10 Critical Things to Know about TANF and SB111

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a short-term assistance program providing both cash assistance and non-cash services to help families become self-sufficient.

1. TANF Eligibility Guidelines and Benefit Levels
   - Set dollar amounts in statute
   - Last updated in 1988

2. Indiana’s Eligibility Level
   - 4th lowest in the country
   - Only Louisiana’s, Arkansas’, and Alabama’s are lower.

3. Indiana’s TANF Participation
   - Fewer than 5,500 families STATEWIDE were participating in TANF as of November 2019.

4. Senate Bill 111 Includes Modest, Gradual Increases to TANF Income Requirements
   - Income eligibility will phase up from 16% of federal poverty guidelines (FPG) to 35% of FPG in 2022...
   - ...then to 50% of FPG in 2024.

5. Benefits will Increase
   - Adjusted for inflation from 1996
   - Then indexed to the Social Security Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)

6. Parts of TANF will NOT Change in SB111
   - Applicants must still meet the Asset Test — owning assets worth less than $1,000 total.
   - 20 days of job searching required before program approval
   - 24-month lifetime limit for adult participants (60 months for kids)
   - 30 hours of work participation

7. TANF Could Help Those in Deep Poverty Get Back into the Labor Force
   - Nearly 60% of adults in deep poverty were not in the labor force in 2018.

8. People in Deep Poverty Need Training
   - 61% of adults in deep poverty have no post-secondary skills training, as of 2018.

9. TANF Benefits
   - Childcare assistance
   - Workforce training
   - Job-readiness
   - Case management
   - Work supports, (e.g., uniforms, transportation)

10. Families in Deep Poverty Aren’t Going Away
    - They just are not getting support to rebound.

Source: The Urban Institute’s Welfare Rules Database, funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

Note: “TANF” = Temporary assistance for Needy Families. In Wisconsin, applicants with any earnings will not receive a cash benefit, although they may receive non-cash services from uncredited employment that would total less than 80 hours per week, and face limitations to increasing work hours.