



We all deserve to have what we need to put food on the table, pay for our families' everyday needs, and pursue our own goals in life. Cash assistance programs should provide a meaningful pathway out of poverty.

Provide Support Services for Families Leaving TANF *Support SB 6135 (Wilson)*

Prior to the Great Recession, families leaving TANF received 12 months of support services for items like car repairs, gas, work clothing, and tools after their TANF benefits ended. **Since the recession, that support has been cut to only 3 months.**

Prior to the Great Recession, a \$2000 transition stipend gave families receiving low cash grants the financial stability needed to leave TANF and land on their feet. **Since the recession, families have been trapped at the edge of the benefits cliff, unable to leave TANF.**

At Listening Sessions across the state, we consistently hear that transitional support would help families bridge the gap between receiving TANF and supporting themselves independently.

"Things like food stamps, TANF, supporting services from WorkSource, all of that goes away as soon as you start working. So it is hard. The thing is, it's good because you're working and you're doing everything you need to do, but at the same time, then now you're a hundred percent on your own."

- Ellensburg Listening Session Attendee

SB 6135 would:

- Re-instate support services for all families leaving TANF to 12 months, as it was before the recession.
- Provide a one-time \$2000 transition stipend to families receiving under \$200 in cash grants who voluntarily leave TANF.



To make TANF a pathway out of poverty, we need to provide support services to families transitioning off of benefits.