

TANF Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

TANF

is a federal block grant that offers cash assistance and other services to pregnant individuals and families with children.



Inflation Impact

The cash grant in Pennsylvania has not been adjusted since 1990, with **50% of its real value** estimated to have been lost due to inflation.

Eligibility Criteria

A TANF recipient can have **no more than \$1,000** in countable resources including money in any bank and savings accounts and the value of a second car. Additionally, an eligible recipient must have **total net countable income below the cash grant size** for their household type.

TANF CASH ASSISTANCE IN PA

Basic cash assistance
\$205 per month A household of 1

Basic cash assistance
\$316 per month A household of 2

Basic cash assistance
\$403 per month A household of 3



Benefit Increase

Increasing the cash grant size to be **at least 50% of the federal poverty line** would more than double what is currently available. These low cash grant amounts minimize the benefit cliff effect for TANF.



Increase the cash grant
to 50% of the federal poverty line

Adjust For Cost-of-living
to match inflation.

Raise Earned Income Disregard
from 50% to 75%.

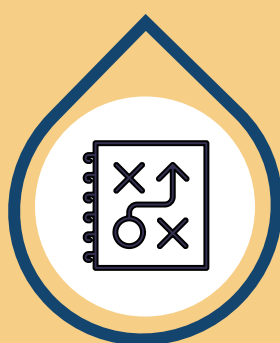
Eliminate administrative barriers
and involuntary work requirements.

Adopt effective poverty reduction policies
like the expanded Child Tax Credit of 2021

Expand the social safety net
for housing, healthcare, and childcare.

Support Workers Earning Low Wages
through measures like unionization.

Strategies



"Various changes to TANF could lead to better outcomes"

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SNAP Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

SNAP Is formerly known as food stamps, provides food benefits to families with low-income to supplement their grocery budget so they can afford the nutritious food essential to health and well-being.



Identified **7,500+ vulnerable households** in Philadelphia County using SNAP income limits and Census data.



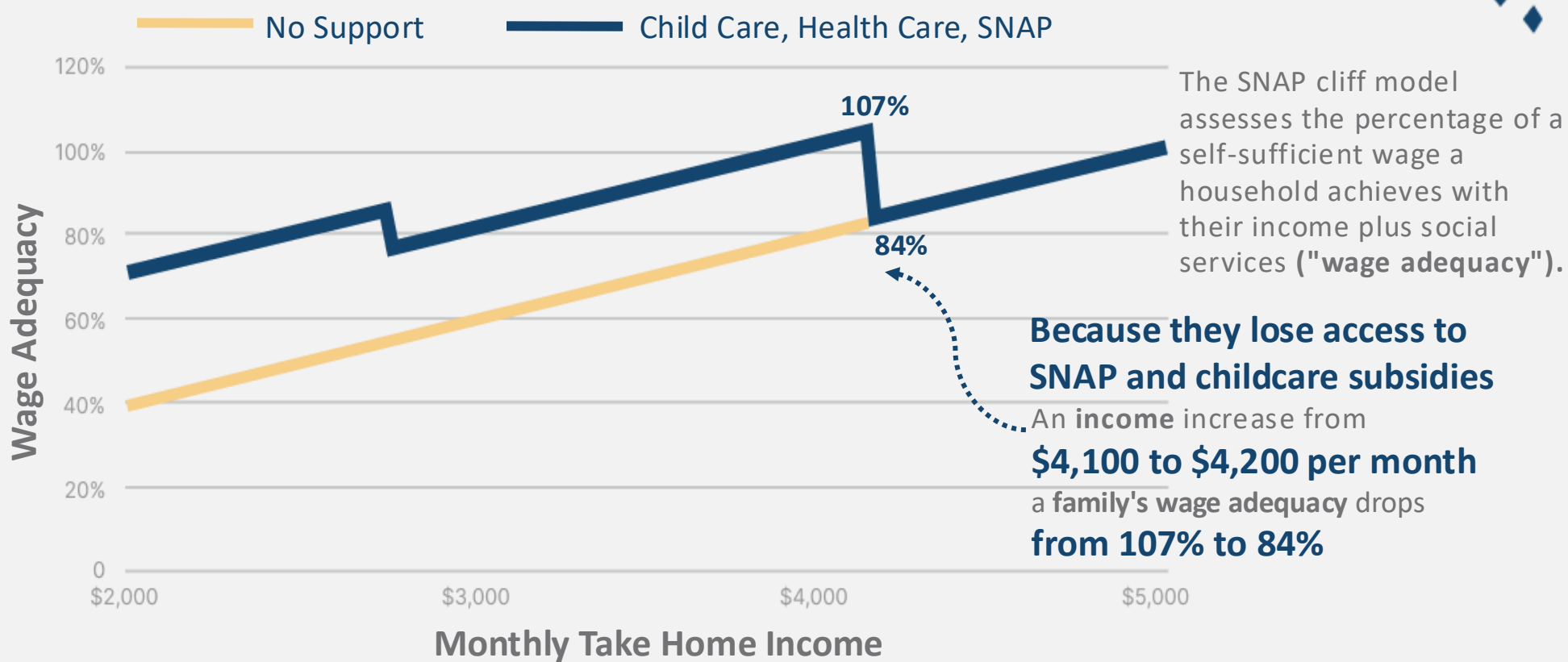
Census microdata shows heads of these **vulnerable households** are less likely White-alone and **more likely women**.



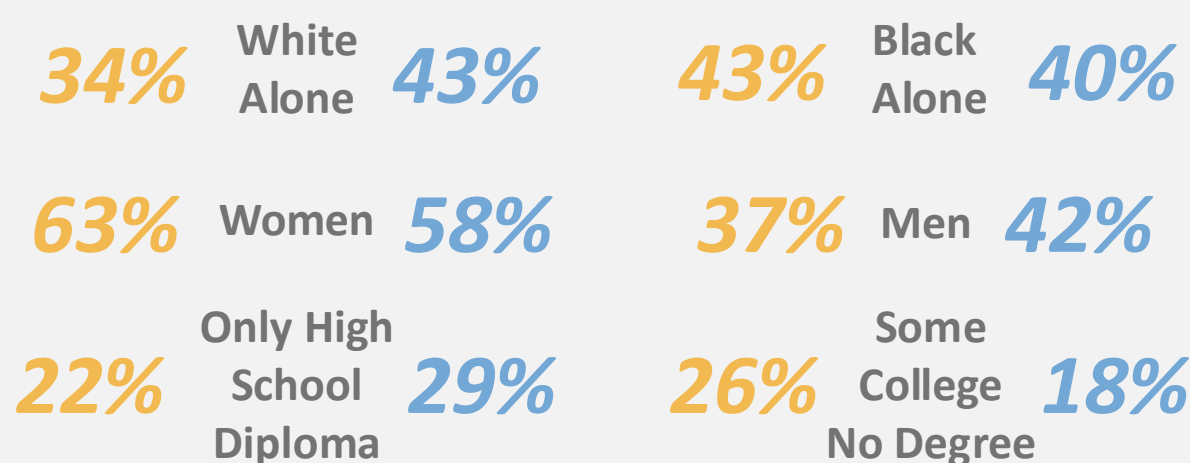
Heads of these households are **less likely to only have a high school diploma**, while more likely to have completed some college, but with no degree.

"Based on just SNAP income limits, these 7,500 households are within \$1 an hour of losing social services"

1 ADULT, 1 SCHOOL AGER AND 1 PRESCHOOLER IN PHILADELPHIA COUNTY



DEMOGRAPHICS OF HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS ON THE SNAP CLIFF



Using Census microdata, we find that households on our general cliff have a higher share of **African-American heads of households**, as well as **women**.

- Of Heads of Households on the Cliff
- Of Philadelphia County Heads of Households