

## **Background - The Purpose of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**

The federal TANF Program was implemented by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA). Under TANF, states receive federal funding through an annual block grant, which is estimated to be \$725,565,965 per year SFY 2020 and 2021. The block grant amount is based on the amount of federal funds expended in federal fiscal year (FFY) 1994 for the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) Program, the Job Opportunity and Basic Skills (JOBS) Program, and the Family Emergency Assistance (FEA) Program, which are the three programs that were eliminated with enactment of PRWORA.

In order to receive the block grant, states must meet an MOE requirement equal to 80% of what they spent in FFY 1994 on the three eliminated programs. (The MOE may be lowered to 75% if the state meets its work participation requirements.) After cash benefits are paid from these sources, the remaining funds may be used to fund other programs that meet at least one of the four purposes of TANF.

### **The four purposes are:**

1. Assisting needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes;
2. Reducing the dependency of needy parents by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage;
3. Preventing out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and
4. Encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.