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### TANF Purposes

- Provide assistance to needy families so that children can be cared for *in their own homes*.
- Reduce the dependency of needy parents by promoting job preparation, work and marriage;
- Prevent out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and
- Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.



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### How TANF Funds Are Used (*not exhaustive*) – Federal and State MOE

	Nationwide (\$31 billion)	Ohio (\$1.1 billion)
Basic Assistance	22.7%	21.8%
Work, Education, Training	10.5%	7.7%
Child Care	16.1%	37.4%
Refundable Tax Credits	9%	-
Child Welfare Services	7.1%	1%
Pre-Kindergarten/Head Start	8.1%	-
Non-recurrent, short-term benefits	2.8%	4.8%



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### Basic Assistance & Homelessness

- TANF funds can be used to provide rental assistance to families (and can be long-term!).
  - If rental assistance lasts for more than 4 mos, the state must consider the funds as “basic assistance” meaning that the family remains subject to same requirements as receiving a cash benefit (e.g. work requirements, time limits, etc.)
  - If family is already receiving welfare benefits (and subject to those rules) than that should not be a problem, however, it can be very difficult for a third party to maintain documentation for state reporting.



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### Short-Term, Nonrecurrent benefits

- Designed to help a household overcome a crisis not expected to recur; funds cannot extend beyond 4 mos. (or is considered “assistance”).
- Can be used to provide up to four months of rental assistance.
- Can be coupled with McK-Vento to provide more than four months of help (but must be done carefully).



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### Supporting Families

- TANF provides a range of supports that unstably housed/homeless families need. Are they accessing them? Are they good quality? How can they be improved to better fit the needs of families experiencing homelessness ?
  - Child care
  - Employment training – including subsidized jobs
  - Job support/placement
  - Case Management
- Strategies: Out-stationing workers in homeless service systems, dedicated/specialized services for homeless TANF families, providing preferences for TANF families experiences homelessness, etc.



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### TANF/Homeless Service Collaboration Approaches

- Relies on short-term, nonrecurrent benefits to expand RRH capacity:
  - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania pilot
  - Indiana
  - Georgia
  - Idaho CATCH program (past)
    - Now being replicated in NM by HopeWorks in Albuquerque
  - Utah (The Road Home)
    - now statewide prevention and rapid re-housing



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### TANF/Homeless Service Collaboration Models

- California Initiatives
  - Housing Support Program (\$72 million/annual)
    - SF coupling with subsidized employment
  - Child Welfare Pilot
  - Family Stabilization Program
    - (APS prevention pilot)
- Washington, DC (“Joint Ownership”)
  - Integrated TANF/homeless services response
  - Housing assessment at intake, TANF enrollment for families seeking assistance
  - Integrated case management – RRH and TANF employment services coordinated



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### TANF/Homeless Service Collaboration Models

- New Jersey – Mercer County (Trenton)
  - Uses TANF for rental assistance
  - Mercer uses rental assistance “upfront” for RRH intervention vs. transitional housing
  - Reduced family homelessness by over 70 percent, also reduces length of time families are on public assistance, improved employment income
  - Bulk of services for homeless families (prevention, diversion, RRH, shelter) paid for with TANF funds
  - New model for young families



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## Unobligated TANF Balances (2017)

- Nationally: \$3.3 billion
- Ohio: \$463 million
  - Five percent of Ohio unobligated TANF funds would cover RRH for 3,858 families
    - More than 3 x the number of families experiencing literal homelessness at the most recent PIT count



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## Questions?

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