



Presentation to House Committee on Early Childhood and  
Human Services Senate Committee on Human Services

# Temporary Assistance to Needy Families

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# Building Oregon's foundation

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**Strengthening Oregon families**



**Finding and keeping good jobs**



**Improving our communities**



# Oregon TANF: Basics

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- TANF offers monthly cash benefits and supportive services.
- 27 percent of the block grant goes toward cash assistance.
- Families must be in deep poverty (36 percent of the Federal Poverty Level) to be eligible.
- The maximum cash grant for a family of three is \$506.

## TANF eligibility: monthly income limits

Household size	Income limit
1	\$345
2	\$499
3	\$616
4	\$795
5	\$932
6	\$1,060

# Monthly TANF benefit for a single parent family of three

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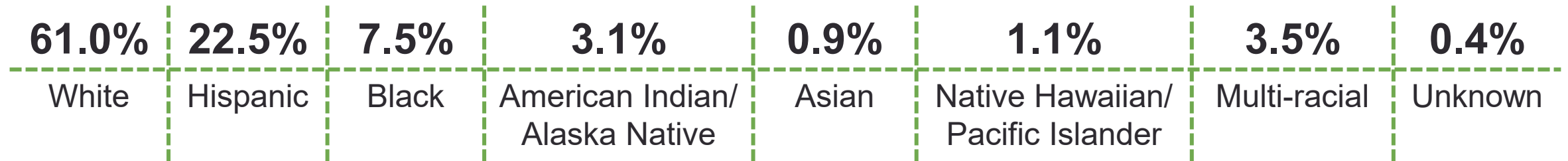


# TANF participants

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- 29,953 families served from July 2021 to June 2022
- 54,947 children served from July 2021 to June 2022
- In 2020, 5.4 percent of children on TANF were involved in open child welfare cases

## TANF participant demographics



Sources:

ODHS ORRAI data, 2020.

ACF TANF Characteristics data, 2020: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/data/characteristics-and-financial-circumstances-tanf-recipients-fiscal-year-2020>

# Cash assistance: Why it matters

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**Cash assistance is critical for families who experience crisis and struggle to pay for basics necessities.**

People of color are disproportionately impacted by poverty as are residents of rural communities, women, youth, LGBTQ communities, people with disabilities, immigrants and refugees.

**Increasing income for families experiencing poverty relieves the stress that results from scarcity**, which is linked to lasting consequences for children's brain development and physical health.



Greg J. Duncan and Katherine Magnuson, "The Long Reach of Early Childhood Poverty," *Pathways*, Winter 2011, [http://www.stanford.edu/group/scspi/ media/pdf/pathways/winter\\_2011/PathwaysWinter11\\_Duncan.pdf](http://www.stanford.edu/group/scspi/ media/pdf/pathways/winter_2011/PathwaysWinter11_Duncan.pdf)  
Chapin Hall (2022). Child and Family Well-being System: Economic & Concrete Supports as a Core Component. <https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/Economic-Supports-deck.pdf>

# Improving family well-being

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- A 10 percent increase in state public benefits for a family of four is predicted to **reduce foster care placements by 8 percent.**
- Every \$100 increase in a parent's income while a child is in foster care **increases their child's speed of reunification by 6 percent.**
- Even small infusions of cash can make a difference in **children's academic, health and economic outcomes.**



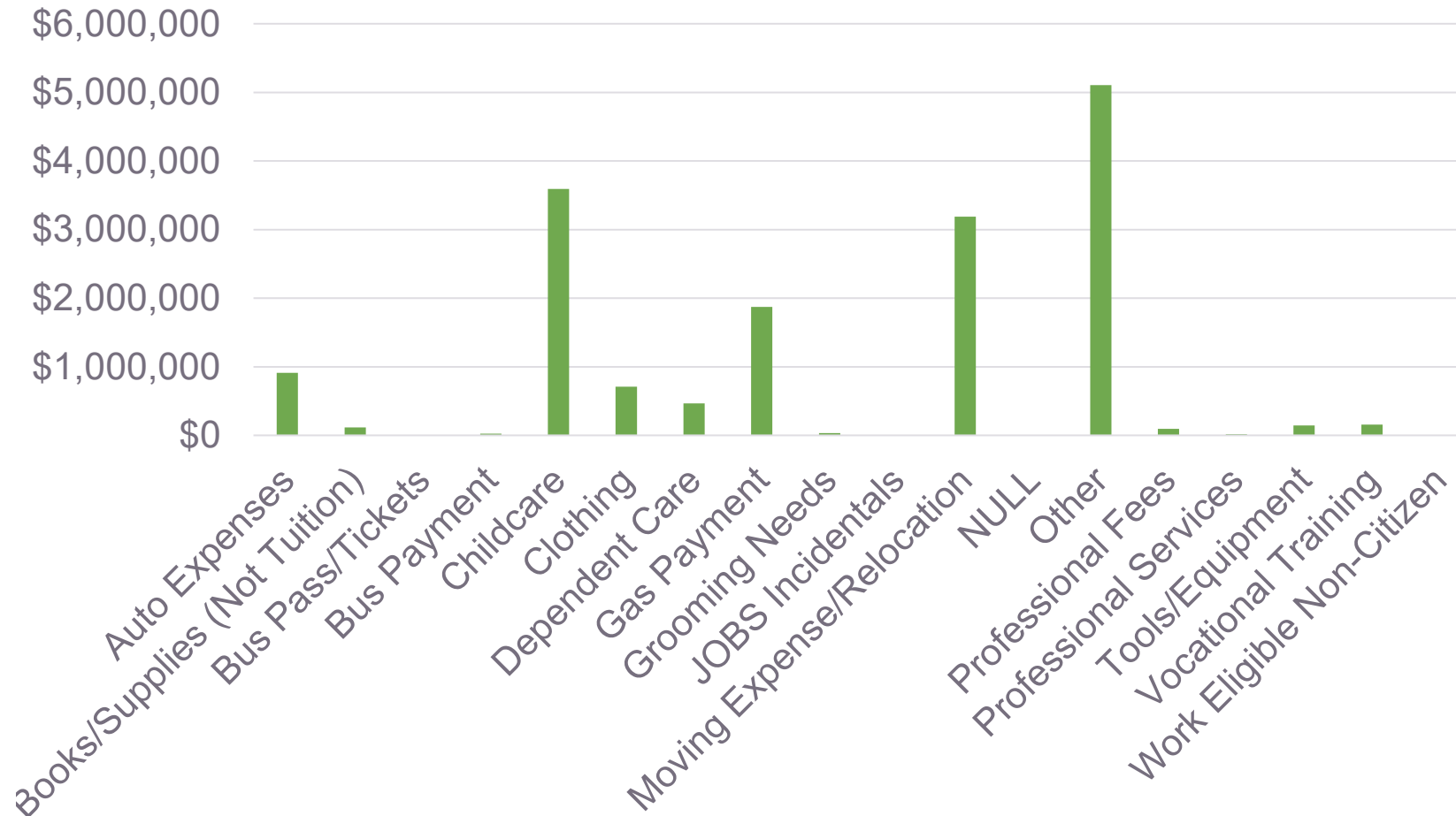
Source:

Chapin Hall, 2022. <https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/Economic-Supports-deck.pdf>

National Academies of Science, 2019. <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/read/25246/chapter/2#7>

# Support services funds

Support Services Payments (SFY 2022)



**In addition to the monthly cash grants, participants in the JOBS program are eligible for Support Services funds.**



# TANF Redesign: Community voice

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“Honestly, I would tell them it’s not enough and doesn’t even come close to meeting the cost of surviving. **Not living. Surviving.**”

“I currently have a place to stay but paying rent outside of what I’m given for TANF is a struggle each month. Month to month **I feel like it can very well be my last month of shelter for my children and I.**”

“I have had to improvise this last week. Didn't make enough to replenish what we spent. **Barely got children out of the feeling that they have to hide food in case they won't get it again.** I feel very insecure about food and housing. I feel I’m hanging on by an emotional thread. Trying to get as many hours as can. Think we still won't qualify for assistance from the state. Still on the back burner trying to figure out what to do. Applied for housing assistance through the CARES act but don't know where that is.”

# 2021-23 accomplishments

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In 2022, the Oregon Legislature approved a series of investments to improve access to cash supports, including:

- **Funding triannual clothing allowances** that helps parents buy seasonally appropriate clothing for their children
- Permanently **ending full-family sanctions** which deny cash to entire families when the caretaker is “noncompliant” with program requirements
- Investing in the **Family Supports & Connections** program
- **Increasing the resource limit** allowing more families to access TANF
- TANF **Behavioral Health** pilot





The seal of the State of Oregon is a large, circular emblem in the background. It features an eagle with wings spread at the top, a ship on the water to the left, a plow and sheaves of wheat to the right, and a central sunburst. Below the sunburst is a banner that reads "THE UNION". The outer ring of the seal contains the text "STATE OF OREGON" at the top and "1859" at the bottom, with small stars separating the words.

**Thank you**