



# **ACF Region IX State and Territorial TANF Strategic Session**

**September 15-16, 2010  
San Francisco, California**



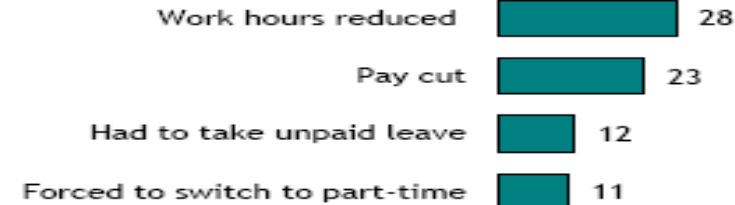


# Where We Are

## The Recession at Work

% of each group who experienced each of the following since the recession began

### Among currently employed (n=1,604)



### Among total labor force (n=2,256)



Total experiencing any work-related problem 55

\*The under-employed are part-time workers who say they want a full-time job but do not have one because they cannot find full-time employment or because of other economic reasons.

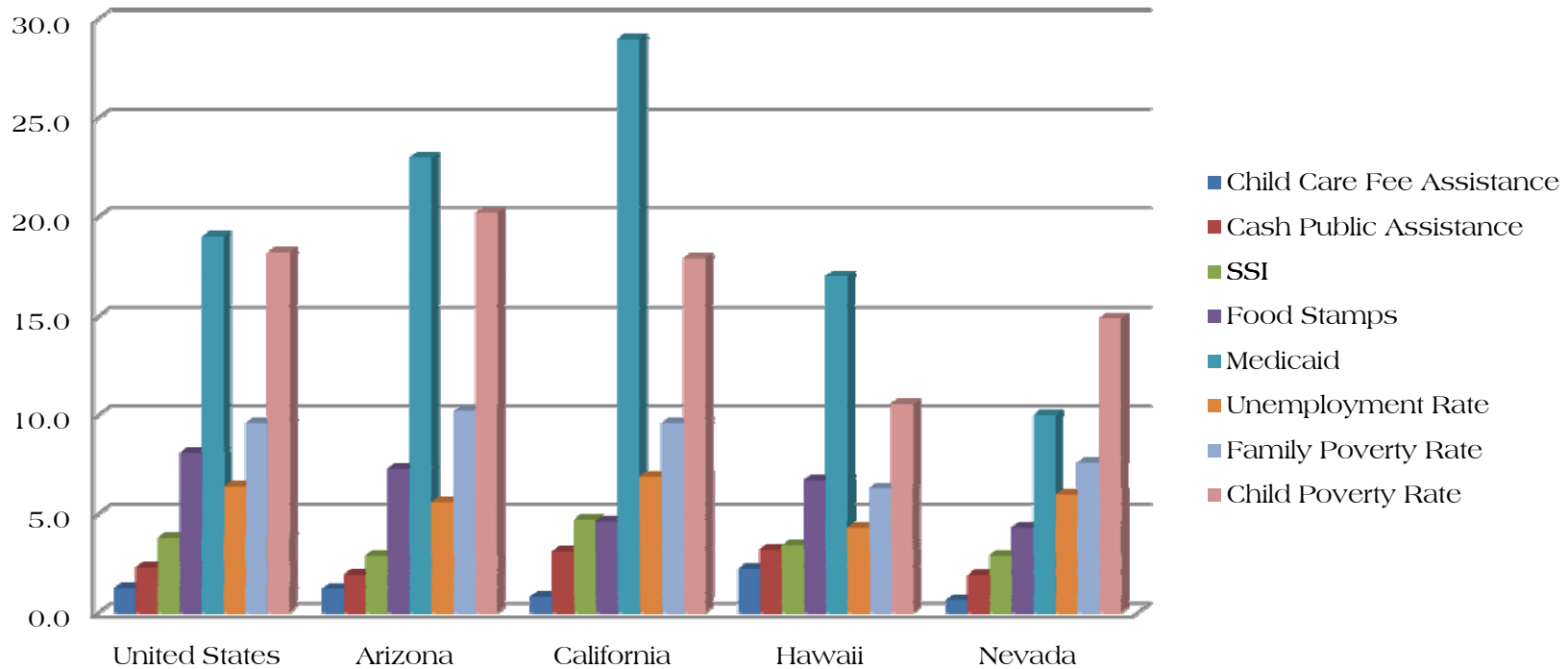
PewResearchCenter





# Safety Net Programs and Recession

Social Program Usage and Poverty Rates: Percentage of Households in 2008

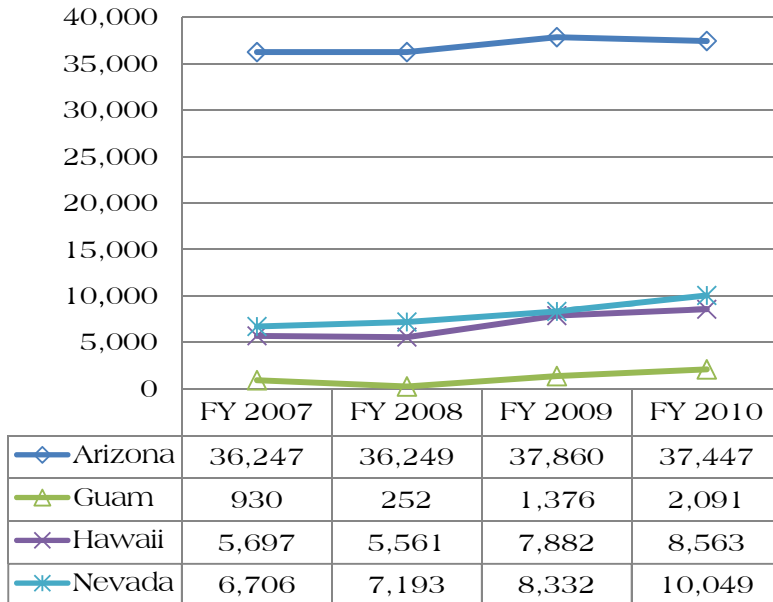


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey

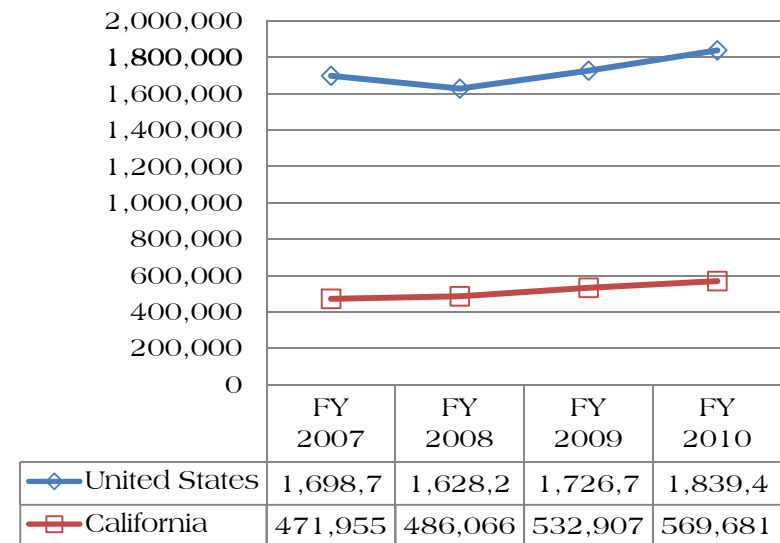


# TANF Caseloads

Total TANF Families: FY Average



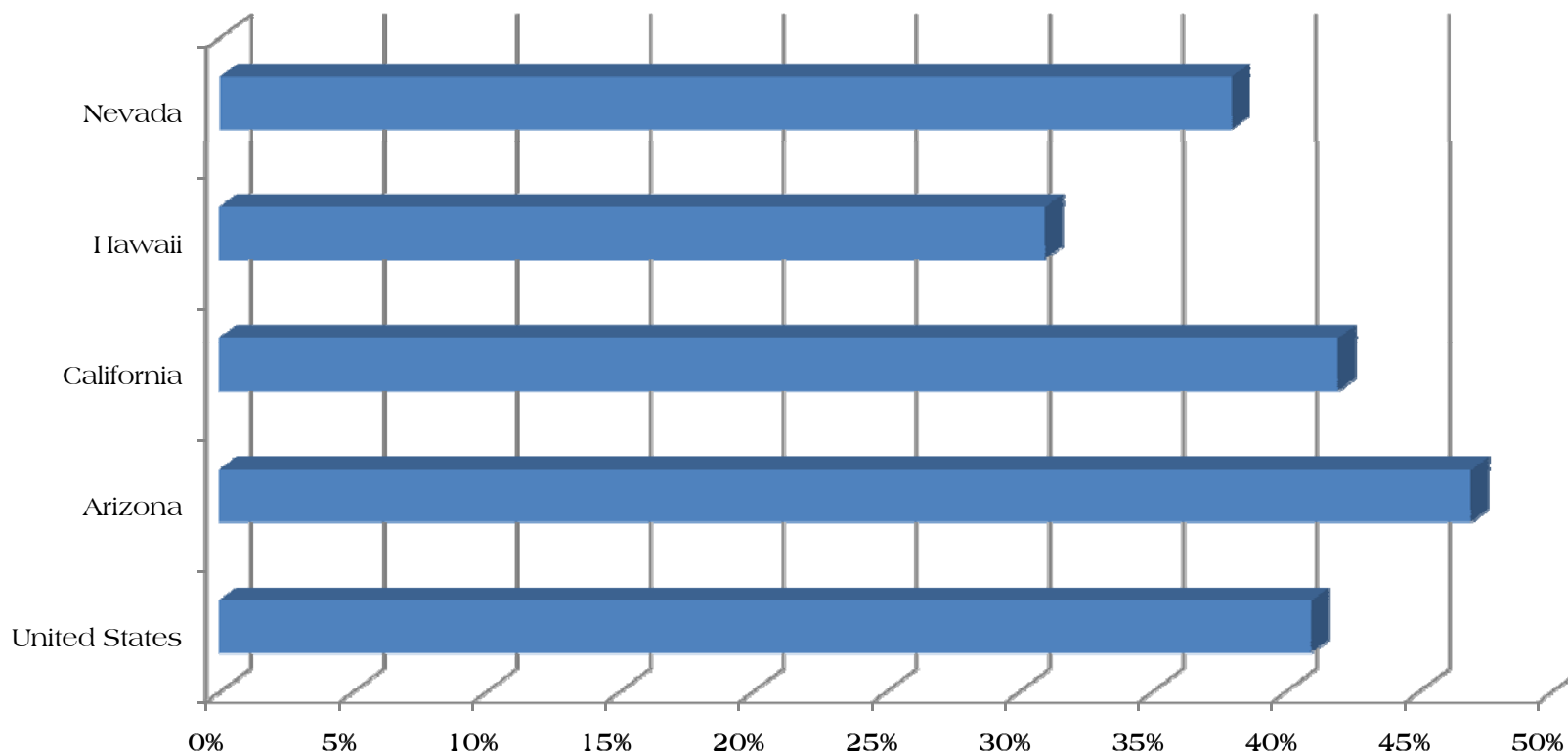
Total TANF Families: FY Average





# Child Poverty

Child Poverty Rates: Below 200% of FPL

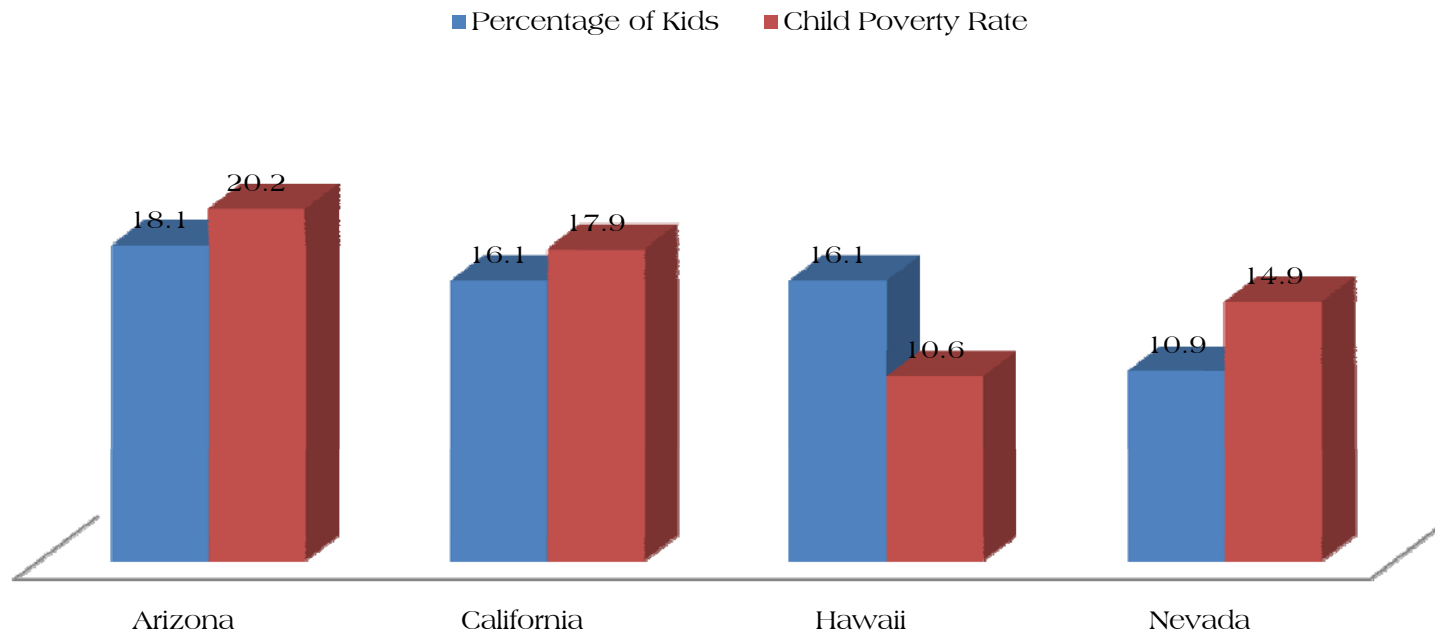


Source: National Center for Children in Poverty



# Children and the Safety net

Percentage of Children Living in Households  
Receiving SSI, SNAP, or Cash Assistance in Last 12  
Months: 2006

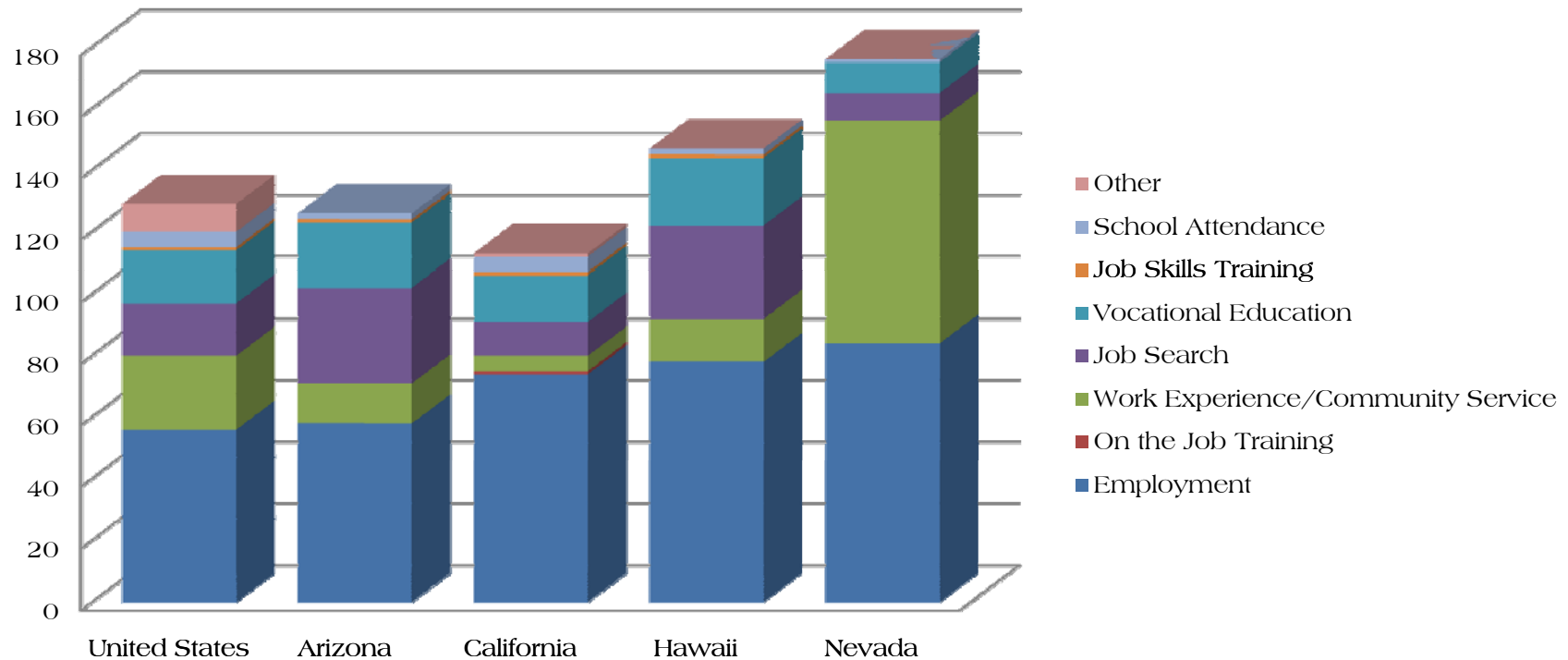


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey



# Work Participation Activities

FY 2006: Percentages of Work Participation Activities by Category

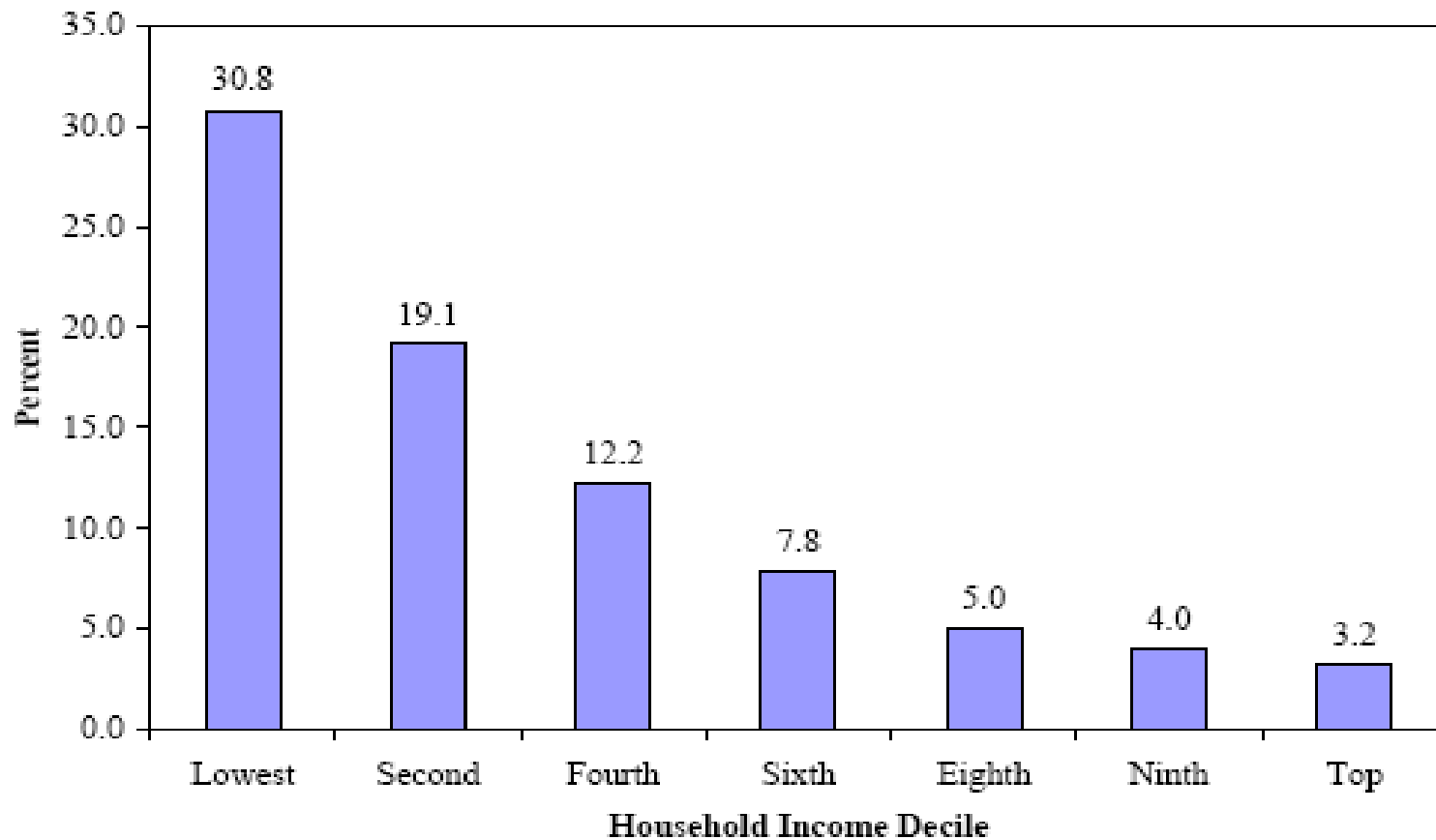


Source: [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/data-reports/annualreport8/TANF\\_8th\\_Report\\_111908.pdf](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/data-reports/annualreport8/TANF_8th_Report_111908.pdf)



# Where We Are

Unemployment Rates in the U.S. for Workers in Selected Deciles of the Household Income Distribution, 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2009 (in %)







# Where We Are Going

- On-the-Job-Training Act of 2010
- Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2009
- Sectoral Employment Programs
- Health Profession Opportunity Grants to Serve TANF Recipients and Other Low-Income Individuals
- HUD-DOT-EPA Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities
- Promise Neighborhoods
- Transitional Jobs Reentry Demonstration (Year 2)
- Youth Innovation Fund
- Workforce Investment Act -- Adults and Dislocated Workers Program





# Highlight: Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership/BIG STEP

Keys to success:

1. assessment
2. preparation
3. placement

The screenshot shows the website for the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership (WRTP) and Building Industry Group (BIG STEP). At the top, there are logos for WRTP (Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership) and BIG STEP (Building Industry Group, Skilled Trades Employment Program, "PUTTING ASPIRATION TO WORK"). Below the logos is a photograph of a large, multi-story brick building. The text "Center of Excellence" is centered below the photo. To the right of the photo, the text "Training that works for Wisconsin" is displayed. Below this, a video player is embedded, showing a man in a blue shirt. The video player includes a play button, a progress bar at 00:00 / 00:30, and a volume icon. The video player also displays the name "Jermaine" and "HELEN BADER Foundation" along with the website "wrtp.org".

**Welcome to WRTP/BIG STEP**

The Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership/BIG STEP is a non-profit public interest organization devoted to family-sustaining jobs in the greater Milwaukee area.

**Job Training That Works**

WRTP/BIG STEP is highlighted in a study on the success of sector-focused training organizations. [Read more.](#)





# Jobs Are Not Enough

States can:

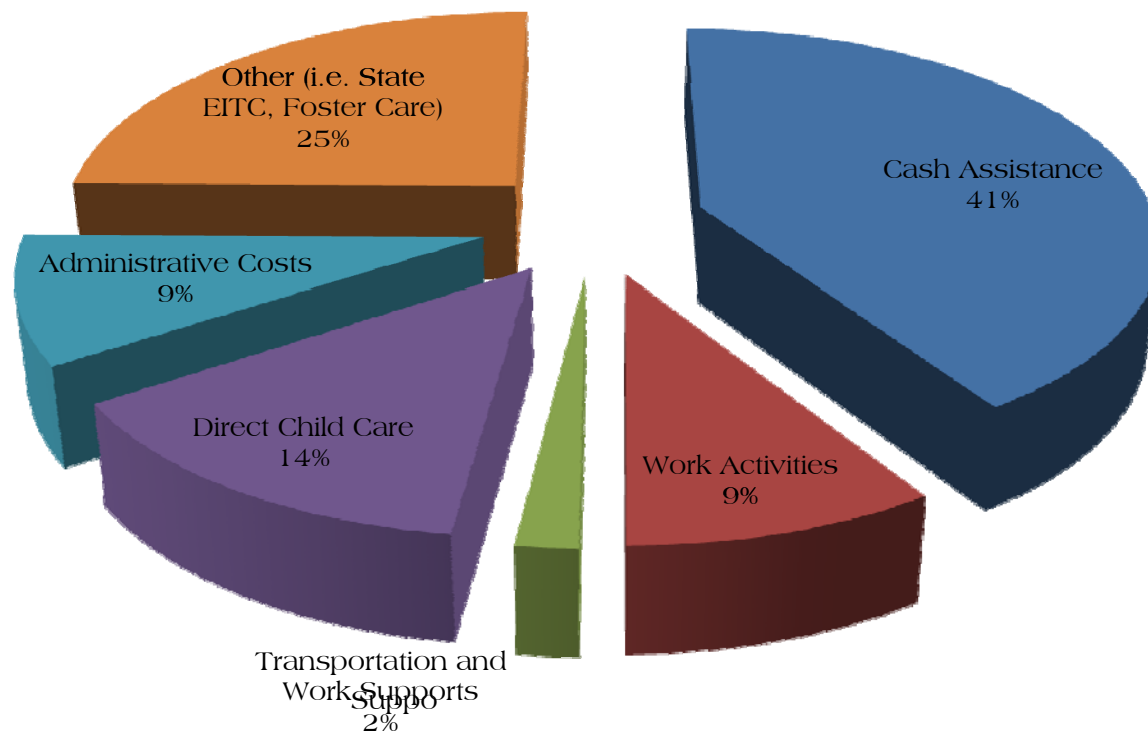
- use funds to develop or expand post employment services;
- use TANF money to fund refundable tax credits;
- use funds for vouchers for mass transit services and use non-recurrent short term benefits for one-time expenditure for car repairs, car registration fees, and car insurance; and
- use funds to subsidize child care.





# TANF Expenditures

FY 2006 TANF Expenditures by Category





# Using TANF Funds

States can:

- Alter work requirements to include college attendance and work-study placements as "work activities";
- Use state maintenance-of-effort funding to suspend federal time limits for cash assistance recipients enrolled in postsecondary programs;
- Use state maintenance-of-effort funding outside the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance programs to support low-income parents as full-time students; and
- Apply TANF funds to create new forms of tuition assistance, short-term education or training programs, and on- or off-campus support services for low-income working families including current and former TANF participants.





# What We Can Do

Programs can:

- develop new partnerships and coordinate funding streams to serve a broader population of low-income recipients
- redesign or develop curricula that allow low-income parents to combine work and school





# Worker Supplements

- According to ASPE, nearly 20 states have implemented or will soon implement new worker support programs and research has shown that these programs help states to achieve higher work participation rates by keeping working families on the TANF caseload longer, providing extra cash and non-cash support to working families
- Research has shown that income supplements are an effective work incentive and that the combination of increased earnings and increased assistance reduces poverty





# Serving the Hard-to-Serve

States should:

- Better coordinate services between social service and safety net programs
- Provide more up-front services that are specifically tailored to the needs and barriers of clients
- Increase staff training resources to ensure that staff are able to deal with the specific needs of the hard to serve
- Develop and encourage specialized case management and counseling that is targeted to client needs
- Use TANF funds to provide barrier-alleviation services, i.e., increased child care, transportation, housing assistance and substance abuse treatment







# Subsidized Employment and Transitional Jobs

- Subsidized and transitional employment programs have emerged as promising strategies
- Subsidized employment and transitional jobs have become a significant source for many workers to gain necessary work-related skills and experience and successfully transition into unsubsidized employment
- States are permitted to use portions of their TANF grant to reimburse employers to help cover the costs of employee wages, benefits, supervision, and training





# Importance of Client Assessment

- Assessment is an ongoing process that occurs in all client contacts to gain and maintain an understanding of strengths and needs of the client and the whole family. We use assessment information to match clients with the most suitable self-sufficiency-enhancing services





# Online Work Readiness Assessment (OWRA)



Funded by the U.S. Department of  
Health and Human  
Services, Administration for Children  
and Families, Office of Family  
Assistance



<http://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/tanftc/index.cfm>



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# Strategic Planning

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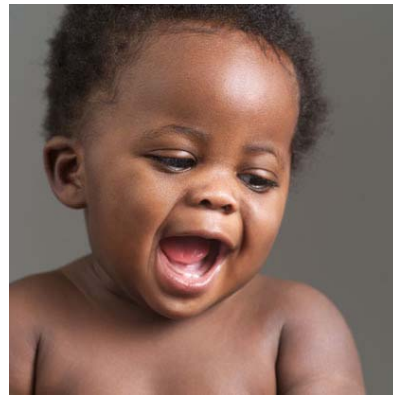




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# Thank You

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Jeanette Hercik, Vice President  
Family Self-Sufficiency  
ICF International

