

# DHHS FY 16/17 Budget Initiative: End State-Funded TANF for Non-Citizens

## Background

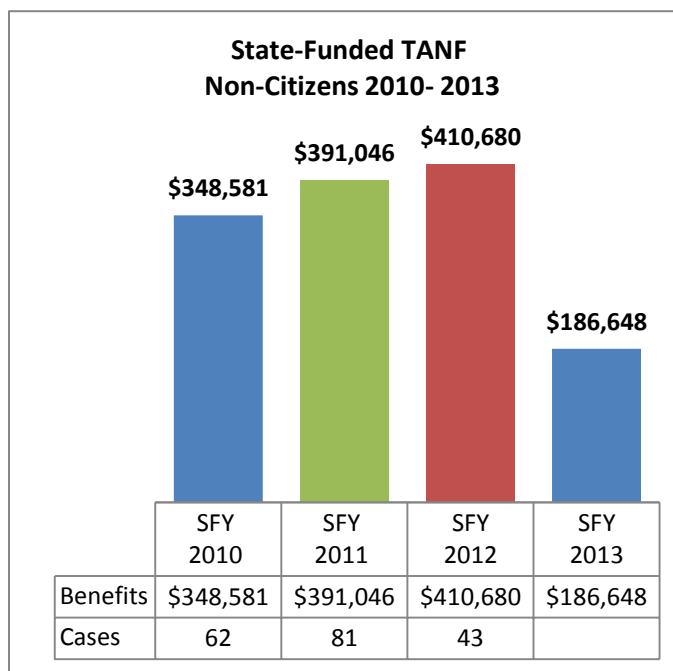
Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) was designed to provide temporary cash assistance to low-income families to help meet their basic necessities. Federal law prohibits non-citizens from receiving federally-funded TANF benefits for five years, from their date of entry. These non-citizens include, but are not limited to: legal permanent residents and illegal aliens.

**In 1997, the Maine Legislature decided to get around federal law by providing entirely state-funded TANF benefits to non-citizens.**

Maine is one of 19 States that provide state-funded TANF to non-citizens. Each state's program covers a variation of non-citizens.

In 2011, the Maine Legislature limited state-funded TANF to non-citizens already on the program or who met certain exceptions, such as asylum seekers waiting for work papers.

The current average benefit is \$707 per household per month. There are 35 households receiving this benefit.



## Initiative

This initiative achieves savings by aligning state policy with federal policy and discontinuing the awarding of state-funded TANF benefits to non-citizens beyond the level of support the federal government provides.

### Savings:

Year	Savings
SFY 16	(\$139,986)
SFY 17	(\$186,647)

## Impact

Currently, 112 non-citizens who are not eligible for TANF benefits under federal law are receiving TANF assistance from the state, and would lose their state-funded TANF assistance. They reside primarily in Androscoggin and Cumberland counties.