are not otherwise consistent with the purposes of TANF and/or with the prohibitions included in the 1996 welfare law. This spending has been reported as Authorized Under Prior Law since fiscal year 2000.
<sup>3</sup>Prior to fiscal year 2000, states reported Other instead of Other Nonassistance. Other Nonassistance is a catch-all category for expenditures that meet one of the purposes of TANF and which do not fit in any other reporting category.

# **Spending Data Technical Notes**

- Data Source: <u>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services</u> and the <u>Center for Law and Social Policy DataFinder</u> and <u>TANF Spending Analysis</u>.
- When the Total Federal Funds Used exceed the federal Block Grant amount it may be because the state spent funds it had in reserve from previous years or it received additional funds from the TANF Contingency Fund or the TANF Emergency Fund. In some instances, a state was not awarded the Emergency Funds until 2010 for increased TANF/MOE spending that occurred in 2009.
- The TANF Block Grant Amount line in the MOE and Block Grant Spending graph includes Supplemental Grants but excludes Tribal TANF. (Tribal TANF spending is not included in the spending analysis.)
- States can report adjustments for prior years that may appear as "negative expenditures" in the current year. If such negative adjustments exceed current spending in a category, that category will show negative expenditures for the year. In most cases, this reflects changes in the funding stream which expenditures are charged against, rather than real reductions in funds available for an activity. However, in some cases funds may have been recovered from a program or transferred back from SSBG or CCDBG to TANF. For the purposes of the tables, negative expenditures are included as reported by ACF. For the purposes of the charts, negative expenditures are treated as equal to zero.

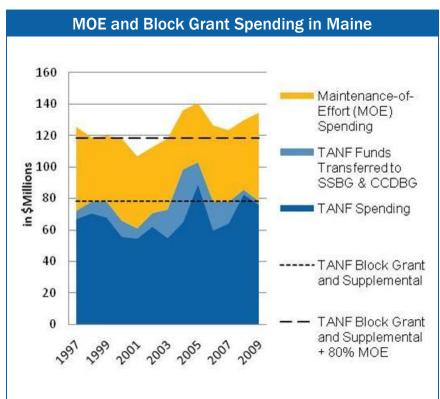
#### **Poverty Data Technical Notes**



#### The value of the TANF block grant has declined while need remains high.

- State TANF Block Grant amounts, after adjusting for inflation, eroded by 25 percent between fiscal years 1997 and 2009 and by 28 percent by 2011.
- The block grant did not rise or fall to meet Maine's changing needs. In 2008-09, 22,429 Maine families with children lived in poverty. The number of families in poverty reached a low of 19,000 in 1996-97 and a high of 27,000 in 2002-03.

#### The amount of federal TANF and state maintenance-of-effort (MOE) funds spent in a given year varies over time and reflects the condition of the economy and state policy and budgeting choices.



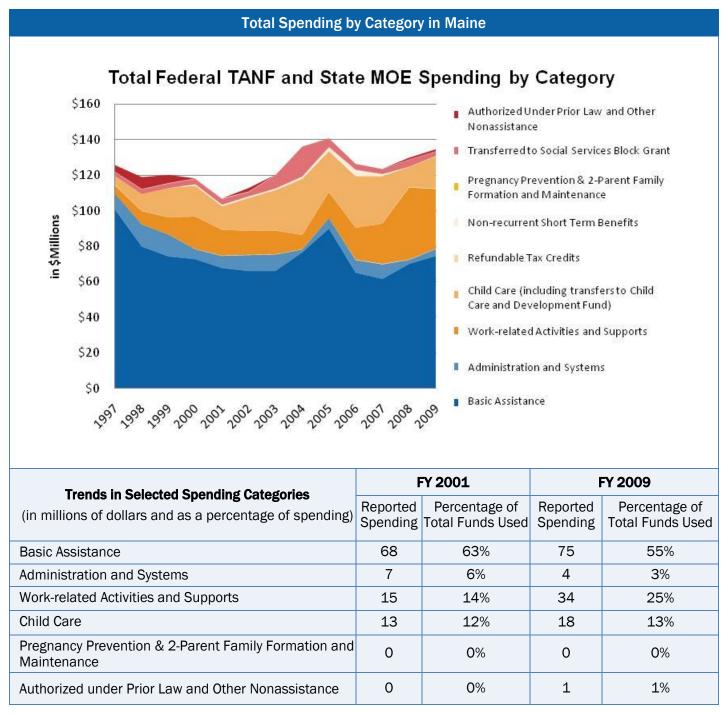
Maine increased its spending from federal TANF Block Grant in 2005 and again in 2008.

■ In fiscal year 2009, Maine reported \$56 million in state MOE spending. This represents 112 percent of the amount of state spending on AFDC and related work programs prior to the advent of TANF - substantially more than the minimum MOE requirement of 75 or 80 percent of historic state spending. The increased MOE claimed in recent years does not necessarily represent any increase in state financial effort or in benefits or services available to needy families.

MOE and Block Grant Spending in Maine		
In millions of dollars	FY 2001	FY 2009
Total Federal TANF Funds Used	61	79
TANF Funds spent	55	76
Funds transferred to SSBG	3	3
Funds transferred to CCDBG	3	3
Reported MOE Spending	46	56
Additional background on TANF and MOE funds and technical notes for this fact		

Additional background on TANF and MOE funds and technical notes for this fact sheet are available in following pages.

2009 Federal TANF Allocations		
TANF Block Grant Amount	78	
TANF Supplemental Grant n/a		
Contingency Fund	0	
Emergency Fund 0		
MOE Obligation		
80% MOE Obligation	40	
75% MOE Obligation	38	



- In fiscal year 2009, Maine spent 55 percent of its TANF/MOE expenditures on Basic Assistance. The amount of spending in this area has remained relatively flat after an initial decline in the early years of welfare reform and a spending spike in 2005.
- Maine spent 25 percent of TANF and MOE funds on Work-related Activities and Supports. Most of this spending was reported as Transportation. The amount spent in this category more than doubled between fiscal years 2006 and 2009.



# **Federal TANF Funds:**

- Each state gets a fixed annual TANF Block Grant (known formally as the State Family Assistance Grant) allocation each year. In addition, some states may get additional TANF federal funds in a year from:
  - Supplemental Grants: Congress created the Supplemental Grants along with the TANF block grant in order to provide additional funds to states potentially disadvantaged by the block grant formula, either due to high population growth or because the state historically had provided relatively small cash grants. Seventeen states receive Supplemental Grants. The amount they receive was constant each year until 2011, when the Supplemental Grants were not fully funded.
  - *Contingency Fund:* Congress created the Contingency Fund as part of the 1996 TANF law to provide additional help to states in hard economic times. Over a third of states received TANF Contingency Funds in 2009.
  - *Emergency Fund:* Congress created the Emergency Fund as part of the 2009 Recovery Act to reimburse states for 80 percent of increased TANF or MOE funding. Every state but one received support from the Fund in 2009 or 2010. The Fund expired on September 30, 2010.
  - *High Performance Bonus.* Through 2004, states could receive additional federal TANF funds for strong performance in meeting the objectives of TANF.
- States can carry over TANF funds (except for Contingency Funds) from year to year, so a state may spend more or less than the federal TANF allocation in a given year.
- A state can transfer up to 30 percent of its block grant funds for a year to the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and up to 10 percent to the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), provided that the total amount transferred does not exceed 30 percent of its current-year block grant.
- The Tribal TANF option allows federally recognized American Indian Tribes within a state, as well as Alaska Native organizations, to receive a portion of the state's TANF block grant directly and then use it to operate their own TANF programs.

- Each year, a state is required to meet a TANF maintenance-of-effort (MOE) obligation. The amount is based on its historical spending, defined as its 1994 contribution to Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and related work programs. States can count as MOE spending any state or third-party spending that benefits members of needy families and meets one of the four purposes of TANF. MOE funds must be spent during the year in which they are claimed.
- To meet its MOE obligation, a state must spend at least 80 percent of its historical spending. This minimum share is reduced to 75 percent for any year in which a state meets the TANF Work Participation Rate (WPR). In order to qualify for the Contingency Fund, a state must meet a 100 percent MOE requirement. Spending on child care and certain non-TANF programs does not count toward this special Contingency Fund MOE requirement.
- Using a formula used by the federal government, states can translate any MOE spending in excess of their minimum MOE requirement into a caseload reduction credit. This helps a state to meet its WPR because the WPR a state must achieve is reduced by one percentage point for every percentage point reduction in the caseload since 2005.
- The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 made it harder for states to meet the TANF WPR. In order to boost their caseload reduction credit, some states found it advantageous to report MOE they had not previously reported. Once the recession hit, some states also reported additional MOE in order to be eligible for TANF Contingency Funds. When states more aggressively identify and report additional MOE spending, it appears to increase total TANF/MOE spending, even if no actual increase in spending occurred. If the excess MOE spending is reported in just a few spending categories, it will significantly change the apportionment of spending across categories.

# **TANF Spending: Technical Notes**



### **Guide to Spending Categories**

CBPP Category	Federal Reporting Categories
Basic Assistance	Basic Assistance
Administration and Systems	Administration Systems
Work-related Activities and Supports <sup>1</sup>	Work Subsidies Education and Training Other Work Activities/Expenses Transportation (all categories) and Other Supportive Services Individual Development Accounts
Child Care	Child Care Assistance and Nonassistance Funds Transferred to Child Care and Development Fund
Refundable Tax Credits	Refundable Earned Income Tax Credit Other Refundable Tax Credits
Nonrecurrent Short-Term Benefits	Nonrecurrent Short-Term Benefits
Pregnancy Prevention& 2-Parent Family Formation and Maintenance	Prevention of Out-of-Wedlock Pregnancies Two-Parent Family Formation and Maintenance
Transferred to Social Services Block Grant	Transferred to Social Services Block Grant
Authorized Under Prior Law and Other Nonassistance <sup>2,3</sup>	Assistance and Non-Assistance Solely Under Prior Law Other Nonassistance

<sup>1</sup> Federal reporting categories separate Assistance and Nonassistance; we combined them for analysis.

<sup>2</sup> Spending on certain pre-TANF activities are permissible even if the expenditures are not otherwise consistent with the purposes of TANF and/or with the prohibitions included in the 1996 welfare law. This spending has been reported as Authorized Under Prior Law since fiscal year 2000.
<sup>3</sup>Prior to fiscal year 2000, states reported Other instead of Other Nonassistance. Other Nonassistance is a catch-all category for expenditures that meet one of the purposes of TANF and which do not fit in any other reporting category.

# **Spending Data Technical Notes**

- Data Source: <u>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services</u> and the <u>Center for Law and Social Policy DataFinder</u> and <u>TANF Spending Analysis</u>.
- When the Total Federal Funds Used exceed the federal Block Grant amount it may be because the state spent funds it had in reserve from previous years or it received additional funds from the TANF Contingency Fund or the TANF Emergency Fund. In some instances, a state was not awarded the Emergency Funds until 2010 for increased TANF/MOE spending that occurred in 2009.
- The TANF Block Grant Amount line in the MOE and Block Grant Spending graph includes Supplemental Grants but excludes Tribal TANF. (Tribal TANF spending is not included in the spending analysis.)
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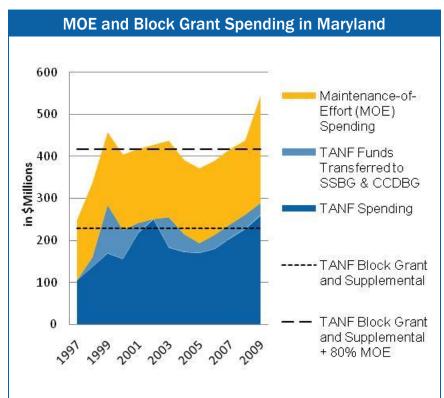
# **Poverty Data Technical Notes**



#### The value of the TANF block grant has declined while need remains high.

- State TANF Block Grant amounts, after adjusting for inflation, eroded by 25 percent between fiscal years 1997 and 2009 and by 28 percent by 2011.
- The block grant did not rise or fall to meet Maryland's changing needs. In 2008-09, 67,370 Maryland families with children lived in poverty. The number of families in poverty reached a low of 44,000 in 1998-99 and a high of 77,000 in 2004-05.

#### The amount of federal TANF and state maintenance-of-effort (MOE) funds spent in a given year varies over time and reflects the condition of the economy and state policy and budgeting choices.



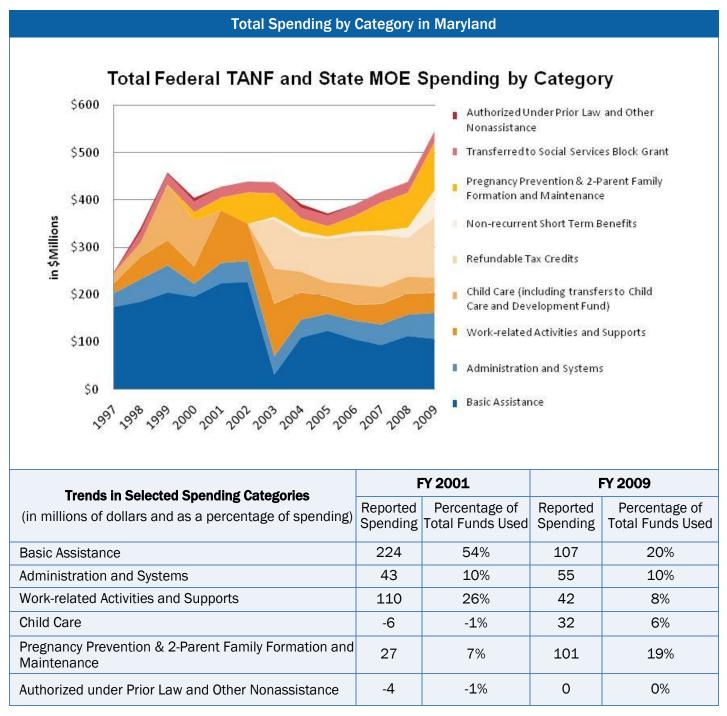
Maryland increased its spending from federal TANF Block Grant during the recession of 2001-02 and during the recent recession.

■ In fiscal year 2009, Maryland reported \$256 million in state MOE spending. This represents 109 percent of the amount of state spending on AFDC and related work programs prior to the advent of TANF - substantially more than the minimum MOE requirement of 75 percent of historic state spending. Until fiscal year 2009, Maryland's MOE spending was slightly above the required 75 percent level. The increased MOE claimed for this year does not necessarily represent any increase in state financial effort or in benefits or services available to needy families.

MOE and Block Grant Spending in Maryland			
In millions of dollars	FY 2001	FY 2009	
Total Federal TANF Funds Used	241	289	
TANF Funds spent	218	260	
Funds transferred to SSBG	23	23	
Funds transferred to CCDBG	0	0	
Reported MOE Spending 177 256			
Additional background on TANF and MOE funds and technical notes for this fact			

Additional background on TANF and MOE funds and technical notes for this fact sheet are available in following pages.

2009 Federal TANF Allocations		
TANF Block Grant Amount 229		
TANF Supplemental Grant	n/a	
Contingency Fund 3		
Emergency Fund	30	
MOE Obligation		
80% MOE Obligation	189	
75% MOE Obligation	177	



- In fiscal year 2009, Maryland spent 20 percent of its TANF/MOE expenditures on Basic Assistance, 8 percentage points below the national average for spending in this category. Maryland has decreased its Basic Assistance spending by 52 percent since 2001.
- Maryland spent 23 percent of TANF and MOE expenditures on Refundable Tax Credits in 2009. Maryland first began spending in this category in 2003.



# **Federal TANF Funds:**

- Each state gets a fixed annual TANF Block Grant (known formally as the State Family Assistance Grant) allocation each year. In addition, some states may get additional TANF federal funds in a year from:
  - Supplemental Grants: Congress created the Supplemental Grants along with the TANF block grant in order to provide additional funds to states potentially disadvantaged by the block grant formula, either due to high population growth or because the state historically had provided relatively small cash grants. Seventeen states receive Supplemental Grants. The amount they receive was constant each year until 2011, when the Supplemental Grants were not fully funded.
  - *Contingency Fund:* Congress created the Contingency Fund as part of the 1996 TANF law to provide additional help to states in hard economic times. Over a third of states received TANF Contingency Funds in 2009.
  - *Emergency Fund:* Congress created the Emergency Fund as part of the 2009 Recovery Act to reimburse states for 80 percent of increased TANF or MOE funding. Every state but one received support from the Fund in 2009 or 2010. The Fund expired on September 30, 2010.
  - *High Performance Bonus.* Through 2004, states could receive additional federal TANF funds for strong performance in meeting the objectives of TANF.
- States can carry over TANF funds (except for Contingency Funds) from year to year, so a state may spend more or less than the federal TANF allocation in a given year.
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- The Tribal TANF option allows federally recognized American Indian Tribes within a state, as well as Alaska Native organizations, to receive a portion of the state's TANF block grant directly and then use it to operate their own TANF programs.

- Each year, a state is required to meet a TANF maintenance-of-effort (MOE) obligation. The amount is based on its historical spending, defined as its 1994 contribution to Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and related work programs. States can count as MOE spending any state or third-party spending that benefits members of needy families and meets one of the four purposes of TANF. MOE funds must be spent during the year in which they are claimed.
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- The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 made it harder for states to meet the TANF WPR. In order to boost their caseload reduction credit, some states found it advantageous to report MOE they had not previously reported. Once the recession hit, some states also reported additional MOE in order to be eligible for TANF Contingency Funds. When states more aggressively identify and report additional MOE spending, it appears to increase total TANF/MOE spending, even if no actual increase in spending occurred. If the excess MOE spending is reported in just a few spending categories, it will significantly change the apportionment of spending across categories.



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- The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 made it harder for states to meet the TANF WPR. In order to boost their caseload reduction credit, some states found it advantageous to report MOE they had not previously reported. Once the recession hit, some states also reported additional MOE in order to be eligible for TANF Contingency Funds. When states more aggressively identify and report additional MOE spending, it appears to increase total TANF/MOE spending, even if no actual increase in spending occurred. If the excess MOE spending is reported in just a few spending categories, it will significantly change the apportionment of spending across categories.

# **TANF Spending: Technical Notes**



### **Guide to Spending Categories**

CBPP Category	Federal Reporting Categories
Basic Assistance	Basic Assistance
Administration and Systems	Administration Systems
Work-related Activities and Supports <sup>1</sup>	Work Subsidies Education and Training Other Work Activities/Expenses Transportation (all categories) and Other Supportive Services Individual Development Accounts
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Refundable Tax Credits	Refundable Earned Income Tax Credit Other Refundable Tax Credits
Nonrecurrent Short-Term Benefits	Nonrecurrent Short-Term Benefits
Pregnancy Prevention& 2-Parent Family Formation and Maintenance	Prevention of Out-of-Wedlock Pregnancies Two-Parent Family Formation and Maintenance
Transferred to Social Services Block Grant	Transferred to Social Services Block Grant
Authorized Under Prior Law and Other Nonassistance <sup>2,3</sup>	Assistance and Non-Assistance Solely Under Prior Law Other Nonassistance

<sup>1</sup> Federal reporting categories separate Assistance and Nonassistance; we combined them for analysis.

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# **Spending Data Technical Notes**

- Data Source: <u>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services</u> and the <u>Center for Law and Social Policy DataFinder</u> and <u>TANF Spending Analysis</u>.
- When the Total Federal Funds Used exceed the federal Block Grant amount it may be because the state spent funds it had in reserve from previous years or it received additional funds from the TANF Contingency Fund or the TANF Emergency Fund. In some instances, a state was not awarded the Emergency Funds until 2010 for increased TANF/MOE spending that occurred in 2009.
- The TANF Block Grant Amount line in the MOE and Block Grant Spending graph includes Supplemental Grants but excludes Tribal TANF. (Tribal TANF spending is not included in the spending analysis.)
- States can report adjustments for prior years that may appear as "negative expenditures" in the current year. If such negative adjustments exceed current spending in a category, that category will show negative expenditures for the year. In most cases, this reflects changes in the funding stream which expenditures are charged against, rather than real reductions in funds available for an activity. However, in some cases funds may have been recovered from a program or transferred back from SSBG or CCDBG to TANF. For the purposes of the tables, negative expenditures are included as reported by ACF. For the purposes of the charts, negative expenditures are treated as equal to zero.

# **Poverty Data Technical Notes**

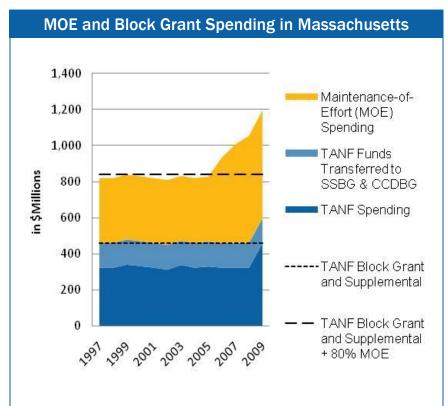
# Massachusetts | TANF Spending Factsheet



#### The value of the TANF block grant has declined while need remains high.

- State TANF Block Grant amounts, after adjusting for inflation, eroded by 25 percent between fiscal years 1997 and 2009 and by 28 percent by 2011.
- The block grant did not rise or fall to meet Massachusetts's changing needs. In 2008-09, 114,728 Massachusetts families with children lived in poverty. The number of families in poverty reached a low of 77,000 in 2003-04 and a high of nearly 115,000 in 2008-09.

#### The amount of federal TANF and state maintenance-of-effort (MOE) funds spent in a given year varies over time and reflects the condition of the economy and state policy and budgeting choices.



Massachusetts increased its spending from federal TANF Block Grant by over \$135 million in 2009 which is close to the amount of Contingency and Emergency Funds the state received for 2009.

■ In fiscal year 2009, Massachusetts reported \$598 million in state MOE spending. This represents 125 percent of the amount of state spending on AFDC and related work programs prior to the advent of TANF - substantially more than the minimum MOE requirement of 75 percent of historic state spending. Until fiscal year 2006, Massachusetts's MOE spending was at the required 75 percent level. The increased MOE claimed for recent years does not necessarily represent any increase in state financial effort or in benefits or services available to needy families.

MOE and Block Grant Spending in Massachusetts		
In millions of dollars	FY 2001	FY 2009
Total Federal TANF Funds Used	459	596
TANF Funds spent	323	458
Funds transferred to SSBG	45	46
Funds transferred to CCDBG	92	92
Reported MOE Spending 359 598		
Additional background on TANF and MOE funds and technical notes for this fact sheet are available in following pages.		

2009 Federal TANF Allocations		
TANF Block Grant Amount 459		
TANF Supplemental Grant n/a		
Contingency Fund 92		
Emergency Fund	42	
MOE Obligation		
80% MOE Obligation 383		
75% MOE Obligation	359	

# **New Hampshire** | TANF Spending Factsheet



# **Guide to Spending Categories**

CBPP Category	Federal Reporting Categories
Basic Assistance	Basic Assistance
Administration and Systems	Administration Systems
Work-related Activities and Supports <sup>1</sup>	Work Subsidies Education and Training Other Work Activities/Expenses Transportation (all categories) and Other Supportive Services Individual Development Accounts
Child Care	Child Care Assistance and Nonassistance Funds Transferred to Child Care and Development Fund
Refundable Tax Credits	Refundable Earned Income Tax Credit Other Refundable Tax Credits
Nonrecurrent Short-Term Benefits	Nonrecurrent Short-Term Benefits
Pregnancy Prevention& 2-Parent Family Formation and Maintenance	Prevention of Out-of-Wedlock Pregnancies Two-Parent Family Formation and Maintenance
Transferred to Social Services Block Grant	Transferred to Social Services Block Grant
Authorized Under Prior Law and Other Nonassistance <sup>2,3</sup>	Assistance and Non-Assistance Solely Under Prior Law Other Nonassistance

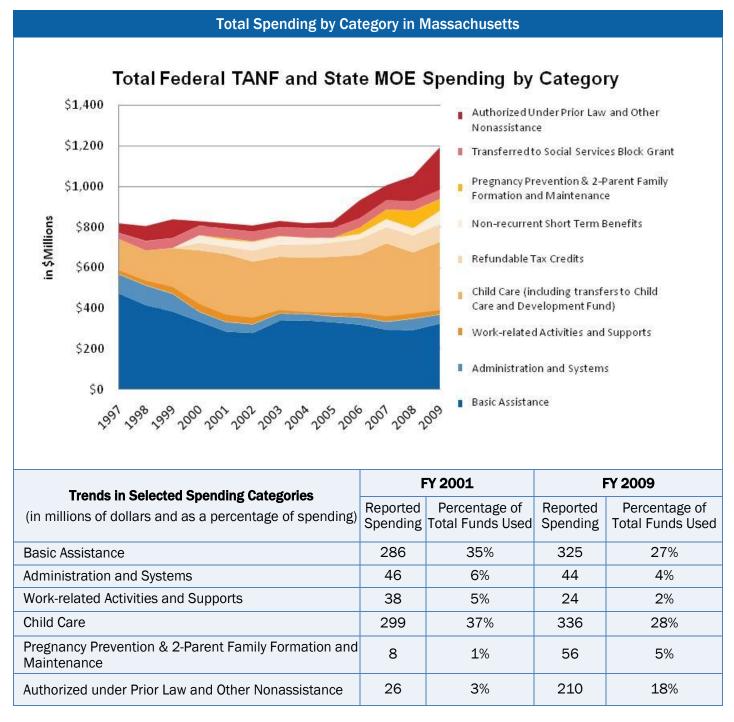
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<sup>2</sup> Spending on certain pre-TANF activities are permissible even if the expenditures are not otherwise consistent with the purposes of TANF and/or with the prohibitions included in the 1996 welfare law. This spending has been reported as Authorized Under Prior Law since fiscal year 2000.
<sup>3</sup>Prior to fiscal year 2000, states reported Other instead of Other Nonassistance. Other Nonassistance is a catch-all category for expenditures that meet one of the purposes of TANF and which do not fit in any other reporting category.

# **Spending Data Technical Notes**

- Data Source: <u>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services</u> and the <u>Center for Law and Social Policy DataFinder</u> and <u>TANF Spending Analysis</u>.
- When the Total Federal Funds Used exceed the federal Block Grant amount it may be because the state spent funds it had in reserve from previous years or it received additional funds from the TANF Contingency Fund or the TANF Emergency Fund. In some instances, a state was not awarded the Emergency Funds until 2010 for increased TANF/MOE spending that occurred in 2009.
- The TANF Block Grant Amount line in the MOE and Block Grant Spending graph includes Supplemental Grants but excludes Tribal TANF. (Tribal TANF spending is not included in the spending analysis.)
- States can report adjustments for prior years that may appear as "negative expenditures" in the current year. If such negative adjustments exceed current spending in a category, that category will show negative expenditures for the year. In most cases, this reflects changes in the funding stream which expenditures are charged against, rather than real reductions in funds available for an activity. However, in some cases funds may have been recovered from a program or transferred back from SSBG or CCDBG to TANF. For the purposes of the tables, negative expenditures are included as reported by ACF. For the purposes of the charts, negative expenditures are treated as equal to zero.

#### **Poverty Data Technical Notes**



In fiscal year 2009, Massachusetts spent 27 percent of its TANF/MOE expenditures on Basic Assistance.

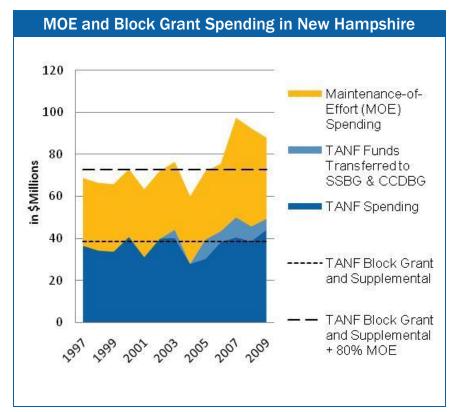
Massachusetts spent 28 percent of its TANF/MOE expenditures in the Child Care category in 2009. Child Care spending increased by \$37 million from 2001.

In fiscal year 2009, Massachusetts spent 2 percent of its TANF/MOE expenditures on Work-related Activities and Supports, less than one quarter of the national average for spending in this category.

#### The value of the TANF block grant has declined while need remains high.

- State TANF Block Grant amounts, after adjusting for inflation, eroded by 25 percent between fiscal years 1997 and 2009 and by 28 percent by 2011.
- The block grant did not rise or fall to meet New Hampshire's changing needs. In 2008-09, 14,634 New Hampshire families with children lived in poverty. The number of families in poverty reached a low of 10,000 in 2001-02 and a high of 22,000 in 1997-98.

#### The amount of federal TANF and state maintenance-of-effort (MOE) funds spent in a given year varies over time and reflects the condition of the economy and state policy and budgeting choices.



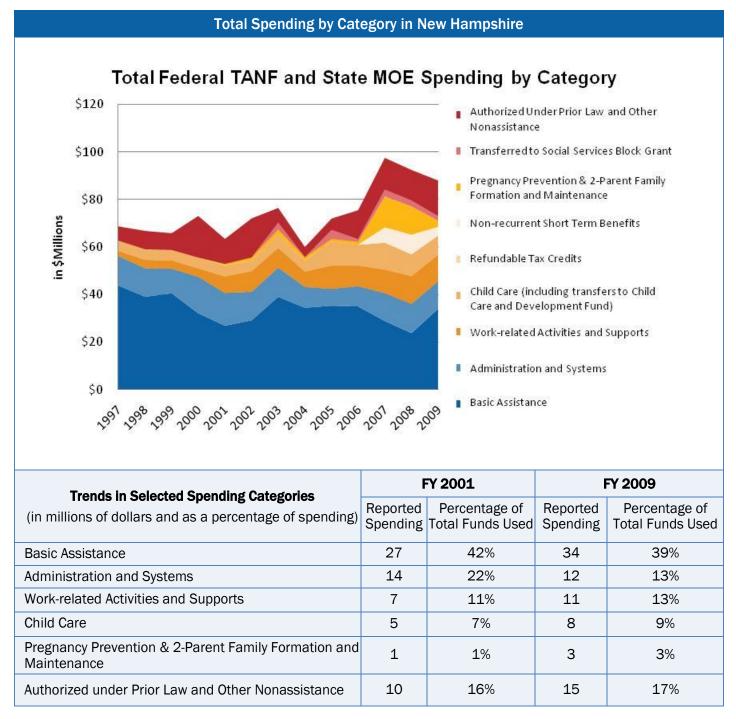
New Hampshire has increased its spending from the TANF Block Grant since 2004 and its MOE spending since 2007.

Starting in 2007, New Hampshire reported MOE spending in excess of the MOE requirement of 75 percent of historic state spending, that is, the amount of state spending on AFDC and related work programs prior to the advent of TANF. Previously, New Hampshire's MOE spending was at the minimum required 75 percent level. The increased MOE claimed for recent years does not necessarily represent any increase in state financial effort or in benefits or services available to needy families.

MOE and Block Grant Spending in New Hampshire		
In millions of dollars	FY 2001	FY 2009
Total Federal TANF Funds Used	31	50
TANF Funds spent	31	44
Funds transferred to SSBG	0	2
Funds transferred to CCDBG	0	0
Reported MOE Spending	32	39
Additional background on TANF and MOE funds and technical notes for this fact		

Additional background on TANF and MOE funds and technical notes for this fact sheet are available in following pages.

2009 Federal TANF Allocations		
TANF Block Grant Amount	39	
TANF Supplemental Grant	n/a	
Contingency Fund	0	
Emergency Fund	4	
MOE Obligation		
80% MOE Obligation	34	
75% MOE Obligation	32	



In fiscal year 2009, New Hampshire spent 39 percent of its TANF/MOE expenditures on Basic Assistance.

New Hampshire spent 17 percent of its TANF/MOE expenditures in the combined Authorized Under Prior Law/Other Nonassistance spending category in 2009. A majority this spending was reported as Other Nonassistance. This is an increase of over \$4 million from 2001. The substantial increase in reported spending in this category first occurred between fiscal years 2005 and 2006.



# **Federal TANF Funds:**

- Each state gets a fixed annual TANF Block Grant (known formally as the State Family Assistance Grant) allocation each year. In addition, some states may get additional TANF federal funds in a year from:
  - Supplemental Grants: Congress created the Supplemental Grants along with the TANF block grant in order to provide additional funds to states potentially disadvantaged by the block grant formula, either due to high population growth or because the state historically had provided relatively small cash grants. Seventeen states receive Supplemental Grants. The amount they receive was constant each year until 2011, when the Supplemental Grants were not fully funded.
  - *Contingency Fund:* Congress created the Contingency Fund as part of the 1996 TANF law to provide additional help to states in hard economic times. Over a third of states received TANF Contingency Funds in 2009.
  - *Emergency Fund:* Congress created the Emergency Fund as part of the 2009 Recovery Act to reimburse states for 80 percent of increased TANF or MOE funding. Every state but one received support from the Fund in 2009 or 2010. The Fund expired on September 30, 2010.
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- The Tribal TANF option allows federally recognized American Indian Tribes within a state, as well as Alaska Native organizations, to receive a portion of the state's TANF block grant directly and then use it to operate their own TANF programs.

- Each year, a state is required to meet a TANF maintenance-of-effort (MOE) obligation. The amount is based on its historical spending, defined as its 1994 contribution to Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and related work programs. States can count as MOE spending any state or third-party spending that benefits members of needy families and meets one of the four purposes of TANF. MOE funds must be spent during the year in which they are claimed.
- To meet its MOE obligation, a state must spend at least 80 percent of its historical spending. This minimum share is reduced to 75 percent for any year in which a state meets the TANF Work Participation Rate (WPR). In order to qualify for the Contingency Fund, a state must meet a 100 percent MOE requirement. Spending on child care and certain non-TANF programs does not count toward this special Contingency Fund MOE requirement.
- Using a formula used by the federal government, states can translate any MOE spending in excess of their minimum MOE requirement into a caseload reduction credit. This helps a state to meet its WPR because the WPR a state must achieve is reduced by one percentage point for every percentage point reduction in the caseload since 2005.
- The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 made it harder for states to meet the TANF WPR. In order to boost their caseload reduction credit, some states found it advantageous to report MOE they had not previously reported. Once the recession hit, some states also reported additional MOE in order to be eligible for TANF Contingency Funds. When states more aggressively identify and report additional MOE spending, it appears to increase total TANF/MOE spending, even if no actual increase in spending occurred. If the excess MOE spending is reported in just a few spending categories, it will significantly change the apportionment of spending across categories.

# **TANF Spending: Technical Notes**



### **Guide to Spending Categories**

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# **Spending Data Technical Notes**

- Data Source: <u>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services</u> and the <u>Center for Law and Social Policy DataFinder</u> and <u>TANF Spending Analysis</u>.
- When the Total Federal Funds Used exceed the federal Block Grant amount it may be because the state spent funds it had in reserve from previous years or it received additional funds from the TANF Contingency Fund or the TANF Emergency Fund. In some instances, a state was not awarded the Emergency Funds until 2010 for increased TANF/MOE spending that occurred in 2009.
- The TANF Block Grant Amount line in the MOE and Block Grant Spending graph includes Supplemental Grants but excludes Tribal TANF. (Tribal TANF spending is not included in the spending analysis.)
- States can report adjustments for prior years that may appear as "negative expenditures" in the current year. If such negative adjustments exceed current spending in a category, that category will show negative expenditures for the year. In most cases, this reflects changes in the funding stream which expenditures are charged against, rather than real reductions in funds available for an activity. However, in some cases funds may have been recovered from a program or transferred back from SSBG or CCDBG to TANF. For the purposes of the tables, negative expenditures are included as reported by ACF. For the purposes of the charts, negative expenditures are treated as equal to zero.

# **Poverty Data Technical Notes**

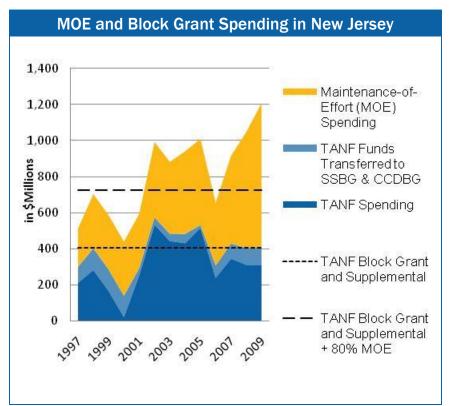
# **New Jersey** | TANF Spending Factsheet



#### The value of the TANF block grant has declined while need remains high.

- State TANF Block Grant amounts, after adjusting for inflation, eroded by 25 percent between fiscal years 1997 and 2009 and by 28 percent by 2011.
- The block grant did not rise or fall to meet New Jersey's changing needs. In 2008-09, 122,616 New Jersey families with children lived in poverty. The number of families in poverty reached a low of 90,000 in 2004-05 and a high of nearly 123,000 in 2008-09.

#### The amount of federal TANF and state maintenance-of-effort (MOE) funds spent in a given year varies over time and reflects the condition of the economy and state policy and budgeting choices.

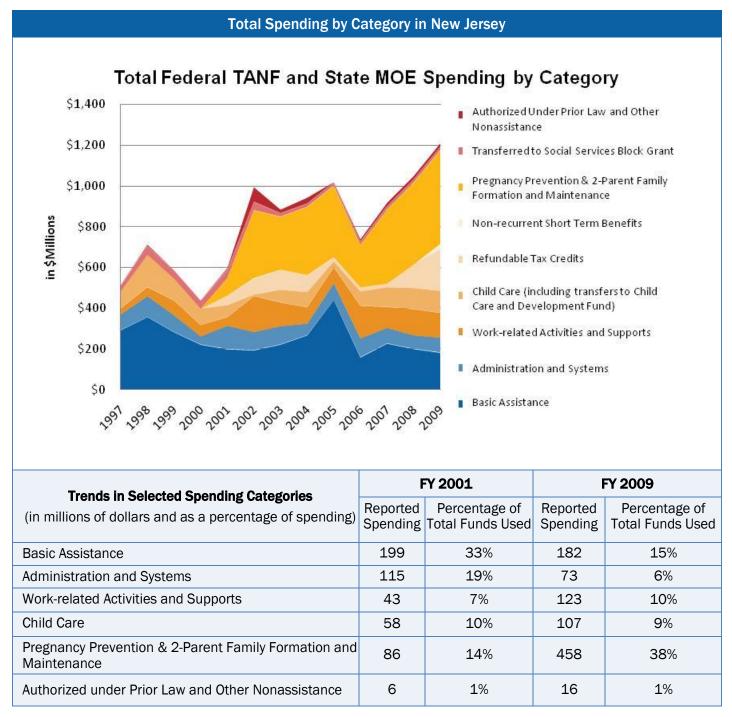


New Jersey's expenditures from the TANF Block Grant have leveled-off at an amount about \$100 million below their highs in the mid 2000s.

■ In fiscal year 2009, New Jersey reported \$801 million in state MOE spending,. This represents 200 percent of the amount of state spending on AFDC and related work programs prior to the advent of TANF - substantially more than the minimum MOE requirement of 75 or 80 percent of historic state spending. The state has reported increased MOE spending in recent years, particularly 2008 and 2009. These recent increases do not necessarily represent any increase in state financial effort or in benefits or services available to needy families.

MOE and Block Grant Spending in New Jersey		
In millions of dollars	FY 2001	FY 2009
Total Federal TANF Funds Used	295	407
TANF Funds spent	255	310
Funds transferred to SSBG	40	17
Funds transferred to CCDBG	0	0
Reported MOE Spending 300 801		
Additional background on TANF and MOE funds and technical notes for this fact		
sheet are available in following pages.		

2009 Federal TANF Allocations		
TANF Block Grant Amount 404		
TANF Supplemental Grant n/a		
Contingency Fund 0		
Emergency Fund	0	
MOE Obligation		
80% MOE Obligation	320	
75% MOE Obligation	300	



- In fiscal year 2009, New Jersey spent 15 percent of its TANF/MOE expenditures on Basic Assistance. New Jersey has decreased its Basic Assistance spending by 9 percent since 2001.
- The largest share of New Jersey's TANF and MOE spending is on Pregnancy Prevention and Two-Parent Family Formation and Maintenance. In 2009, New Jersey spent 38 of its total TANF/MOE expenditures in this category. The amount of spending in this category more than tripled between fiscal years 2001 and 2002.



# **Federal TANF Funds:**

- Each state gets a fixed annual TANF Block Grant (known formally as the State Family Assistance Grant) allocation each year. In addition, some states may get additional TANF federal funds in a year from:
  - Supplemental Grants: Congress created the Supplemental Grants along with the TANF block grant in order to provide additional funds to states potentially disadvantaged by the block grant formula, either due to high population growth or because the state historically had provided relatively small cash grants. Seventeen states receive Supplemental Grants. The amount they receive was constant each year until 2011, when the Supplemental Grants were not fully funded.
  - *Contingency Fund:* Congress created the Contingency Fund as part of the 1996 TANF law to provide additional help to states in hard economic times. Over a third of states received TANF Contingency Funds in 2009.
  - *Emergency Fund:* Congress created the Emergency Fund as part of the 2009 Recovery Act to reimburse states for 80 percent of increased TANF or MOE funding. Every state but one received support from the Fund in 2009 or 2010. The Fund expired on September 30, 2010.
  - *High Performance Bonus.* Through 2004, states could receive additional federal TANF funds for strong performance in meeting the objectives of TANF.
- States can carry over TANF funds (except for Contingency Funds) from year to year, so a state may spend more or less than the federal TANF allocation in a given year.
- A state can transfer up to 30 percent of its block grant funds for a year to the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and up to 10 percent to the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), provided that the total amount transferred does not exceed 30 percent of its current-year block grant.
- The Tribal TANF option allows federally recognized American Indian Tribes within a state, as well as Alaska Native organizations, to receive a portion of the state's TANF block grant directly and then use it to operate their own TANF programs.

- Each year, a state is required to meet a TANF maintenance-of-effort (MOE) obligation. The amount is based on its historical spending, defined as its 1994 contribution to Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and related work programs. States can count as MOE spending any state or third-party spending that benefits members of needy families and meets one of the four purposes of TANF. MOE funds must be spent during the year in which they are claimed.
- To meet its MOE obligation, a state must spend at least 80 percent of its historical spending. This minimum share is reduced to 75 percent for any year in which a state meets the TANF Work Participation Rate (WPR). In order to qualify for the Contingency Fund, a state must meet a 100 percent MOE requirement. Spending on child care and certain non-TANF programs does not count toward this special Contingency Fund MOE requirement.
- Using a formula used by the federal government, states can translate any MOE spending in excess of their minimum MOE requirement into a caseload reduction credit. This helps a state to meet its WPR because the WPR a state must achieve is reduced by one percentage point for every percentage point reduction in the caseload since 2005.
- The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 made it harder for states to meet the TANF WPR. In order to boost their caseload reduction credit, some states found it advantageous to report MOE they had not previously reported. Once the recession hit, some states also reported additional MOE in order to be eligible for TANF Contingency Funds. When states more aggressively identify and report additional MOE spending, it appears to increase total TANF/MOE spending, even if no actual increase in spending occurred. If the excess MOE spending is reported in just a few spending categories, it will significantly change the apportionment of spending across categories.



# **Guide to Spending Categories**

CBPP Category	Federal Reporting Categories
Basic Assistance	Basic Assistance
Administration and Systems	Administration Systems
Work-related Activities and Supports <sup>1</sup>	Work Subsidies Education and Training Other Work Activities/Expenses Transportation (all categories) and Other Supportive Services Individual Development Accounts
Child Care	Child Care Assistance and Nonassistance Funds Transferred to Child Care and Development Fund
Refundable Tax Credits	Refundable Earned Income Tax Credit Other Refundable Tax Credits
Nonrecurrent Short-Term Benefits	Nonrecurrent Short-Term Benefits
Pregnancy Prevention& 2-Parent Family Formation and Maintenance	Prevention of Out-of-Wedlock Pregnancies Two-Parent Family Formation and Maintenance
Transferred to Social Services Block Grant	Transferred to Social Services Block Grant
Authorized Under Prior Law and Other Nonassistance <sup>2,3</sup>	Assistance and Non-Assistance Solely Under Prior Law Other Nonassistance

<sup>1</sup> Federal reporting categories separate Assistance and Nonassistance; we combined them for analysis.

<sup>2</sup> Spending on certain pre-TANF activities are permissible even if the expenditures are not otherwise consistent with the purposes of TANF and/or with the prohibitions included in the 1996 welfare law. This spending has been reported as Authorized Under Prior Law since fiscal year 2000.
<sup>3</sup>Prior to fiscal year 2000, states reported Other instead of Other Nonassistance. Other Nonassistance is a catch-all category for expenditures that meet one of the purposes of TANF and which do not fit in any other reporting category.

# **Spending Data Technical Notes**

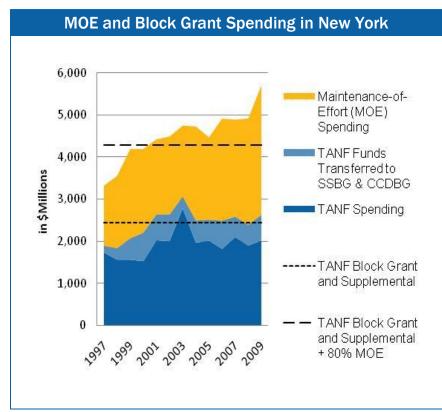
- Data Source: <u>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services</u> and the <u>Center for Law and Social Policy DataFinder</u> and <u>TANF Spending Analysis</u>.
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- The TANF Block Grant Amount line in the MOE and Block Grant Spending graph includes Supplemental Grants but excludes Tribal TANF. (Tribal TANF spending is not included in the spending analysis.)
- States can report adjustments for prior years that may appear as "negative expenditures" in the current year. If such negative adjustments exceed current spending in a category, that category will show negative expenditures for the year. In most cases, this reflects changes in the funding stream which expenditures are charged against, rather than real reductions in funds available for an activity. However, in some cases funds may have been recovered from a program or transferred back from SSBG or CCDBG to TANF. For the purposes of the tables, negative expenditures are included as reported by ACF. For the purposes of the charts, negative expenditures are treated as equal to zero.

# **Poverty Data Technical Notes**

#### The value of the TANF block grant has declined while need remains high.

- State TANF Block Grant amounts, after adjusting for inflation, eroded by 25 percent between fiscal years 1997 and 2009 and by 28 percent by 2011.
- The block grant did not rise or fall to meet New York's changing needs. In 2008-09, 463,452 New York families with children lived in poverty. The number of families in poverty reached a low of 420,000 in 2000-01 and a high of 542,000 in 1996-97.

#### The amount of federal TANF and state maintenance-of-effort (MOE) funds spent in a given year varies over time and reflects the condition of the economy and state policy and budgeting choices.



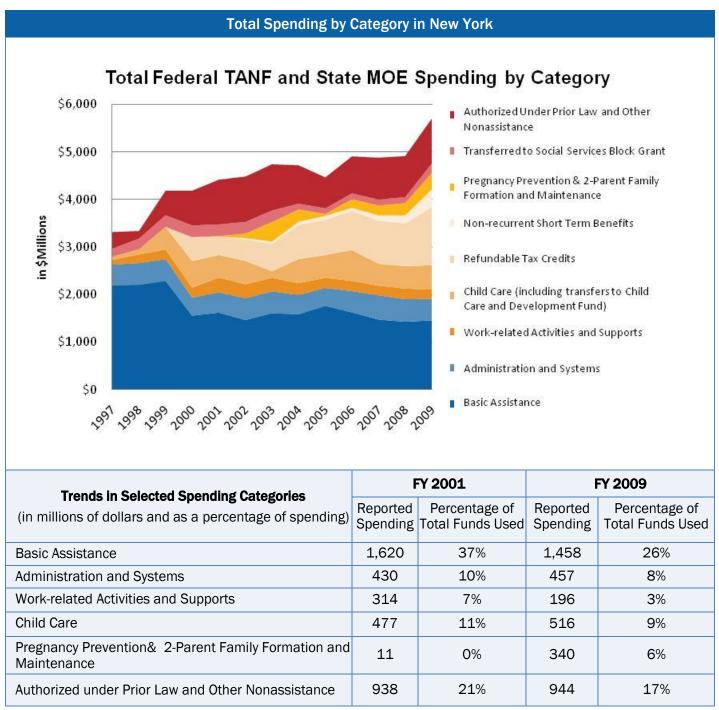
■ New York's federal TANF spending increased in the wake of the 2001-02 recession and slightly during the recent recession. (The 2009 increase in federal TANF spending is less than the additional federal dollars the state received for 2009.)

■ In fiscal year 2009, New York reported \$3.07 billion in state MOE spending.. This represents 134 percent of the amount of state spending on AFDC and related work programs prior to the advent of TANF - substantially more than the minimum MOE requirement of 75 or 80 percent of historic state spending. New York has claimed over 100 percent MOE since 1996 and the increased MOE claimed in recent years does not necessarily represent any increase in state financial effort or in benefits or services available to needy families.

MOE and Block Grant Spending in New York		
In millions of dollars	FY 2001	FY 2009
Total Federal TANF Funds Used	2,642	2,634
TANF Funds spent	2,023	2,019
Funds transferred to SSBG	244	201
Funds transferred to CCDBG	375	375
Reported MOE Spending	1,782	3,073
Additional background on TANF and MOE funds and technical notes for this fact		

sheet are available in following pages.

2009 Federal TANF AllocationsTANF Block Grant Amount2,443TANF Supplemental Grantn/aContingency Fund407Emergency Fund149MOE Obligation80% MOE Obligation1,83375% MOE Obligation1,719



- In fiscal year 2009, New York spent 26 percent of its TANF/MOE expenditures on Basic Assistance, slightly below the national average for spending in this category. New York has decreased its Basic Assistance spending by 10 percent since 2001.
- New York spent 21 percent of its TANF/MOE expenditures on Refundable Tax Credits in 2009. Spending in this category has increased relatively steadily since 2002.



# **Federal TANF Funds:**

- Each state gets a fixed annual TANF Block Grant (known formally as the State Family Assistance Grant) allocation each year. In addition, some states may get additional TANF federal funds in a year from:
  - Supplemental Grants: Congress created the Supplemental Grants along with the TANF block grant in order to provide additional funds to states potentially disadvantaged by the block grant formula, either due to high population growth or because the state historically had provided relatively small cash grants. Seventeen states receive Supplemental Grants. The amount they receive was constant each year until 2011, when the Supplemental Grants were not fully funded.
  - *Contingency Fund:* Congress created the Contingency Fund as part of the 1996 TANF law to provide additional help to states in hard economic times. Over a third of states received TANF Contingency Funds in 2009.
  - *Emergency Fund:* Congress created the Emergency Fund as part of the 2009 Recovery Act to reimburse states for 80 percent of increased TANF or MOE funding. Every state but one received support from the Fund in 2009 or 2010. The Fund expired on September 30, 2010.
  - *High Performance Bonus.* Through 2004, states could receive additional federal TANF funds for strong performance in meeting the objectives of TANF.
- States can carry over TANF funds (except for Contingency Funds) from year to year, so a state may spend more or less than the federal TANF allocation in a given year.
- A state can transfer up to 30 percent of its block grant funds for a year to the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and up to 10 percent to the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), provided that the total amount transferred does not exceed 30 percent of its current-year block grant.
- The Tribal TANF option allows federally recognized American Indian Tribes within a state, as well as Alaska Native organizations, to receive a portion of the state's TANF block grant directly and then use it to operate their own TANF programs.

- Each year, a state is required to meet a TANF maintenance-of-effort (MOE) obligation. The amount is based on its historical spending, defined as its 1994 contribution to Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and related work programs. States can count as MOE spending any state or third-party spending that benefits members of needy families and meets one of the four purposes of TANF. MOE funds must be spent during the year in which they are claimed.
- To meet its MOE obligation, a state must spend at least 80 percent of its historical spending. This minimum share is reduced to 75 percent for any year in which a state meets the TANF Work Participation Rate (WPR). In order to qualify for the Contingency Fund, a state must meet a 100 percent MOE requirement. Spending on child care and certain non-TANF programs does not count toward this special Contingency Fund MOE requirement.
- Using a formula used by the federal government, states can translate any MOE spending in excess of their minimum MOE requirement into a caseload reduction credit. This helps a state to meet its WPR because the WPR a state must achieve is reduced by one percentage point for every percentage point reduction in the caseload since 2005.
- The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 made it harder for states to meet the TANF WPR. In order to boost their caseload reduction credit, some states found it advantageous to report MOE they had not previously reported. Once the recession hit, some states also reported additional MOE in order to be eligible for TANF Contingency Funds. When states more aggressively identify and report additional MOE spending, it appears to increase total TANF/MOE spending, even if no actual increase in spending occurred. If the excess MOE spending is reported in just a few spending categories, it will significantly change the apportionment of spending across categories.



# **Guide to Spending Categories**

CBPP Category	Federal Reporting Categories	
Basic Assistance	Basic Assistance	
Administration and Systems	Administration Systems	
Work-related Activities and Supports <sup>1</sup>	Work Subsidies Education and Training Other Work Activities/Expenses Transportation (all categories) and Other Supportive Services Individual Development Accounts	
Child Care	Child Care Assistance and Nonassistance Funds Transferred to Child Care and Development Fund	
Refundable Tax Credits	Refundable Earned Income Tax Credit Other Refundable Tax Credits	
Nonrecurrent Short-Term Benefits	Nonrecurrent Short-Term Benefits	
Pregnancy Prevention& 2-Parent Family Formation and Maintenance	Prevention of Out-of-Wedlock Pregnancies Two-Parent Family Formation and Maintenance	
Transferred to Social Services Block Grant	Transferred to Social Services Block Grant	
Authorized Under Prior Law and Other Nonassistance <sup>2,3</sup>	Assistance and Non-Assistance Solely Under Prior Law Other Nonassistance	

<sup>1</sup> Federal reporting categories separate Assistance and Nonassistance; we combined them for analysis.

<sup>2</sup> Spending on certain pre-TANF activities are permissible even if the expenditures are not otherwise consistent with the purposes of TANF and/or with the prohibitions included in the 1996 welfare law. This spending has been reported as Authorized Under Prior Law since fiscal year 2000.
<sup>3</sup>Prior to fiscal year 2000, states reported Other instead of Other Nonassistance. Other Nonassistance is a catch-all category for expenditures that meet one of the purposes of TANF and which do not fit in any other reporting category.

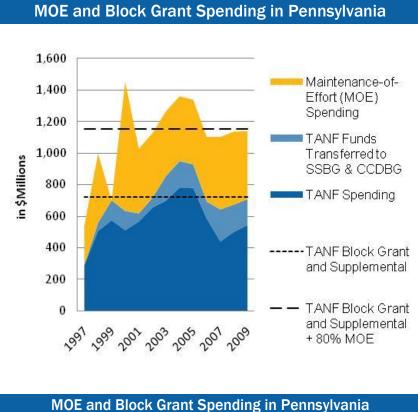
# **Spending Data Technical Notes**

- Data Source: <u>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services</u> and the <u>Center for Law and Social Policy DataFinder</u> and <u>TANF Spending Analysis</u>.
- When the Total Federal Funds Used exceed the federal Block Grant amount it may be because the state spent funds it had in reserve from previous years or it received additional funds from the TANF Contingency Fund or the TANF Emergency Fund. In some instances, a state was not awarded the Emergency Funds until 2010 for increased TANF/MOE spending that occurred in 2009.
- The TANF Block Grant Amount line in the MOE and Block Grant Spending graph includes Supplemental Grants but excludes Tribal TANF. (Tribal TANF spending is not included in the spending analysis.)
- States can report adjustments for prior years that may appear as "negative expenditures" in the current year. If such negative adjustments exceed current spending in a category, that category will show negative expenditures for the year. In most cases, this reflects changes in the funding stream which expenditures are charged against, rather than real reductions in funds available for an activity. However, in some cases funds may have been recovered from a program or transferred back from SSBG or CCDBG to TANF. For the purposes of the tables, negative expenditures are included as reported by ACF. For the purposes of the charts, negative expenditures are treated as equal to zero.

# **Poverty Data Technical Notes**

- State TANF Block Grant amounts, after adjusting for inflation, eroded by 25 percent between fiscal years 1997 and 2009 and by 28 percent by 2011.
- The block grant did not rise or fall to meet Pennsylvania's changing needs. In 2008-09, 197,738 Pennsylvania families with children lived in poverty. The number of families in poverty reached a low of 159,000 in 1999-00 and a high of 224,000 in 2003-04.

# The amount of federal TANF and state maintenance-of-effort (MOE) funds spent in a given year varies over time and reflects the condition of the economy and state policy and budgeting choices.

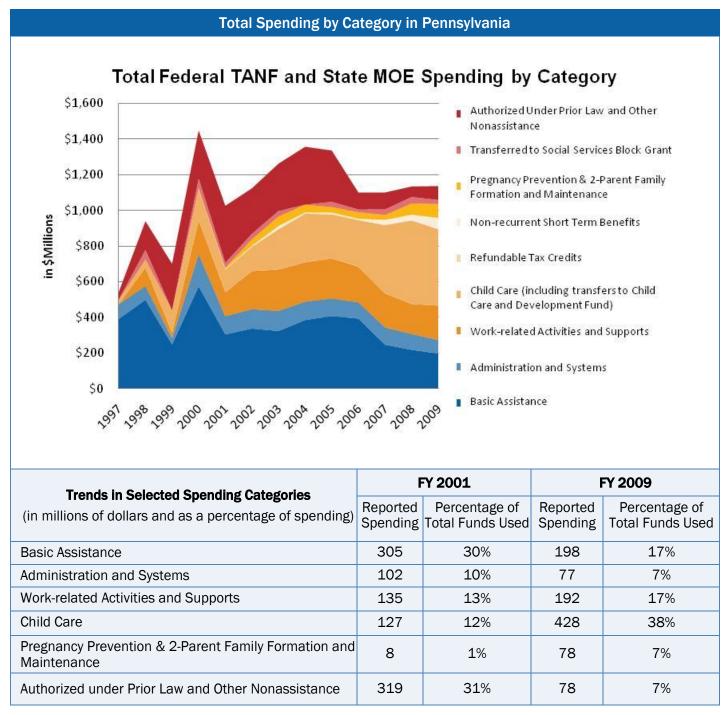


Pennsylvania's TANF and MOE spending has
declined from 2004 through 2007 with a slight
increase during the recent recession.

2009 Federal TANF Alloca	ations
TANF Block Grant Amount	719
TANF Supplemental Grant	n/a
Contingency Fund	0
Emergency Fund	29
MOE Obligation	
80% MOE Obligation	434
75% MOE Obligation	407

MOE and Block Grant Spending in Pennsylvania		
In millions of dollars	FY 2001	FY 2009 710
Total Federal TANF Funds Used	620	
TANF Funds spent	568	545
Funds transferred to SSBG	27	23
Funds transferred to CCDBG	26	26
Reported MOE Spending	407	428
Additional background on TANF and MOE funds and technical notes for this fact		

sheet are available in following pages.



- In fiscal year 2009, Pennsylvania spent 17 percent of its TANF/MOE expenditures on Basic Assistance, 10 percentage points below the national average for spending in this category. Pennsylvania has decreased its Basic Assistance spending by 35 percent since 2001.
- The largest share of Pennsylvania's TANF and MOE spending is on Child Care, representing 39 percent of total spending in 2009.



# **Federal TANF Funds:**

- Each state gets a fixed annual TANF Block Grant (known formally as the State Family Assistance Grant) allocation each year. In addition, some states may get additional TANF federal funds in a year from:
  - Supplemental Grants: Congress created the Supplemental Grants along with the TANF block grant in order to provide additional funds to states potentially disadvantaged by the block grant formula, either due to high population growth or because the state historically had provided relatively small cash grants. Seventeen states receive Supplemental Grants. The amount they receive was constant each year until 2011, when the Supplemental Grants were not fully funded.
  - *Contingency Fund:* Congress created the Contingency Fund as part of the 1996 TANF law to provide additional help to states in hard economic times. Over a third of states received TANF Contingency Funds in 2009.
  - *Emergency Fund:* Congress created the Emergency Fund as part of the 2009 Recovery Act to reimburse states for 80 percent of increased TANF or MOE funding. Every state but one received support from the Fund in 2009 or 2010. The Fund expired on September 30, 2010.
  - *High Performance Bonus.* Through 2004, states could receive additional federal TANF funds for strong performance in meeting the objectives of TANF.
- States can carry over TANF funds (except for Contingency Funds) from year to year, so a state may spend more or less than the federal TANF allocation in a given year.
- A state can transfer up to 30 percent of its block grant funds for a year to the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and up to 10 percent to the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), provided that the total amount transferred does not exceed 30 percent of its current-year block grant.
- The Tribal TANF option allows federally recognized American Indian Tribes within a state, as well as Alaska Native organizations, to receive a portion of the state's TANF block grant directly and then use it to operate their own TANF programs.

- Each year, a state is required to meet a TANF maintenance-of-effort (MOE) obligation. The amount is based on its historical spending, defined as its 1994 contribution to Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and related work programs. States can count as MOE spending any state or third-party spending that benefits members of needy families and meets one of the four purposes of TANF. MOE funds must be spent during the year in which they are claimed.
- To meet its MOE obligation, a state must spend at least 80 percent of its historical spending. This minimum share is reduced to 75 percent for any year in which a state meets the TANF Work Participation Rate (WPR). In order to qualify for the Contingency Fund, a state must meet a 100 percent MOE requirement. Spending on child care and certain non-TANF programs does not count toward this special Contingency Fund MOE requirement.
- Using a formula used by the federal government, states can translate any MOE spending in excess of their minimum MOE requirement into a caseload reduction credit. This helps a state to meet its WPR because the WPR a state must achieve is reduced by one percentage point for every percentage point reduction in the caseload since 2005.
- The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 made it harder for states to meet the TANF WPR. In order to boost their caseload reduction credit, some states found it advantageous to report MOE they had not previously reported. Once the recession hit, some states also reported additional MOE in order to be eligible for TANF Contingency Funds. When states more aggressively identify and report additional MOE spending, it appears to increase total TANF/MOE spending, even if no actual increase in spending occurred. If the excess MOE spending is reported in just a few spending categories, it will significantly change the apportionment of spending across categories.

# **TANF Spending: Technical Notes**



### **Guide to Spending Categories**

CBPP Category	Federal Reporting Categories
Basic Assistance	Basic Assistance
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Pregnancy Prevention& 2-Parent Family Formation and Maintenance	Prevention of Out-of-Wedlock Pregnancies Two-Parent Family Formation and Maintenance
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Authorized Under Prior Law and Other Nonassistance <sup>2,3</sup>	Assistance and Non-Assistance Solely Under Prior Law Other Nonassistance

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<sup>2</sup> Spending on certain pre-TANF activities are permissible even if the expenditures are not otherwise consistent with the purposes of TANF and/or with the prohibitions included in the 1996 welfare law. This spending has been reported as Authorized Under Prior Law since fiscal year 2000.
<sup>3</sup>Prior to fiscal year 2000, states reported Other instead of Other Nonassistance. Other Nonassistance is a catch-all category for expenditures that meet one of the purposes of TANF and which do not fit in any other reporting category.

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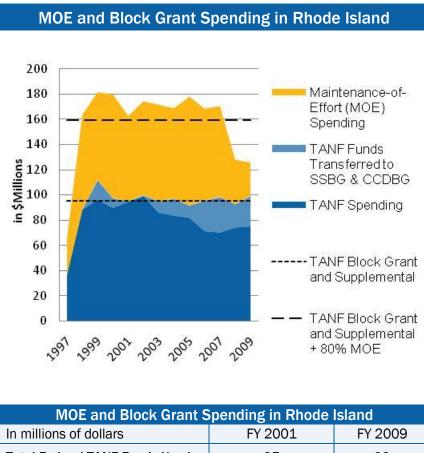
# Rhode Island | TANF Spending Factsheet



### The value of the TANF block grant has declined while need remains high.

- State TANF Block Grant amounts, after adjusting for inflation, eroded by 25 percent between fiscal years 1997 and 2009 and by 28 percent by 2011.
- The block grant did not rise or fall to meet Rhode Island's changing needs. In 2008-09, 23,988 Rhode Island families with children lived in poverty. The number of families in poverty reached a low of 15,000 in 2000-01 and a high of 24,000 in 2008-09.

### The amount of federal TANF and state maintenance-of-effort (MOE) funds spent in a given year varies over time and reflects the condition of the economy and state policy and budgeting choices.

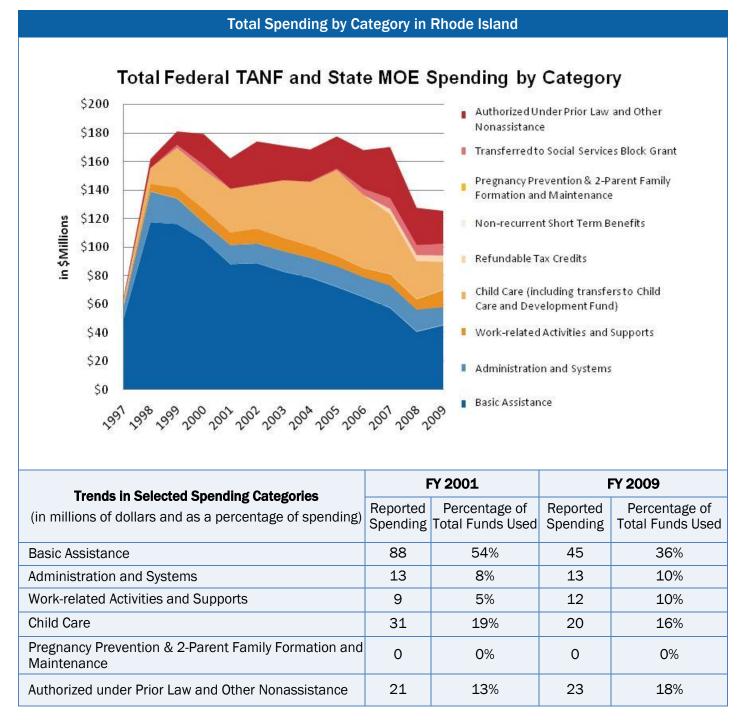


Spending from the TANF Block Grant has remained relatively constant, with some dips, over the last decade, although since 2003 more of the TANF Block Grant funds have been transferred to the Child Care Development Block Grant and the Social Services Block Grant. The data for Rhode Island's MOE spending in 2008 and 2009 appears to be incomplete so it is difficult to draw a conclusion for those years.

2009 Federal TANF Alloca	ations
TANF Block Grant Amount	95
TANF Supplemental Grant	n/a
Contingency Fund	0
Emergency Fund	0
MOE Obligation	
80% MOE Obligation	64
75% MOE Obligation	60

MOE and Block Grant Spending in Rhode Island			
In millions of dollars	FY 2001	FY 2009	
Total Federal TANF Funds Used	95	99	
TANF Funds spent	95	75	
Funds transferred to SSBG	0	8	
Funds transferred to CCDBG	1	1	
Reported MOE Spending	67	26	

Additional background on TANF and MOE funds and technical notes for this fact sheet are available in following pages.



- In fiscal year 2009, Rhode Island spent 36 percent of its TANF/MOE expenditures on Basic Assistance. Rhode Island has decreased its Basic Assistance spending by 49 percent since 2001.
- Rhode Island spent \$23 million in the combined Authorized Under Prior Law/Other Nonassistance spending category in 2009. All of this spending was reported as Other Nonassistance.



# **Federal TANF Funds:**

- Each state gets a fixed annual TANF Block Grant (known formally as the State Family Assistance Grant) allocation each year. In addition, some states may get additional TANF federal funds in a year from:
  - Supplemental Grants: Congress created the Supplemental Grants along with the TANF block grant in order to provide additional funds to states potentially disadvantaged by the block grant formula, either due to high population growth or because the state historically had provided relatively small cash grants. Seventeen states receive Supplemental Grants. The amount they receive was constant each year until 2011, when the Supplemental Grants were not fully funded.
  - *Contingency Fund:* Congress created the Contingency Fund as part of the 1996 TANF law to provide additional help to states in hard economic times. Over a third of states received TANF Contingency Funds in 2009.
  - *Emergency Fund:* Congress created the Emergency Fund as part of the 2009 Recovery Act to reimburse states for 80 percent of increased TANF or MOE funding. Every state but one received support from the Fund in 2009 or 2010. The Fund expired on September 30, 2010.
  - *High Performance Bonus.* Through 2004, states could receive additional federal TANF funds for strong performance in meeting the objectives of TANF.
- States can carry over TANF funds (except for Contingency Funds) from year to year, so a state may spend more or less than the federal TANF allocation in a given year.
- A state can transfer up to 30 percent of its block grant funds for a year to the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and up to 10 percent to the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), provided that the total amount transferred does not exceed 30 percent of its current-year block grant.
- The Tribal TANF option allows federally recognized American Indian Tribes within a state, as well as Alaska Native organizations, to receive a portion of the state's TANF block grant directly and then use it to operate their own TANF programs.

- Each year, a state is required to meet a TANF maintenance-of-effort (MOE) obligation. The amount is based on its historical spending, defined as its 1994 contribution to Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and related work programs. States can count as MOE spending any state or third-party spending that benefits members of needy families and meets one of the four purposes of TANF. MOE funds must be spent during the year in which they are claimed.
- To meet its MOE obligation, a state must spend at least 80 percent of its historical spending. This minimum share is reduced to 75 percent for any year in which a state meets the TANF Work Participation Rate (WPR). In order to qualify for the Contingency Fund, a state must meet a 100 percent MOE requirement. Spending on child care and certain non-TANF programs does not count toward this special Contingency Fund MOE requirement.
- Using a formula used by the federal government, states can translate any MOE spending in excess of their minimum MOE requirement into a caseload reduction credit. This helps a state to meet its WPR because the WPR a state must achieve is reduced by one percentage point for every percentage point reduction in the caseload since 2005.
- The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 made it harder for states to meet the TANF WPR. In order to boost their caseload reduction credit, some states found it advantageous to report MOE they had not previously reported. Once the recession hit, some states also reported additional MOE in order to be eligible for TANF Contingency Funds. When states more aggressively identify and report additional MOE spending, it appears to increase total TANF/MOE spending, even if no actual increase in spending occurred. If the excess MOE spending is reported in just a few spending categories, it will significantly change the apportionment of spending across categories.



# **Guide to Spending Categories**

CBPP Category	Federal Reporting Categories
Basic Assistance	Basic Assistance
Administration and Systems	Administration Systems
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Child Care	Child Care Assistance and Nonassistance Funds Transferred to Child Care and Development Fund
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Transferred to Social Services Block Grant	Transferred to Social Services Block Grant
Authorized Under Prior Law and Other Nonassistance <sup>2,3</sup>	Assistance and Non-Assistance Solely Under Prior Law Other Nonassistance

<sup>1</sup> Federal reporting categories separate Assistance and Nonassistance; we combined them for analysis.

<sup>2</sup> Spending on certain pre-TANF activities are permissible even if the expenditures are not otherwise consistent with the purposes of TANF and/or with the prohibitions included in the 1996 welfare law. This spending has been reported as Authorized Under Prior Law since fiscal year 2000.
<sup>3</sup>Prior to fiscal year 2000, states reported Other instead of Other Nonassistance. Other Nonassistance is a catch-all category for expenditures that meet one of the purposes of TANF and which do not fit in any other reporting category.

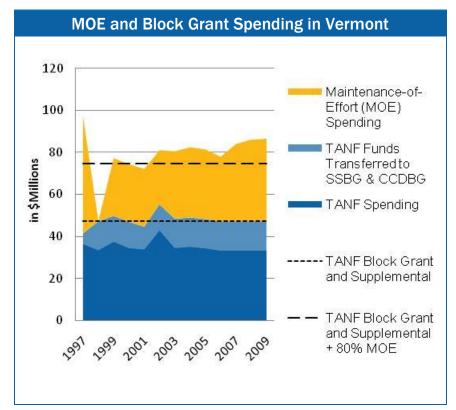
# **Spending Data Technical Notes**

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- The TANF Block Grant Amount line in the MOE and Block Grant Spending graph includes Supplemental Grants but excludes Tribal TANF. (Tribal TANF spending is not included in the spending analysis.)
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# **Poverty Data Technical Notes**

- State TANF Block Grant amounts, after adjusting for inflation, eroded by 25 percent between fiscal years 1997 and 2009 and by 28 percent by 2011.
- The block grant did not rise or fall to meet Vermont's changing needs. In 2008-09, 7,312 Vermont families with children lived in poverty. The number of families in poverty reached a low of 6,000 in 2005-06 and a high of 11,000 in 1998-99.

### The amount of federal TANF and state maintenance-of-effort (MOE) funds spent in a given year varies over time and reflects the condition of the economy and state policy and budgeting choices.

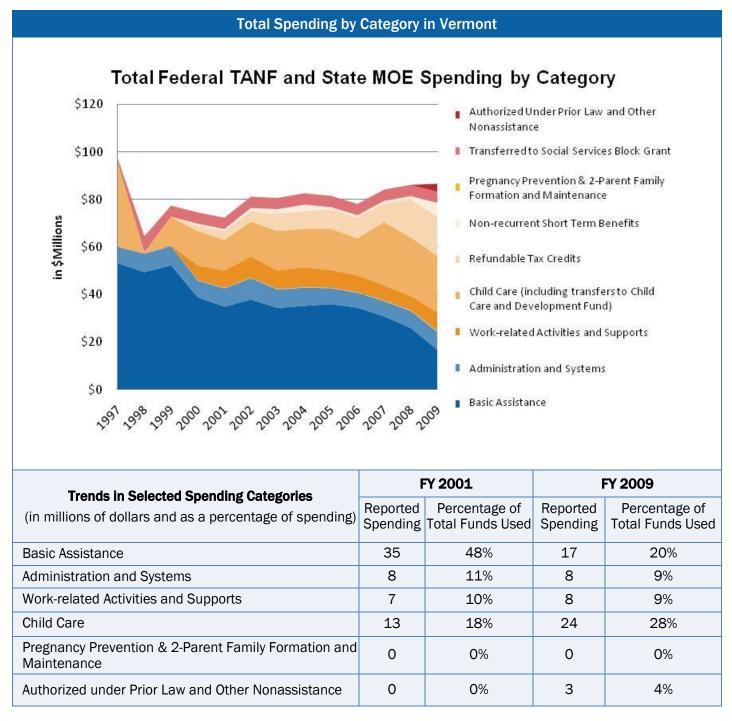


■ Since 2003, Vermont's spending from the TANF Block Grant has remained relatively flat and MOE spending has increased modestly since 2007.

■ In fiscal year 2009, Vermont reported \$39 million in state MOE spending. This represents 115 percent of the amount of state spending on AFDC and related work programs prior to the advent of TANF – substantially more than the minimum MOE requirement of 75 or 80 percent of historic state spending. Until fiscal year 2003, Vermont's MOE spending was slightly above the required 75 or 80 percent level.

MOE and Block Grant Spending in Vermont			
In millions of dollars	FY 2001	FY 2009	
Total Federal TANF Funds Used	45	47	
TANF Funds spent	34	33	
Funds transferred to SSBG	5	5	
Funds transferred to CCDBG	6	6	
Reported MOE Spending2739			
Additional background on TANF and MOE funds and technical notes for this fact sheet are available in following pages.			

2009 Federal TANF Alloca	ations
TANF Block Grant Amount	47
TANF Supplemental Grant	n/a
Contingency Fund	0
Emergency Fund	0
MOE Obligation	
80% MOE Obligation	27
75% MOE Obligation	26



- In fiscal year 2009, Vermont spent 20 percent of its TANF/MOE expenditures on Basic Assistance, 8 percentage points below the national average for spending in this category. Vermont has decreased its Basic Assistance spending by 52 percent since 2001.
- The largest share of Vermont's TANF and MOE spending is on Child Care, representing 28 percent of total spending in 2009. The amount of spending on Child Care rose sharply between fiscal years 2006 and 2007 and has plateaued since then.
- While Vermont's spending on basic assistance appears to drop after 2007, caseloads actually increased during the recession and the drop in spending during this recent period appears to be due to Vermont serving a share of cash assistance families in a solely state-funded program that does not use TANF or MOE funds in response to TANF changes in the DRA.



# **Federal TANF Funds:**

- Each state gets a fixed annual TANF Block Grant (known formally as the State Family Assistance Grant) allocation each year. In addition, some states may get additional TANF federal funds in a year from:
  - Supplemental Grants: Congress created the Supplemental Grants along with the TANF block grant in order to provide additional funds to states potentially disadvantaged by the block grant formula, either due to high population growth or because the state historically had provided relatively small cash grants. Seventeen states receive Supplemental Grants. The amount they receive was constant each year until 2011, when the Supplemental Grants were not fully funded.
  - *Contingency Fund:* Congress created the Contingency Fund as part of the 1996 TANF law to provide additional help to states in hard economic times. Over a third of states received TANF Contingency Funds in 2009.
  - *Emergency Fund:* Congress created the Emergency Fund as part of the 2009 Recovery Act to reimburse states for 80 percent of increased TANF or MOE funding. Every state but one received support from the Fund in 2009 or 2010. The Fund expired on September 30, 2010.
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- The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 made it harder for states to meet the TANF WPR. In order to boost their caseload reduction credit, some states found it advantageous to report MOE they had not previously reported. Once the recession hit, some states also reported additional MOE in order to be eligible for TANF Contingency Funds. When states more aggressively identify and report additional MOE spending, it appears to increase total TANF/MOE spending, even if no actual increase in spending occurred. If the excess MOE spending is reported in just a few spending categories, it will significantly change the apportionment of spending across categories.

# **TANF Spending: Technical Notes**



### **Guide to Spending Categories**

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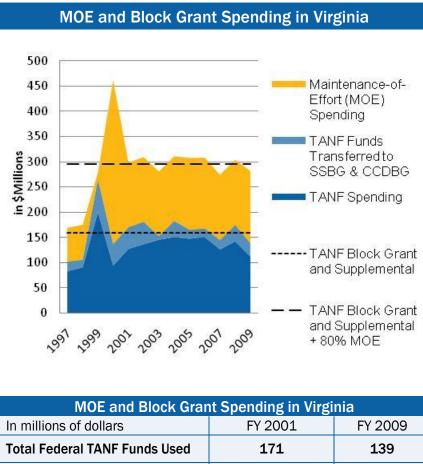
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### **Poverty Data Technical Notes**



- State TANF Block Grant amounts, after adjusting for inflation, eroded by 25 percent between fiscal years 1997 and 2009 and by 28 percent by 2011.
- The block grant did not rise or fall to meet Virginia's changing needs. In 2008-09, 124,706 Virginia families with children lived in poverty. The number of families in poverty reached a low of 89,000 in 1998-99 and a high of 137,000 in 1996-97.

### The amount of federal TANF and state maintenance-of-effort (MOE) funds spent in a given year varies over time and reflects the condition of the economy and state policy and budgeting choices.

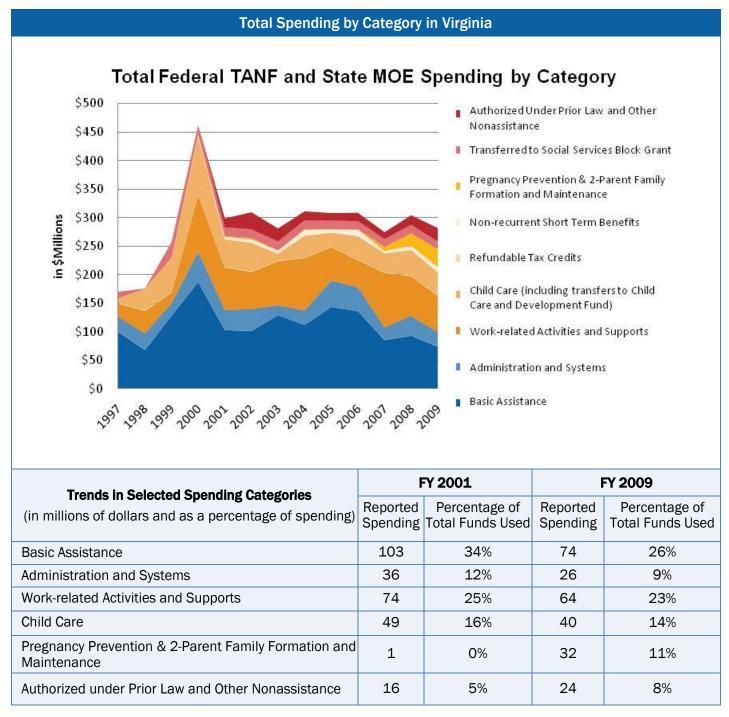


■ Virginia's spending from the TANF block grant dipped in 2007 and 2009.

2009 Federal TANF Alloca	ations
TANF Block Grant Amount	158
TANF Supplemental Grant	n/a
Contingency Fund	0
Emergency Fund	0
MOE Obligation	
80% MOE Obligation	137
75% MOE Obligation	128

	MOE and Block Grant Spending in Virginia			
	In millions of dollars	FY 2001	FY 2009	
	Total Federal TANF Funds Used	171	139	
	TANF Funds spent	127	112	
	Funds transferred to SSBG	16	14	
	Funds transferred to CCDBG	28	28	
	Reported MOE Spending	128	143	
Additional background on TANF and MOE funds and technical notes for this fact			tes for this fact	

sheet are available in following pages.



In fiscal year 2009, Virginia spent 26 percent of its TANF/MOE expenditures on Basic Assistance, slightly below the national average for spending in this category. Virginia has decreased its Basic Assistance spending by 28 percent since 2001.

Virginia spent 23 percent of its TANF/MOE expenditures on Work-related Activities and Supports. Most of this spending was reported as Other Work-related Activities. Expenditures in this category have declined by 13 percent since fiscal year 2001.



# **Federal TANF Funds:**

- Each state gets a fixed annual TANF Block Grant (known formally as the State Family Assistance Grant) allocation each year. In addition, some states may get additional TANF federal funds in a year from:
  - Supplemental Grants: Congress created the Supplemental Grants along with the TANF block grant in order to provide additional funds to states potentially disadvantaged by the block grant formula, either due to high population growth or because the state historically had provided relatively small cash grants. Seventeen states receive Supplemental Grants. The amount they receive was constant each year until 2011, when the Supplemental Grants were not fully funded.
  - *Contingency Fund:* Congress created the Contingency Fund as part of the 1996 TANF law to provide additional help to states in hard economic times. Over a third of states received TANF Contingency Funds in 2009.
  - *Emergency Fund:* Congress created the Emergency Fund as part of the 2009 Recovery Act to reimburse states for 80 percent of increased TANF or MOE funding. Every state but one received support from the Fund in 2009 or 2010. The Fund expired on September 30, 2010.
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- Each year, a state is required to meet a TANF maintenance-of-effort (MOE) obligation. The amount is based on its historical spending, defined as its 1994 contribution to Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and related work programs. States can count as MOE spending any state or third-party spending that benefits members of needy families and meets one of the four purposes of TANF. MOE funds must be spent during the year in which they are claimed.
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- Using a formula used by the federal government, states can translate any MOE spending in excess of their minimum MOE requirement into a caseload reduction credit. This helps a state to meet its WPR because the WPR a state must achieve is reduced by one percentage point for every percentage point reduction in the caseload since 2005.
- The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 made it harder for states to meet the TANF WPR. In order to boost their caseload reduction credit, some states found it advantageous to report MOE they had not previously reported. Once the recession hit, some states also reported additional MOE in order to be eligible for TANF Contingency Funds. When states more aggressively identify and report additional MOE spending, it appears to increase total TANF/MOE spending, even if no actual increase in spending occurred. If the excess MOE spending is reported in just a few spending categories, it will significantly change the apportionment of spending across categories.



# **Guide to Spending Categories**

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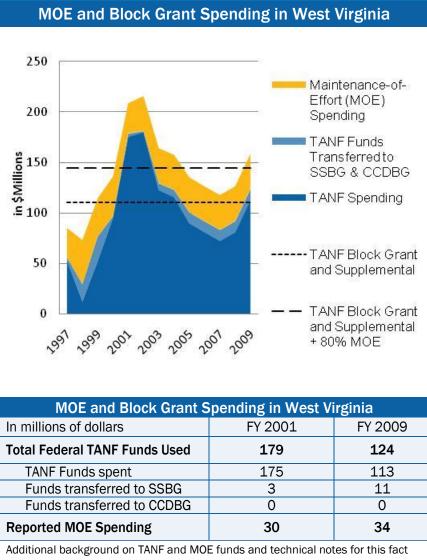
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# **Poverty Data Technical Notes**

- State TANF Block Grant amounts, after adjusting for inflation, eroded by 25 percent between fiscal years 1997 and 2009 and by 28 percent by 2011.
- The block grant did not rise or fall to meet West Virginia's changing needs. In 2008-09, 46,343 West Virginia families with children lived in poverty. The number of families in poverty reached a low of 41,000 in 2004-05 and a high of 53,000 in 2002-03.

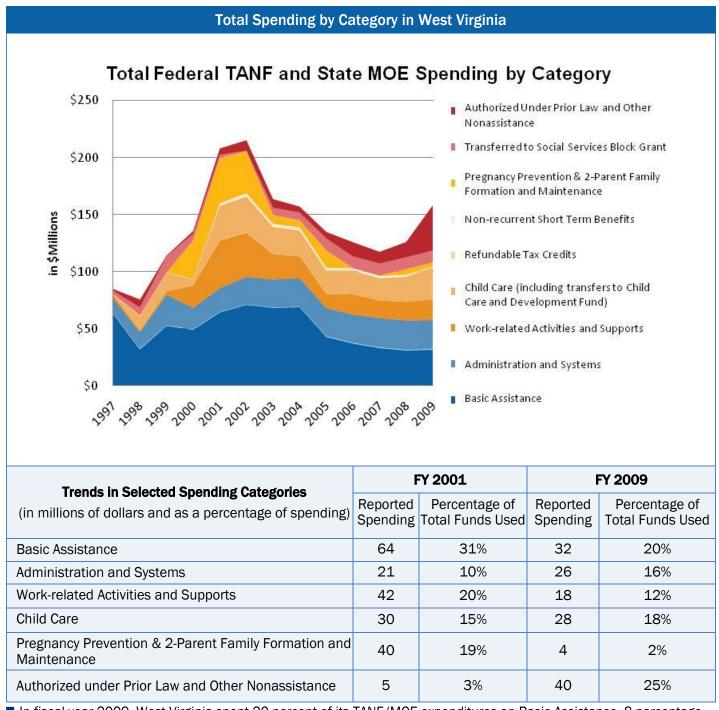
### The amount of federal TANF and state maintenance-of-effort (MOE) funds spent in a given year varies over time and reflects the condition of the economy and state policy and budgeting choices.



West Virginia increased its spending from the TANF Block Grant in the wake of the recent recession.

2009 Federal TANF Allocations		
TANF Block Grant Amount	110	
TANF Supplemental Grant	n/a	
Contingency Fund	0	
Emergency Fund	0	
MOE Obligation		
80% MOE Obligation	34	
75% MOE Obligation	32	

Reported MOE Spending	30	34	
Additional background on TANF and MOE funds and technical notes for this fact			
sheet are available in following pages.			



In fiscal year 2009, West Virginia spent 20 percent of its TANF/MOE expenditures on Basic Assistance, 8 percentage points below the national average for spending in this category. West Virginia has decreased its Basic Assistance spending by 51 percent since 2001.

- West Virginia spent 25 percent of its TANF/MOE expenditures in the combined Authorized Under Prior Law/Other Nonassistance spending category in 2009. This is an increase of over \$34 million from 2001 when less than 3 percent of TANF/MOE funds were spend in this combined category. The substantial increase in reported spending in this category first occurred between fiscal years 2005 and 2006. Most of this spending was reported as Authorized Under Prior Law.
- Over the years, West Virginia has pulled back TANF/MOE spending on Work-related Activities and Supports. In 2009, West Virginia spent \$18 million in TANF/MOE on child care, representing 12 percent of its TANF and MOE funds; in contrast, in 2001, West Virginia spent \$42 million in TANF/MOE on Work-related Activities and Supports representing 20 percent of TANF/MOE spending for that year.



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- When the Total Federal Funds Used exceed the federal Block Grant amount it may be because the state spent funds it had in reserve from previous years or it received additional funds from the TANF Contingency Fund or the TANF Emergency Fund. In some instances, a state was not awarded the Emergency Funds until 2010 for increased TANF/MOE spending that occurred in 2009.
- The TANF Block Grant Amount line in the MOE and Block Grant Spending graph includes Supplemental Grants but excludes Tribal TANF. (Tribal TANF spending is not included in the spending analysis.)
- States can report adjustments for prior years that may appear as "negative expenditures" in the current year. If such negative adjustments exceed current spending in a category, that category will show negative expenditures for the year. In most cases, this reflects changes in the funding stream which expenditures are charged against, rather than real reductions in funds available for an activity. However, in some cases funds may have been recovered from a program or transferred back from SSBG or CCDBG to TANF. For the purposes of the tables, negative expenditures are included as reported by ACF. For the purposes of the charts, negative expenditures are treated as equal to zero.

# **Poverty Data Technical Notes**