**WELFARE MYTHS: BUSTED!**

**Common Myths About Temporary Assistance for Needy Families—and the Facts That Debunk Them**

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**MYTH**

“There are a ton of people on welfare.”

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**FACT**

Only 6.4% of Hoosier families living in poverty receive TANF — and most of the recipients are children.

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**MYTH**

“It’s easy to get on welfare. The income qualification level is too high.”

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**FACT**

Only a small number of families qualify for TANF assistance in Indiana.

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**MYTH**

“Most people on welfare are taking advantage of the system so they don’t have to work.”

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**FACT**

The TANF cash benefit is not enough to meet basic needs. The small benefits don’t last long. And there are work requirements for all TANF recipients.

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The TANF cash benefit is only meant to meet very basic needs until one is able to become self-sufficient. The TANF benefit ($288) is only 8.6% of what a family of three needs in order to be SELF-SUFFICIENT. Benefits last for up to 24 MONTHS FOR ADULTS and up to 60 MONTHS FOR CHILDREN — and will be cut off as soon as a family earns more than the FPG for that family size.

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Sources:

- **MYTH 1**: IIWF Calculations of 2016 American Community Survey Data (S1702) and “2016 TANF Caseload Data for Families,” US Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance.