



OFA Training & Technical Assistance Webinar: Non-Recurrent Short-Term TANF Benefits in the COVID-19 Era

Tuesday, July 28, 2020
1:00pm EDT



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Welcome

- **James Butler, Family Assistance Program Specialist,
Office of Family Assistance (OFA), Administration for
Children and Families (ACF) (Moderator)**

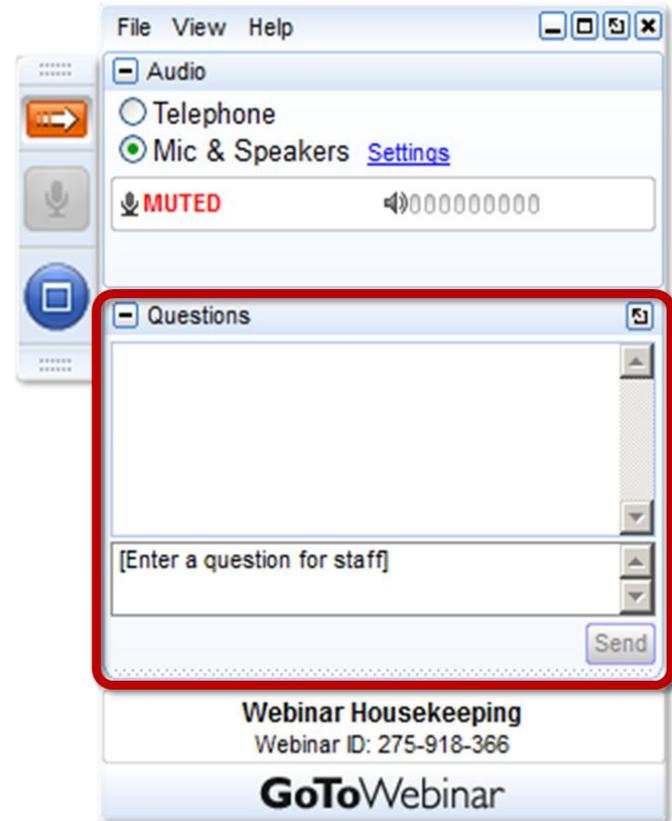


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Using GoToWebinar

Participation

Please submit your questions and comments using the Questions panel on the right hand side of your screen while phones are muted.



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Facilitated Discussion

Joe Raymond

Director, Social Policy & Human Services

ICF



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Webinar Objectives

- ❑ Understand federal guidance regarding the TANF program during COVID-19.
- ❑ Learn about NRST benefits, how they differ from other types of emergency assistance, and how they may be appropriately used by state, tribal, and county programs.
- ❑ Identify different approaches to using flexible NRST funds to best support TANF participants, including considerations for creating NRST benefits, and development and implementation of eligibility guidelines.
- ❑ Hear promising practices and concrete strategies from state TANF programs using NRST benefits in the context of the current pandemic.



Presenters

- ❑ **Rebecca Shwalb**, Program Specialist, Office of Family Assistance
- ❑ **Julie Siegel**, Director, Division of TANF Policy, Office of Family Assistance
- ❑ **Danielle Barnes**, Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Human Services
- ❑ **Mark Golden**, TANF Program Manager, Virginia Department of Social Services
- ❑ **Facilitator: Joe Raymond**, Director, Social Policy and Human Services, ICF



Polling Question #1



How familiar are you with non-recurrent, short-term benefits?

- Very familiar
- Familiar
- Neutral
- Unfamiliar
- Very unfamiliar



What Are Non-Recurrent Short-Term Benefits?

Presenter: Rebecca Shwalb

Program Specialist, Division of State TANF Policy,

Office of Family Assistance

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Basics of Non-Recurrent Short-Term Benefits

- A non-recurrent, short-term benefit (NRST):
 - (1) is designed to deal with a specific crisis situation or episode of need;
 - (2) is not intended to meet recurrent or ongoing needs; and
 - (3) will not extend beyond four months.
- Income standard may differ from TANF cash assistance.
- Income standard and eligible population may differ for each NRST.
- Outside TANF “assistance” -- does not trigger, 60-month time limit, work requirements, child support assignment, and detailed data reporting.

COVID-19 Response

- Program Instruction “Questions and Answers about TANF and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic,” available at: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/resource/tanf-acf-pi-2020-01>
- OFA has answered dozens of COVID-19 questions, helped grantees refine response to the pandemic.
- Second Program Instruction with more Q&As?
- A new service (NRST or otherwise), may require a TANF plan update.

Examples

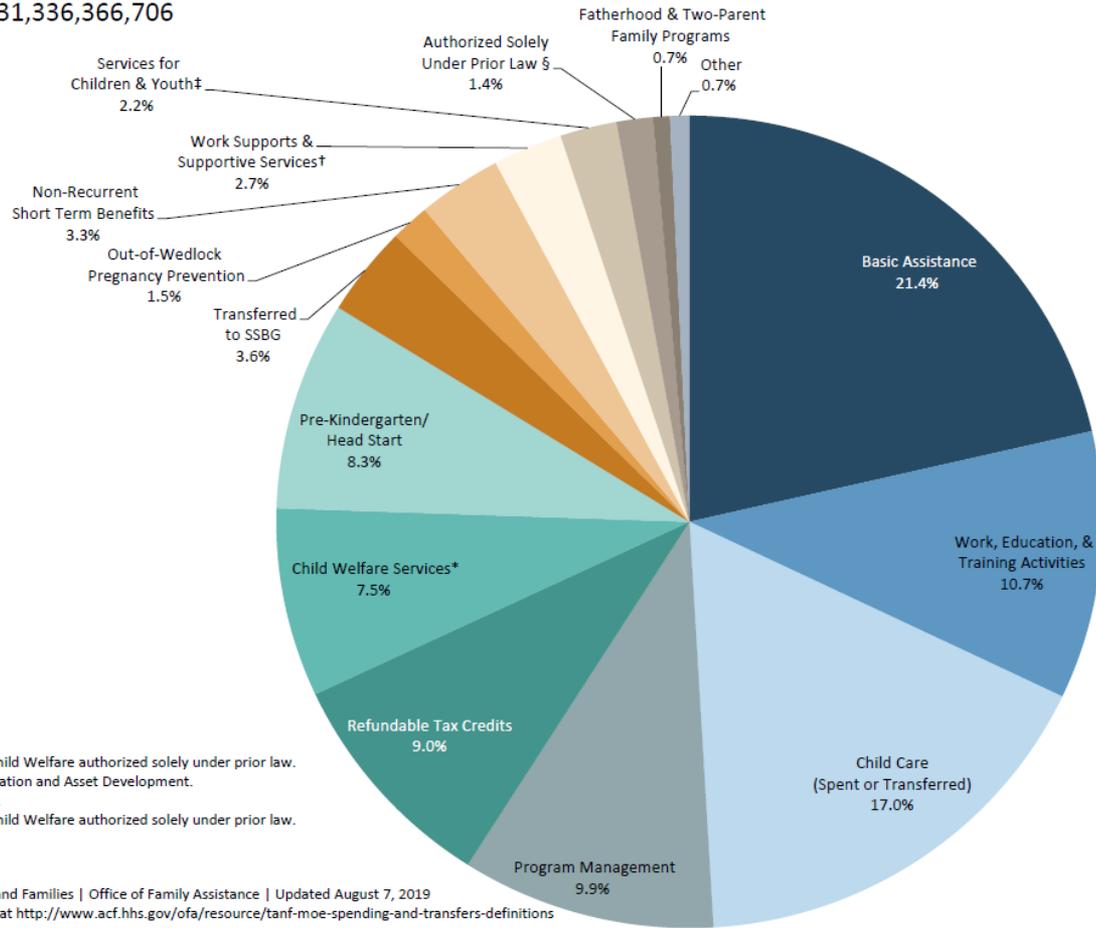
- Short-term cash benefits to make up for lost wages
- Short-term rental or mortgage assistance
- Utility and energy assistance
- Housing search and placement services
- Clothing allowances
- Certain legal services (such as pursuing SSI benefits)

2018 TANF/MOE Spending Data

- Find all the data, national and state-specific, here:
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/resource/tanf-and-moe-spending-and-transfers-by-activity-fy-2018-contains-national-state-pie-charts>.

TANF and MOE Spending and Transfers by Activity, FY 2018: United States

Total Funds = \$31,336,366,706



Administration for Children and Families | Office of Family Assistance | Updated August 7, 2019
 See definitions of categories at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/resource/tanf-moe-spending-and-transfers-definitions>

Poll Question #2

Has your program ever used non-recurrent, short-term benefits before for emergency situations?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure



Facilitated Discussion on NRST Benefits



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Poll Question #3



Is your program using other strategies, outside of NRSTs, to support families during this time? If so, please specify.

- Yes – please specify in Questions box
- No
- Unsure



Q&A



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Poll Question #4



What topics would you like to see in future webinars?

Please submit suggestions in Questions box.



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Additional Information

- ❑ OFA PeerTA website (<http://peerta.acf.hhs.gov>)
- ❑ A recording of this webinar will be available shortly on the PeerTA Network website at: <https://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/>. We would also like to hear from you about future webinar topics. Please send us your ideas by e-mail to peerta@icf.com.



Webinar Feedback



- Please remember to provide your feedback using the brief survey that will launch when the webinar ends.

