

Re-instate the Child Support Pass-Through

Invest in the Financial Stability and Well-Being of Families on TANF
(HB 1136 / SB 5144)

In Washington state, if a child is part of a family receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and child support is being paid by a non-custodial parent, **the state collects and withholds the child support payments to subsidize a portion of the cost to TANF.**

Reinstating the **Child Support Pass-Through** that was eliminated during the Great Recession would allow \$100 of child support per month to pass through to a family with one kid, or \$200 for a family with two or more kids.



The Child Support Pass-Through benefits children, parents, and Washington state in several ways:

> Lessens the impacts of deep poverty on kids and increases family financial stability

Today's maximum TANF cash grant of \$569/month (for a family of three) is 33 percent of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL). Research demonstrates deep poverty (below 50 percent FPL) has adverse impacts on children, especially on brain development in the first five years of life. Deep poverty also impacts social-emotional well-being, physical and mental health, and educational outcomes long into adulthood.

A \$100-\$200 payment by a non-custodial parent would greatly increase families' financial and housing security and reduce toxic stress.

> Incentivizes child support compliance, and supports child social-emotional well-being

Analysis by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) demonstrates there was a **28 percent increase in monthly child support payments** when the Child Support Pass-Through was previously in place in 2008-2011.

This is consistent with a body of research indicating child support pass-through policy leads to **increased child support compliance** by non-custodial parents when they know the money will be supporting their children.

Furthermore, children need parental engagement -both emotional and financial- to thrive. Increased noncustodial parent involvement will **enhance child social and emotional well-being.**

> Reduces intergenerational poverty

Increased financial stability for kids and parents on TANF can:

- Improve their housing stability and prevent homelessness;
- Enhance physical and mental health;
- Stabilize families struggling with family violence;
- Mitigate child welfare involvement; and
- Ensure a more stable foundation for parents to access the education and training necessary to create a stronger economic foothold.

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If I was allowed to get a portion of my child support payments while on TANF, I would be able to actually provide school supplies for my daughter. Things like her athletic fees and gear, clothing, shoes, her student ID card...all things I wasn't able to do this year, at all. She goes without new clothes and shoes every year, except for when it's absolutely necessary. It would greatly help in ways that I can't even explain.

-Mother and TANF recipient from Everett