




Reauthorize TANF and Expand Access to Career Pathways

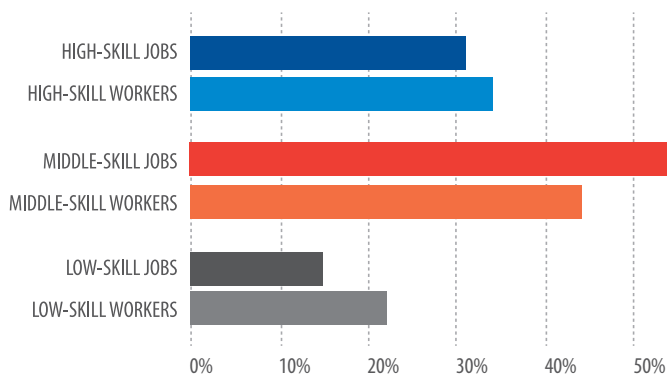
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) is one of the nation's most important anti-poverty programs, but it isn't set up to reduce poverty. More than 80 percent of today's jobs require postsecondary education and training, but less than 10 percent of adult TANF recipients have education beyond high school. Congress should update TANF to expand access to high-quality training and education that leads to in-demand credentials.

Congress should:

-  **FOCUS ON POVERTY REDUCTION, NOT PROCESS.** Congress should allow states to measure performance based on moving people out of poverty and into careers. The current focus on hourly "work participation" has not reduced poverty and makes alignment with other services challenging.
-  **SUPPORT EDUCATION AND TRAINING.** Congress should remove restrictions on how education and training are counted toward work rates, and reward states that increase skills and credential attainment.
-  **INVEST MORE, INVEST IN WHAT WORKS.** Congress should increase TANF funding to keep pace with historic levels of investment. Congress should dedicate new resources for proven strategies like industry partnerships and career pathways.

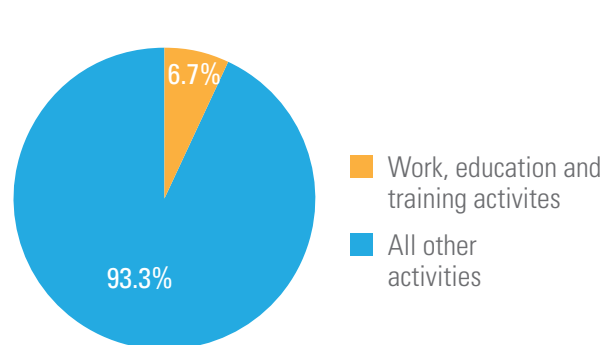
MORE THAN 80% OF TODAY'S JOBS REQUIRE SOME FORM OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION OR TRAINING, BUT LESS THAN 7% OF TANF DOLLARS SUPPORT WORK, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.

Jobs and Workers by Skill Level 2015



Source: NSC analysis

FY2015 Federal and State TANF spending



Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families

ACT NOW!

Expand access to family supporting jobs through the reauthorization of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

