



Oregon TANF Alliance

Strengthening Families, Protecting Children

Central City Concerns • Children First for Oregon • Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
Oregon Center for Public Policy • Oregon Food Bank • Oregon Hunger Task Force
Oregon Law Center • Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon • Urban League of Portland

TANF Alliance Recommendations: Help Families Thrive

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The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF) keeps children safe and with their families. TANF stabilizes households with financial assistance, while connecting them to supportive services.

During the Great Recession, the legislature sought to maintain the safety net rather than cut access, and keep families together. Now with the economy improving, funding for targeted services need to be bolstered to help families increase income through work.

The TANF Alliance is pleased that the Department of Human Services (DHS) has engaged with advocates on a variety of policy issues and reinvestments. We support the DHS reinvestment package as a good first step.

So that families have a firm pathway out of poverty and towards a more stable income, we recommend the following additional investments to the DHS package, using some of the additional savings from TANF caseload reductions:

- A) Increase flexible support services funds in the reinvestment package, implementing in January, rather than July 2016. (\$2 million)
- B) Expand contracts with community-based organizations in the reinvestment package. (\$3 million)
- C) Fund a study of TANF leavers to identify the targeted supports that are needed to keep families moving forward, rather than falling back into poverty. (\$1 million)
- D) Raise the countable income limit at the front end to allow more families to access TANF before they become homeless, (\$3 million) and raise the back-end income limit in January, rather than July 2016. (\$1 million)

The additional \$10 million in services outlined here will ensure more family stability, helping both children and their parents succeed at school and at work.

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