

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and State Family Assistance

Program Description

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and State Family Assistance¹ programs provide cash assistance to parents or caregivers with children and pregnant individuals to bolster their ability to meet their families' basic needs. These programs help people access employment and training-related activities that assist with reaching stability. In some situations, TANF assistance is provided solely for children in a household (called "child-only TANF"). Child-only TANF households are not required to engage in participation requirements as a condition of assistance. See the [Child-Only TANF Program One-Pager](#) for more information. Tools and resources include:

- **Cash assistance to help families meet basic needs.** This includes cash each month to increase a family's ability to pay for such things as housing, healthy food, reliable transportation and school supplies. The average benefit amount per day is nearly \$20.²
- **Employment and training opportunities through WorkFirst.** Case managers connect parents to education, job training and employment opportunities through WorkFirst. The program is a partnership among DSHS, the Employment Security Department, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, Department of Commerce, and community-based organizations.
- **Support to help build a stable foundation.** Case managers connect families to supports when needed, such as mental health services, family violence counseling and/or substance-use treatment.
- **Gateways to financial opportunity.** TANF and SFA are important gateways to many opportunities that can provide a stable foundation for families. That includes health care, housing and early-learning opportunities that help children develop.



Highlights in State Fiscal Year 2024³

- Average number of cases per month: 33,112.
- Average number of individuals per month: 84,676.
 - Adults per month: 28,254.
 - Children per month: 56,422.
- 67% of recipients are children, with an average age of 8 years old.
- The average benefit amount for a family is \$583 per month.
- 35% of households include a pregnant parent or a child younger than age 1.

¹State Family Assistance is available for certain families who are ineligible for TANF ([WAC 388-400-0010](#)).

²ESA Briefing Book 2024, TANF/WorkFirst Section, page 5 – average monthly payment divided by average days per month.

³ESA Briefing Book 2024, TANF/WorkFirst Section, pages 5, 25, 44.

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