



Presentation to the 2025
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services

Self-Sufficiency Programs

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

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March 10, 2025

Agenda

- I. **A brief history of welfare reform**
- II. TANF block grant overview
- III. TANF program overview
- IV. Cost drivers
- V. Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS)
- VI. TANF investment update
- VII. Compliance
- VIII. Key issues

Milestones in the History of Welfare Reform

Welfare-to-work rules established 1996

Lifetime benefit limit five years

Eligibility restrictions

State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) required

Spending restrictions

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Federal TANF Block Grant: Four Core Purposes



Supporting
needy families so
children can
remain in their
own homes



Reducing
dependency by
promoting job
preparation, work
and marriage



Preventing out-
of-wedlock
pregnancies



Encouraging
two-parent
families

TANF Block Grant: A Funding Mechanism

2025-27 TANF Funds (in millions)	Budgeted
Regular TANF Allocations	\$331.67
Additional TANF Investments	\$92.40
Total	\$424.07

Oregon receives \$166M in TANF funds every federal fiscal year. The amount has not been changed since 1996.

TANF Block Grant Requirement: Maintenance of Effort (MOE)

MOE ensures that states continue funding welfare programs

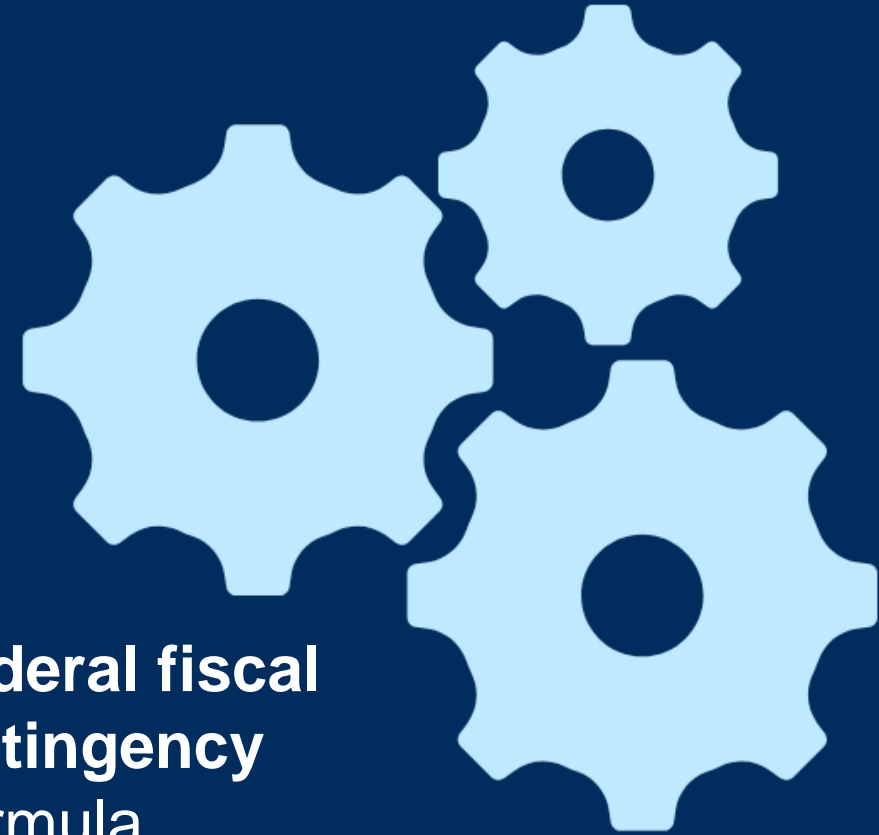
MOE Requirement Based on 1994 Spending

75% (\$91M) if Oregon meets Work Participation Rate (WPR)

80% (\$98M) if Oregon fails to meet WPR

TANF Block Grant: Oregon's MOE Obligation

2025-27 Scenarios	MOE Obligation <i>(in millions)</i>
WPR target met both years	\$182.8
WPR Target missed both years	\$195.0
To get Contingency Funds both years	\$221.4



MOE obligation applies to expenditures **within a given federal fiscal year**. MOE exceeding targets **can help obtain TANF Contingency Funds** and **reduce WPR target** through a complicated formula.

TANF Block Grant: Fulfilling MOE

ODHS certified MOE worth \$165M for FFY 2024 in a successful effort to qualify for TANF contingency funds

MOE available in future years is unknown, but we anticipate levels will match or exceed FFY 2024 levels

Source of MOE	FFY 2024 (in millions)
ODHS	\$49.6
Tax Credits	\$60.0
Oregon Food Bank	\$29.2
Pre-Kindergarten	\$25.3
OCHS	\$1.0
DOJ	\$0.5
Total	\$165M

TANF Block Grant: How It's Budgeted

Total funds:
\$424.1 million

Program Area	Budgeted Funds (in millions)
Self Sufficiency Program	\$348.23
TANF Cash Assistance	\$183.71
JOBS Services	\$77.36
Refugee Program	\$3.79
Temp Assistance for Domestic Violence Survivors	\$27.36
Family Support & Connections	\$18.82
SUD Childcare	\$0.90
Self Sufficiency Delivery	\$33.78
Self Sufficiency Design	\$4.00
Child Welfare	\$37.79
Well-being	\$25.86
Safety	\$3.14
Child Welfare Delivery	\$8.79
Oregon Eligibility Partnership (OEP)	\$6.55
Central Services	\$10.00
SAEC	\$18.00
OHA Health Systems Division	\$2.00

Understanding TANF: Block Grant vs Program

The federal TANF block grant is the **funding mechanism**, while the TANF Program is the **state-level service** funded by it.

TANF Block Grant

Federal funding provided every federal fiscal year

TANF Program

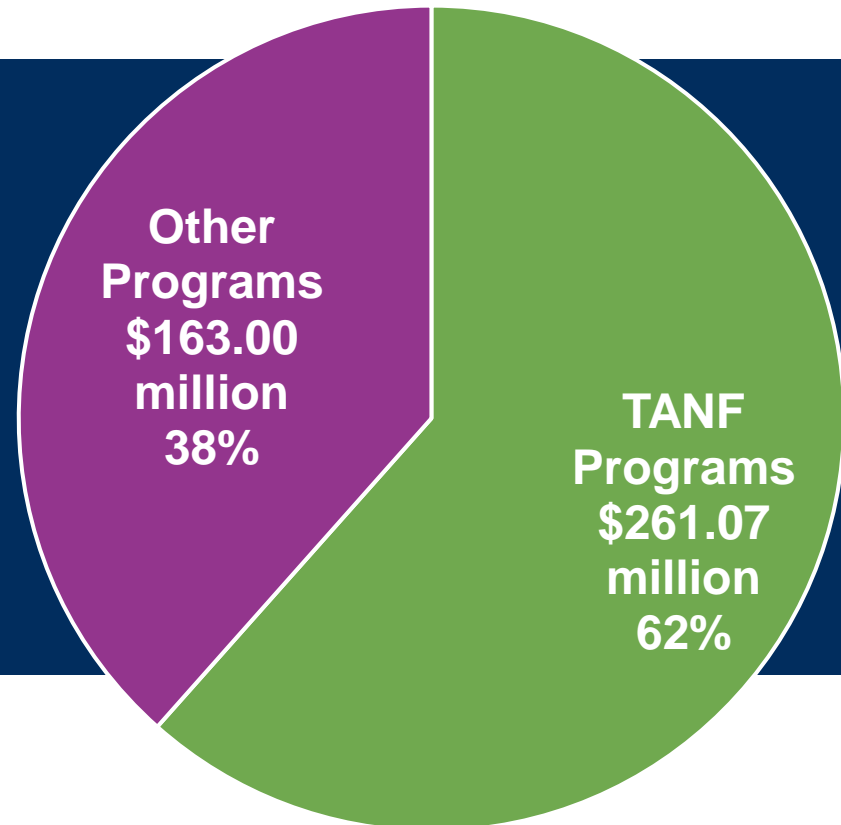
How states design and implement assistance

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TANF Program: Federal Funding Overview

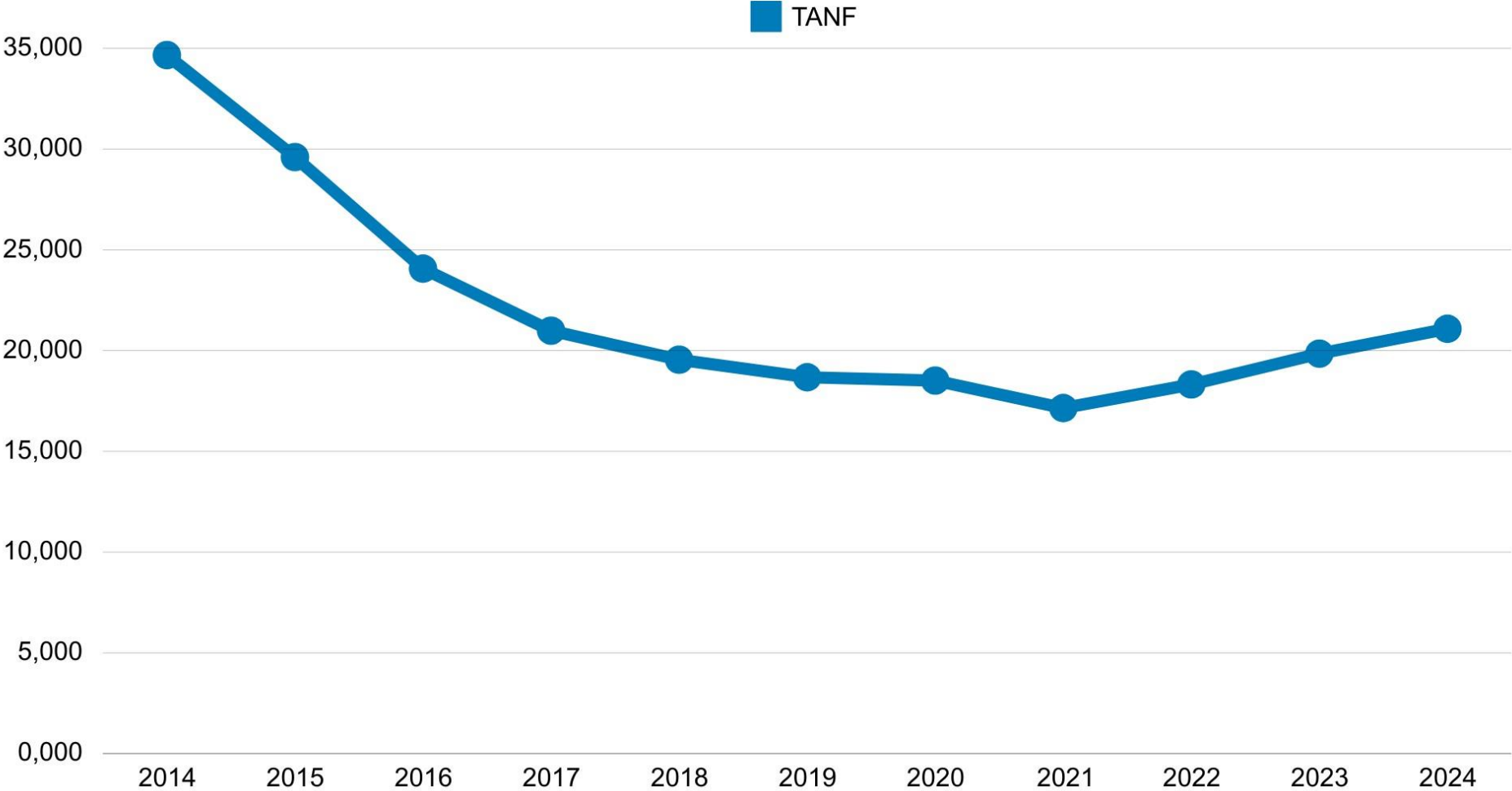
The 2025-27 GRB includes \$424.07 million in federal TANF funds



TANF Program: Total Budget GRB 2025-27

Program	GF	OF	FF	Totals
TANF - One Parent	\$43,357,442	\$358,400	\$183,708,647	\$227,424,489
TANF - Two Parent	\$56,837,044	\$640	-	\$56,837,684
TANF - Transition	\$3,797,270	-	-	\$3,797,270
Pre-SSI/SSDI	\$382,397	\$744,010	-	\$1,126,407
JOBS Services	\$23,403,780	\$451,439	\$77,363,761	\$99,718,980
Totals	\$127,777,933	\$1,554,489	\$261,072,408	\$388,904,830

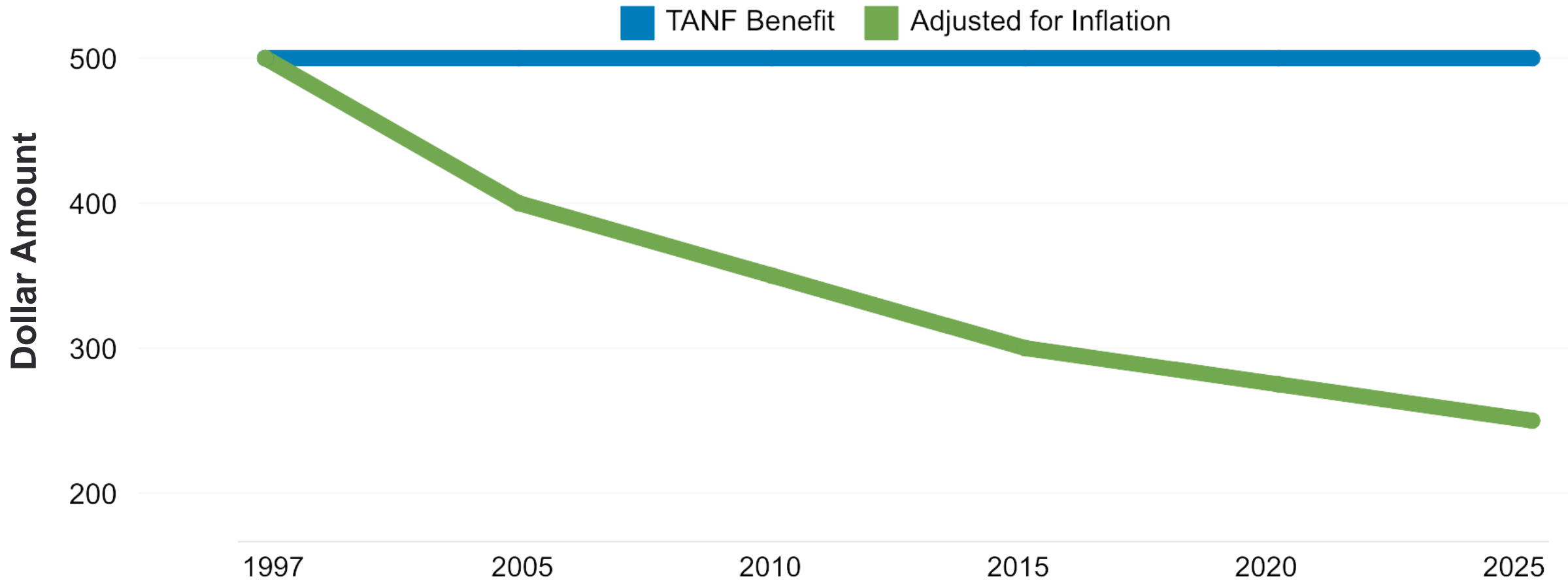
TANF Program: Caseload Over Time



TANF: Income Eligibility

Persons in the need group	TANF countable income	TANF adjusted income	TANF Payment standard	TANF exit limit increase
1	\$345	\$326	\$339	\$678
2	\$499	\$416	\$432	\$864
3	\$616	\$485	\$506	\$1,012
4	\$795	\$595	\$621	\$1,242
5	\$932	\$695	\$721	\$1,442
6	\$1,060	\$796	\$833	\$1,666
7	\$1,206	\$886	\$923	\$1,846
8	\$1,346	\$976	\$1,030	\$2,060
9	\$1,450	\$1,039	\$1,093	\$2,186
10	\$1,622	\$1,150	\$1,204	\$2,408
+1	+\$172	+\$110	+\$110	+\$220

TANF Program: Purchasing Power of \$500 Cash Grant

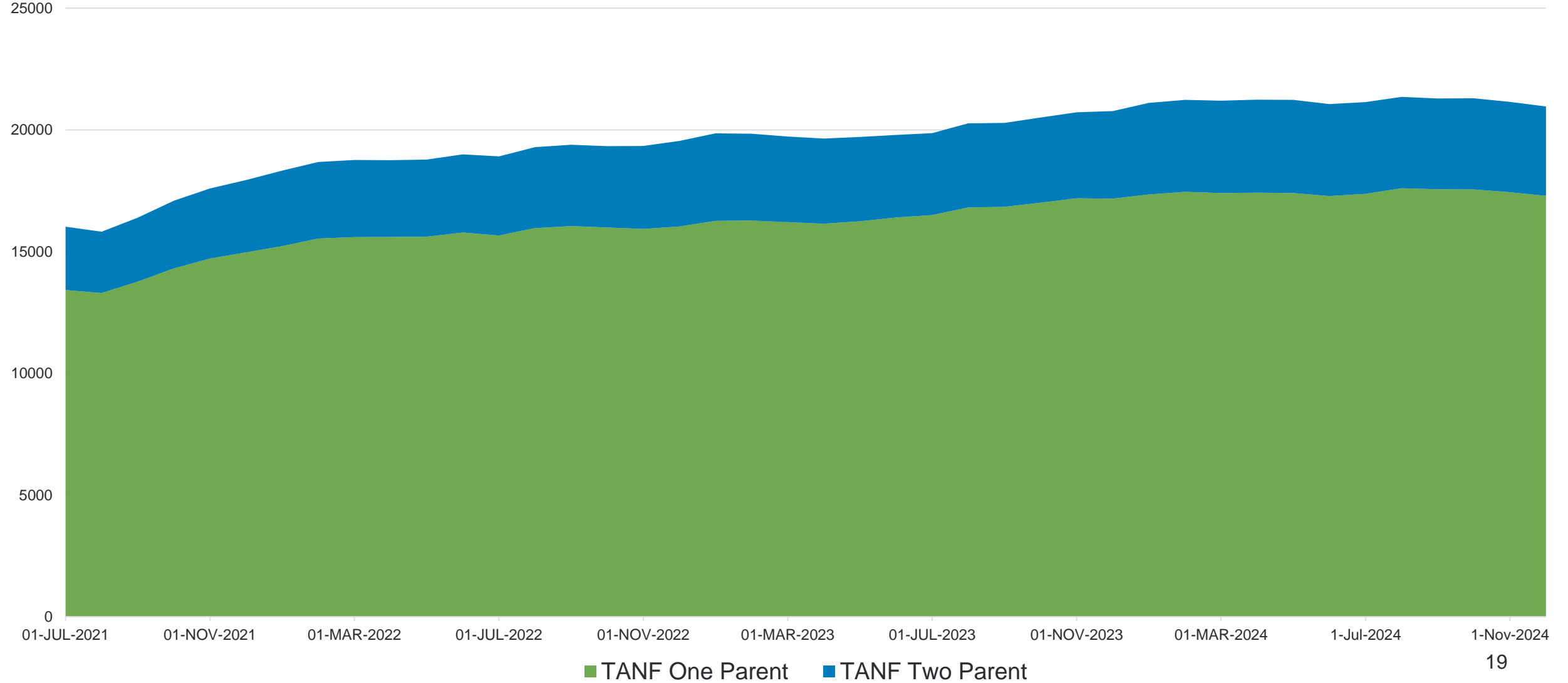


- Oregon Department of Human Services. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Cash Benefits. oregon.gov
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Consumer Price Index (CPI). bls.gov

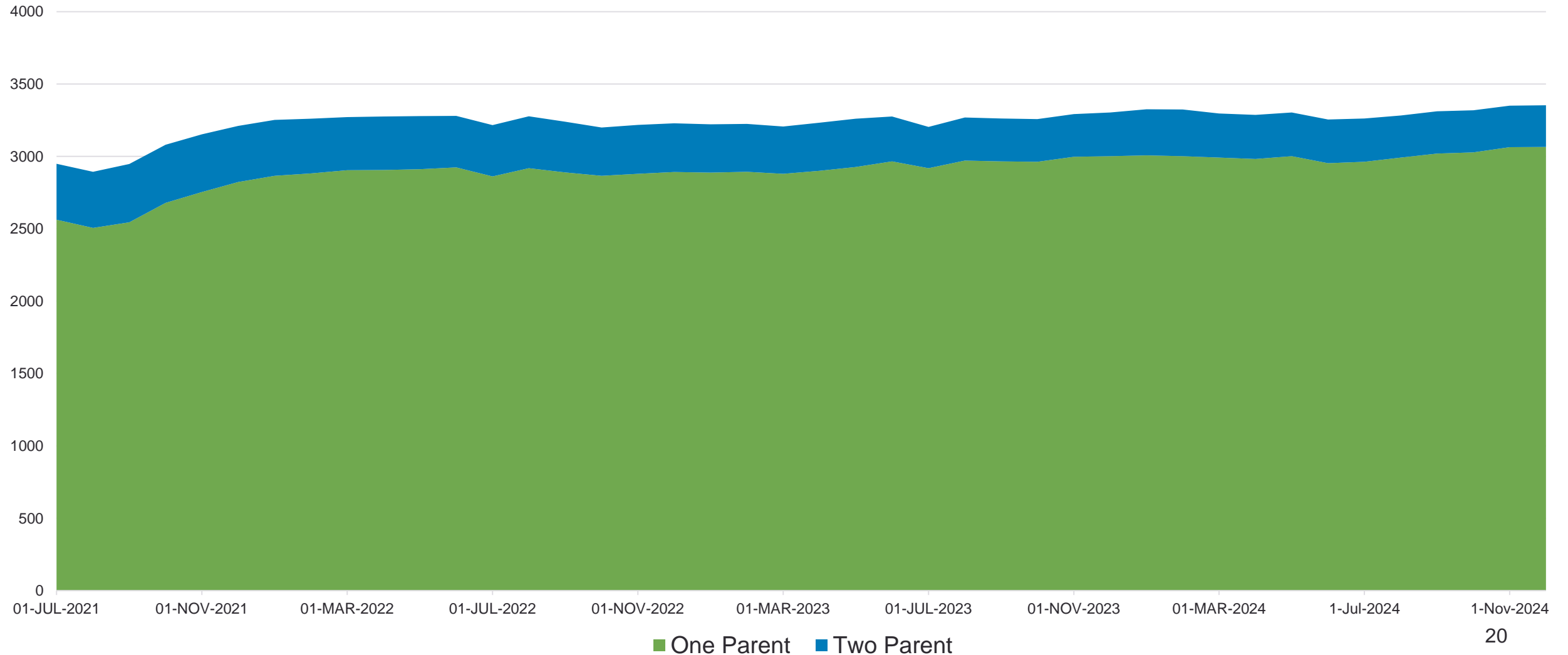
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TANF Program: Caseload Trend 2021-2024



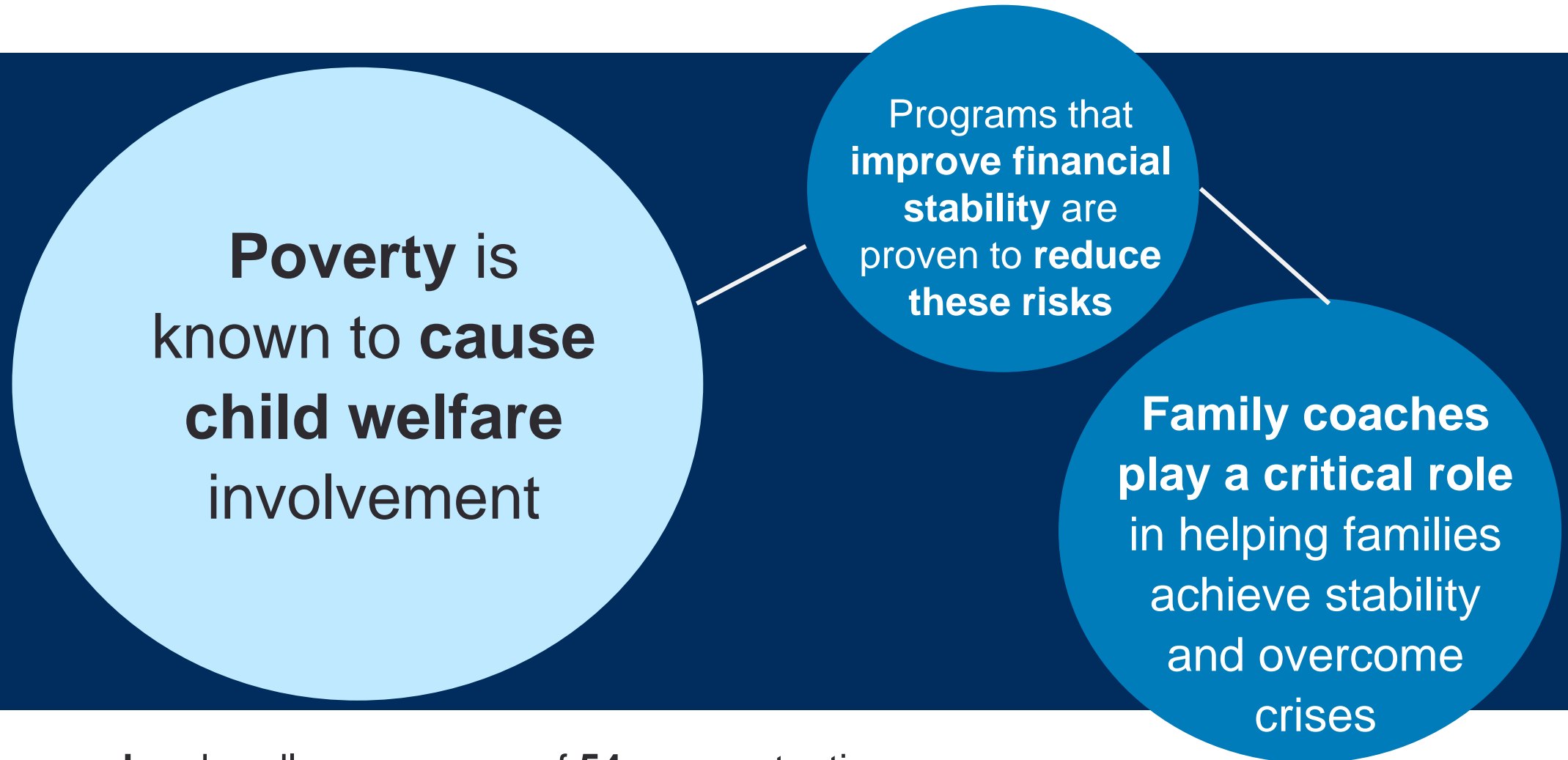
TANF Program: Cases Over 60 Months 2021-2024



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The Role of Family Coaches in TANF: Why Family Coaches Matter



458 family coaches handle an average of **54 cases** at a time.

How Family Coaches Support Families

Initial assessment:

- Set achievable goals

Plan development:

- Create a roadmap for progress

Referrals and support services:

- Connect families with service providers
- Provide support like **bus passes, car repair, job training**

Ongoing follow-up:

- Monitor progress
- Address evolving challenges

Family Coaches and TANF Block Grant Compliance

States must assign work activities to TANF recipients and track attendance

*Strict WPR goals: 50% must be "engaged in work"

"Engaged": 30 hours of work activity per week

Reality: few options for meeting weekly activity requirement

Goals of JOBS program evolved from WPR to family wellbeing

*Falling short can cost states up to **20% of their total TANF grant**, putting crucial funding at risk.

TANF WPR: Federal Targets are High

So high that
no **state** has
ever met
them

Oregon's **JOBS**
program fulfills the
obligation but
shifted focus to
family well-being

POP 107: Job
Participation
Incentive (JPI)
program plays a
crucial role in
protecting TANF
funding

2025-27 Governor's Recommended Budget Policy Option Package (POP) 107

Job Participation Incentive Increase

PROBLEM

- The Federal Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 requires that families receiving less than \$35 in monthly assistance cannot be included in states' Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Work Participation Rate (WPR).
- Oregon's current JPI payment of \$10 jeopardizes compliance, risking a failure to meet the federally mandated WPR.

SOLUTION

- Increase JPI payments to \$35 per month to align with federal requirements, ensuring these families remain counted in the WPR.

RESOURCES

- **GF:** \$5,183,325
- **OF:** \$0
- **FF:** \$0
- **Pos.:** N/A
- **FTE:** N/A

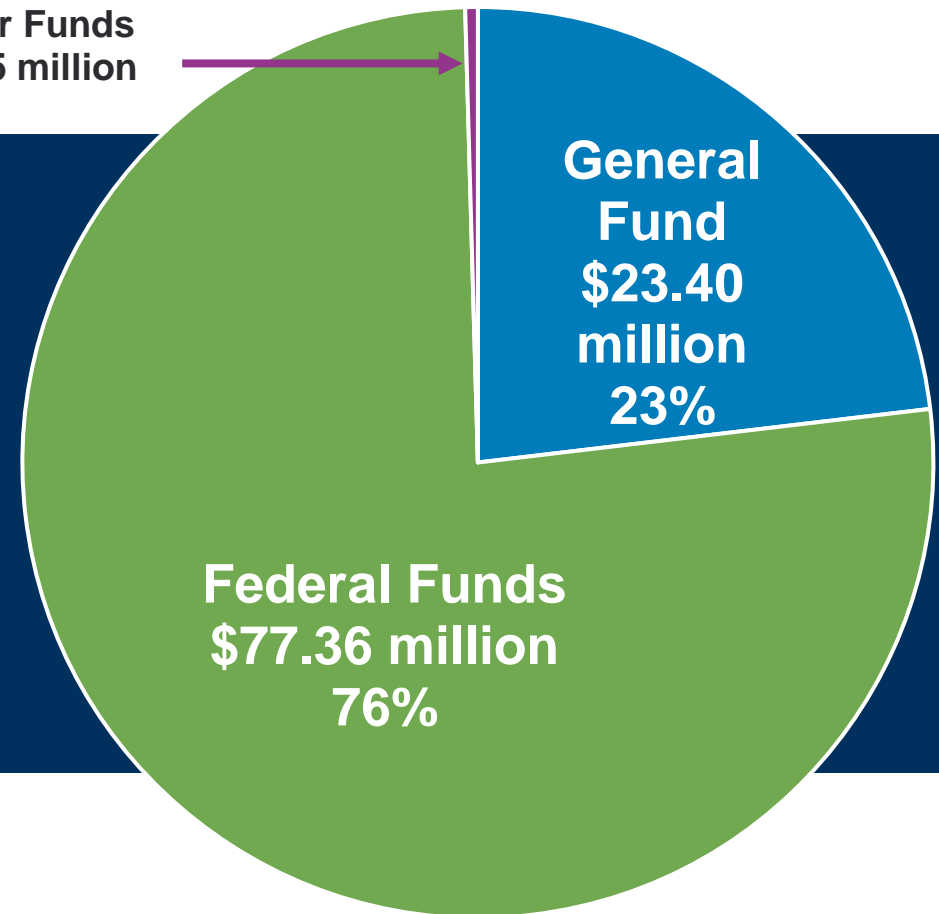


ODHS priority: Customer Service

Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS): 2025-27 GRB

Connecting people on
TANF to jobs, training, and
family support for lasting
stability and well-being

Other Funds
\$0.45 million
1%



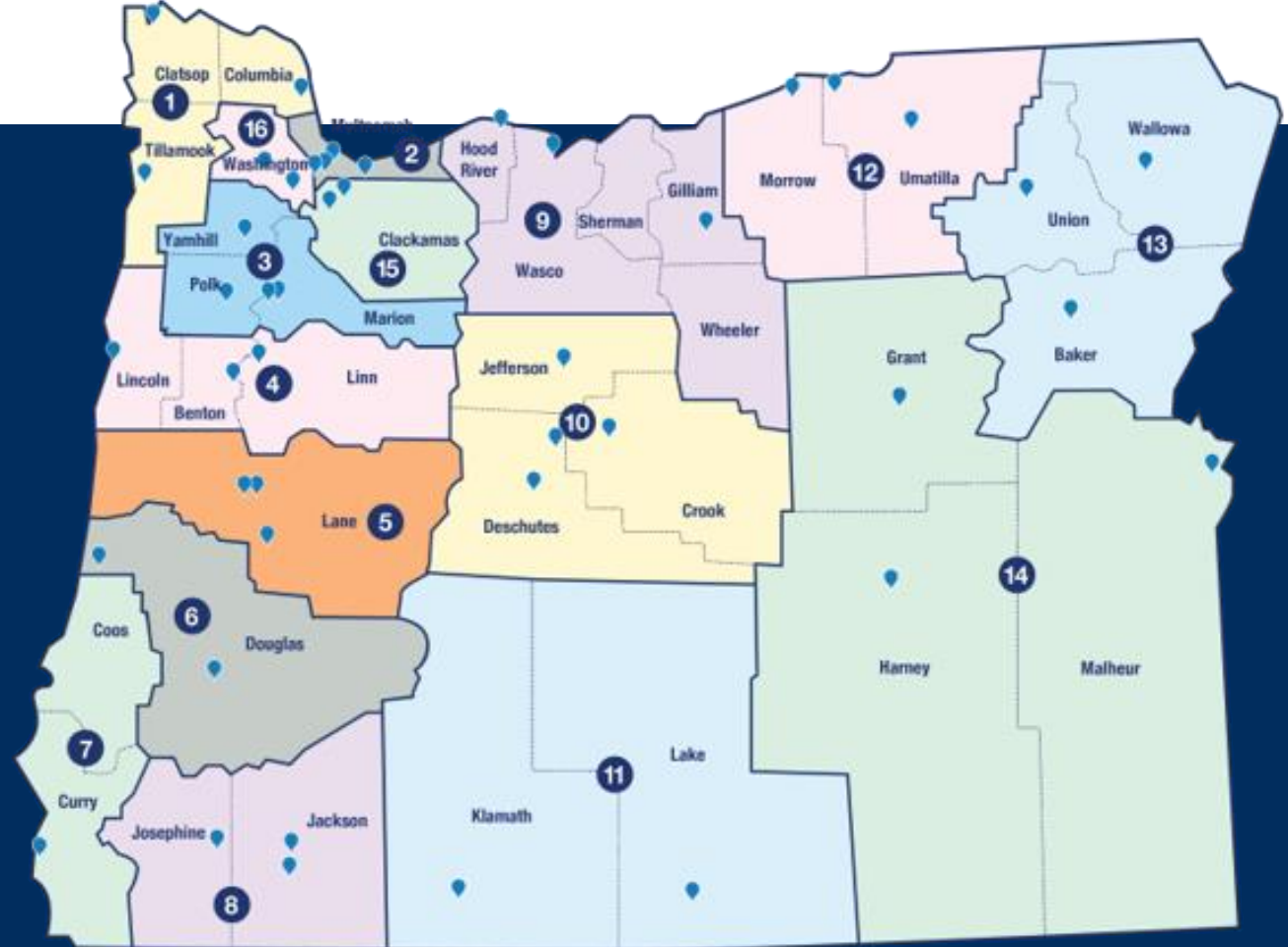
JOBs: District-Level Decisions

Key

- Districts for Child Welfare and Self-Sufficiency Program (SSP) Offices
- SSP Offices

Districts balance local needs and manage budget for contracted JOBS services, as well as supports

Each district determines which JOBS activities to make available and manages contracts



JOBs: Funding Allocation Process

Contracts



Allocated by district caseloads, spending patterns







Provider effectiveness to maximize participant support

Support Service Payments



Funding is solely based on caseload size per district for those who are JOBs eligible

JOB Contracts: Expenditures (Last Two Years)

JOB Activity Type	Expenditures (in millions)
Life Skills	\$7.17
 * Job Search and Job Preparation	\$8.69
 Supported Work	\$2.45
Stabilized Living	\$3.57
Mental Health Services	\$1.57
Child Related Services	\$1.81
 Vocational Educational Training	\$1.69
 Work Experience	\$1.40
High School and GED Activities	\$1.53
 JOBS Plus	\$0.44
Medical Related Services	\$0.73
English as a Second Language	\$0.72
Self Initiated Education	\$0.69
Adult Basic Education	\$0.19
Substance Abuse Disorder	\$0.16
 Job Skills Training	\$0.12
On-the-Job Training	\$0.04
Rehabilitative Services	\$0.07

: Activity counts toward work requirements

* Job Search limited to 6 weeks; Vocational Training limited to 12 months





JOBS: Support Service Payments: 23-25 Biennium

As of Feb 12, 2025, \$22.9M in support payments were issued—with 61% for housing/utilities and 25% for auto expenses/gas

Expense Type	Amount
Housing/Utilities	\$14,107,697
Auto Expenses	\$3,294,266
Gasoline	\$2,504,416
Professional Fees	\$360,184
Tools & Equipment	\$346,972
Vocational Training/Tuition	\$327,214
Books/Supplies	\$284,769
Grooming Needs	\$120,754
Childcare	\$115,947
Public Transportation	\$58,882
Eyeglasses	\$36,830
Other	\$1,299,259

JOB Participation: 2024

Nine JOBS activities
count toward all 30 hours
of required weekly work

JOB Activity	Total # people	Percentage
Child Related Services	3948	20.3%
 * Job Search	3704	19.1%
Stabilize Living	2381	12.3%
Medical-Related Services	1642	8.5%
 Working	1473	7.6%
Life Skills	1237	6.4%
Mental Health	572	2.9%
SSI Application Process	518	2.7%
 Supported Work	497	2.6%
Family Support and Connections	474	2.4%
Crisis Intervention	452	2.3%
Domestic Violence Services	417	2.1%
Family Stabilization	401	2.1%
 Self-Initiated Training	361	1.9%






Data from state fiscal year 2024

*Job search limited to five weeks per year

: Activity counts toward all required hours

JOBs Participation: 2024, Continued

Total number of people
engaged in JOBs
activities: **19,411**

JOBs Activity	Total # people	Percentage
High School Diploma or GED (equivalent)	346	1.8%
Drug/Alcohol Services	275	1.4%
 Vocational Training	263	1.4%
 Work Experience	100	0.5%
Job Skills Training	85	0.4%
English as a Second Language	76	0.4%
Adult Basic Education	60	0.3%
Rehabilitative Services	43	0.2%
 JOBs Plus	38	0.2%
 Community Service	20	0.1%
 On-the-Job Training	9	0.0%
Micro Enterprise	2	0.0%

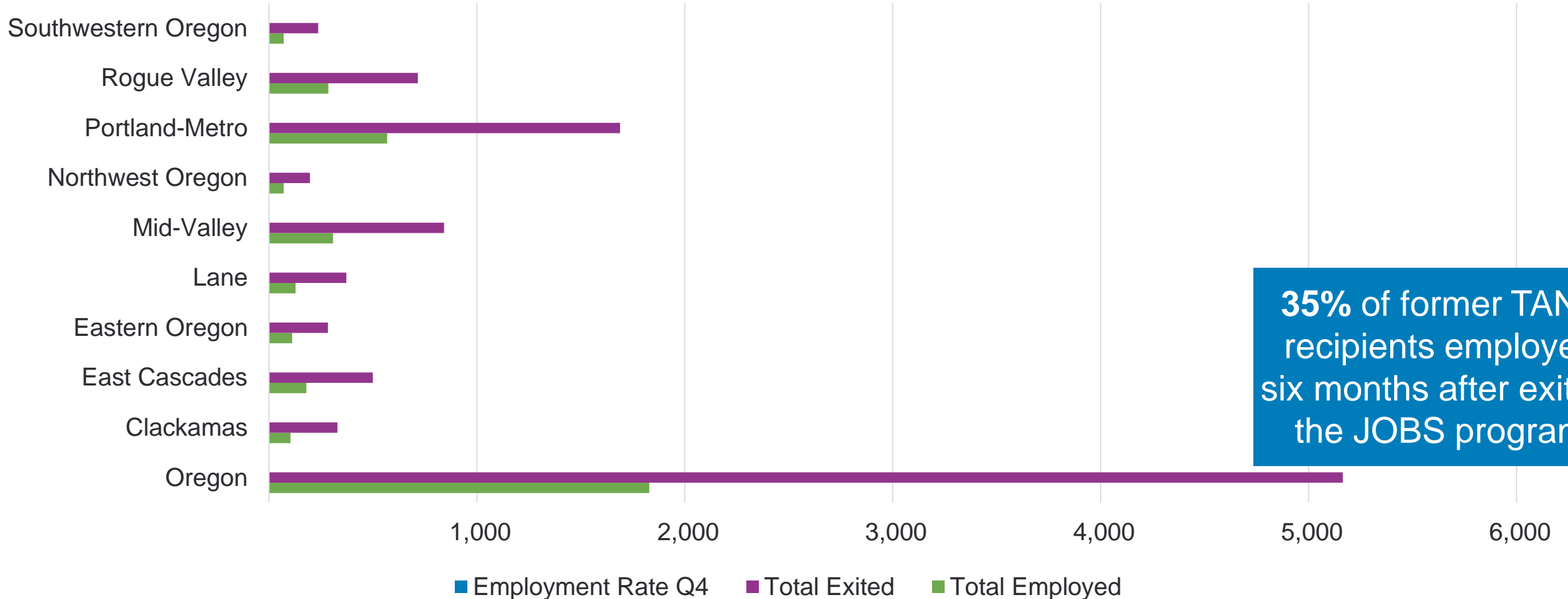
Data from state fiscal year 2024

* Vocational Training limited to 12 months

: Activity counts toward work requirements

TANF Employment Rate Measure (Q2 2020)

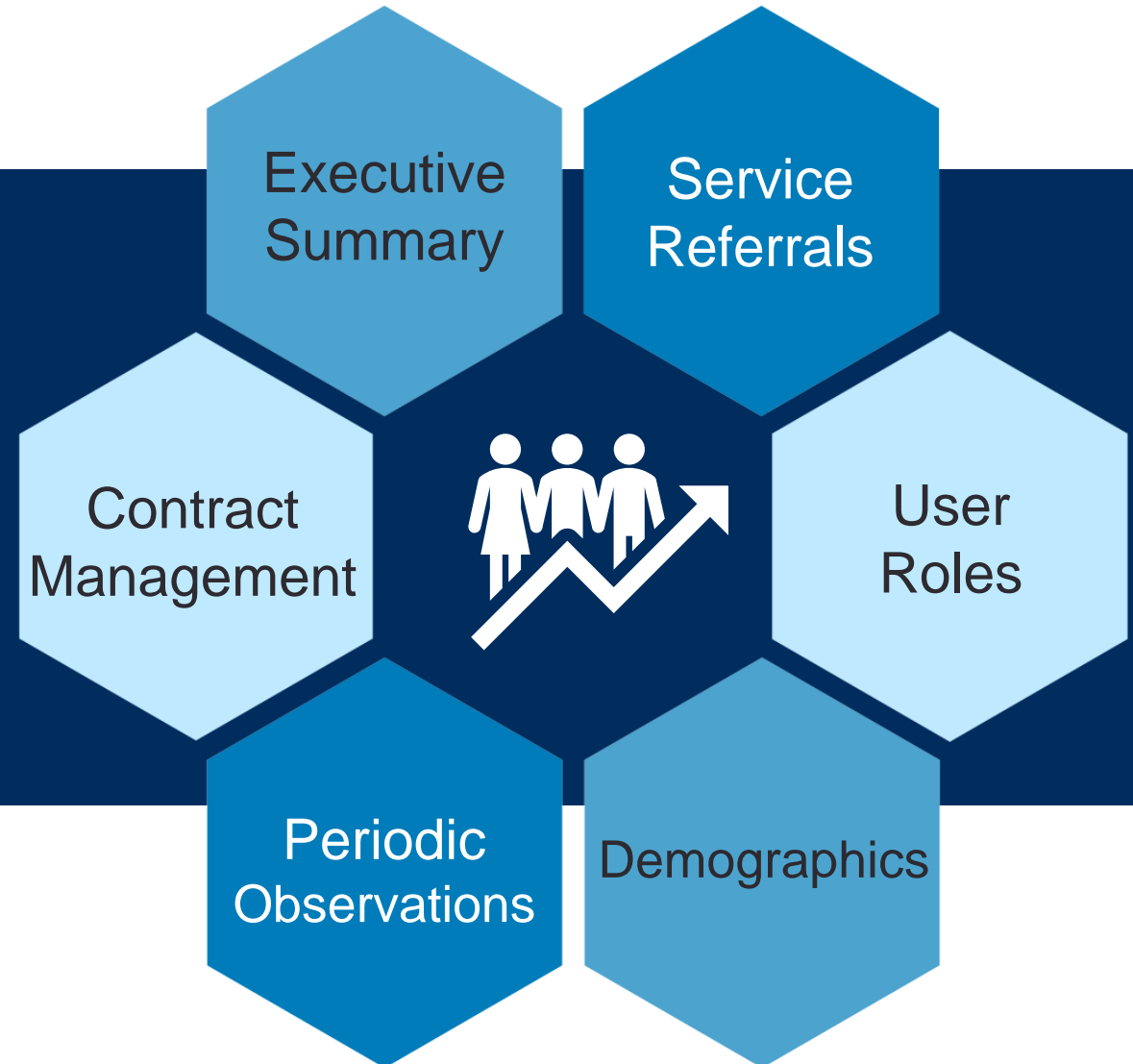
TANF Employment Rate Measure Q2 2020



35% of former TANF recipients employed six months after exiting the JOBS program

JOB Outcome Indicator Project

Data
dashboard in
development



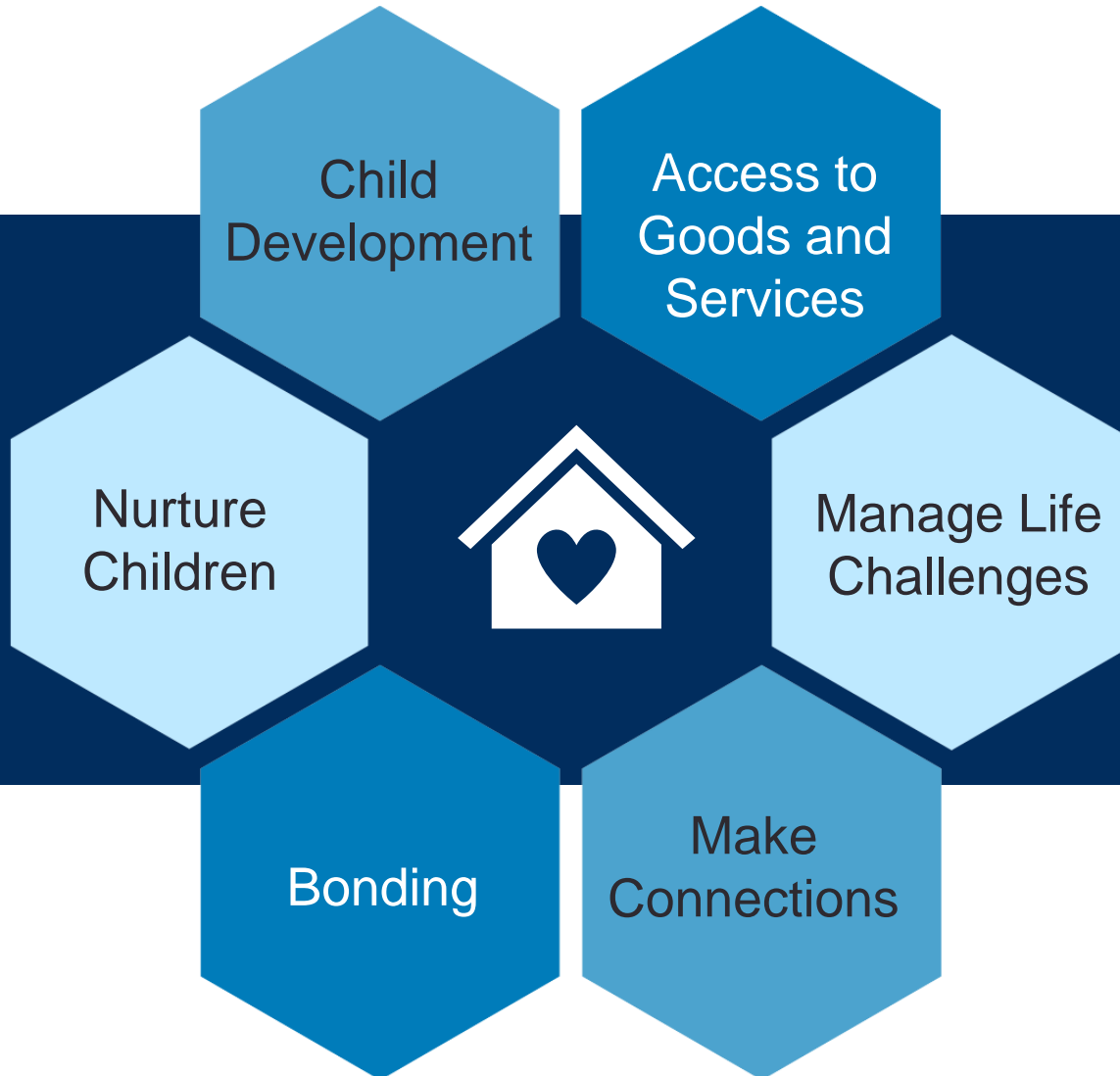
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TANF Investment Update: 2021-23

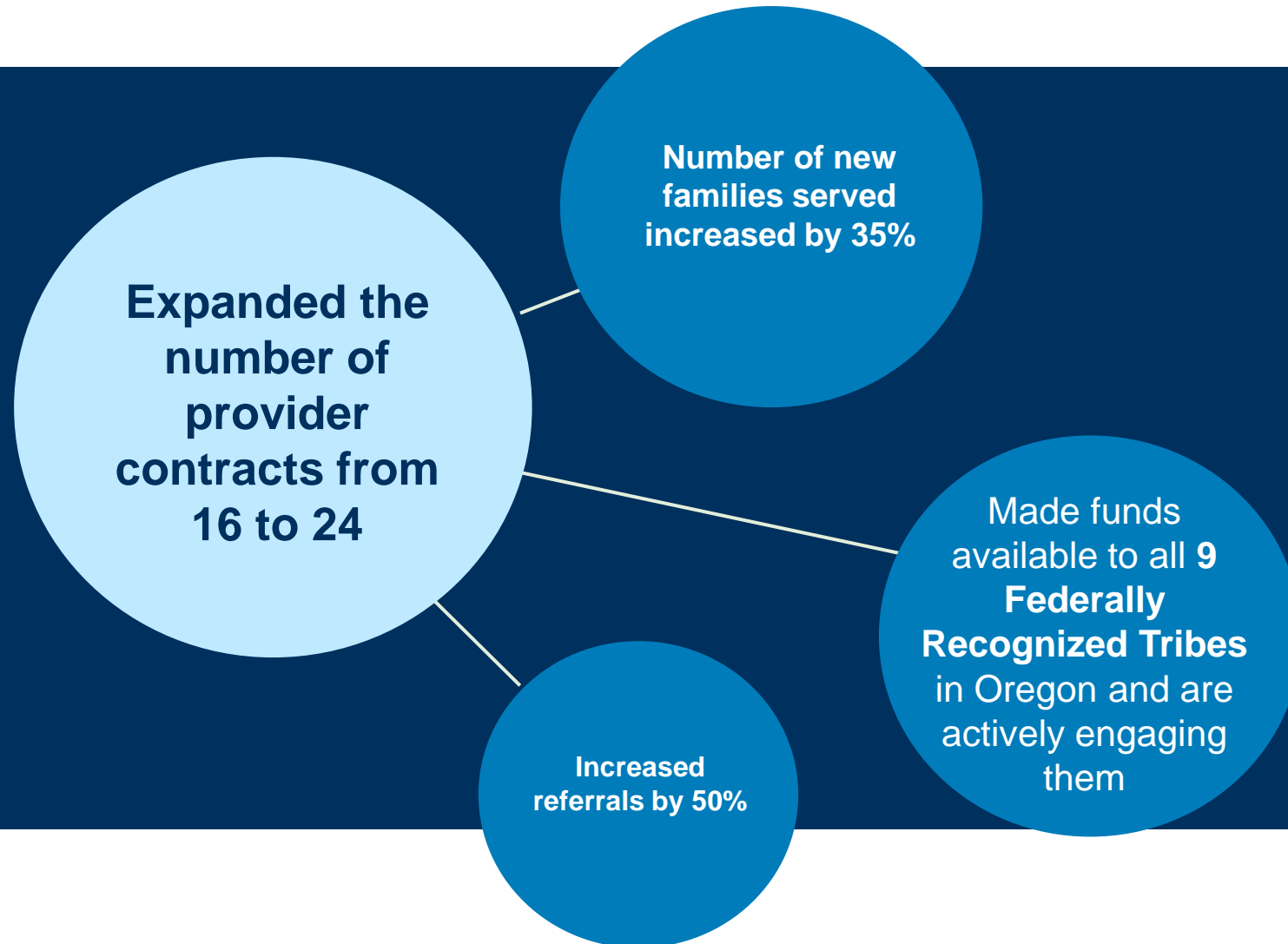
Legislative session	Investment	How funding is used	What it buys
2022	Created Clothing allowance	\$270 payment three times per year	Largest increase to cash assistance since 1996.
2022	Restricted sanctions	75% of a family's TANF grant is protected from sanctions.	Continued cash assistance for families
2022	Increased resource limit	Allows families to maintain resources and receive TANF	Families with resources up to \$10,000 can apply for TANF
2022	Expanded Family Supports and Connections program	Services to reduce stress and strengthen family protective factors	Expanded services to families up to 300% federal poverty level

Family Supports and Connections



Services are designed to **reduce stress and strengthen family support systems** to help them stay stable and resilient

Family Supports and Connections: Expansion



TANF Investment Update: 2023-25

Legislative session	Investment	How funding is used	What it buys
2024	Increase TA-DVS payment	Increased from \$1,200 to \$3,200	More substantive grant for survivors of domestic violence

TA-DVS: Enhanced support for domestic violence survivors

8,794
families
served in SFY 2024

72%
of funds
used for housing
related needs



TA-DVS: Enhanced support for domestic violence survivors

49%
more survivors
approved for the
program are
accessing payments

Survivors used on
average
2x
more of the grant

75%
Of workers report that
it's easier for survivors to
find safe housing



TA-DVS:

Enhanced support for domestic violence survivors

Anne used the \$3,200 for an application fee, security deposit, and first month's rent on a new apartment, which **allowed her family to escape homelessness** after fleeing their abuser.

Liza used the grant to pay her family's rent of \$1,800 when their landlord tried to evict them. **She described it as "life saving."**

Kate used the grant to **purchase mattresses for herself and her child**. They had been **couch-surfing for a month** after fleeing their situation.

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Fiscal Oversight: Data from Office of Payment Accuracy and Recovery

CASELOAD

TANF referrals for potential overpayments increased significantly over recent biennia

The number is now **leveling off**—7,200 referrals so far in 2023-2025

INTEGRITY

More **overpayments recovered**

\$7.9 million in 2023-2025

PREVENTION

47 substantiated TANF fraud cases in 2023-2025

Cost avoidance \$564,000

WHAT IT MEANS

Most cost recovery is due to unreported or misreported earnings

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Key Challenge: Eroding TANF Block Grant

TANF block grant has lost more than 50% of its value since 1996



Key Challenge: TANF Carryover Funds Depleting

TANF carryover funds,
paid for things like
clothing allowance



Key Challenge: Family Coach Staff Shortage

Family Coaches funded
to support 69% of
current workload



Key Challenge: Caseload Fluctuations

Caseload increases drive up program costs, requiring additional federal and state funding to meet the demand for benefits and services



Thank you.

