



LEGISLATIVE
RESEARCH &
GENERAL COUNSEL

Heard in the Economic Development and Workforce
Services Interim Committee Meeting on 06/17/2026

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Sivan Nizan

Policy Analyst

June 17, 2026

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

- Created by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996
- Replaced Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)
- Federally-funded, state-administered welfare program
- Block grant - \$16.6 billion annually



Four purposes:

1. Provide assistance to needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives
2. End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage
3. Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies
4. Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families



Fund Distribution

- Federal government directly to states
- No change in grant amount
- Maintenance of Effort (MOE) – state contribution
 - Double-count Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)
 - Certain third-party expenditures
- Utah: ~\$75.4 million
 - MOE: ~\$24.9million



TANF in Utah

- Department of Workforce Services (DWS)
- Economic and Community Development Appropriations Subcommittee
- “Base grant” expenditures
 - 20% to Child Care and Development Fund for childcare subsidies
 - 10% to Social Services Block Grant
 - Ongoing programs
- “TANF reserve”
 - \$37.7 million reserve
 - One-time programs
 - Legislatively directed
 - DWS discretion



Budgeted FY 2026 TANF Base Grant Expenditures	
<i>Basic Assistance</i>	\$15,207,060
<i>Work Activities</i>	\$14,344,340
<i>Family Housing</i>	\$10,505,060
<i>Administration</i>	\$6,628,030
<i>Early Care and Education – FEP Child Care</i>	\$3,098,900
<i>Homelessness Services</i>	\$2,901,270
<i>Supportive Services</i>	\$2,572,570
<i>Teen Afterschool Programs</i>	\$2,181,270
<i>Assessment/Service Provision</i>	\$1,607,440
<i>Systems</i>	\$1,535,070
<i>Diversion Payments</i>	\$391,660
<i>Fatherhood and Two-Parent Family Formation and Maintenance</i>	\$351,870
TOTAL TANF BASE GRANT EXPENDITURES	\$61,324,540

Source: [LFA 2026](#)



TANF Reserve Commitments (FY 2026 – FY 2028)			
Legislatively Directed		Agency Determined	
<i>Marriage Commission</i>	\$600,000	<i>Youth Development</i>	\$6,587,888
<i>Early Childhood Home Visitation</i>	\$3,500,000	<i>Financial Capability</i>	\$6,611,171
<i>Opioid Abuse Prevention</i>	\$1,000,000	<i>Childcare Services</i>	\$10,000,000
<i>Breaking Poverty Cycles Through Professional Mentoring</i>	\$300,000	TOTAL TANF RESERVE COMMITMENTS (AGENCY DETERMINED)	\$23,199,059
<i>Poverty Mitigation Grant Program</i>	\$2,207,133		
<i>Social Skills Building</i>	\$100,000		
<i>High Quality Early Education Childcare</i>	\$2,000,000		
<i>Youth Homelessness Solutions and Preventions</i>	\$1,150,000		
<i>Workforce Development Initiative</i>	\$547,200		
<i>Upward Economic Mobility Program</i>	\$270,000		
<i>Statewide Sexual Assault Prevention</i>	\$600,000		
<i>High Quality School Readiness</i>	\$6,000,000		
<i>Navigation and Financial Planning for Self-Reliance</i>	\$6,000,000		
<i>Non-Congregate Family Shelter</i>	\$6,000,000		
TOTAL TANF RESERVE COMMITMENTS (LEGISLATIVELY DIRECTED)	\$30,274,333		

Source: [LFA 2026](#)



Sources

- Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst ([January 2026](#))
- Department of Workforce Services ([December 2023](#))
- United States Office of Family Assistance ([September 2024](#))



Questions?



**LEGISLATIVE
RESEARCH &
GENERAL COUNSEL**