



Presentation to the 2022 Joint Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Human Services

ODHS Budget Request

Strengthening the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Program

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Supporting families and confronting poverty



We must create a more resilient system that recognizes the precarious conditions facing kids and families in poverty: they are often one accident, health issue, job loss or large rent increase away from having a major disruption to their lives.

– *State of Oregon Children's Agenda*
Office of the Governor, 2018

What we do

ODHS Self-Sufficiency Programs (SSP) is comprised of many programs aimed at **supporting families, reducing poverty, and mitigating economic inequities**, including:

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (**TANF**)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (**SNAP**)
- Employment Related Day Care (**ERDC**)
- Temporary Assistance for Domestic Violence Survivors (**TA-DVS**)



TANF

The **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** program provides cash benefits to low-income families with children. These benefits help families meet basic needs including:

- **Food**
- **Clothing**
- **Rent and utilities**



2019 Oregon poverty rates

11 percent
statewide

15 percent
among
Latino/a/x
Oregonians

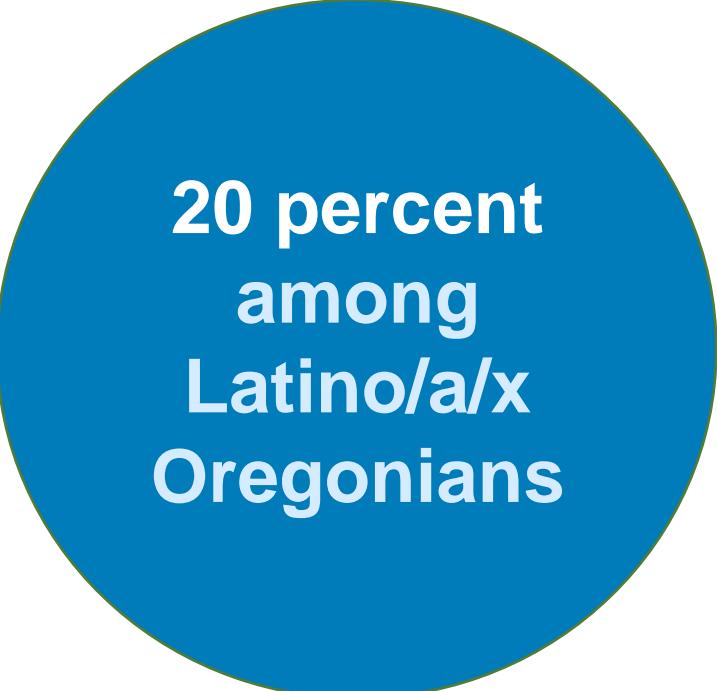
19 percent
among Native
American
Oregonians

25 percent
among Black
Oregonians

2019 Oregon child poverty rates



13 percent
statewide

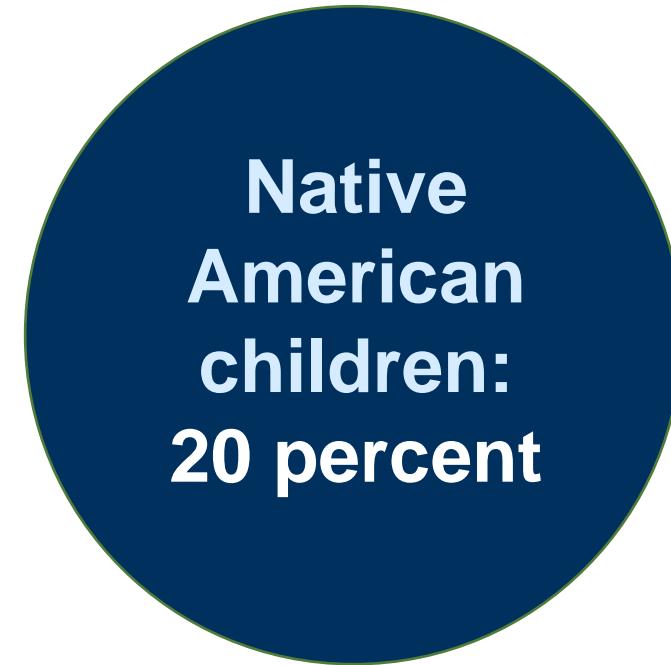
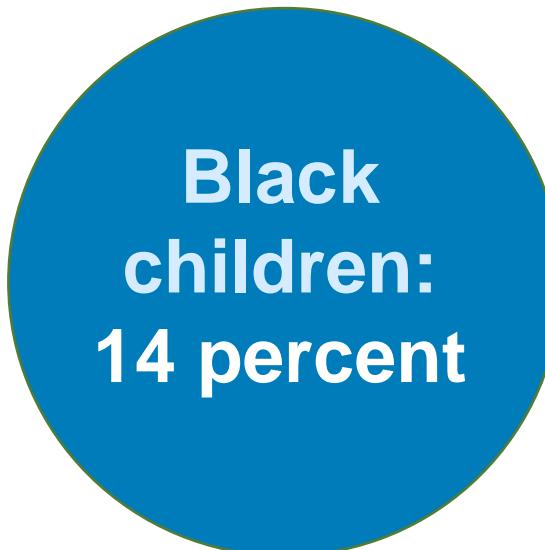
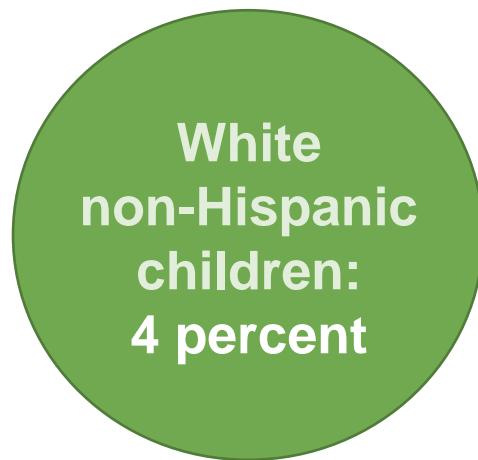


20 percent
among
Latino/a/x
Oregonians



Ranging from
16 to 32
percent
in rural
counties

Oregon children living in areas of concentrated poverty



Source: [Children Living in High Poverty, Low-Opportunity Neighborhoods](#), KIDS COUNT 2019

TANF and racial equity

In Oregon, **Black, Indigenous, and families of color are disproportionately represented in the TANF program:**

Race/Ethnicity	Percent of State Population	Percent of TANF Population
African American	2.2	9.1
Native American	1.8	3.8
Hispanic or Latino/a/x	13.4	14.6

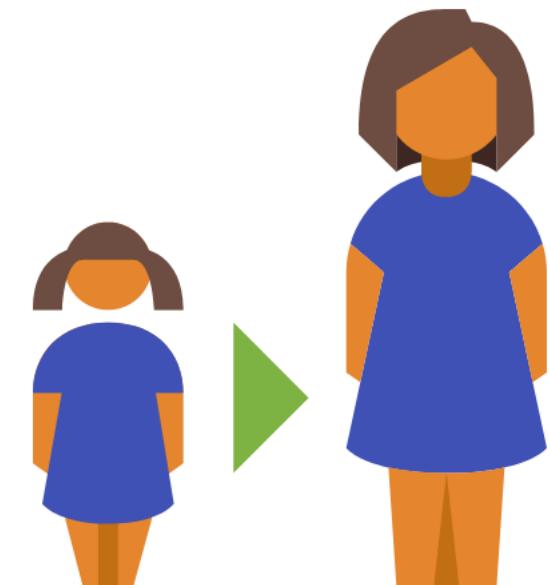
Source: [U.S. Census Bureau](#)

Child poverty and life outcomes

Citing national studies, the *Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty** reports that, compared to affluent children, **children with family incomes below the poverty line:**

- Complete **fewer years of schooling**;
- As adults, face **higher levels of unemployment** and **earned less** than half the income;
- Are more than twice as likely to report **poor overall health** or **high levels of psychological distress**.

*National Academies of Sciences, 2019



Reinvesting now to create a more just future

We must **reinvest TANF savings into Oregon families** as part of our wider effort to realize the state's racial equity goals.

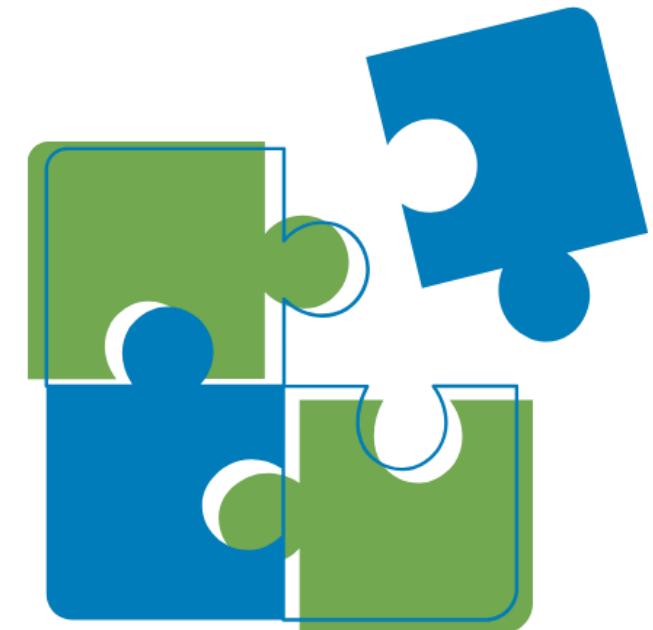
By increasing the resources available to TANF-eligible families and children now, we reorient Oregon's TANF program so that it meaningfully invests in the **health, well-being, and self-sufficiency of tomorrow's adults**.



Improving outcomes for TANF participants

ODHS proposes **four solutions** to better support children in TANF-eligible families:

1. Clothing allowances
2. Ending full-family disqualifications
3. Increased funding for Family Support & Connections
4. Increasing the TANF resource limit



Clothing allowances

Currently, TANF benefits cover **only the most basic expenses** and often leave families unable to provide their children with adequate clothing.

ODHS requests funding to issue **three \$300 clothing allowances per year** to help parents pay for seasonal weather-appropriate clothing for their children.

Clothing allowance payments are considered **Non-Recurrent Short-Term (NRST) benefits**, which allows us to issue payments using federal dollars instead of General Fund.

*\$15.3 million
TANF Federal
Funds Limitation*



Ending full-family disqualifications

TANF program disqualifications that revoke cash assistance from entire families negatively impact dependent children's health and food security.

The proposed investment will allow ODHS to preserve **the majority of the monthly TANF cash grant for the dependent child/children in the assistance unit**, contributing directly to their well-being now and in the future.

*\$941,679 General Fund
+ \$3,581,925 TANF
Federal Funds Limitation*



Family Support & Connections

Family Support and Connections (FS&C) is a **child abuse and neglect prevention** program that serves TANF-eligible and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)-eligible families in Oregon.

FS&C is an emerging, evidence-informed* program designed to **promote family strengths and optimal child development** and reduce the likelihood of abuse and neglect.



*Center for the Study of Social Policy, 2014

Family Support & Connections

ODHS requests the support necessary to **extend these contracted services to more families that need them**, prioritizing Black, Indigenous, and families of color.

The investments will:

- **Increase the number** of TANF- and SNAP-eligible families that can be served through FS&C,
- Provide compensation to parents to **facilitate their participation in service design and programming**, and
- **Fund two staff positions** to implement program expansion.

**\$7,487,638 TANF
Federal Funds Limitation**



Increasing the TANF resource limit

To qualify for TANF benefits, a family must not have resources above \$2,500. During the pandemic, **ODHS increased the limit to \$10,000 to allow families to retain more of their resources.**

Leaving more of a family's resources intact before TANF program entry **can reduce the length of time families need public assistance, helps families save for emergencies, and increases their access to fair, affordable credit.***

The proposed investment will allow ODHS to **permanently increase the TANF resource limit** for new applicants from \$2,500 to \$10,000.

*\$63,650 General Fund
+ \$270,921 TANF
Federal Funds Limitation*



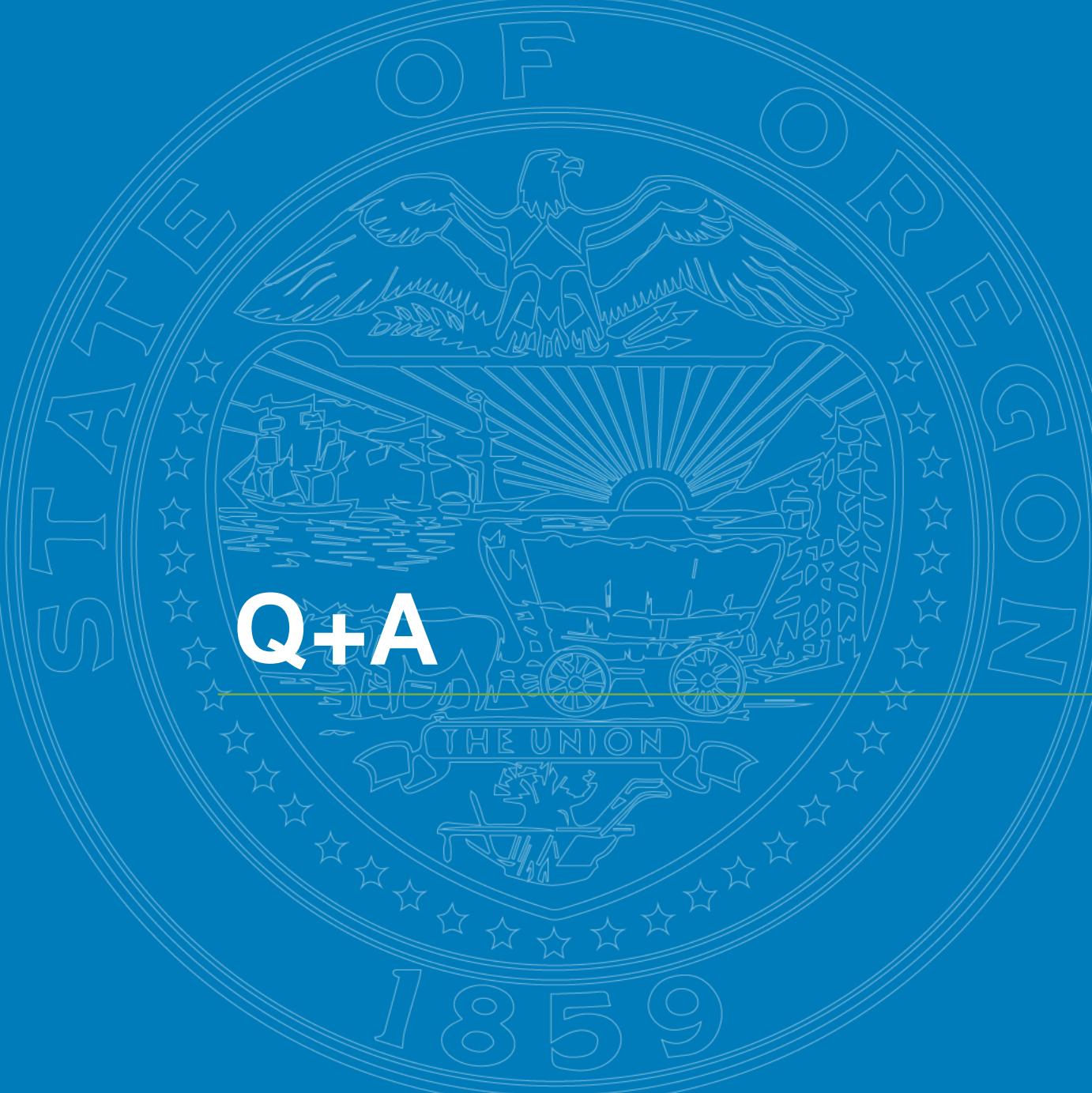
*Center for Law and Social Policy: 2018

Budget request

The **\$27.6 million investment** includes:

- \$1,005,329 GF
- \$26,631,484 FF



A large, faint watermark of the Oregon State Seal is positioned on the left side of the slide. The seal is circular with a blue background. It features an eagle with spread wings at the top, a sun rising over mountains in the center, a river with a steamboat, and a plow and sheaf of wheat at the bottom. The outer ring contains the text "THE STATE OF OREGON" and the year "1859".

Q+A

