

RESTORE THE TANF GRANT

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR WELL BEING

The maximum cash grant for a family of 3 is \$534.

Adjusting the grant to \$562 would restore previous cuts and provide much needed support for vulnerable families with children

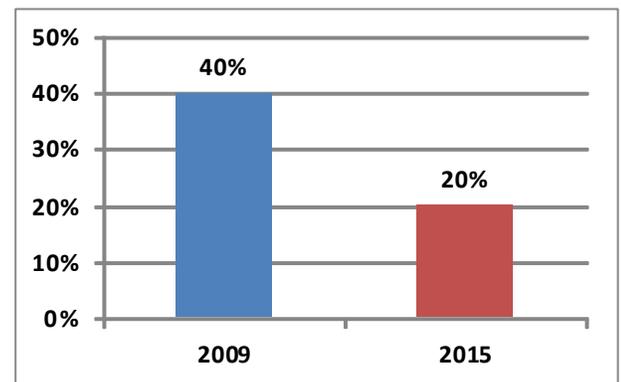
Child poverty in WA continues to grow

- 1 in 5 kids (17.5%) live in poverty
- There are now 275,000 kids living in poverty, an increase of 20,000 since 2009
- 44% of all K-12 students had to apply for free or reduced lunch last year
- Black, Hispanic or Latino, and American Indian or Alaskan Native children are about 3 times as likely to grow up in poverty as white non-Hispanic children.
- Nearly 60 percent of children on TANF identify as non-white
- More than 4,000 children on TANF have parents who are permanently disabled
- About 650 families have teens 18 or under that are the head of their household

TANF is a critical safety net for children living in poverty.

- ♦ TANF helps families meet their basic human needs, providing critically needed resources for families seeking well being
- ♦ 20,000 more kids live in poverty today than in 2009 but fewer get the help that they need
- ♦ In 2009, 40% of poor kids received TANF. **Today just 20% have access.**
- ♦ **Over 5,400 kids who receive TANF are experiencing homeless.**

Percent of children in poverty receiving TANF



To receive TANF, families must:

- ⇒ **Exhibit need.** TANF only serves WA's poorest, most vulnerable families. Households making more than 62% FPL are not eligible. Parents with more than \$1,000 in assets or a car worth more than \$5,000 are not eligible.
- ⇒ **Work.** TANF recipients must participate in activities designed to lead them to a steady job to receive a grant. Families that do not participate are sanctioned 40% and terminated after 2 months.
- ⇒ **Become self-sufficient.** WA has a hard 5-year time limit. Only 5% of recipients receive a federal exception to stay on longer. The exceptions are few — permanent disability, senior age, domestic violence, and working > 32 hours/week.

TANF helps families meet their most basic human needs

- ♦ TANF is used by families for rent, utilities, groceries, and toiletries
- ♦ SNAP can only be used for food items,

For more information, contact Michael Althausen
360.943.6260 x228, Michael.althausen@columbialegal.org



The maximum cash grant for a family of 3 is \$521.

Adjusting the grant to \$562 would restore some previous cuts and provide much needed support for vulnerable families with children

Today's grant is historically low and must be increased.

TANF is a critical lifeline for thousands of families:

Angela from Vancouver

Angela and her 3 kids saw their TANF cash grant amount lowered to \$478 when the 2011 cuts went into effect. With a rent payment of \$550, Angela and her family were left facing homelessness.

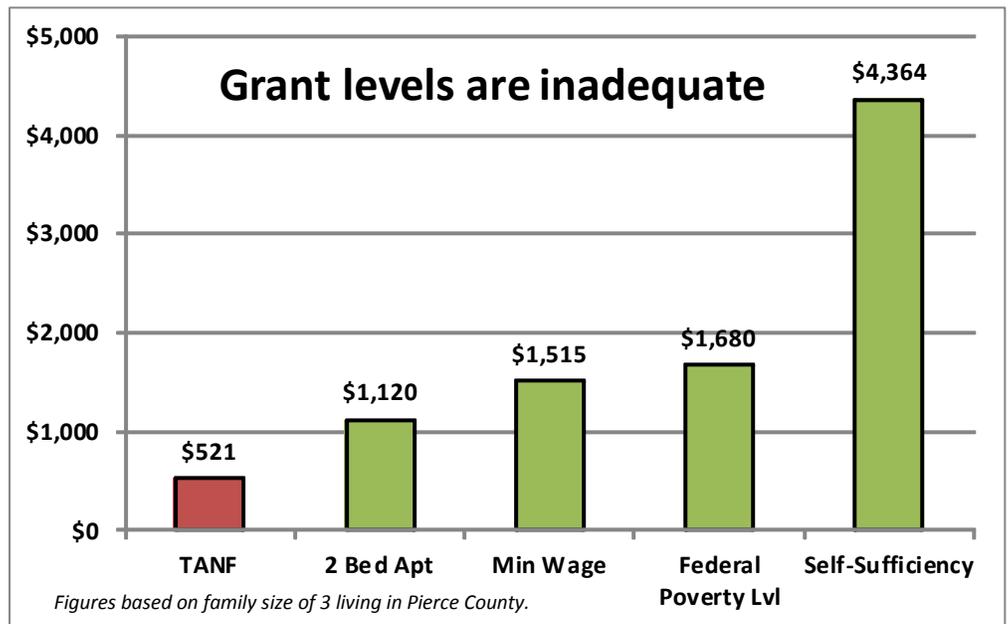
Jenny from Walla Walla

TANF helped Jenny and her husband keep their children clothed, fed, warm, clean, and able to focus in school. It helped pay for transportation and clothing so Jenny could get a job. While now working, her family still struggles to make ends meet.

Jamal from Seattle

Jamal was homeless for most of his elementary school years. By the 4th grade he was living in a truck with his father and doing poorly in school. He was behind in reading and math and displayed behavior issues in class. That year they were able to secure subsidized housing. With a place to sleep and a stable routine he was able to come to school prepared and ready to learn. Within 6 months, he was on the honor roll and received an award for being an outstanding student.

- ◆ Accounting for inflation and purchasing power, grant levels in 1996 were **\$250/month more than today**
- ◆ In 2000, TANF covered rent in most places. Fair market rent in Pierce County was \$613, about the same level as the grant. Today, rents cost \$1,126, more than double the amount of the grant maximum
- ◆ **Increasing the grant to \$562 would provide 29,000 families with a crucial cost of survival adjustment**
- ◆ The fiscal cost to accomplish this would be approximately \$15M/year



TANF provides students with educational opportunity

- ◆ Every student has a constitutional right to educational opportunity
- ◆ Constant fear of hunger or homelessness interferes with learning
- ◆ TANF provides educational opportunity by providing stability so students can focus on learning
- ◆ A child who experiences homelessness is 87% more likely to drop out of school
- ◆ Students can't take advantage of great classrooms if they are districted by outside barriers

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