

# CREATING OPPORTUNITY FOR ILLINOISANS IN NEED (COIN ACT)

SB3115/HB5135

SENATOR MATTIE HUNTER/REPRESENTATIVE MARY FLOWERS

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program provides income support to very needy children and their families. However, the TANF grant is not nearly enough for families to meet their basic needs, including rent, utilities, clothing, personal hygiene products, diapers, transportation, etc. To qualify for TANF benefits, adults must work or participate in work-related activities for at least 20 hours per week.

## TANF BENEFIT LEVELS ARE TOO LOW

- ➔ Today the cash assistance grant for a family of three in Illinois is worth less than 25% FPL.
- ➔ The monthly TANF grant has increased only twice in the past 20 years and has lost nearly 30% of its purchasing power.
- ➔ The monthly grant for a family of 3 living in Cook County today is \$432. It is less in most other Illinois counties.
- ➔ Research shows Illinois children on TANF experience deficits because they live in extreme poverty. This impacts their brain development and leads to a host of negative life experiences.
- ➔ Comparatively, Illinois lags behind other states:
  - 10 states have increased their TANF grants since 2016.
  - Last year New Hampshire increased their TANF grant to 60% of the FPL.
  - Illinois spends only 5% of its federal and state TANF funding on basic assistance. On average, states spend 25%.

## WHAT THE BILL DOES

- ➔ Increase monthly TANF grants to 50% FPL (\$864 for a family of 3).
- ➔ Equalizes TANF grants statewide.
- ➔ Builds in an annual cost of living increase.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

DAN LESSER, SHRIVER CENTER ON POVERTY LAW, DANLESSER@POVERTYLAW.ORG, (708) 927-8796

KIMBERLY DREW, HEARTLAND ALLIANCE, KDREW@HEARTLANDALLIANCE.ORG, (773) 209-6015

NIYA KELLY, CHICAGO COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS, NIYA@CHICAGOHOMELESS.ORG, (312)641-4140



Kim, P. Evans, G. W., Angstadt, M., Ho, S. S., Sripada, C. S., Swain, J. E., Liberzon, I., Phan, K. L. (November 12, 2013). Effects of childhood poverty and chronic stress on emotion regulatory brain function in adulthood. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*. (Vol. 110, No. 46) Retrieved from <http://www.pnas.org/content/110/46/18442.abstract>

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (August 16, 2017). Chart Book: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. Retrieved from <https://www.cbpp.org/research/family-income-support/chart-book-temporary-assistance-for-needy-families>

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (January 5, 2017). State Fact Sheets: How States Have Spent Funds Under the TANF Block Grant. from <https://www.cbpp.org/research/family-income-support/state-fact-sheets-how-states-have-spent-funds-under-the-tanf-block>