Temporary Assistance for Needy Families FY 17 HA-17-8-17

A. TANF, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, was created in the 1996 welfare reform law (P.L. 104-193). This $20 billion a year block grant to States replaced Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and other related welfare programs in Sec. 401 of Title IV-A of the Social Security Act as codified 42USC§601 *et seq*. Like the federal minimum wage, TANF benefits have not grown 3% annually to stay ahead of consumer price index (CPI) inflation averaging 2.7%. Nor has TANF spending increased 4% to provide for 1% population growth and 3% annual benefit increase . Furthermore, more than 4 million certified births in Republican administrations and less during Democratic administrations is 1.2% of 330 million Social Security Area population 2016. It is necessary to produce a three year budget request for the TANF Program. TANF benefit spending has declined from 75% in 1994 to 25% of total "TANF" spending in 2017. The United States needs to end FY 17 approving TANF family and child benefits. In the final reckoning FY 17 needs to begin to account for "undistributed offsetting receipts" by sustaining a TANF budget that is somewhat less than the FY 17 Administration for Children and Families (ACF) TANF spending estimate of $20.1 billion FY 17 growing 4% to $20.9 billion FY 18 in this budget. Federal TANF spending should grow 4% annually from the prevailing FY 17 TANF budget request - 2.5% growth for administration, 3% growth for social work and child care, 3% growth for benefits, and >1.2% beneficiary population growth until the child poverty rate is normalized. TANF benefit spending shall sustain family benefits under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of 18 December 1979 and child benefits under Art. 26 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child of 2 September 1990.

1. Trump Administration's planned FY 18 TANF budget cuts, renege on Obama Administration's FY 17 TANF budget of $20.1 billion, would provide for 0% growth from $17.4 billion FY 16 and FY 17, and reduce TANF spending to $15.1 billion FY 18, mostly by cutting federal spending for benefits. Family benefits are more expensive than the FY 15 fiscal report lets on. If the dead beat President's daughter cannot get her father to agree with his predecessor and this budget, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may also makes loans, repayable in 3 years, particularly in anti-welfare fraud cases under Sec. 406 of the Social Security Act under 42USC§606 *et seq*. $13.9 billion total federal spending estimated in FY 2015 Federal TANF & State MOE Financial Data seems low. After checking the subtotals for accuracy, total funds used was $15.4 billion FY 15 and the grand total with social service block grant and child care development fund was $17.9 billion not $16.4 billion FY15. The FY 16 TANF deficit of $1.1 billion is covered by the negligent method of accounting for $1.4 billion federal unliquidated obligations. Federal unliquidated obligations are not a generally accepted accounting practice (GAAP). Liability for the non-support of the FY 18 TANF budget request failure to distribute FY 17 child benefit obligations, to the burgeoning population of children growing up in poor families, is expressed as undistributed offsetting receipt from the FY 17 TANF budget request figures under 18USC§228 (b-d).

TANF Budget Overview FY 15 - FY 18
(millions)

Category	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18
Basic Assistance	4,158	4,324	4,497	4,677

Total Funds Used	17,894	18,430	18,973	19,542
Federal Unliquidated Obligations	1,438			
ACF FY 17 Estimate		17,345	20,097	20,901
Undistributed Offsetting Receipts + / or deficit -		-1,085	+1,124	+1,359
ACF FY 18 Estimate		17,345	17,345	15,133
Undistributed Offsetting Receipts + / or deficit -		-1,085	-1,628	-4,409

Source: FY 2015 Federal TANF & State MOE Financial Data; Administration for Children and Families All Purpose Table. Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committees FY 17 & FY 18

2. The average national poverty rate for all ages is 15.4% but 16-24 million children, 22%-33%, are growing up poor, otherwise poverty in the United States runs about 10% for working age adults and 9% for elderly, excluding medical bills that drive up the elderly poverty rate to 15.9%. The reason for the extraordinarily high rates of child poverty are that Congress has not authorized an automatic annual 3% raise in minimum wage, paid maternity leave, or even compensated for the 10 million Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (TANF) benefits 1996-2000. In 1996 the child poverty rate was the same as for any other age, about 15.7%. Until child poverty is ended by taxing the rich, the failure of the United States to pay legal child support obligations under 18USC§228 constitutes deprivation of relief benefits under 18USC§246. With 4% growth for basic assistance, 3% growth for social work and 2.5% for tax-relief and programs, program spending growth can be projected using the FY 15 financial report that expressed unspent funds at the end of the fiscal year as federal unliquidated obligations. This report has expressed that all Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and Human Services (HS) programs should be used to to pay the obligations of the TANF basic family benefit program, that needs to grow to redress high child poverty rates.

TANF Federal Budget Request FY 15- FY 18

(millions)

Category	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18
Basic Assistance	4,158	4,324	4,497	4,677
Basic Assistance	4,013	4,174	4,340	4,514
Relative Foster Care	144	150	156	162
Assistance	694	711	729	747

Authorized Solely under Prior Law				
Foster Care Payments	380	390	399	409
Juvenile Justice Payments	49	50	52	53
Emergency Assistance Authorized Solely under Prior Law	264	271	277	284
Non-Assistance Authorized Solely Under Prior Law	634	650	666	683
Child Welfare or Foster Care Services	389	399	409	419
Juvenile Justice Services	65	67	68	70
Emergency Services Authorized Solely Under Prior Law	189	194	199	204
Work, Education and Training Activities	1,555	1,594	1,634	1,675
Subsidized Employment	156	160	164	168
Education and Training	158	162	166	170
Additional Work Activities	1,242	1,273	1,305	1,338
Work Supports	416	426	437	448
Early Care and Education	1,303	1,336	1,369	1,403
Child Care (Assistance and Non-Assistance)	1,250	1,288	1,327	1,360
Pre-Kindergarten/Head Start	52	54	55	57

Financial Education and Asset Development	1,544	1,583	1,622	1,663
Refundable Earned Income Tax Credits	167	171	176	180
Non-EITC Refundable State Credits	0	0	0	0
Non-Recurrent Short Term Benefits	296	305	314	324
Supportive Services	221	228	235	242
Services for Children and Youth	225	232	239	246
Prevention of Out-of-wedlock Pregnancies	540	556	573	590
Fatherhood and Two-Parent Family Formation and Maintenance Programs	88	91	93	96
Child Welfare Services	990	1,020	1,050	1,082
Family Support/Preservation/Reunification	518	534	550	566
Adoption Services	13	13	14	14
Additional Child Welfare Services	459	473	487	502
Home Visiting Programs	21	22	22	23
Program Management	2,090	2,142	2,196	2,251
Administrative Costs	1,154	1,183	1,212	1,243

Assessment/Service Provision	733	751	770	789
Systems	203	208	213	219
Other	467	479	491	503
Total Expenditures	15,409	15,870	16,343	16,833
Transferred to CCDF Discretionary	1,320	1,360	1,400	1,442
Transferred to SSBG	1,165	1,200	1,230	1,267
Total Transfers	2,485	2,560	2,630	2,709
Total Funds Used	17,894	18,430	18,973	19,542
Federal Unliquidated Obligations	1,438			
ACF FY 17 Estimate		17,345	20,097	20,901
Undistributed Offsetting Receipts/ or deficit		-1,085	1,124	1,359
ACF FY 18 Estimate		17,345	17,345	15,133
Undistributed Offsetting Receipts/ or deficit		-1,085	-1,628	-4,409

Source: FY 2015 Federal TANF & State MOE Financial Data

B. The purpose of TANF is to provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives, end the dependence on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage; prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families. TANF funds can be used in any manner a state can reasonably calculate helps it achieve the goals of (1) providing assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives; (2) ending the dependence of needy parents on government benefits through work, job preparation, and marriage; (3) preventing and reducing the incidence of out-of-wedlock births; and (4) encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families. TANF's performance is measured on state welfare-to-work efforts, with states assessed based on numerical work participation standards. Having lost touch with generally accepted accounting practice (GAAP) expressed as administrative costs less than 1% of benefits by social security and payment accuracy of 99% touted by supplemental nutrition assistance programs, the TANF caseload is much smaller—1.7 million families in FY2013 versus 5.0 million families in FY1994. TANF provides a safety net to significantly fewer poor families than in the past: In 2014, just 23 families received TANF benefits for every 100 poor families with children, down from 68 families receiving TANF for every 100 poor families in 1996. Even more troubling, 12 states' TANF programs reach only ten families or fewer for every 100 poor families. TANF often is these families' only source of support; without it they would have no cash income to meet basic needs.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Calculation 1980 – 2013

	1980	1988	1994	2001	2006	2013
Total Families (thousands)	3,643	3,748	5,046	2,202	1,957	1,749
Average Monthly Benefit	305	365	375	390	395	430
Annual Benefit Spending (millions)	13,333	16,416	22,707	10,305	9,276	9,025

Source: Urban Institute Welfare Rules Database funded by the Department of Health and Human Services 2013; Falk, Gene. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): Size and Characteristics of the Cash Assistance Caseload. Congressional Research Service. January 29, 2016

1. Basic assistance—what many call "cash welfare"— accounted for only 27.6% of all TANF funding in FY2013. The practice of estimating actual TANF benefit spending, using existing data, is that one must multiply the number of beneficiaries times the average monthly benefit times twelve. An annual chore that could be done by beneficiaries in the one hour provided by public library computers. In fiscal year (FY) 2003, combined Federal and State expenditures for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program totaled $26.3 billion, an increase of $926 million from FY 2002. States spent the majority of their grants on various non-cash services designed to promote work, stable families, or other TANF objectives, including work activities ($2.6 billion), child care ($3.5 billion), transportation and work supports ($543 million), administrative and systems costs ($2.5 billion), and a wide range of other benefits and services ($6.3 billion). In addition to these expenditures, States also can transfer up to 30% of their TANF block grant into the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) or the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG). In FY 2003, States transferred $1.8 billion into the CCDF and $927 million into the SSBG. These expenditure patterns represent a significant shift since the enactment of TANF, when spending on cash assistance amounted to 73.1% of total expenditures. States spent $10.1 billion, or 41.8% of their total expenditures, on cash assistance, in 2013.

Federal and State TANF and MOE FY 15
(millions)

Category	Federal Funds	State Funds	All Funds	All Funds % of Total
Basic Assistance	4,158	3,640	7,797	24.6%
Basic Assistance	4,013	3,525	7,538	23.8%

Relative Foster Care	144	115	259	0.8%
Assistance Authorized Solely under Prior Law	694		694	2.2%
Foster Care Payments	380		380	1.2%
Juvenile Justice Payments	49		49	0.2%
Emergency Assistance Authorized Solely under Prior Law	264		264	0.8%
Non-Assistance Authorized Solely Under Prior Law	634		634	2.0%
Child Welfare or Foster Care Services	389		389	1.2%
Juvenile Justice Services	65		65	0.2%
Emergency Services Authorized Solely Under Prior Law	189		180	0.6%
Work, Education and Training Activities	1,555	556	2,112	6.7%
Subsidized Employment	156	31	186	0.6%
Education and Training	158	211	369	1.2%
Additional Work Activities	1,242	315	1557	4.9%
Work Supports	416	48	464	1.5%
Early Care and Education	1,303	4,627	5,930	18.7%
Child Care (Assistance and Non-Assistance)	1,250	2,781	4,031	12.7%

Pre-Kindergarten/Head Start	52	1,846	1,898	6.0%
Financial Education and Asset Development	1,544	24	1,568	0.0%
Refundable Earned Income Tax Credits	167	1,822	1,988	6.3%
Non-EITC Refundable State Credits	0	584	584	1.8%
Non-Recurrent Short Term Benefits	296	559	865	2.7%
Supportive Services	221	197	417	1.3%
Services for Children and Youth	225	343	568	1.8%
Prevention of Out-of-wedlock Pregnancies	540	488	1,028	3.2%
Fatherhood and Two-Parent Family Formation and Maintenance Programs	88	40	128	0.4%
Child Welfare Services	990	549	1,539	4.9%
Family Support/Preservation/Reunification	518	297	815	2.6%
Adoption Services	13	13	26	0.1%
Additional Child Welfare Services	459	240	698	2.2%
Home Visiting Programs	21	8	29	0.1%
Program	2,090	1,069	3,159	10.0%

Management				
Administrative Costs	1,154	803	1,957	6.2%
Assessment/Service Provision	733	195	928	2.9%
Systems	203	71	274	0.9%
Other	467	800	1,267	4.0%
Total Expenditures	13,865	15,339	29,204	92.2%
Transferred to CCDF Discretionary	1,320		1,320	4.2%
Transferred to SSBG	1,165		1,165	3.7%
Total Transfers	2,485		2,485	7.8%
Total Funds Used	16,350	15,339	31,689	100.0%
Federal Unliquidated Obligations	1,438		1,438	

Source: FY 2015 Federal TANF & State MOE Financial Data

2. Child welfare services are involved in: Protecting and promoting the welfare of all children, including handicapped, homeless, dependent, or neglected children; Preventing or remedying, or assisting in the solution of problems which may result in, the neglect, abuse, exploitation, or delinquency of children; Preventing the unnecessary separation of children from their families by identifying family problems, assisting families in resolving their problems, and preventing breakup of the family where the prevention of child removal is desirable and possible; Restoring to their families children who have been removed, by the provision of services to the child and the families; Placing children in suitable adoptive homes, in cases where restoration to the biological family is not possible or appropriate; and assuring adequate care of children away from their homes, in cases where the child cannot be returned home or cannot be placed for adoption.

3. The state provides assistant to foster care and adoption assistance programs taking into consideration the special needs of the children. These programs shall ensure that orphanages or foster homes, uphold standards related to admission policies, safety, sanitation, and protection of civil rights. Record checks reveal whether a felony conviction for child abuse or neglect, for spousal abuse, for a crime against children (including child pornography), or for a crime involving violence, including rape, sexual assault, or homicide, but not including other physical assault or battery, if a State finds that a court of competent jurisdiction has determined that the felony was committed at any time, such final approval shall not be granted under Sec. 472 of Title IV-E of the Social Security Act under 42USC(7)IV-E§672. A care plan shall assure that the child receives safe and proper care and that services are provided to the parents, child, and foster parents in order to improve the conditions in the parents' home, facilitate

return of the child to his own safe home or the permanent placement of the child, and address the needs of the child while in foster care, including a discussion of the appropriateness of the services that have been provided to the child under the plan.

4. State child welfare agencies and courts consult with the individual parent and child under the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 under 42USC(76)§6101to develop an individual responsibility plan for the individual, that: a. Sets forth an employment goal for the individual and a plan for moving the individual immediately into private sector employment; b. Sets forth the obligations of the individual, which may include a requirement that the individual attend school, maintain certain grades and attendance, keep school age children of the individual in school, immunize children, attend parenting and money management classes, or do other things that will help the individual become and remain employed in the private sector; c. To the greatest extent possible is designed to move the individual into whatever private sector employment the individual is capable of handling as quickly as possible, and to increase the responsibility and amount of work the individual is to handle over time; d. Describes the services the State will provide the individual so that the individual will be able to obtain and keep employment in the private sector, and describe the job counseling and other services that will be provided by the State; and e. May require the individual to undergo appropriate substance abuse treatment.

C. The modern form of assistance for needy families with children has its origins in the early-1900s "mothers' pension programs," established by state and local governments. These programs provided economic aid to needy families headed by a mother so that children could be cared for in homes rather than in institutions. Federal involvement in funding these programs dates back to the Great Depression, and the creation of the Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) program as part of the Social Security Act of 1935. ADC provided grants to states to help them aid families with "dependent children," who were deprived of the economic support of one parent because of his death, absence, or incapacitation. The Social Security Act was amended to provide social insurance protection for families headed by widows (survivors' benefits, added in 1939) and those with disabled members (disability benefits, added in 1956). This left families headed by a single mother with the father alive, but absent, as the primary group aided by ADC, later renamed Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). The cash assistance caseload also became increasingly nonwhite. States were first given the option to aid two-parent families beginning in 1961, but were not required to extend such aid until the enactment of the Family Support Act in 1988.

1. Even with the extension of aid to two-parent families, this group never became a large part of the caseload, and most adult TANF cash assistance recipients continue to be single mothers. Beginning in 1967, federal policy changes were made to encourage, and then require, work among AFDC mothers. In 1974, children surpassed the elderly as the age group with the highest poverty rate. Additionally, experimentation on "welfare-to-work" initiatives found that requiring participation in work or job preparation activities could effectively move single mothers off the benefit rolls and into jobs. "Welfare reform," aiming to replace AFDC with new programs and policies for needy families with children, was debated over a period of four decades (the 1960s through the 1990s). These debates culminated in a number of changes in providing aid to low-income families with children in the mid-1990s, creating a system of expanded aid to working families (e.g., increases in the Earned Income Tax Credit and funding for child care subsidies) and the creation of TANF, which established time limits and revamped work requirements for the cash assistance programs for needy families with children. From FY1994 to

FY2001, the cash welfare caseload declined rapidly, from 5.0 million families to 2.2 million families per month, a 56% decline. Participation in public assistance programs by custodial parents fell from 40.7% to 28.4% between 1993 and 2001. While the rate of program participation for custodial mothers decreased from 45.2% to 31.0% during that time, it was still about double that of custodial fathers in 2001 (14.9%).

2. Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) was a federal assistance program in effect from 1935 to 1996 created by the Social Security Act (SSA) and administered by the United States Department of Health and Human Services that provided financial assistance to children whose families had low or no income. This program grew from a minor part of the social security system to a significant system of welfare administered by the states with federal funding. However, it was criticized for offering incentives for women to have children, and for providing disincentives for women to join the workforce. ADC dispensed scant relief to poor single mothers. The federal government authorized case workers, supervisors, and administrators with discretion to determine who received aid and how much. ADC was primarily created for white single mothers who were expected not to work. Black mothers who had always been in the labor force were not considered eligible to receive benefits. The words "families with" were added to the name in 1962, partly due to concern that the program's rules discouraged marriage.

3. The Civil Rights Movement and the efforts of the National Welfare Rights Organization (NWRO) in the 1960s expanded the scope of welfare entitlements to include black women. The welfare rolls racial demographics changed drastically. The majority of welfare recipients still remained white and most black women recipients continued to work. Starting in 1962, the Department of Health and Human Services allowed state-specific exemptions as long as the change was "in the spirit of AFDC" in order to allow some experimentation. By 1996 spending was $24 billion per year. When adjusted for inflation, the highest spending was in 1976, which exceeded 1996 spending by about 8%. In 1996, AFDC was replaced by the more restrictive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. In 1996, President Bill Clinton negotiated with the Republican-controlled Congress to pass the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act which drastically restructured the program. Among other changes, a lifetime limit of five years was imposed for the receipt of benefits. TANF benefits seem primarily designed to compensate working class families for 14 weeks of paid maternity leave under International Labour Organisation Maternity Protection Convention 183 (2000) but is actually used to provide temporary relief for the extremely poor who would be better served by Supplemental Security Income for Aged, Blind and Disabled.

D. The trend in the average monthly number of families receiving cash assistance from TANF and its predecessor program (AFDC, ADC) from 1959 through 2013 shows two distinct periods of rapid caseload growth before declining since 1994. The first period of growth occurred from the mid-1960s to the mid-1970s. The second growth spurt followed a period of relative stability in the caseload (around 3.5 million families) and occurred from 1989 to 1994. Following 1994, the caseload declined. It declined rapidly in the late 1990s, with continuing declines, albeit at a slower rate, from 2001 to 2008. The caseload increased again from 2008 through 2010 coincident with the economic slump associated with the 2007-2009 recession. That latest period of caseload increase was far less rapid and much smaller than the two earlier periods of caseload growth. From FY1994 to FY2001, the cash welfare caseload declined rapidly, from 5.0 million families to 2.2 million families per month, a 56% decline. TANF cash assistance families with an adult reported as working represented 17.3% of the cash assistance caseload in FY2013—more than double the 7.5% share in FY1994. In FY2013, 85.7% of adult recipients were women. In FY2013, 56.6% of all families had a child under the age of six, with 12.0% of all families having an infant. In FY2013, the share of child recipients who were Hispanic was 36.3%, compared with 29.9% who were African American, and 25.8% who were non-Hispanic white. Hispanic children became the largest group of recipient children by FY2013. The total number of TANF beneficiaries has declined dramatically from a high of nearly 14.2 million in 1993 to little less than 5 million in 2003.

Monthly Average Number of Families 1988-2013
(thousands)

	1988	1994	2001	2006	2013
Total Families	3,748	5,046	2,202	1,957	1,749
Family with Adults/Not Employed	3,137	3,799	993	826	781
Family with Adults/Employed	244	379	421	259	302
Child-Only/SSI Parents	60	171	172	177	156
Child-Only/Noncitizen Parent	48	184	126	153	196
Child-Only/Caretaker Relative	189	328	256	262	235
Child-Only/ Other	72	185	235	281	7

Source: Falk, Gene. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): Size and Characteristics of the Cash Assistance Caseload. Congressional Research Service. January 29, 2016

E. Most states only admit very poor families onto the benefit rolls. The maximum income is below the poverty line in all states. TANF benefits leave family incomes below half of the poverty line in every state. Most states' benefits were below 30 percent of the poverty line. 12 states' TANF programs reach only ten families or fewer for every 100 poor families. TANF often is these families' only source of support; without it they would have no cash income to meet basic needs . In July 2012, the majority of states (28 states and the District of Columbia) required that a single mother caring for two children earn less than $795 per month to gain entry to the benefit rolls—an earnings level representing about half of 2012 poverty-level income. States often permit families with a working member who obtains a job while on the rolls to remain eligible for TANF at higher earnings levels, though in many states such eligibility is retained for a limited period of time. States also usually require that a family has assets below a specified amount in order to qualify for benefits. In July 2012, 27 states and the District of

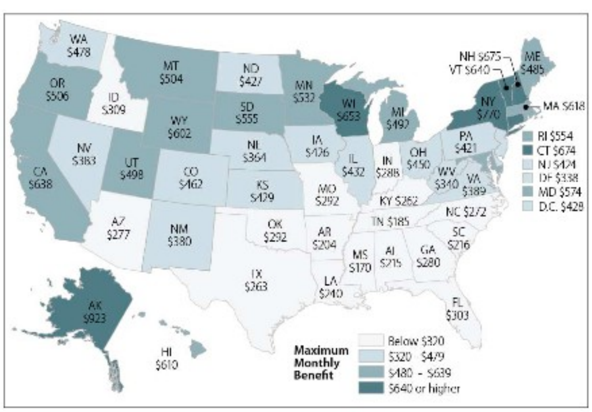
Columbia required applicant families to have $2,000 or less in assets to gain entry to the benefit rolls. In most states, the value of at least one of the family's cars is not counted toward the state's asset limit.

1. As of July 1, 2016, every state's TANF benefits for a family of three with no other cash income were below 50 percent of the poverty line, measured by the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) 2016 poverty guidelines. Most states' benefits were below 30 percent of the poverty line. In every state, benefits for a family of three with no other cash income were also below the Fair Market Rent — the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) estimate of the rent and utility costs of modest housing in a local area — for a modest two-bedroom apartment; in 30 states and D.C., they covered less than half of the Fair Market Rent. Additionally, less than a quarter of TANF families receive HUD housing assistance to help cover rent. Even when benefits from SNAP (formerly food stamps) are added to TANF family grants, families with no other income remain below the poverty line in every state. Eight states and the District of Columbia raised TANF benefit levels between July 1, 2015 and July 1, 2016, increasing the median state benefit from $429 to $432. Most of these increases were modest and reflect default periodic adjustments to benefit levels. Eight states plus Washington, D.C., raised TANF benefits between July 2015 (the start of fiscal year 2016 in most states) and July 2016; two others enacted legislation that raised benefit levels after July 2016. The remaining 41 states did not adjust benefits. (No state cut TANF benefits in nominal dollars in the past year).

States Raising TANF Benefits in Past Year (monthly benefit for family of three)

	July 2016 Benefits	Increase Since July 2015
District of Columbia	$441	$7
Montana	$588	$2
Nebraska	$436	$72
New Mexico	$409	$29
South Carolina	$282	$5
South Dakota	$615	$16
Texas	$285	$4
Virginia	$409	$20
Wyoming	$657	$5

Source: CBPP 2016



Source: Congressional Research Service (CRS), based on data from the Urban Institute's *Welfare Rules Database*, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

2. In July 2012, the state with the lowest maximum benefit paid to a family consisting of a single parent and two children was Mississippi, with a benefit of $170 per month (11% of poverty-level income). Among the contiguous 48 states and the District of Columbia, the highest maximum benefit was paid in New York: $770 per month for a single parent of two children in New York City (48% of poverty-level income). The benefit for such a family in the median state (North Dakota, whose maximum benefit ranked 26th among the 50 states and District of Columbia), was $427, a benefit amount that represented 27% of monthly poverty-level income in 2012. TANF maximum benefits vary greatly by state; there is also a very apparent regional pattern to benefit amounts. States in the South tend to

have the lowest benefit payments; states in the Northeast have the highest benefits. Additionally, cash assistance benefit amounts for needy families are not automatically adjusted for inflation by the states, and have lost considerable value in terms of their purchasing power over time. From 1981 to 2012, the inflation-adjusted value of cash assistance benefits for needy families in the median state declined by 44%. Some of this decline occurred before the 1996 welfare law: between 1981 and 1996 the value of cash assistance benefits had already declined by 28%.

F. In 2011 an estimated 1 in 4 US children, 21%, were growing up in poverty, the highest rate in the industrialized world. Estimates on the number of poor children growing up in the United States have risen from 16 million to as high as 24 million, 20.8% and 31.2% of the 77 million Social Security Area child population respectively. 22 - 33 percent of all children – live in families with incomes below the federal poverty level – $23,550 a year for a family of four. Research shows that, on average, families need an income of about twice that level to cover basic expenses. Using this standard, 45 percent of children live in low-income families. From 2006 to 2011 the percentage of children living below the official poverty line increased from 18% to 22%, and when the "near poor" are included, the percentage has changed from 40% to 45% - almost half – of all children in the Untied States under the age of 18. The statistics are even worse for younger children: 49% of children under 3 years of age and 48% of those between 3 and 5 years of age are currently living in poor or near poor households. In 2003 there were 12.9 million children living in poverty, or 17.6% of the under-18 population. That was an increase of about 800,000 from 2002, when 16.7% of all children were in poverty. Only 10% of children living with both parents were below the poverty line whereas 40% living with only one parent were below the poverty line. Children living only with their mothers were twice as likely to live in poverty as those living only with their fathers.

100% of the Federal Poverty Level Guidelines 2016

Family Size	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
1	$11,880	$990	$228
2	$16,020	$1,335	$308
3	$20,160	$1,680	$388

4	$24,300	$2,025	$467
5	$28,440	$2,370	$547
6	$32,580	$2,715	$627
7	$36,730	$3,061	$706
8	$40,890	$3,408	$786
Each Add'l	$4,160	$347	$80

Source: Mass Legal Services, HHS 2016

1. Children are expensive. Working 40 hours a week in 2016 at the $7.25 an hour federal minimum wage earns a pre-tax income of only $290 a week, $1,160 a month, $13,920 a year, not enough for a $16,,020 spouse or $21,160 first child and $4,160 each additional child. Two parents working for 60 hours a week for the minimum wage could earn $435 a week, $1,740 a month, $20,888 a year, not quite enough for child, Working 80 hours a week a couple insured for maternity leave and child care could earn $580 a week, $2,320 a month, $27,840 a year, enough for two children. Annually the poverty line for one is $11,880, for two $16,020, for three, $20,160, for four $24,300 and $4,160 for each additional child. In summary each child costs about $80 a week, $347 a month, $4,160 a year. A major reason for the increase in child poverty is that the Federal Minimum Wage has not been increased since the large increase of 2008 precipitated the Great Recession. To avoid triggering more layoffs with unreasonably large federal minimum wage increases limited labor budgets cannot afford it is necessary that Congress legislate an automatic minimum wage increase of 3%. Managerial and professional labor budgets are expected to grow around 2.5%. Benefits spending should increase 4% annually to stay ahead of average inflation with 3% benefit growth, plus beneficiary population growth of 1%. Rounded to the nearest nice nickel $7.25 an hour federal minimum wage in 2017 needs to be amended to $7.50 in 2018, to $7.75 in 2019 and 8.00 in 2020 and 3% every year thereafter.' in one final sentence at 29USC§206(a)(1)(D).

2. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of 18 December

1979 bears in mind the great contribution of women to the welfare of the family and to the development of society. Article 11(1)(e) The right to social security, particularly in cases of unemployment, sickness, invalidity and old and other incapacity to work, as well as the right to paid leave; (2)(b) to introduce maternity leave with pay or with comparable social benefits without loss of former employment, seniority of social allowances. Women are due 14 weeks of paid maternity leave by unemployment compensation for contributing women holding their job for more than a year, TANF for women with temporary maternity leave related income shortfalls and SSI for chronically poor families with children under Maternity Protection (ILO Convention 183) of 2000 and 3 weeks annual paid sick days under the Holidays with Pay Convention (Convention 132) of 1970 and Workers with Family Responsibilities (Convention 156) of 1981. Article 13 State parties shall take all appropriate measure to eliminate discrimination against women in other areas of economic and social life in order to ensure on a basis of equality of men and women, the same rights, in particular (a) to family benefits. Convention on the Rights of the Child of 2 September 1990 Article 26 (1) States Parties shall recognize for every child the right to benefit from social security, including social insurance, and shall take the necessary measures to achieve the full realization of this right in accordance with their national law. (2) The benefits should, where appropriate, be granted, taking into account the resources and the circumstances of the child and persons having responsibility for the maintenance of the child, as well as any other consideration relevant to an application for benefits made by or on behalf of the child.