

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and State Family Assistance

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Economic Services Administration · Community Services Division

Program Description

The Department of Social and Health Services' Economic Services Administration's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and State Family Assistance programs provide cash assistance to parents or caregivers with children and pregnant individuals to bolster their ability to meet their families' foundational needs. These programs offer families the opportunity to access employment and training-related activities that assist them with reaching their full potential. In some situations, TANF assistance is provided solely for children in a household (child-only TANF). Child-only TANF households are not required to engage in participation requirements as a condition of assistance.

We provide tools and resources to support well-being through:

- **Cash assistance to help children and families meet basic needs.** TANF/SFA provides a modest amount of cash each month to increase a family's ability to pay for things we all need to thrive, including a safe home, healthy food, reliable transportation and school supplies. The average benefit amount per day is less than \$20 – a small contribution toward the costs of meeting a family's basic needs.
- **Building a stable foundation so parents have access to good jobs.** TANF/SFA case managers connect families to such supports as mental health services, family violence counseling and/or substance-use treatment when needed.
- **Employment and training opportunities through WorkFirst.** TANF/SFA case managers connect parents and caregivers to education, job training and employment opportunities through WorkFirst, a partnership between DSHS, Employment Security Department, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, Department of Commerce and community-based organizations.
- **Gateways to financial opportunity.** TANF/SFA is an important gateway to many opportunities that provide a stable foundation for families, including health care, safe homes and early-learning opportunities that help children develop strong brains and bodies.

Highlights in State Fiscal Year 2022

- **Average number of cases per month: 28,839**
- **Average number of individuals per month: 69,465**
 - **Adults per month: 20,929**
 - **Children per month: 48,536**
- **70% of all TANF/SFA recipients are children; with an average age of 8 years old.**
- **The average benefit amount for a family is \$537 per month.**
- **Of the caseload, 25% includes a pregnant parent or a family with a child under the age of 1.**

More information:

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