

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

TANF is also known as cash assistance. The amount of cash benefit depends upon a family's income and the county where the family lives. TANF requires that a family have a minor child to be eligible for cash assistance. This includes pregnant women. The chart below shows the highest monthly cash benefit a family may receive, based on family size:

TANF PAYMENTS CHART

Family Size	Rural County	High Cost Rural County	High Population County	High Cost High Population County
1	\$224	\$229	\$241	\$267
2	\$309	\$314	\$326	\$352
3	\$386	\$391	\$403	\$429
4	\$454	\$459	\$471	\$497
5+	Add \$61 for each additional person			

Federal TANF grants may be used for a wide range of benefits and services for families with children. Grants may be used within a state TANF program or transferred to either the Child Care and Development Block Grant or Social Services Block Grant.

Unused TANF funds can also be reserved (saved) without a fiscal year limit.

The block grant is legislatively fixed. It does not change when the cash assistance caseload decreases or increases. It is not adjusted for inflation.

Violations of federal requirements regarding TANF can result in a reduction of the block grant for states. The penalty is 5 percent for the first year's failure to meet standards and increased by 2 percentage points each year.



Strong Families Make a Strong Kansas

Kansas TANF Requirements

Adults must work or participate in work activities unless they are caring for a child younger than two months old or a household member with disabilities.

Families may receive TANF for up to 36 months (lifetime). Families meeting one of the following exceptions may receive TANF for up to 48 months. The five exceptions are:

- The individual is a caretaker of a disabled family member living in the household
- The individual has a disability which precludes employment on a long-term basis or requires substantial rehabilitation
- The individual needs a time limit extension to overcome the effects of domestic violence/sexual assault
- The family is involved with Prevention and Protection Services (PPS) and has an open social service plan verified by contact with PPS

The hardship review team grants these on a case by case basis

Cash assistance may not be used to purchase alcohol, tobacco or lottery tickets.

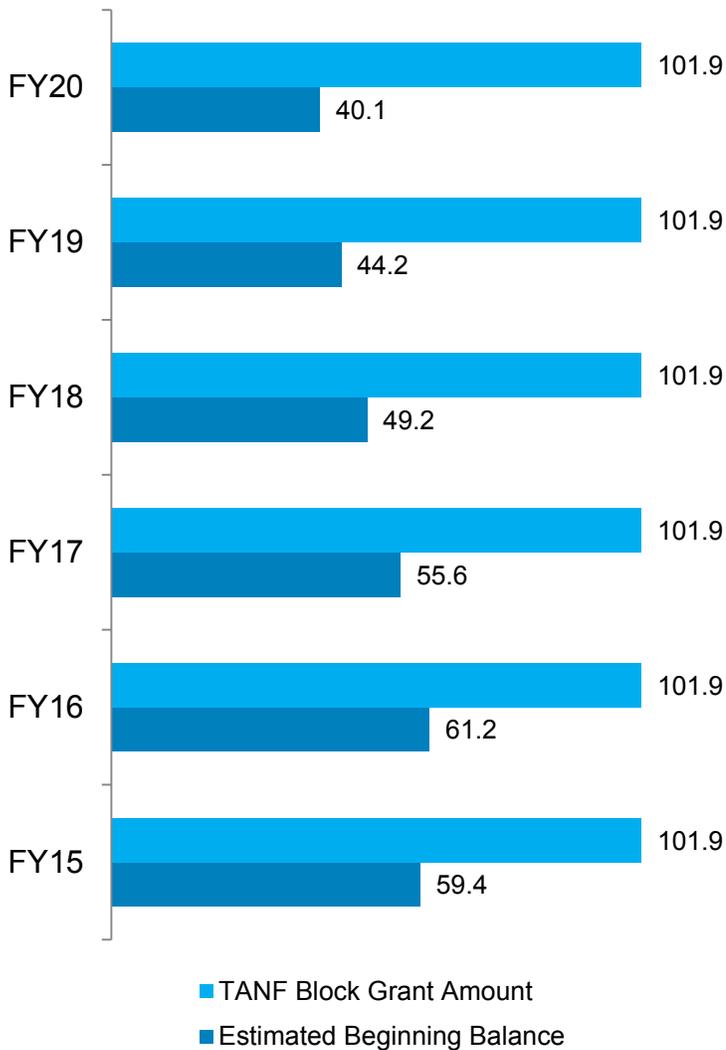
Families receiving TANF are provided support services to help them prepare for or obtain employment. These services include:

- help in obtaining and maintaining employment
- job training
- help in obtaining a GED or in learning English
- transportation assistance
- clothing
- moving costs related to a job
- help with parenting skills
- physical or behavioral health services
- services for learning disabilities (such as help with reading and/or math)
- drug, alcohol, domestic violence services

State	Monthly Average TANF Benefit
Kansas	\$269
Colorado	\$375
Missouri	\$223
Nebraska	\$289
Oklahoma	\$191
Texas	\$247

Source: *Characteristics and Financial Circumstances of TANF Recipients, Fiscal Year 2013. Table 31, TANF Families Receiving Cash Assistance By Number of Recipient Children.*

TANF BENEFIT STATE COMPARISON



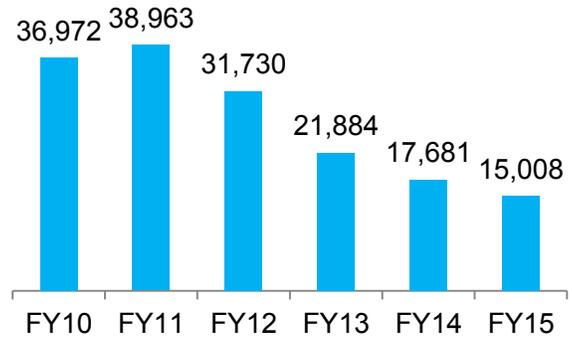
How TANF Benefits Kansans?

Currently, 13,470 Kansans receive cash assistance. In FY2015, cash assistance totaled \$20.4 million.

Nationally, TANF provides a basic block grant of \$16.5 billion. Kansas receives \$101.9 million per year. States may use TANF and maintenance of effort (MOE) funds in any manner “reasonably calculated” to achieve TANF’s statutory purposes. These include:

- Provide assistance to needy families with children so that they can live in their own homes or the homes of relatives
- End dependence of needy parents on government benefits through work, job preparation and marriage
- Reduce out-of-wedlock pregnancies
- Promote the formation and maintenance of two-parent families

Monthly Average Number of Persons



Kansas Drug Testing

Suspicion-based drug testing was implemented July 1, 2014. This is a new effort to combat drug use in our state. In the event of a positive test, the individual still receives intensive case management, training and treatment aimed at self-sufficiency.

When applicants are flagged for concerns after completion of the Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI) indicates potential drug abuse, the criteria below is then used to guide referrals. As parental drug abuse is one of the most prevalent reasons children are removed from their home, it’s essential that these individuals receive the help they need, not only for themselves but also their families.

The suspicion-based drug testing policy is limited to TANF applicants and recipients. TANF applicants and recipients who present indicators of illicit drug use are required to submit to drug testing. Indicators of possible drug use include the following:

- Arrest records (within the last 12 months)
- Employment records (loss of job for failing a drug test, etc. within the last 12 months)
- Self-declaration
- Visual observation of drug use
- Visual observation of drug paraphernalia
- SASSI indicators as identified by our Solutions Recovery Care Coordinators
- Prior refusal to drug test

Examples of TANF Funding Uses

- Family Preservation Services—helping families stay together before a child needs to be removed
- Employment Services—assisting adults to obtain full-time employment
- JAG—keeping at-risk students in school by providing mentoring and other services to transition them into the workforce or higher education
- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Programs—helping survivors with safety planning, mentoring, healthy relationship training, financial literacy and responsible parenting
- Kansas Reading Roadmap—giving children the help they need to become proficient readers to secure success later in life
- Boys & Girls Club—helping young people with substance abuse prevention and job-readiness
- Child Care Assistance—helping working adults afford the cost of child care so they can maintain employment