
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2026

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2025



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Core Purposes — TANF

Purpose and History

The Core Purposes — TANF appropriation is used to address the [four purposes](#) for which [Temporary Assistance for Needy Families \(TANF\)](#) block grant moneys can be used. The four purposes are the following:

- Providing assistance to needy families so that children can 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.
- Encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

This appropriation is used to modernize programs that receive TANF funding to promote economic mobility and self-sufficiency, ensure that families are able to overcome benefit cliffs, encourage healthy families, and streamline service delivery to reduce duplication of services.

Prior to FY 2026, this appropriation was called Community Access and Eligibility — TANF in the Health and Human Services Appropriations Act.

Funding — Other Sources of Revenue

The Core Purposes — TANF appropriation receives annual funding from the TANF block grant through the Health and Human Services Appropriations Act.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families is a federal block grant program that provides moneys to states for the purpose of supporting families in need. The grant is distributed by the federal Administration of Children and Families and was established in 1996 by the [Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act \(PRWORA\)](#). In the State of Iowa, programs funded by the TANF block grant are administered by the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families has received \$16.500 billion in federal funds per year since its adoption. Iowa receives a TANF payment of approximately \$131.0 million annually to fund the various TANF programs in the State.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapters [234](#), [239B](#), and [425](#)

Budget Unit Number

401TP10TANF

Doc ID 1517949

More Information

Iowa HHS: hhs.iowa.gov

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