

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Reforms

Reclaiming TANF Non-Assistance Dollars to Lift Americans out of Poverty

Members of the Ways and Means Committee are working to ensure TANF non-assistance funding is intentionally focused on helping low-income families move from government dependence to economic independence through work. Subcommittee on Work and Welfare Chairman, Rep. Darin LaHood (IL-16), introduced the Jobs and Opportunity with Benefits and Services (JOBS) for Success Act of 2025 (H.R. 3156), a comprehensive reauthorization that modernizes TANF and includes the Member bills below.

Target TANF to Families in Need

• Target TANF to Families in Need Act (H.R. 2397) – Rep. Adrian Smith (NE-03) and Rep Nathaniel Moran (TX-01). Restricts TANF eligibility to those at or below 200% of the federal poverty line to ensure funds are used to help Americans most in need.

Help Low-Income Americans Find and Keep a Job

- Reduce Duplication and Improve Access to Work Act (H.R. 2579) Rep. Lloyd Smucker (PA-11) and Rep. Beth Van Duyne (TX-24). Allows states additional flexibility to transfer TANF to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to support workforce activities that get more workers off the sidelines.
- Restoring Temporary to TANF Act (H.R. 2354) Rep. Blake Moore (UT-01). Directs more TANF dollars to support work and work preparation by establishing a 25% set-aside for core work activities to more quickly connect low-income individuals to meaningful employment.
- Reduce Bureaucracy to Uplift Families Act (H.R. 2284) Rep. Rudy Yakym (IN-02). Reduces
 the administrative spending cap from 15% to 10% to free up more TANF dollars to help
 families find pathways into the workforce, rather than funding bureaucracy and program
 management.

Protect Taxpayer Dollars from Waste, Fraud, and Abuse

- Protect TANF Resources for Families Act (H.R. 2584) Rep. Claudia Tenney (NY-24) and Rep. Aaron Bean (FL-04). Prevents states from using TANF to fill state budget gaps, ensuring state and federal dollars can help more families in poverty find employment.
- Improve Transparency and Stability for Families and Children Act (H.R. 2359) Rep. Mike Carey (OH-15) and Rep. Max Miller (OH-07). Ensures states are not sitting on unused TANF funds year-to-year by establishing spending deadlines to ensure funds get to struggling families in a timely manner.
- Eliminate Fraud and Improper Payments in TANF Act (H.R. 2242) Rep. Jodey Arrington (TX-19). Requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to measure and course correct improper payments in TANF, as recommended by the Government Accountability Office.