

Outline of the *TANF Extension Act of 2013*

March 6, 2013

Background

The authorization for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and associated programs expires on March 27, 2013. TANF was created as part of the 1996 welfare reform law, replacing the prior open-ended entitlement program. TANF established increased work requirements for welfare recipients and added a limit to the amount of time individuals could receive Federal welfare checks. This bill extends the current \$16.5 billion Federal TANF block grant, along with associated programs, at their current funding levels for nine months through December 31, 2013.

Key Points

1. This legislation extends current law TANF and mandatory child care programs at current levels, and does not increase the deficit.
 - TANF is the block grant program created in the 1996 welfare reform law, which resulted in historic reductions in welfare dependence and poverty as work and earnings increased.
 - Current funding levels are fixed, and not adjusted for inflation.
2. Congress has passed many short-term extensions of TANF in the past.
 - Congress passed 13 short-term extensions while working on a longer-term reform and reauthorization bill finally approved in 2006.
 - The Obama Administration has not proposed a full, multi-year TANF reauthorization bill since taking office in 2009, leading to a series of short-term extensions in recent years.
3. The Obama Administration has proposed allowing States to waive welfare reform work requirements, gutting one of the most important features of welfare reform.
 - The *TANF Extension Act of 2013* is expected to be paired on the House floor with H.R. 890, legislation recently introduced by Ways and Means Chairman Camp among others that would repeal the Obama Administration's proposal to waive work requirements for welfare recipients.
 - This will set the stage for the consideration of broader TANF reauthorization legislation later this year, after the Administration's misguided "waiver" policy is rejected.