

## Chapter 7 - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

### *Legislative History*

**P.L. 104-193**, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act established the block grant of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. Appropriated funds for the block grant through FY2002. August 22, 1996.

**P.L. 105-33**, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, raised the cap limiting the counting of vocational educational training and teen parents engaged in education from 20 percent of those considered engaged in work to 30 percent of those considered engaged in work, and temporarily removed from that cap teen parents through FY1999; set the maximum allowable TANF transfer to Title XX social services at 10 percent of the block grant (rather than one-third of total transfers); and made technical corrections to P.L. 104-193. P.L. 105-33 also established the \$3 billion over two-years (FY1998 and FY1999) Welfare-to-Work (WTW) grant program within TANF, but administered by the Department of Labor at the Federal level, with local administration by State workforce investment boards and competitive grantees. August 5, 1997.

**P.L. 105-89**, the Adoption and Safe Families Act, reduced the contingency fund appropriation by \$40 million. November 19, 1997.

**P.L. 105-220**, the Transportation Act for the 21st Century, permitted the use of Federal TANF funds to be used as matching funds for reverse commuter grants.

**P.L. 106-113**, the Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2000, broadened eligibility for recipients to be served by the WTW grant program and added limited authority for vocational educational or job training to be WTW activities. November 29, 1999.

**P.L. 106-554**, the Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2001, gave grantees two more years to spend WTW grant funds (a total of five years from the date of the grant award).

**P.L. 107-147**, the Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act, extended supplemental grants and contingency funds, both of which had expired on September 30, 2001, through FY2002. (Supplemental grants were extended at FY2001 levels). March 9, 2002.

**P.L. 107-229** extended TANF basic grants, supplemental grants, bonus funds, and contingency funds (and other related programs) through December 20, 2002. September 30, 2002. Other “temporary extensions” of TANF grants were made in: **P.L. 107-294**, through March 30, 2003 (November 22, 2002); **P.L. 108-7**, through June 30, 2003 (February 20, 2003); **P.L. 108-40**, through September 30, 2003 (June 30, 2003); P.L. 108-89, through March 31, 2004 (October 1, 2003); **P.L. 108-210**, through June 30, 2004

(March 31, 2004); **P.L. 108-262**, through September 30, 2004 (June 30, 2004); **P.L. 108-308**, through March 31, 2005 (September 30, 2004); **P.L. 109-4**, through June 30, 2005 (March 25, 2005); and **P.L. 109-19**, through September 30, 2005 (July 1, 2005).

**P.L. 108-199** rescinded all remaining unspent WTW formula grant funds, effectively ending the WTW grant program. January 23, 2004.

**P.L. 109-68** provided extra funding to help States provide benefits to families affected by Hurricane Katrina, allowing States to draw upon contingency funds to assist those displaced by the hurricane; allowing directly affected States to receive funds from the loan fund, with repayment of the loan forgiven; and suspending penalties for failure to meet certain requirements for States directly affected by the hurricane. Also, temporarily extended TANF grants through December 30, 2005. September 21, 2005.

**P.L. 109-161** extended TANF grants through March 30, 2006. December 30, 2005.

**P.L. 109-171**, the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, extended most TANF grants through FY2010 (supplemental grants expire at the end of FY2008); eliminated TANF bonus funds; established competitive grants within TANF for healthy marriage and responsible fatherhood initiatives; revised the caseload reduction. February 8, 2006.

**P.L. 110-275** included an extension of TANF supplemental grants through the end of FY2009. July 15, 2008.

**P.L. 111-5**, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, established a \$5 billion Emergency Contingency Fund (ECF) to reimburse states for increased costs associated with the 2007-9 recession for FY2009 and FY2010. The fund reimbursed states, territories, and tribes for 80% of the increased costs of basic assistance, non-recurrent short-term benefits, and subsidized employment. The law also permitted states to “freeze” caseload reduction credits at pre-recession levels, allowed states to use TANF reserve funds for any benefit or service (before it was restricted to assistance), and extended supplemental grants through the end of FY2010. February 17, 2009.

**P.L. 111-242**, the first continuing appropriations resolution for FY2011, extended TANF funding through Dec. 3, 2010. September 30, 2010. **P.L. 111-290**, the second continuing resolution, continued TANF funding authority through December 18, 2010. December 4, 2010.

**P.L. 111-291**, the Claims Resolution Act of 2010, extended basic TANF funding through the end of FY2011, September 30, 2011, but reduced funding and provided supplemental grants only through June 30, 2011. Also required some additional reporting on work activities and TANF expenditures. December 8, 2010.

**P.L. 112-35**, the Short-Term TANF Extension Act, extended basic TANF funding for three month, through December 31, 2011. No funding was provided for supplemental grants. September 30, 2011.

