



Facts on the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Cash Grant:

- **The TANF grant for a family of three is a maximum of \$546 a month and this has not been adjusted for the cost of living since 1993.**
- From 1993 to 2003 the cost of living as measured by the Implicit Price Deflator increased by 20.1%.
- According to a major DSHS survey done in 1999, 38% of families on TANF reported that they had to cut meals sometimes or often. 10 – 11% said they had been homeless or had their utilities shut off at least once in the last 6 months.
- In 1993 the TANF grant for a family of three was 56.8% of the Federal Poverty Line. In 2004 the TANF grant for a family of three is 41.9% of the Federal Poverty Line.
- Even if a family of three receives the maximum of \$546 a month, the maximum food stamp benefit they can receive is \$393. Even with this maximum benefit level for TANF and Food Stamps they will be living at 71.9% of the Federal Poverty Line.
- Increasing the grant by 3% a year would raise the maximum grant amount to \$578.76 by 2007. This would cost the state \$17 million for the 2005-07 biennium and bring a family receiving the maximum grant to 44.3% of the Federal Poverty Line.
- Since January 1997 the TANF caseload has dropped 41% from 95,982 to 57,037 in December 2004. State spending on welfare grants has been cut by 43 percent under WorkFirst, going from \$477 million in 1998 to \$271 million for this fiscal year.