

# TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) GRANT INCREASE

## WHAT ARE THE CHANGES

### BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2018:

- The maximum cash payment levels for TANF and Refugee monthly grants to needy children and their families increased to 30% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).
- TANF cash payment levels are the same statewide. They no longer vary by the consumer's county of residence.

## WHAT IS TANF

The TANF program provides monthly grants to needy children and their families. The grant helps families meet their basic needs, including rent, utilities, clothing, personal hygiene products, diapers, transportation, etc.

## WHO QUALIFIES FOR TANF

To qualify for TANF benefits, an adult must participate in a work activity for at least 30 hours a week (20 hours for single parents with children under the age of 6) unless they are excused from this requirement. A person can receive TANF for up to 5 years as an adult in their lifetime.

To qualify for this benefit program in Illinois, you must live in Illinois, have no or very low income, be pregnant or related to a child under 19 years of age living with you, and a U.S. citizen, legal permanent resident, refugee or asylee, or in another category of eligible non-citizens.

## WHAT ARE THE NEW GRANT AMOUNTS

SIZE OF FAMILY	PARENT OR RELATIVE AND CHILD(REN) GRANT	CHILD ONLY GRANT
1	\$304	\$228
2	\$412	\$309
3	\$520	\$390
4	\$628	\$471
5	\$736	\$552
6	\$844	\$633
7	\$952	\$714
8	\$1,060	\$795
9	\$1,168	\$876

**Example:** On October 1, for a family of three, a mom and her two children, their monthly grant amount went from \$432, \$417, or \$399 (depending where she lives in the state) to \$520 per month no matter where she lives in Illinois.

If your grant amount has not increased after October 1, 2018 please contact the **LAW PROJECT OF THE CHICAGO COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS** at 1 (800) 940-1119.