



## TANF 0-3 Introduction

**Supersedes:** TANF 0-3 (1/1/13)

**Overview:** Congress created the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant through the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, as part of a federal effort to “end welfare as we know it.” TANF replaced Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), which had provided cash welfare to poor families with children since 1935.

The Department of Public Health and Human Services, hereafter referred to as the Department, is committed to the philosophy that public assistance is intended to provide temporary support to eligible individuals for the purpose of supporting families so they are stable, able to work, and financially secure.

### **TANF CASH ASSISTANCE:**

TANF cash assistance is a time-limited cash assistance program designed to provide families with a monthly cash grant and opportunities leading to self-support.

The major TANF cash assistance eligibility criteria include:

1. Limited to 60 months in the adult’s lifetime.
2. Income limitations according to household size.
  - a. Earned income disregards for each employed individual.
  - b. Disregards for child care expenses related to employment, training, and/or job search.
  - c. Disregards for legally-binding child support payments.
3. Resource limitation of \$3000.
4. Certain clients must participate in Employment and Training (E&T) activities.

### **PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION:**

TANF cash assistance is administered in joint cooperation by Federal and State governments. The Department’s Office of Public Assistance provides eligibility determinations based on Federal and State rule and written policy.

### **TANF NON-CASH SERVICES AND SUPPORTS:**

Montana's TANF program provides self-sufficiency opportunities for an additional population of TANF eligible clients not receiving a monthly cash grant. These services and supports are provided through local Pathways contractors. Pathways contractors determine eligibility for the programs they operate based on Federal and State rule and written policy.

**Effective Date:** January 01, 2018