fact sheet

Georgia Department of Human Resources

TANF IN GEORGIA

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), commonly known as welfare, is the monthly cash assistance program for poor families with children under age 18. A family of three (mother and two children) may qualify for TANF if their gross income is below $784 a month and assets are worth less than $1,000. TANF is administered by DHR's Division of Family and Children Services.

There is a four-year lifetime limit on cash assistance. Work is a major component of TANF; adult recipients with a child over age 1 are required to participate in a work activity. These activities help recipients gain the experience needed to find a job and become self-sufficient.

Georgia's first TANF recipients to reach their lifetime limit left the rolls January 1, 2001; 7,685 have reached their lifetime limit as of June 1, 2003. Of these, 6,157 are no longer receiving TANF, while 1,528 clients received a hardship extension for June 2003.

- Total TANF recipients (June 2003) ----- 137,279 (103,858 children, 33,421 adults)
- TANF cash assistance budget, FY03 --- $156.8 million ($60.8 million state funds)
- From January 1997 to August 2003, the number of families receiving cash assistance decreased by 49 percent.
- Average number of families and individuals receiving cash assistance each month in 1997 compared to 2003:

	1997	**2003**
Families	114,154	57,823
People	302,473	138,609

- Racial/ethnic breakdown:

Black:	77.3 percent	Hispanic:	2.1 percent
White:	20.1 percent	Other:	.5 percent

Legal immigrants make up about .8 percent of those receiving cash assistance.

- Average monthly cash benefit through June 2003 ---------- $225
- Average family size ---------- 3 (mother, 2 children)
- Maximum monthly benefit for family of three ---------- $280
- Poverty level for a family of three----------$1,272/month

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