

Temporary Assistance For Needy Families (TANF)- National Conference of State Legislatures

MARGARET WILE, POLICY DIRECTOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, STATE FEDERAL AFFAIRS

SHANNON SAUL, RESEARCH ANALYST, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, STATE POLICY RESEARCH DIVISION



The National Conference of State Legislatures

- Bipartisan membership organization
 - All 50 states and the territories
 - 7,383 state legislators
 - All state legislative staff (30,000+)
- Goals:
 - To improve the quality & effectiveness of state legislatures
 - To promote policy innovation and communication among state legislatures
 - To ensure states a strong, cohesive voice in the federal system
- Research, education, technical assistance
- Voice of the states



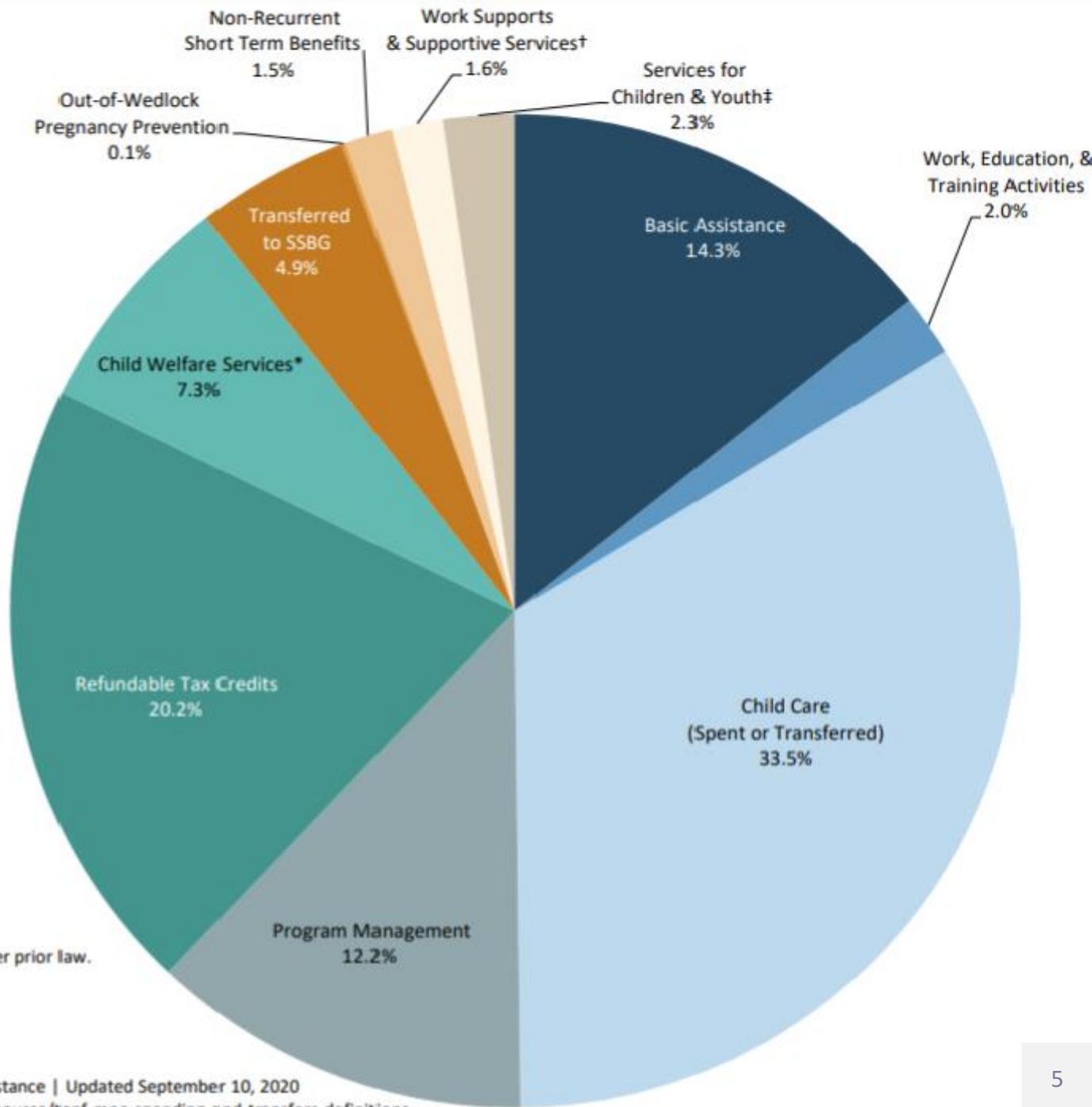
TANF History

- The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant was created as part of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunities Reconciliation Act of 1996
- The original funding in the TANF law was set to expire at the end of 2002
- From 2002-2010 Congress continued funding the program through a series of short-term extensions
- In 2005 The Deficit Reduction Act extended TANF through FY 2010 and it made some changes to TANF work rules
- Since FY' 2010 it continues to be funded by short-term extensions
- Most recently it was extended through the Consolidated Appropriations Act through September 2021

How it works

- Federal block grant program where requires a Maintenance of Effort (MOE) from every state
- States have significant flexibility in how they allocate the funds and what programs and services they will provide, as long as they meet one of the four federally determined requirements. These requirements include:
 - Providing assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives.
 - Ending the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage.
 - Preventing and reducing the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establishing annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies.
 - Encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

TANF and MOE Spending and Transfers by Activity, FY 2019: United States

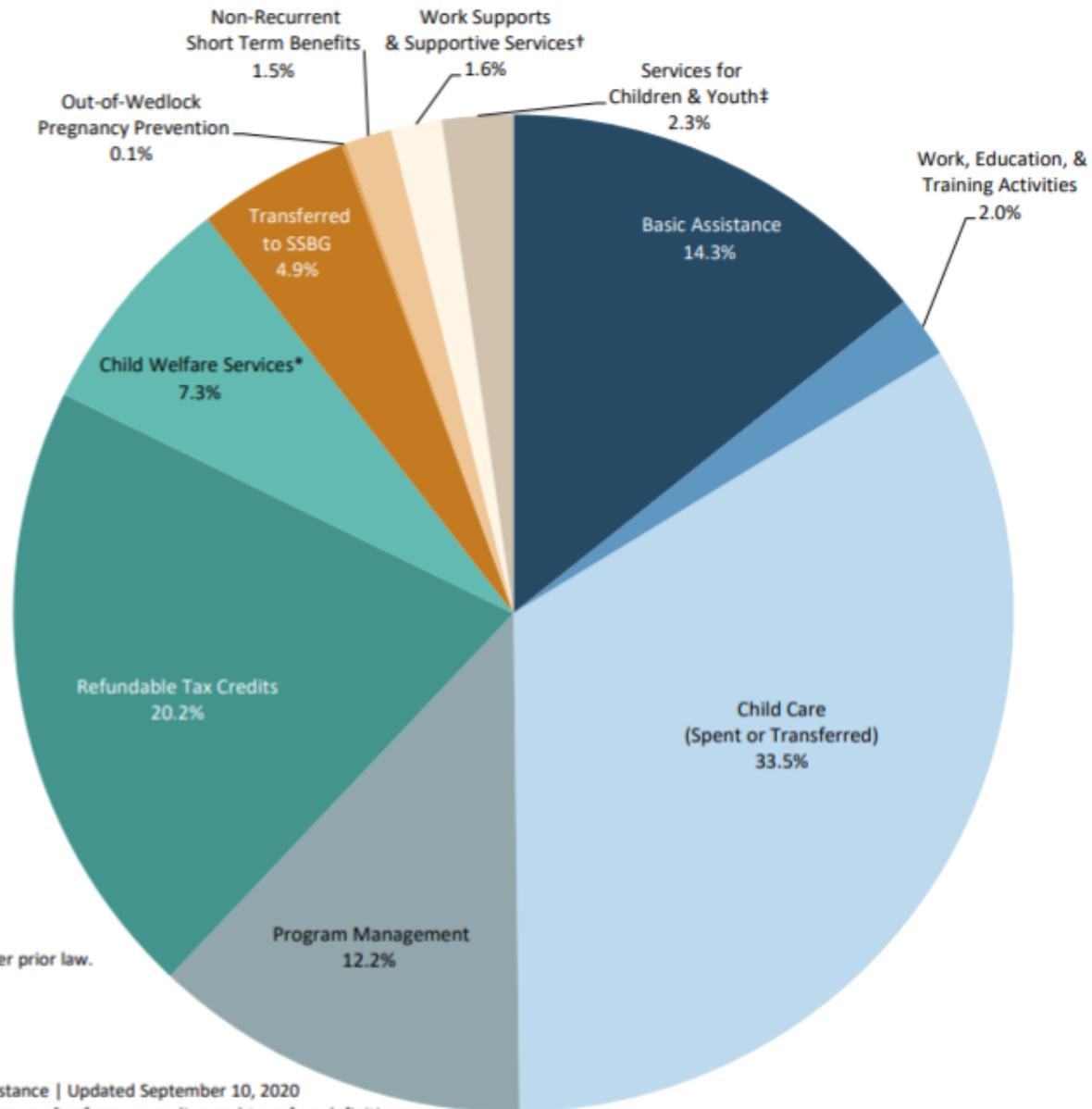


https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ofa/fy2019_tanf_moe_national_data_pie_chart.pdf

* May include Foster Care/Child Welfare authorized solely under prior law.
 † May include Financial Education and Asset Development.
 ‡ May include Home Visiting.

TANF and MOE Spending and Transfers by Activity, FY 2019: Vermont

Total Funds = \$96,147,136



* May include Foster Care/Child Welfare authorized solely under prior law.

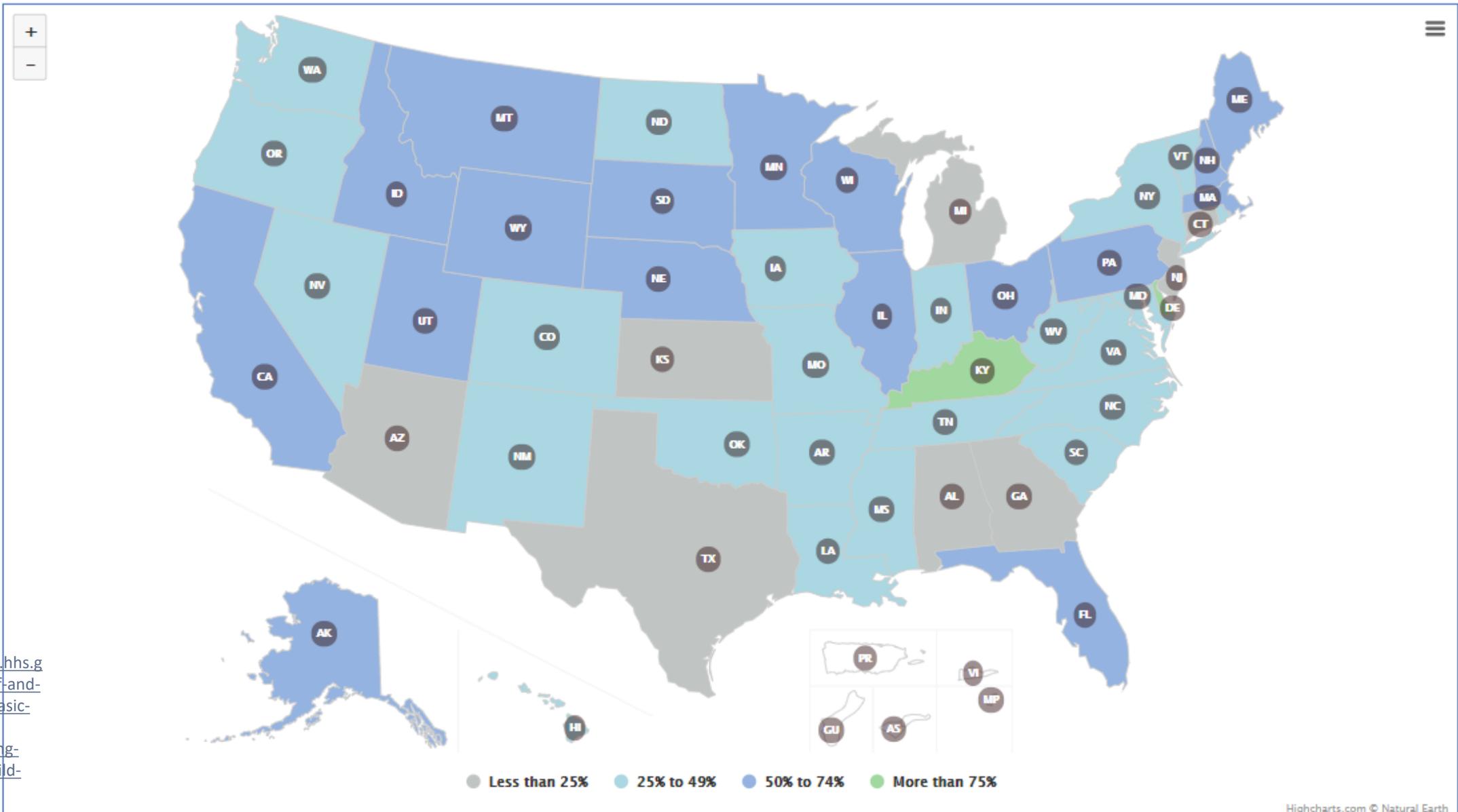
† May include Financial Education and Asset Development.

‡ May include Home Visiting.

Current TANF Activity

- **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act**
 - TANF extended at 2019 funding levels through Nov. 30, 2020
- **Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021**
 - TANF extended, through end of September, 2021
- **Some administration flexibilities where possible, for example:**
 - COVID-19 is likely to affect states' ability to meet TANF work standards. These standards are in statute and cannot be waived other than through legislation.
 - “However, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) can waive financial penalties for states that do not meet standards. In policy guidance, HHS has said it would use its authority to provide relief from the penalty for not meeting work standards “to the maximum extent possible.””

TANF and MOE Spending on Basic Assistance, Work, Education, & Training Activities, and Child Care, FY 2019



<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/map/tanf-and-moe-spending-basic-assistance-work-education-training-activities-and-child-care-fy>

States Expanding TANF Payments and Access

- In the 2019-2021 sessions...
 - 11 states considered 18 bills
- Topics:
 - Increasing monthly payments
 - Removing barriers to eligibility
 - Exempting certain income and assets from consideration
 - Increasing income and asset limits



State Legislation

- New Jersey: 2020 S 2178 (Enacted): Repeals the family cap in the Work First State program.
- Virginia: 2020 H 690 (Enacted): Repeals the prohibition on increasing the amount of TANF that a family receives upon the birth of a child during the period of TANF eligibility.



State Legislation

- Indiana: 2021 HB 1009 (Pending): Exempts from being counted as income in determining eligibility for the TANF program certain money earned by specified individuals pursuing a postsecondary degree, workforce certificate, pre-apprenticeship, or apprenticeship.
- New York: 2019 S 5402 (Enacted): Exempts funds in state ABLE savings accounts from the calculation of household benefits under public assistance programs.



State Legislation

- Virginia: 2020 S 124 (Enacted): Relates to eligibility for food stamps and TANF; relates to drug related felonies; provides that a person who is otherwise eligible to receive food stamp and TANF benefits shall not be denied such assistance solely because he or she has been convicted of a drug related felony.
- Oklahoma: 2021 S 394 (Pending): Relates to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program; increases amount of excluded equity allowance of an automobile from determination of applicant's resources.



State Non-TANF Cash Assistance Efforts

- In the 2016-2021 sessions...
 - 10 states considered 22 bills
- Universal Basic Income (UBI)
 - Studies and pilot programs
 - UBI for specific populations
 - State-wide UBI for certain residents



State Legislation

- California: 2021 AB 65 (Pending): Would establish universal basic income of \$1,000 per month for residents of the state of at least three consecutive years who are 18 years of age or older.
- Wisconsin: 2017 AB 973 (Failed): Would have ordered the department of health services to develop a universal basic income program to provide a cash benefit to individuals in this state whose earned income through employment is less than the state's annual per capita personal income by pooling moneys from public assistance programs.



State Legislation

- Massachusetts: 2021 HD 3261 (Pending): Would provide a universal basic income for youth aging out of foster care.
- California: 2021 SB 739 (Pending): Would require the State Department of Social Services to administer the California Universal Basic Income for Transition Age Youth pilot project, under which a California resident who is 21 years of age and exited foster care upon reaching 21 years of age would receive a universal basic income of \$1,000 per month for 3 years.



State Legislation

- New York: 2019 SB 6696 (Failed-adjourned): Would have required the comptroller to establish a universal basic income pilot program to provide 10,000 participants with income of \$7,200 for individuals or \$14,400 for couples per year for two years; establishes participant criteria; required a study on the program one year after its conclusion.
- Massachusetts: 2021 SD 454 (Pending): Requires the commissioner to establish a pilot program to test the viability and efficacy of a universal basic income program on a population of at least 1,500 residents, randomly selected. Requires the commissioner to design the program to ensure that participating residents earn a monthly income that is at least equal to a living wage.



NCSL 50-State Searchable Bill Tracking Databases

3/17/2021



NCSL Resources

- **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): Where it Stands Today**
 - <https://www.ncsl.org/research/health/temporary-assistance-for-needy-families-where-it-stands-today.aspx>
- **Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Health and Human Services Provisions**
 - <https://www.ncsl.org/blog/2020/03/19/-health-human-service-highlights-from-second-covid-19-relief-bill.aspx>
- **Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act: Human Services and Housing**
 - <https://www.ncsl.org/blog/2020/04/06/human-services-and-housing-analysis-of-third-covid-19-package.aspx>
- **A Look at the Health Provisions in the CARES Act**
 - <https://www.ncsl.org/blog/2020/04/01/a-look-at-health-provisions-in-the-cares-act.aspx>

NCSL Resources (continued)

- **COVID-19 Relief and Omnibus Appropriations Bills: A Health Overview**
 - <https://www.ncsl.org/research/health/covid-19-relief-and-omnibus-appropriations-bills-health-overview-magazine2021.aspx>
- **COVID-19 Relief and Omnibus Appropriations Bills: A Human Services Overview**
 - <https://www.ncsl.org/research/human-services/covid-19-relief-and-omnibus-appropriations-bills-human-services-overview-magazine2021.aspx>
- **COVID-19 Economic Relief Bill and Health and Human Services Legislative Provisions**
 - <https://www.ncsl.org/ncsl-in-dc/publications-and-resources/covid-19-economic-relief-bill-health-and-human-services-legislative-provisions.aspx>
- **Health and Human Services Funding in the American Rescue Plan**
 - <https://www.ncsl.org/ncsl-in-dc/publications-and-resources/health-and-human-services-provisions-in-the-american-rescue-plan-magazine2021.aspx>

Outside Organization Resources

- **Temporary Assistance of Needy Families (TANF): A Legislative History, The Congressional Research Services**
 - <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R44668>
- **TANF Block Grant: Responses to FAQ, The Congressional Research Services (updated Jan. 21)**
 - <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL32760.pdf>
- **TANF and MOE Spending on Basic Assistance, Work, Education and Training Actives and Child Care , State Interactive Map, Administration of Children and Families (ACF)**
 - <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/map/tanf-and-moe-spending-basic-assistance-work-education-training-activities-and-child-care-fy>
- **TANF and MOE Spending and Transfers by Activity, FY'19: United States**
 - https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ofa/fy2019_tanf_moe_national_data_pie_chart.pdf
- **TANF and MOE Spending and Transfers by Activity, FY 19: Vermont**
 - https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ofa/fy2019_tanf_moe_state_piechart_vermont.pdf



Margaret Wile
202-227-7542
margaret.wile@ncsl.org



Shannon Saul
303-856-1388
shannon.saul@ncsl.org



Thank You!

