Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, also known as TANF, assists families with children when parents or other responsible relatives struggle to make ends meet to provide for the family’s basic needs. The program is a crucial safety net for more than 96,963 children and 37,332 adults in Pennsylvania.

**There are several eligibility requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child</td>
<td>There must be a child younger than 18 in the household, or a child who is 18 and expected to graduate before turning 19.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>Unemployment of one or both parents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Absence of a parent</td>
<td>Absence of a parent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability</td>
<td>Disability of one or both parents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to meeting income requirements, a family must have no more than $1,000 in countable resources. Countable resources include:

- Bank account
- Savings account
- Second car

**Families aren’t getting rich from TANF**

The average family on TANF is a family of three receiving **$403 per month** in assistance.

The program is time-limited. With limited exceptions, families are only able to receive TANF for up to five cumulative years.
TANF HAS WORK REQUIREMENTS

Many people who receive TANF must participate in a work activity for a minimum number of hours per week. Hourly requirements vary based on:

- Whether 1 or 2 parents live in the household
- The age of child(ren) in the household

(Exceptions are made for people who can’t work due to a physical or mental disability.)

TANF IS FEDERALLY FUNDED

However, keeping federal funding requires a Maintenance of Effort (MOE) from states. States must spend a minimum specified amount of their own funds for benefits and services, or else they can lose federal grant money.

WHERE TANF FUNDING GOES

Most TANF funds are spent on child care and supporting early learning programs so parents with low incomes can work, participate in job training, or complete an educational program.