

BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT
June 1, 2024 – November 30, 2024

Department: Community Based Services **Block Grant:** Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

This report is submitted in compliance with KRS 45.357. This report on achievements may be compared to the Block Grant application currently on file with LRC.

Block Grant Manager:  3/7/2025
DocuSigned by: 2597068C24204CA... Lesa Dennis, Commissioner **Date**

1. FINANCES	Federal Funds	General Funds	Trust/Local Match	Total
Annual Budget	\$180,689,420.00	\$65,910,600.00	\$-	\$246,600,020.00
Actual Expenditures	\$122,311,816.36	\$22,510,156.76	\$-	\$144,821,973.12
Encumbrances	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Available Balance	\$58,377,603.64	\$43,400,443.24	\$-	\$101,778,046.88
<i>NOTE: Section 1 “Finances” contains data for 7/1/2024 to 12/31/2024. Due to data collection time frames, the TANF Data for all other sections contains data for the six month time period of 6/1/2024 to 11/30/2024</i>				

BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT**June 1, 2024 – November 30, 2024****2. RESULTS BUDGETED/ACHIEVED**

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
<p>1. <u>TANF FEDERAL PURPOSE #1:</u> <i>“Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives.”</i></p> <p>➤ KTAP cash assistance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From June 2024 through November 2024, a monthly average of 14,902 families (8,769 adults and 25,838 children) received cash assistance through the Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP). The number of families receiving KTAP has been steadily increasing since the Modernization overhaul in March 2023. Looking at data from December 2022 to May 2023, an average of 9,916 families (3,347 adults and 16,488 children) Received KTAP.
<p>2. <u>TANF FEDERAL PURPOSE #2:</u> <i>“End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.”</i></p> <p>➤ Provide supportive services, within budget limitations, to enable KTAP recipients to participate in job preparation and work with the goal of family self-sufficiency.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In June 2024, 14,128 families received KTAP, including 8,014 adults and 24,330 children. The number of families receiving assistance increased to 15,363 in November 2024, comprised of 9,171 adults and 26,818 children. There were 2,147 adults working in July 2024 (unsubsidized employment), compared to 1,632 in February 2024. An average of 233 KTAP cases per month Discontinued due to employment. There were 6,237 Kentucky Works Program (KWP) participants in adult education, high school, and college for October 2024 and a monthly average of 5,738 KWP participants during this six month time period from June 2024 to November 2024.

2. RESULTS BUDGETED/ACHIEVED (continued)

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the month of June 2024, 6,887 KTAP recipients, or 68% of the KTAP recipients who are required to participate in KWP, were participating in some kind of Kentucky Works Program activity. Not all of these activities were counted in the federal participation rate. Other supportive services were provided for a monthly average of 38 KTAP recipients from June 2024 to November 2024 . This category of supportive services is intended to support KWP participation activities and encourage employment. Allowable expenditures are outlined in the Family Support Operation Manual, and the most common use of these funds is the purchase of uniforms or clothing for employment. From June 2024 to November 2024, Relocation Assistance (RAP) was provided to 155 families during this time period. Family Assistance Short Term (FAST) was provided to 204 families during the time period of June 2024 to November 2024, with an average of 34 families per month. Looking at data prior to the Modernization, this was a tremendous increase from from 15 families during the time period of June 2022 to November 2022, (average of 3 families per month). From June 2024 through November 2024, an average monthly number of 2,923 children (including children in Kinship Care) were provided child care services with TANF funds.

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<p>3. <u>TANF FEDERAL PURPOSE #3:</u> <i>“Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Teen Pregnancy Prevention ➤ Statutory Rape Prevention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KY Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) and KY Department for Public Health (DPH) have continued to renew a decades-old partnership from the early days of TANF in the late 1990s. This partnership intends to fulfill federal TANF Purpose #3, and address Teenage Pregnancy Prevention and Statutory Rape Prevention. • This project will encourage referrals from the TANF program to DPH programs, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ HANDS (Health Access Nurturing Development Services) ➤ WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children) ➤ PREP (Personal Responsibility Education Program) • The goal of this partnership is not just to address prevention efforts, but to support young parents by streamlining referrals between the two departments.
<p>4. <u>TANF FEDERAL PURPOSE #4:</u> <i>“Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ “Next Level Fatherhood” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In October 2024, the , the Department for Community Based Services, Division of Family Support (DCBS DFS) participated in the annual Kentucky Fatherhood Summit. The Fatherhood summit is hosted by the Department of Income Support, Child Support Enforcement (DIS CSE) and the Commonwealth Center for Fathers and Families (CCFF); and is a collaborative project with DCBS/DFS. • The year’s theme and key message was “Next Level Fatherhood”. New this year was A Pre-Summit Institute. The Pre-Summit Institute was added in order to convene a smaller, more intimate group to discuss issues specifically related to fatherhood and families in Kentucky. This year’s Pre-Summit focused on Fatherhood and Recovery. • Other workshops included topics such as Strategies for Successful Fatherhood Engagement and Partnerships, Fathers Supporting Mothers, Fatherhood, Recovery, and Rebuilding Stronger Families. The summit also had a “corrections track”, sessions were live streamed to several correctional facilities across Kentucky. Speakers included Dr. Alexander Elswick, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist Substance Use Prevention and Recovery – University of Kentucky, Julius Johnson – Lexington Rescue Mission, Troy Hilpp – Bluegrass Recovery Center, DCBS Commissioner Lesa Dennis, Seth Chamberlain - division Director, Family and Economic Stability Demonstration and Innovation Division, Office of Family Assistance. David Fluellen, Founder & CEO of Urban Family Development Center. • This year’s Fatherhood Summit was held at the Campbell House Inn in Lexington, KY. It was an in-person event. The event also included a live stream of certain sessions to the Department of Corrections facilities. During the 2-day event, there were over 300 attendees and featured 21 exhibitors. DCBS participated as an exhibitor, providing information on TANF, SNAP, and CCAP benefits as well as Protection & Permanency family programs. • DCBS/DFS continues to be involved with the Commonwealth Center for Fathers & Families (CCFF) Advisory Council, which is focused on planning the annual Fatherhood Summit, and building a partnership between government agencies & community partners to further the TANF goals of responsible fatherhood and two-parent family formation.

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3. AUTHORIZED CHANGES (from the Block Grant Plan in Finances and/or Objectives)

The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005 reauthorized the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. The DRA required the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to issue regulations to do the following: define the activities that are countable toward the work participation rate requirements; define which cases contain a parent are included in the work participation rate calculation; and describe how states must document, verify, and monitor hours of participation. On June 29, 2006, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) published an interim final rule implementing key provisions of the DRA effective October 1, 2006. The final rule addressing provisions of the DRA was published February 5, 2008. Changes from the interim rule were effective October 1, 2008.

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program was scheduled for reauthorization in 2010. The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act (H.R. 3630), extended the block grant through September 30, 2012, the end of Federal fiscal year 2012. A continuing resolution was passed to extend TANF through the end of March 2013. The Continuing Appropriations Act for FY 2013 extended TANF through the end of September 2013, while the Continuing Appropriations Act for FY 2014 (P.L. 113-46) provided funds through January 15, 2014. The Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2014 extended TANF through September 30, 2014. The Continuing Appropriations Act for 2015 approved TANF through September 30, 2015. The Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2016 extended TANF through February 8, 2018. The Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY 2017 extended TANF through FY 2018, which ended September 30, 2018.

H.R. 430, The TANF Extension Act of 2019, extended TANF through June 30, 2019. H.R. 2940, an act to extend the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families and related programs, extended TANF through September 30, 2019; and H.R. 4378, the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2020 and Health Extenders Act of 2019, extended TANF through November 21, 2019. The Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 (H.R. 1865) extended TANF through May 22, 2020. Section 3824 of the “CARES Act”, or Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (H.R. 748), extended TANF program grants through November 30, 2020. The Continuing Appropriations, 2021 & Other Extensions Act (H.R. 8337) extended TANF through December 11, 2020. The Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 & Other Extensions Act (H.R. 8900) extended TANF through December 18, 2020.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (H.R. 133) extended TANF through September 30, 2021. On 9/30/2021, H.R. 5305 – “Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act” extended TANF funding through September 30, 2023.

4. EVALUATION OF RESULTS

The monthly average of KTAP families for the months of June 2024 to November 2024 was obtained by averaging the total number of cases (families) during this time. The number of KTAP adults and children was computed in the same manner. Not all cases contain an adult member. During this period, there was a monthly average of 5,196 child only KTAP cases that did not contain an adult member in the case. The number of KTAP families and recipients who received assistance was obtained from the PA-264 reports from June 2024 to November 2024.

Information regarding participation in the Kentucky Works Program and receipt of supportive services was obtained from reports taken from the Online Tracking Information System (OTIS). The number and type of cases discontinued were based on reason entries on Worker Portal (IIES) systems, including cases discontinued for exceeding the income limits due to earnings, receipt of or increase in earnings, and the removal of time limited deductions. The numbers for child care were obtained by averaging the total number of children who received assistance funded with TANF during this time period. The number of families who received Relocation Assistance during this time period was obtained from the OTIS and Worker Portal systems and averaged for this time period. Safety Net data is provided by the DCBS’s Division of Protection & Permanency.

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5. ALTERNATIVES FOR IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY

Special services were provided during this period of time to assist families in obtaining self-sufficiency or for the family to remain intact.

Effective April 2003, Employment Retention services were replaced with the Work Incentive Program (WIN). WIN is a reimbursement payment given to individuals who are employed and transitioning off of KTAP. The payment is provided to reimburse individuals for expenses incurred as a result of their employment such as transportation, special items needed to stay employed, etc. Eligible individuals may receive reimbursement payments of \$200 per month for up to twelve (12) months. WIN is available to a family if the family includes an adult with wages who has been discontinued from KTAP on or after April 1, 2003. The family has to have an eligible child, be a resident of Kentucky, and have total gross income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Receipt of WIN reimbursement is limited to once in a lifetime. WIN is not available to a family if employment is obtained after the KTAP case is discontinued. The WIN program was developed as a result of findings from a Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation (MDRC) study indicating income supports are the most effective means to help individuals stay off welfare. During the period June 2024 to November 2024 , an average of 286 individuals per month received WIN.

The Kinship Care (KC) program was created to offer an option to assist relatives in caring for a child who must be placed out of the child’s home due to substantiated abuse or neglect. As of November 2024, there were 1,021 children in the Kinship Care program. Effective April 1, 2013, no new Kinship Care applications have been accepted. At the time of the KC moratorium in April 2013, there were 11,281 children receiving Kinship Care.

Special steps are taken to ensure KTAP recipients know about the 60 month lifetime limitation so they can take advantage of the Kentucky Works program. Up to 20% of the KTAP caseload may be exempted from time limitations due to hardship. As of November 2024, there were 79 families with extended benefits due to meeting a hardship extension reason. During the time period of June 2024 to November 2024 , there was a monthly average of 30 families discontinued due to reaching the 60 month time limit.

CHFS Protection & Permanency (P&P) staff visits KTAP families whose KTAP case has been discontinued due to time limitations to ensure children are safe and to identify any emergency needs. Safety Net services are available to a post-KTAP family who has lost cash assistance due to reaching the sixty month lifetime TANF limit, or had their KTAP case discontinued due to non-cooperation with the Kentucky Works Program. Safety Net services are funded through TANF and are available to families with income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Benefits are temporary and may be authorized up to a total of \$635 for four (4) months during a twelve month period. These benefits are used to meet basic needs such as shelter, food, clothing or utilities. During the time period of June 2024 to November 2024 5 families received Safety Net services.

6. OTHER NEWS

March 1, 2023, Modernization overhauled KTAP income limits and payment amounts. Since the modernization the number of KTAP recipients continues to increase. In February 2023 there were 19,046 recipients and in November 2024 the total has risen to 35,989 recipients.

June 5, 2023 the Family Assistance Short Term (FAST) program replaced the Family Alternatives Diversion (FAD) program and provides short-term cash assistance for families who could be self-supporting if their short-term needs are met. This program has also continued to increase. In June 2023, there were 2 FAD payments issued, and in September 2024, 38 FAST payments were issued.

Kentucky was one of the five states selected by The Administration for Children and Families to be a part of the TANF Work and Family Well-Being pilot program authorized by the bipartisan and bicameral Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (FRA). The six year pilot program aims to strengthen TANF efficiency and effectiveness. The new TANF Work and Family Well-being Pilots present the opportunity to build new evidence for work and well-being outcomes and test whether they lead to stronger employment outcomes and increased family stability and well-being. Pilot states will have the flexibility to tailor employment, training, and other engagement activities to the needs of TANF families so that states can ensure eligible families have access to customized supports and services that result in better employment and family economic well-being outcomes.