

Appendix 8 Changes in Cash Grant Assistance Programs and Funding Due to Welfare Reforms

Changes in Programs and Funding Due to Welfare Reforms

In August 1996, President Clinton signed into law the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) that created the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program. Under PRWORA, each state must operate a Title IV-D Child Support program to be eligible for TANF funds.

In August 1997, the WorkFirst program (ESB 3901), Washington State's TANF program went into effect. These two federal and state laws resulted in major program and funding changes.

Program and Policy Changes

1. Welfare ceased to be an entitlement (as it was under AFDC and JOBS); instead, participation in TANF has a five-year limit. The five year limit will affect the first clients in Washington in August, 2002.
2. The Economic Services Administration of DSHS works with three partner agencies to provide services to WorkFirst clients.
3. Native American Tribes were granted an option in the federal law to operate their own TANF program, including cash grants and employment and training. The tribes apply to the federal government, and if certified, they receive federal funds. The state identifies and negotiates funding for each tribe. Currently two tribes have to operate their own programs.
4. Federal assistance to some legal immigrants was barred or restricted. The State Family Assistance (SFA), and Food Assistance Program (FAP) were created by the Legislature to help legal immigrants.
5. Child care subsidy programs for welfare and low-income families were consolidated into the Working Connections Child Care (WCC) program. Child care requires a co-payment.

(See Appendix 10 for a chronological listing of the detailed changes.)

Funding Changes

1. The TANF block grant replaced Title IV-A and IV-F (AFDC, CEAP, and JOBS) entitlement-based federal funding.
2. The Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) consolidates child care funding formerly provided to the State through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and Title IV-A of the Social Security Act.

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3. A requirement to spend an amount of state dollars, known as the Maintenance of Effort (MOE), replaced previous federal requirements to match a percentage of program costs with state funds. There is an MOE requirement for TANF and the CCDF block grant. Federal matching funds still exist in Food Stamps, Medicaid and one CCDF child care funding stream.

5. Total funds available to the General Assistance program were lidded with instructions in the law to limit eligibility factors to control costs.

Funding Details

TANF Block Grant

Washington's TANF block grant is **\$404,331,754** per year. The amount of the block grant is based on the amount of the Title IV-A and Title IV-F funds, AFDC Assistance, Emergency Assistance (EA), JOBS, and AFDC administration claimed by Washington State in FFY1994, plus a portion of the increase of FFY 1995 EA over FFY 1994 EA.

The block grant amount will remain the same through FY 2002, unless it is lowered by penalties for awards to Tribes electing to operate a Tribal TANF program. For FFY 2000, Washington's TANF grant amount was reduced by \$1,017,923 in Tribal TANF awards, to **\$403,313,831**.

Additionally, in FFY 2000, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarded Washington **\$10,616,733** in TANF High Performance Bonus award funds.

Maintenance of Effort (MOE)

HHS set the MOE requirement for the TANF block grant based on the State's 1994 expenditures for the AFDC, EA, AFDC-related child care, transitional child care, At-Risk Child Care, and JOBS programs. In general, states must spend state funds in an amount equal to at least **80%** of the amount spent on these programs in FFY 1994; however, if a state meets the required work participation rates, then it only needs to expend **75%** of the amount spent in FY 1994.

For FFY 2000, Washington reduced its MOE spending to 75% of the FFY 1994 spending level, or **\$272,060,824**. This amount was reduced by an additional \$684,925 for Tribal TANF programs operating ins the state, to **\$271,375,899**.

HHS also set the MOE requirement for the CCDF block grant, based on state expenditures in FFY 1994. The CCDF MOE amount is **\$38,707,605**. This amount is anticipated to be the same for FFY 2001 and FFY 2002.