

Presentation to the 2025  
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services

# Self-Sufficiency Programs

## Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

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March 10, 2025

# Agenda

- I. **A brief history of welfare reform**
- II. TANF block grant overview
- III. TANF program overview
- IV. Cost drivers
- V. Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS)
- VI. TANF investment update
- VII. Compliance
- VIII. Key issues

# Milestones in the History of Welfare Reform

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**Welfare-to-work rules established 1996**

**State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) required**

**Lifetime benefit limit five years**

**Spending restrictions**

**Eligibility restrictions**

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# Federal TANF Block Grant: Four Core Purposes

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Supporting  
needy families so  
children can  
remain in their  
own homes



Reducing  
dependency by  
promoting job  
preparation, work  
and marriage



Preventing out-  
of-wedlock  
pregnancies



Encouraging  
two-parent  
families

# TANF Block Grant: A Funding Mechanism

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2025-27 TANF Funds (in millions)	Budgeted
Regular TANF Allocations	\$331.67
Additional TANF Investments	\$92.40
Total	\$424.07

Oregon receives \$166M in TANF funds every federal fiscal year. The amount has not been changed since 1996.

# TANF Block Grant Requirement: Maintenance of Effort (MOE)

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MOE ensures that states continue funding welfare programs

MOE Requirement Based on 1994 Spending

**75% (\$91M) if  
Oregon meets  
Work  
Participation  
Rate (WPR)**

**80% (\$98M) if  
Oregon fails to  
meet WPR**

# TANF Block Grant: Oregon's MOE Obligation

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2025-27 Scenarios	MOE Obligation <i>(in millions)</i>
WPR target met both years	\$182.8
WPR Target missed both years	\$195.0
To get Contingency Funds both years	\$221.4



MOE obligation applies to expenditures **within a given federal fiscal year**. MOE exceeding targets **can help obtain TANF Contingency Funds** and **reduce WPR target** through a complicated formula.



# TANF Block Grant: Fulfilling MOE

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ODHS certified MOE worth \$165M for FFY 2024 in a successful effort to qualify for TANF contingency funds

MOE available in future years is unknown, but we anticipate levels will match or exceed FFY 2024 levels

Source of MOE	FFY 2024 (in millions)
ODHS	\$49.6
Tax Credits	\$60.0
Oregon Food Bank	\$29.2
Pre-Kindergarten	\$25.3
OCHS	\$1.0
DOJ	\$0.5
Total	\$165M

# TANF Block Grant: How It's Budgeted

Total funds:  
\$424.1 million

Program Area	Budgeted Funds (in millions)
Self Sufficiency Program	\$348.23
TANF Cash Assistance	\$183.71
JOBS Services	\$77.36
Refugee Program	\$3.79
Temp Assistance for Domestic Violence Survivors	\$27.36
Family Support & Connections	\$18.82
SUD Childcare	\$0.90
Self Sufficiency Delivery	\$33.78
Self Sufficiency Design	\$4.00
Child Welfare	\$37.79
Well-being	\$25.86
Safety	\$3.14
Child Welfare Delivery	\$8.79
Oregon Eligibility Partnership (OEP)	\$6.55
Central Services	\$10.00
SAEC	\$18.00
OHA Health Systems Division	\$2.00

# Understanding TANF: Block Grant vs Program

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The federal TANF block grant is the **funding mechanism**, while the TANF Program is the **state-level service** funded by it.

## **TANF Block Grant**

Federal funding provided  
every federal fiscal year

## **TANF Program**

How states design and  
implement assistance

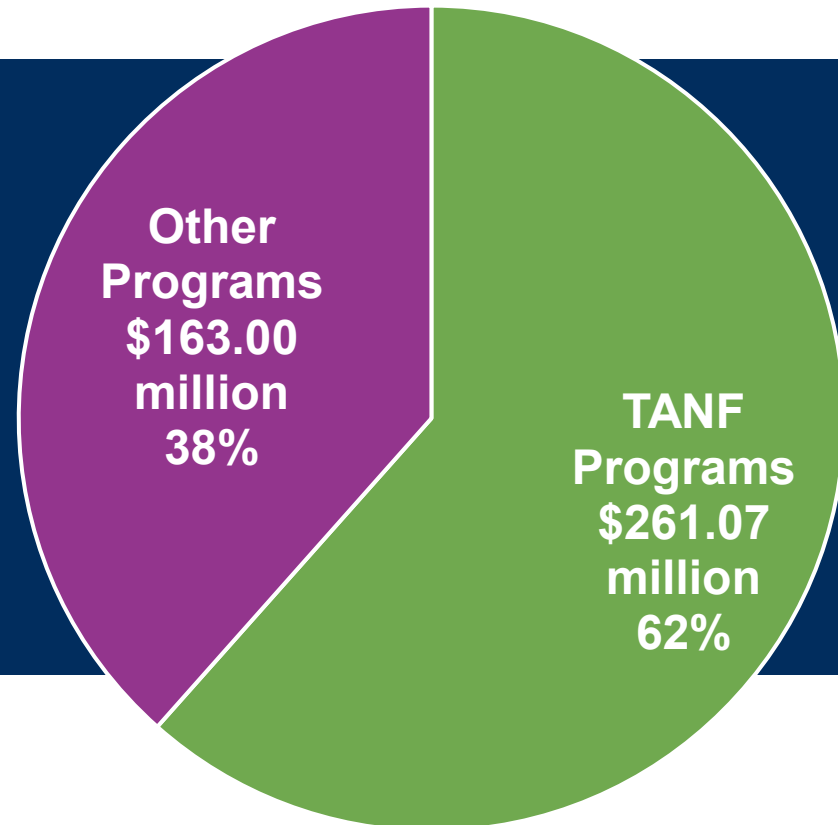
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# TANF Program: Federal Funding Overview

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The 2025-27 GRB  
includes \$424.07 million  
in federal TANF funds

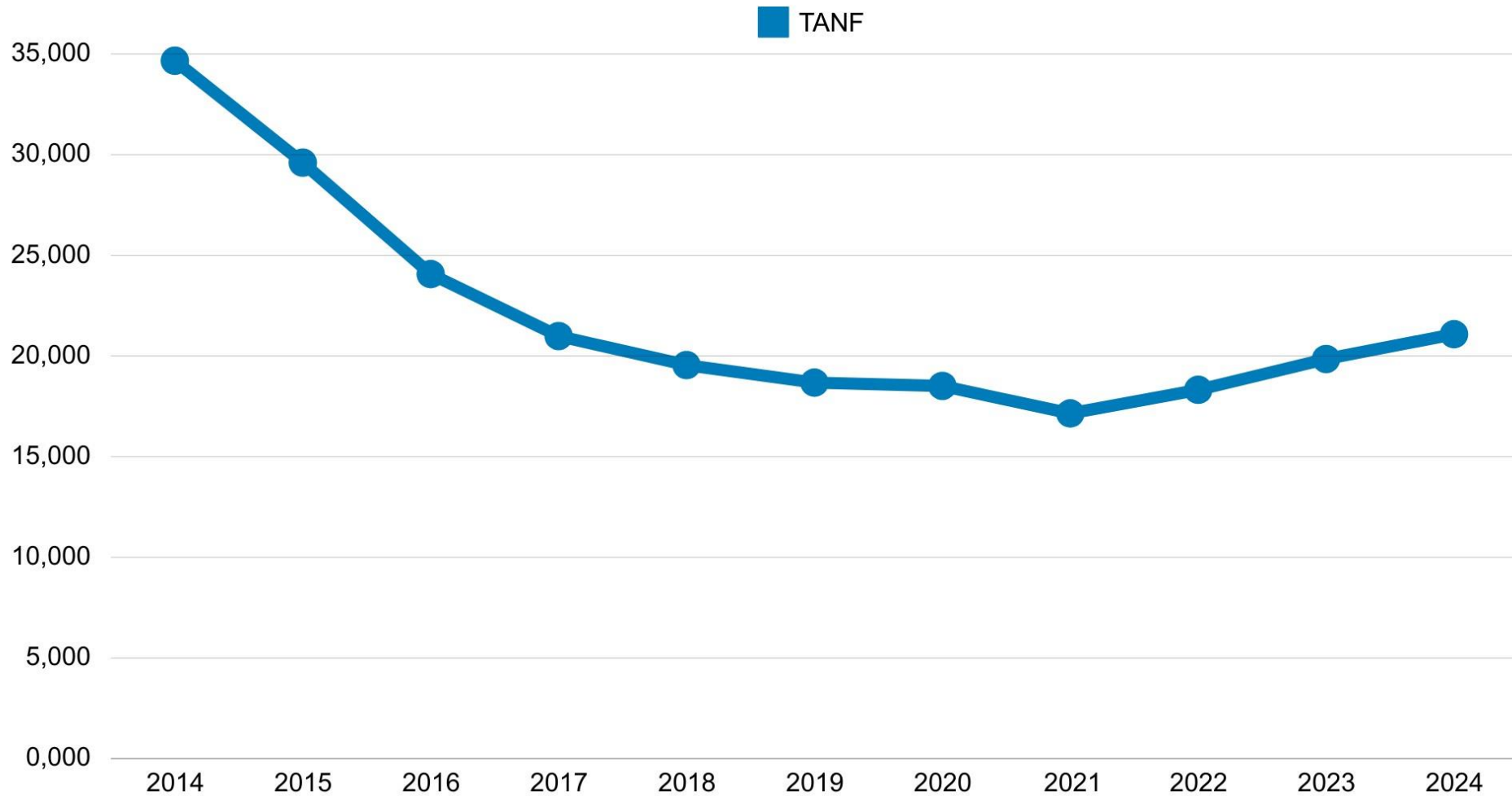


# TANF Program: Total Budget GRB 2025-27

Program	GF	OF	FF	Totals
TANF - One Parent	\$43,357,442	\$358,400	\$183,708,647	\$227,424,489
TANF - Two Parent	\$56,837,044	\$640	-	\$56,837,684
TANF - Transition	\$3,797,270	-	-	\$3,797,270
Pre-SSI/SSDI	\$382,397	\$744,010	-	\$1,126,407
JOBS Services	\$23,403,780	\$451,439	\$77,363,761	\$99,718,980
Totals	\$127,777,933	\$1,554,489	\$261,072,408	\$388,904,830

# TANF Program: Caseload Over Time

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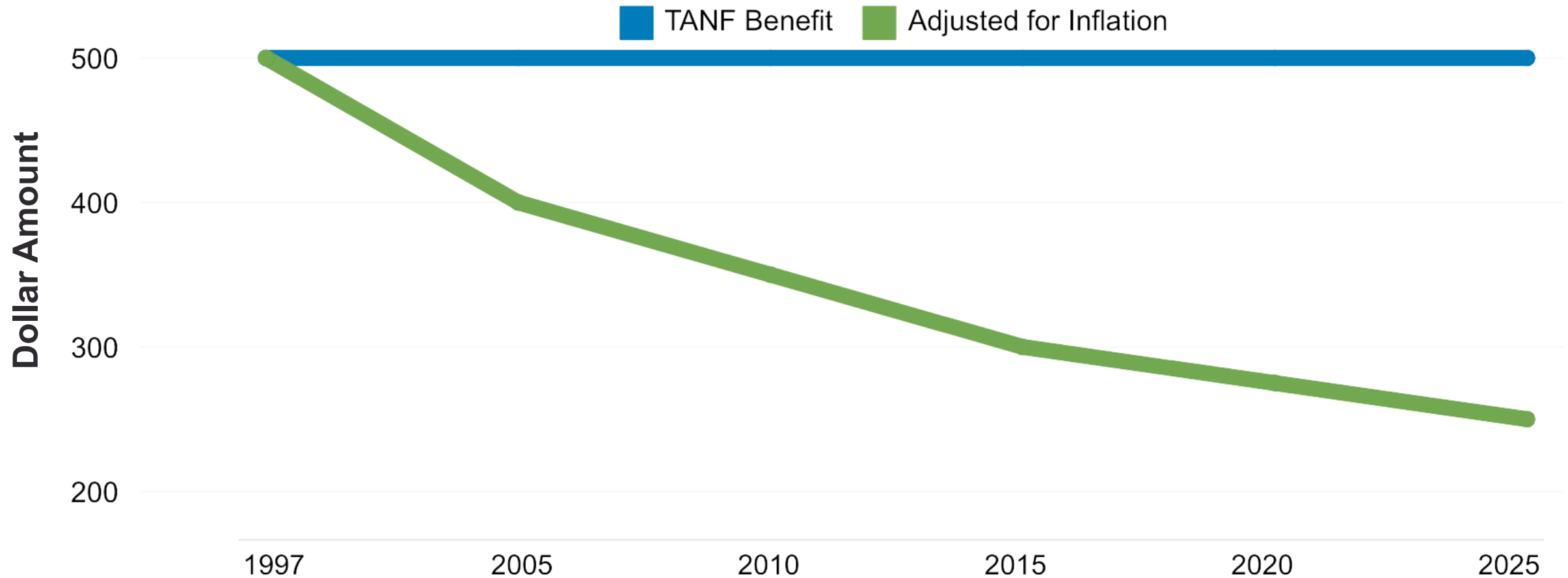


# TANF: Income Eligibility

Persons in the need group	TANF countable income	TANF adjusted income	TANF Payment standard	TANF exit limit increase
1	\$345	\$326	\$339	\$678
2	\$499	\$416	\$432	\$864
3	\$616	\$485	\$506	\$1,012
4	\$795	\$595	\$621	\$1,242
5	\$932	\$695	\$721	\$1,442
6	\$1,060	\$796	\$833	\$1,666
7	\$1,206	\$886	\$923	\$1,846
8	\$1,346	\$976	\$1,030	\$2,060
9	\$1,450	\$1,039	\$1,093	\$2,186
10	\$1,622	\$1,150	\$1,204	\$2,408
+1	+\$172	+\$110	+\$110	+\$220



# TANF Program: Purchasing Power of \$500 Cash Grant

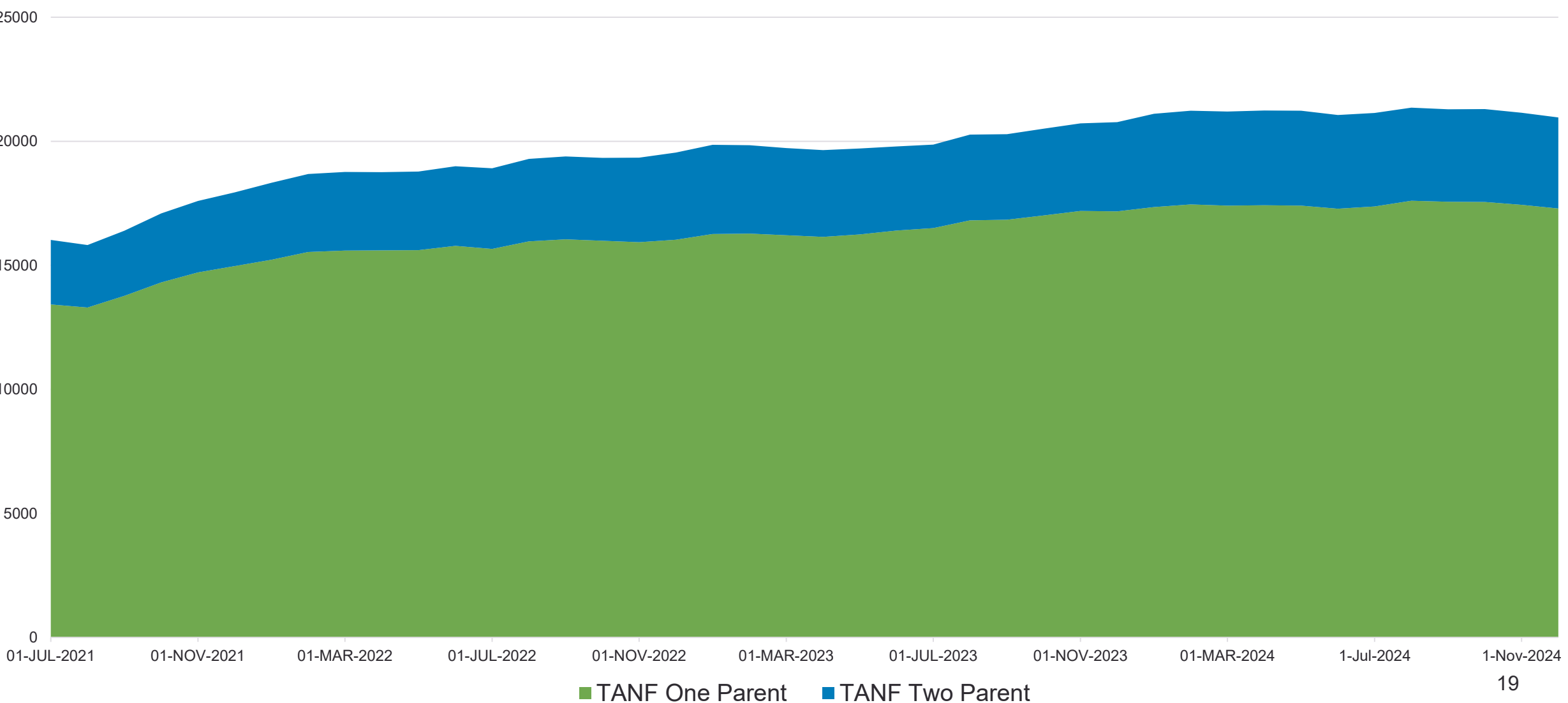


- Oregon Department of Human Services. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Cash Benefits. [oregon.gov](http://oregon.gov)
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Consumer Price Index (CPI). [bls.gov](http://bls.gov)

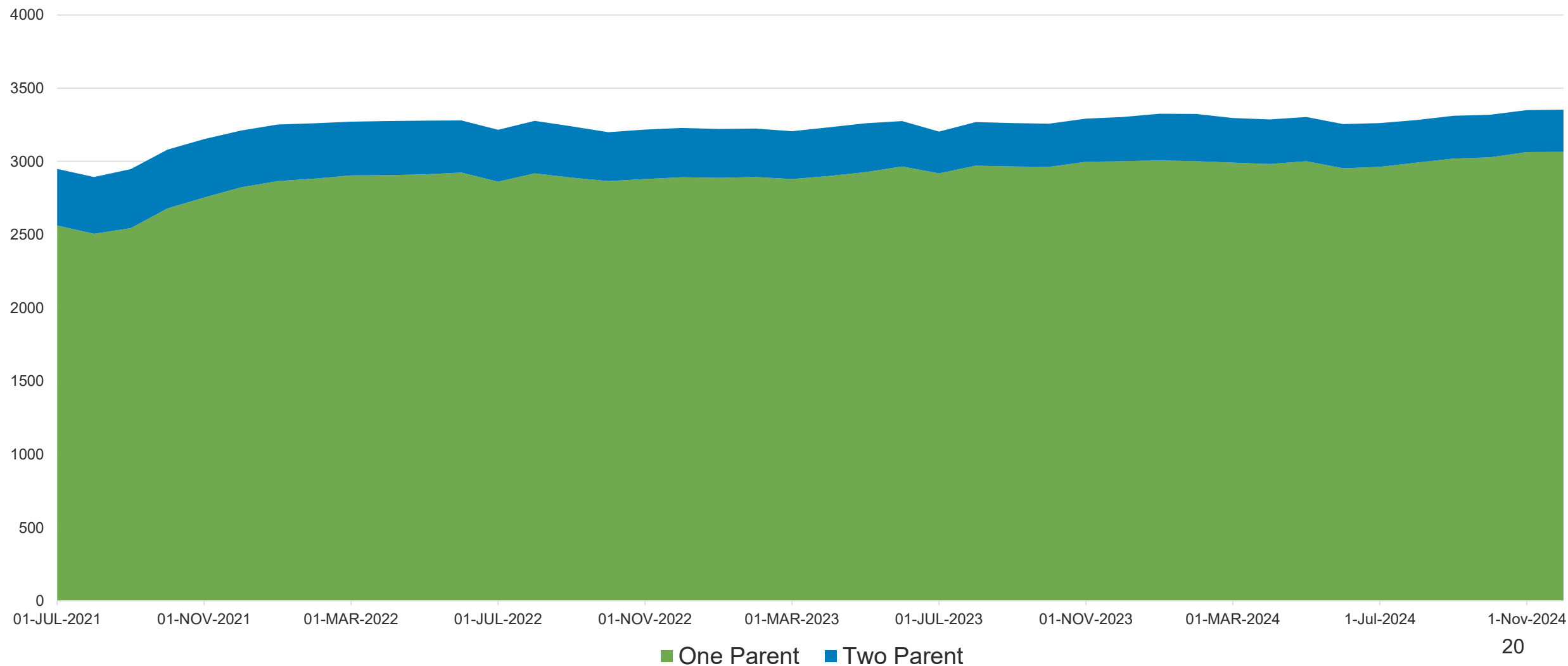
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# TANF Program: Caseload Trend 2021-2024



# TANF Program: Cases Over 60 Months 2021-2024

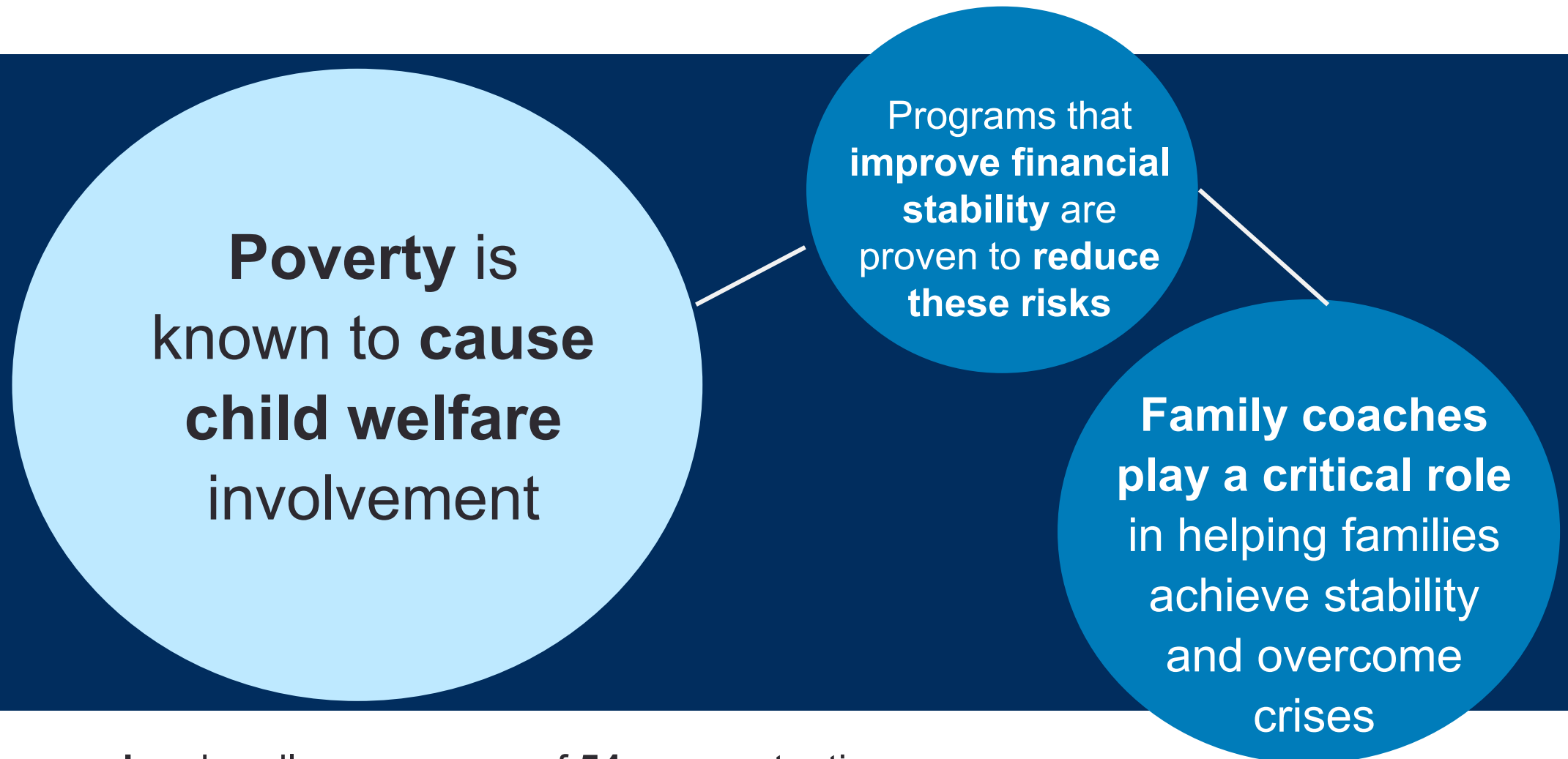


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# The Role of Family Coaches in TANF: Why Family Coaches Matter

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**458 family coaches** handle an average of **54 cases** at a time.

# How Family Coaches Support Families

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## **Initial assessment:**

- Set achievable goals

## **Plan development:**

- Create a roadmap for progress

## **Referrals and support services:**

- Connect families with service providers
- Provide support like **bus passes, car repair, job training**

## **Ongoing follow-up:**

- Monitor progress
- Address evolving challenges

# Family Coaches and TANF Block Grant Compliance

States must assign work activities to TANF recipients and track attendance

**\*Strict WPR goals: 50% must be "engaged in work"**

**"Engaged": 30 hours of work activity per week**

**Reality: few options for meeting weekly activity requirement**

**Goals of JOBS program evolved from WPR to family wellbeing**

**\*Falling short can cost states up to 20% of their total TANF grant, putting crucial funding at risk.**



# TANF WPR: Federal Targets are High

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So high that  
no **state** has  
**ever met**  
**them**

Oregon's **JOBS**  
**program** fulfills the  
**obligation** but  
shifted focus to  
family well-being

POP 107: Job  
Participation  
Incentive (JPI)  
program plays a  
crucial role in  
protecting TANF  
funding

# 2025-27 Governor's Recommended Budget Policy Option Package (POP) 107

## Job Participation Incentive Increase

### PROBLEM

- The Federal Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 requires that families receiving less than \$35 in monthly assistance cannot be included in states' Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Work Participation Rate (WPR).
- **Oregon's current JPI payment of \$10 jeopardizes compliance**, risking a failure to meet the federally mandated WPR.

### SOLUTION

- Increase JPI payments to \$35 per month to align with federal requirements, ensuring these families remain counted in the WPR.

### RESOURCES

- **GF:** \$5,183,325
- **OF:** \$0
- **FF:** \$0
- **Pos.:** N/A
- **FTE:** N/A



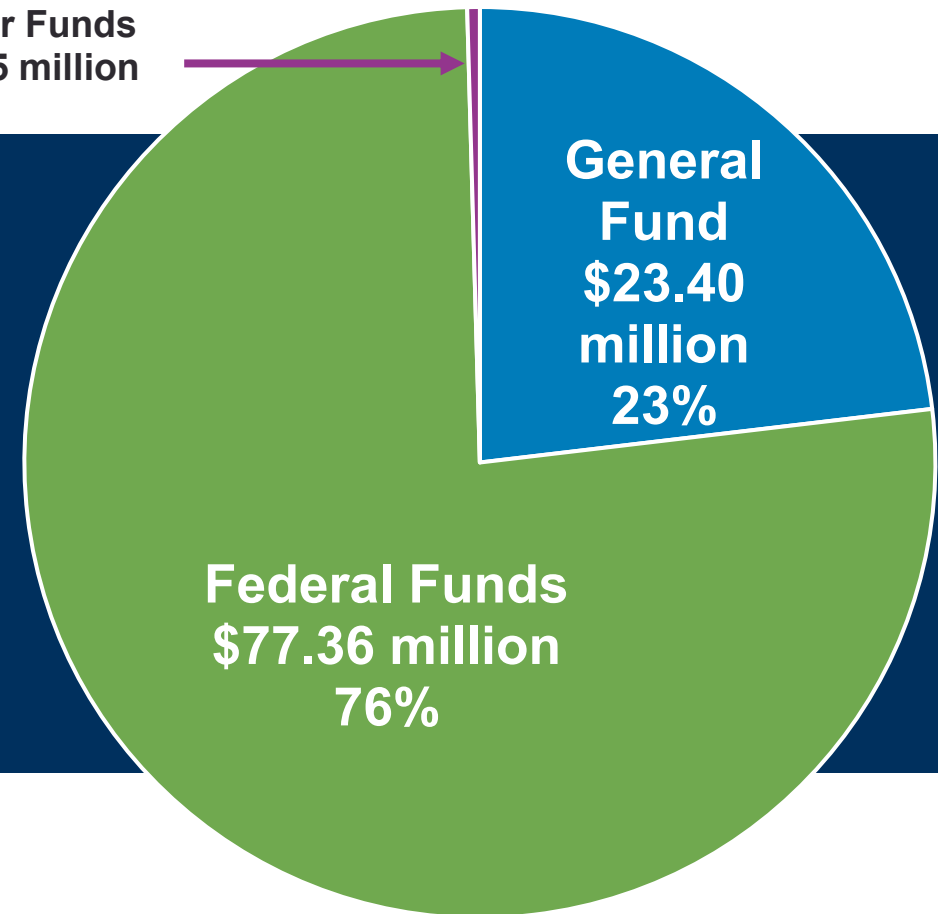
**ODHS priority: Customer Service**

# Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS): 2025-27 GRB

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Connecting people on  
TANF to jobs, training, and  
family support for lasting  
stability and well-being

Other Funds  
\$0.45 million  
1%



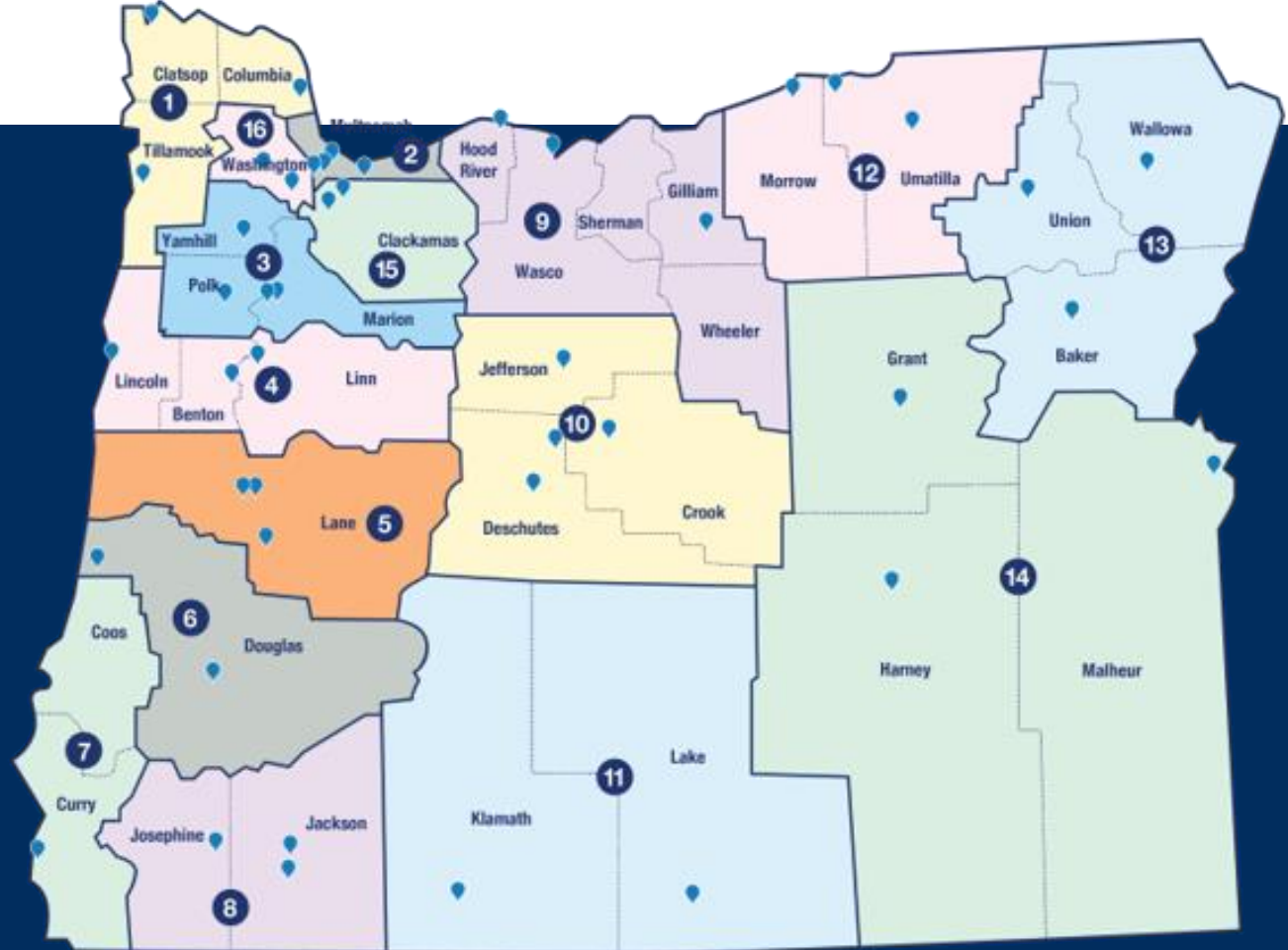
# **JOBS: District-Level Decisions**

## Key

- Districts for Child Welfare and Self-Sufficiency Program (SSP) Offices
- SSP Offices

Districts **balance local needs** and **manage budget** for contracted JOBS services, as well as supports

Each district **determines which JOBS activities** to make available and manages contracts



# JOBs: Funding Allocation Process

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## Contracts



**Allocated by district caseloads, spending patterns**







**Provider effectiveness to maximize participant support**

## Support Service Payments



**Funding is solely based on caseload size per district for those who are JOBs eligible**

# JOB Contracts: Expenditures (Last Two Years)

JOB Activity Type	Expenditures (in millions)
Life Skills	\$7.17
 * Job Search and Job Preparation	\$8.69
 Supported Work	\$2.45
Stabilized Living	\$3.57
Mental Health Services	\$1.57
Child Related Services	\$1.81
 * Vocational Educational Training	\$1.69
 Work Experience	\$1.40
High School and GED Activities	\$1.53
 JOBS Plus	\$0.44
Medical Related Services	\$0.73
English as a Second Language	\$0.72
Self Initiated Education	\$0.69
Adult Basic Education	\$0.19
Substance Abuse Disorder	\$0.16
 Job Skills Training	\$0.12
On-the-Job Training	\$0.04
Rehabilitative Services	\$0.07

: Activity counts toward work requirements

\* Job Search limited to 6 weeks; Vocational Training limited to 12 months

# **JOBS: Support Service Payments: 23-25 Biennium**





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As of Feb 12, 2025, \$22.9M in support payments were issued—with 61% for housing/utilities and 25% for auto expenses/gas

Expense Type	Amount
Housing/Utilities	\$14,107,697
Auto Expenses	\$3,294,266
Gasoline	\$2,504,416
Professional Fees	\$360,184
Tools & Equipment	\$346,972
Vocational Training/Tuition	\$327,214
Books/Supplies	\$284,769
Grooming Needs	\$120,754
Childcare	\$115,947
Public Transportation	\$58,882
Eyeglasses	\$36,830
Other	\$1,299,259

# JOBs Participation: 2024

Nine JOBs activities  
count toward all 30 hours  
of required weekly work

JOBs Activity	Total # people	Percentage
Child Related Services	3948	20.3%
 Job Search	3704	19.1%
Stabilize Living	2381	12.3%
Medical-Related Services	1642	8.5%
 Working	1473	7.6%
Life Skills	1237	6.4%
Mental Health	572	2.9%
SSI Application Process	518	2.7%
 Supported Work	497	2.6%
Family Support and Connections	474	2.4%
Crisis Intervention	452	2.3%
Domestic Violence Services	417	2.1%
Family Stabilization	401	2.1%
 Self-Initiated Training	361	1.9%

Data from state fiscal year 2024






\*Job search limited to five weeks per year

: Activity counts toward all required hours



# JOBs Participation: 2024, Continued

Total number of people  
engaged in JOBs  
activities: **19,411**

JOBs Activity	Total # people	Percentage
High School Diploma or GED (equivalent)	346	1.8%
Drug/Alcohol Services	275	1.4%
 Vocational Training	263	1.4%
 Work Experience	100	0.5%
Job Skills Training	85	0.4%
English as a Second Language	76	0.4%
Adult Basic Education	60	0.3%
Rehabilitative Services	43	0.2%
 JOBs Plus	38	0.2%
 Community Service	20	0.1%
 On-the-Job Training	9	0.0%
Micro Enterprise	2	0.0%

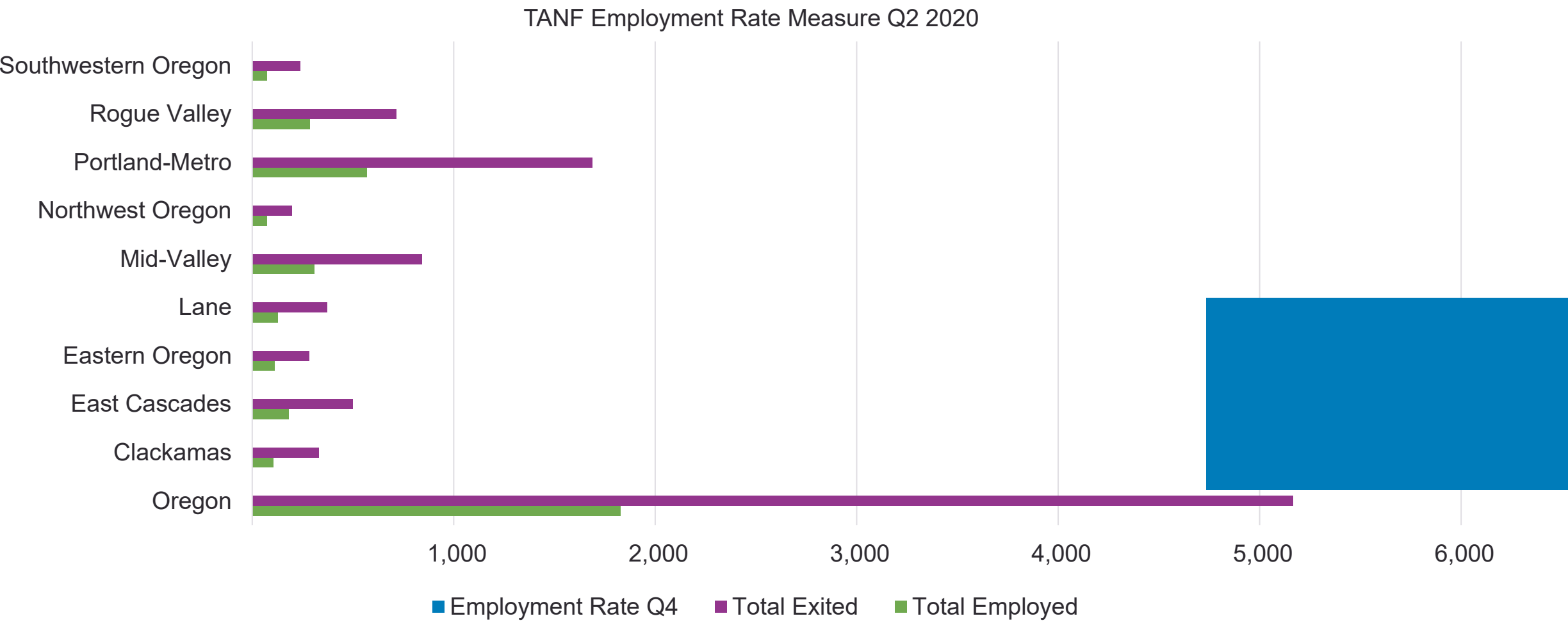
Data from state fiscal year 2024

\* Vocational Training limited to 12 months



: Activity counts toward work requirements

# TANF Employment Rate Measure (Q2 2020)

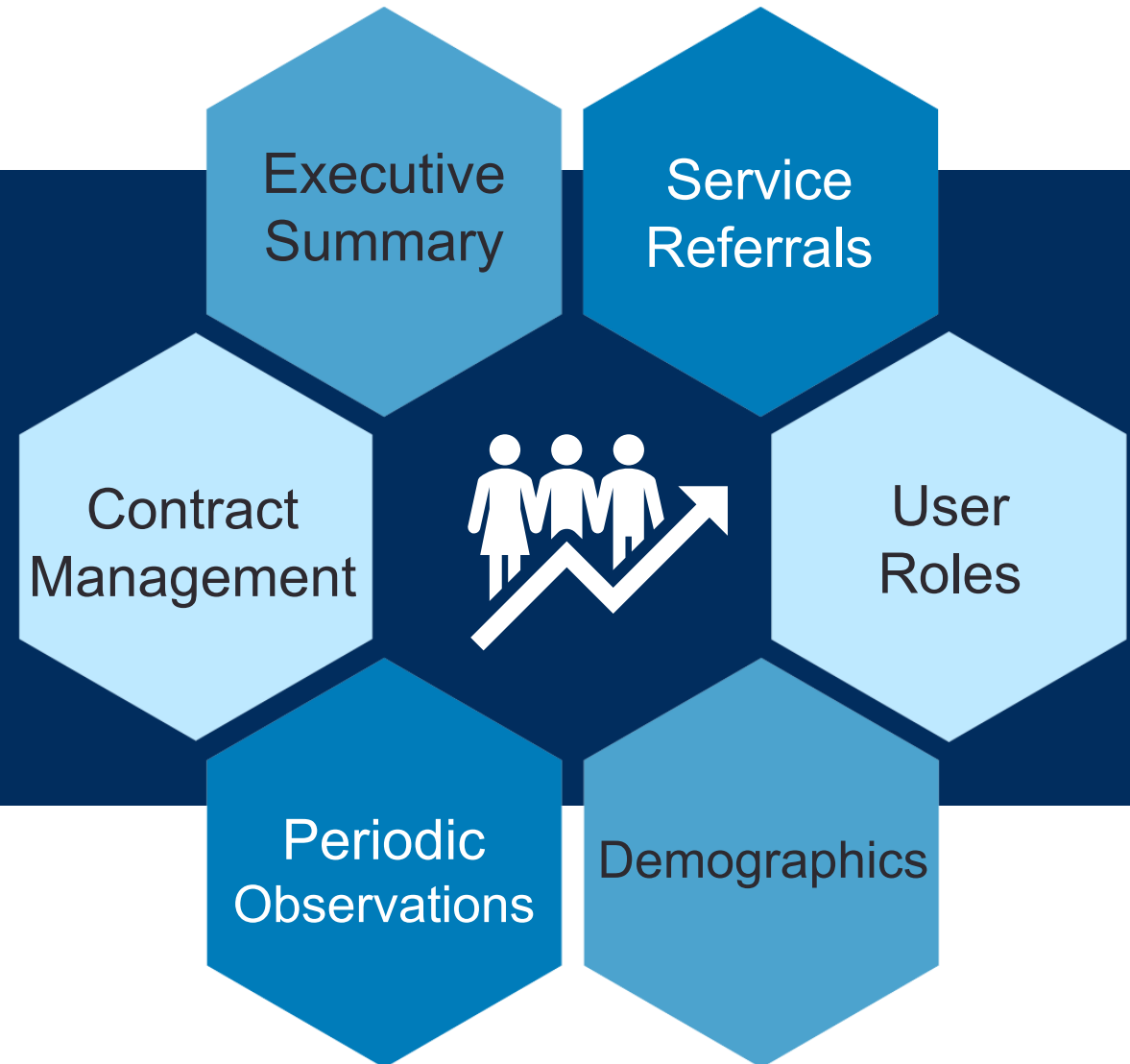


This data no longer available, SSP has a data project in progress.

# JOB Outcome Indicator Project

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Data  
dashboard in  
development



# Agenda

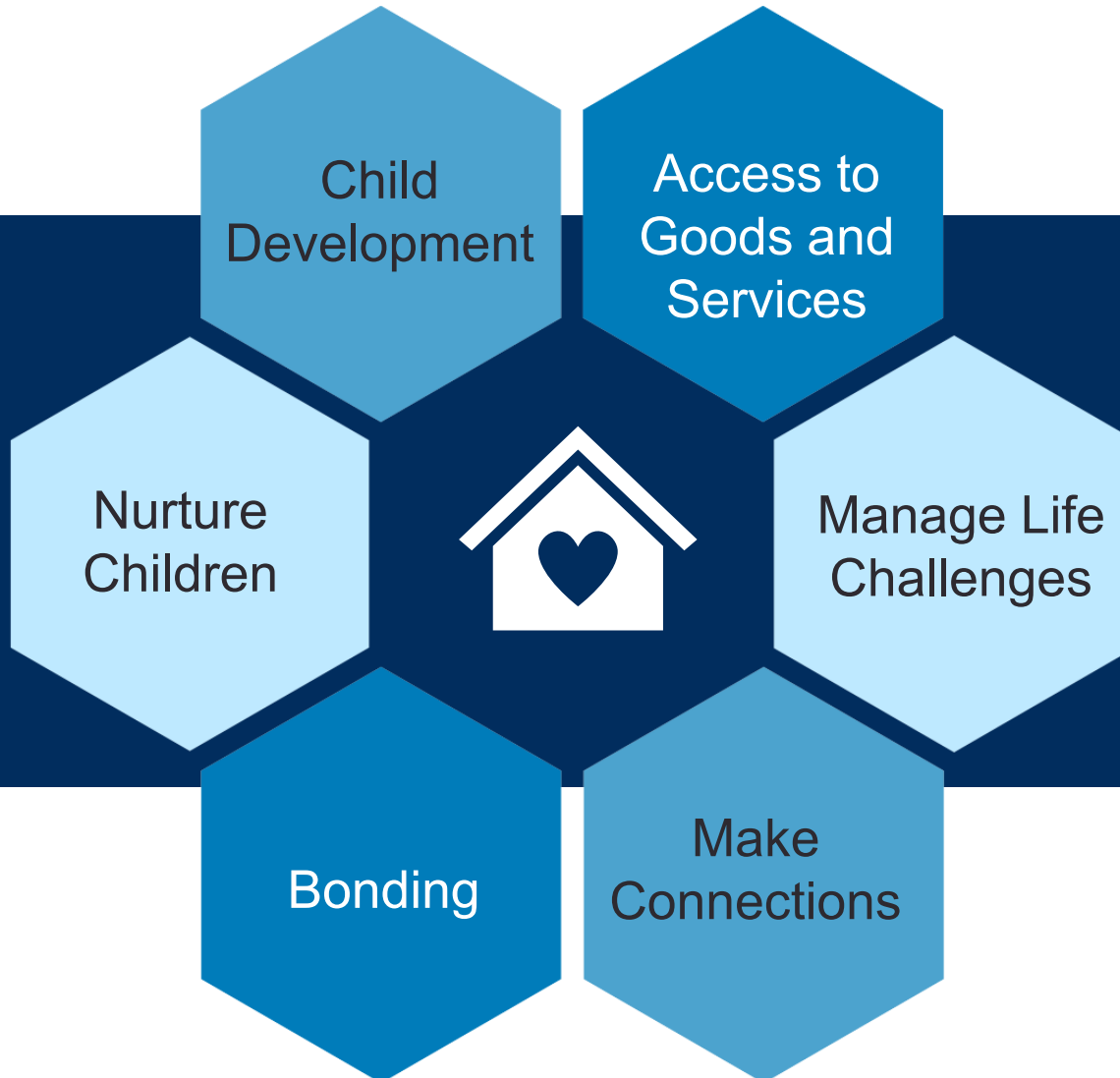
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# TANF Investment Update: 2021-23

2022	Restricted sanctions	75% of a family's TANF grant is protected from sanctions.	Continued cash assistance for families
2022	Increased resource limit	Allows families to maintain resources and receive TANF	Families with resources up to \$10,000 can apply for TANF
2022	Expanded Family Supports and Connections program	Services to reduce stress and strengthen family protective factors	Expanded services to families up to 300% federal poverty level

# Family Supports and Connections

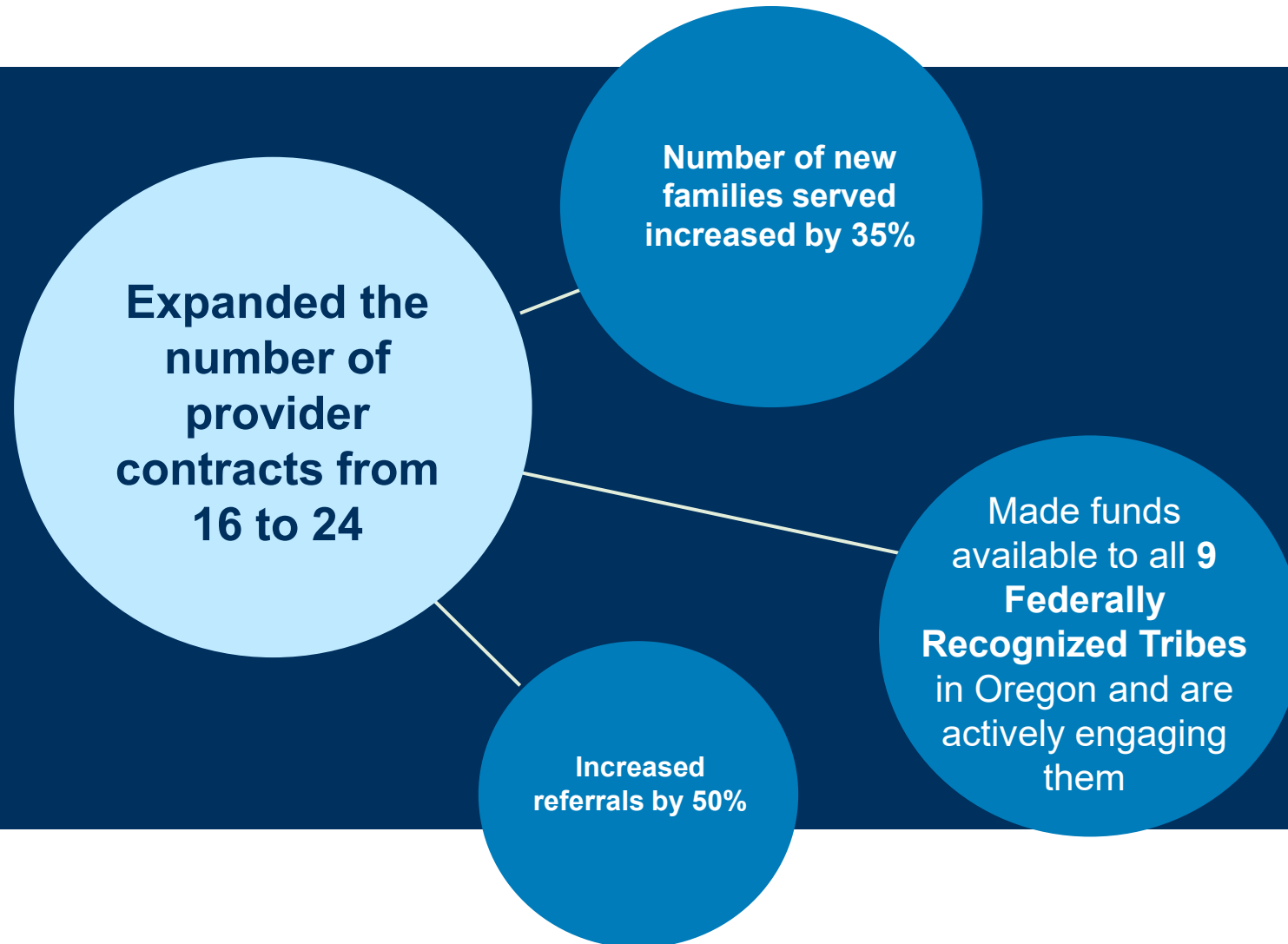
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Services are designed to **reduce stress and strengthen family support systems** to help them stay stable and resilient

# Family Supports and Connections: Expansion

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# TANF Investment Update: 2023-25

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Legislative session	Investment	How funding is used	What it buys
2024	Increase TA-DVS payment	Increased from \$1,200 to \$3,200	More substantive grant for survivors of domestic violence



# TA-DVS: Enhanced support for domestic violence survivors

**8,794  
families**

served in SFY 2024

**72%**  
**of funds**  
used for housing  
related needs



## TA-DVS:

# Enhanced support for domestic violence survivors

**49%**  
more survivors  
approved for the  
program are  
accessing payments

Survivors used on  
average  
**2x**  
more of the grant

**75%**  
Of workers report that  
it's easier for survivors to  
find safe housing



## TA-DVS:

# Enhanced support for domestic violence survivors

Anne used the \$3,200 for an application fee, security deposit, and first month's rent on a new apartment, which **allowed her family to escape homelessness** after fleeing their abuser.

Liza used the grant to pay her family's rent of \$1,800 when their landlord tried to evict them. **She described it as "life saving."**

Kate used the grant to **purchase mattresses for herself and her child**. They had been **couch-surfing for a month** after fleeing their situation.

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# Fiscal Oversight: Data from Office of Payment Accuracy and Recovery

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## CASELOAD

TANF referrals for potential overpayments increased significantly over recent biennia

The number is now **leveling off**—7,200 referrals so far in 2023-2025

## INTEGRITY

More  
**overpayments recovered**

\$7.9 million in 2023-2025

## PREVENTION

**47**  
substantiated TANF fraud cases in 2023-2025

Cost avoidance  
\$564,000

## WHAT IT MEANS

Most cost recovery is due to unreported or misreported earnings

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## **Key Challenge: Eroding TANF Block Grant**

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TANF block grant has lost more  
than 50% of its value since  
1996



# Key Challenge: TANF Carryover Funds Depleting

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TANF carryover funds,  
paid for things like  
clothing allowance





# Key Challenge: Family Coach Staff Shortage

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Family Coaches funded  
to support 69% of  
current workload



# Key Challenge: Caseload Fluctuations

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Caseload increases drive up program costs, requiring additional federal and state funding to meet the demand for benefits and services



Thank you.

