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Maine TANF Benefits Estimator (PTLA)

[{{as\_of\_date}}]

## **Calculation Details**

### **Step 1: About Your Household**

Number of children in household: {{ HHChildren }}

Number of adults in household: {{ HHAdults }}

Total TANF household size: {{ HHTotal }}

### **Step 2: About Your Income**

**Gross Unearned Income Input**:

Monthly ${{ ‘{:,.0f}’.format(MUI) }}

Biweekly ${{ ‘{:,.0f}’.format(biWUI) }} ${{ ‘{:,.0f}’.format(biWUIC) }} (Converted to Monthly)

Weekly ${{ ‘{:,.0f}’.format(WUI) }} ${{ ‘{:,.0f}’.format(WUIC) }} (Converted to Monthly)

Gross Monthly Unearned Income Total: ${{ ‘{:,.0f}’.format(GMUI) }}

**Gross Earned Income Input:**

Monthly ${{ ‘{:,.0f}’.format(MEI) }}

Biweekly ${{ ‘{:,.0f}’.format(biWEI) }} ${{ ‘{:,.0f}’.format(biWEIC) }} (Converted to Monthly)

Weekly ${{ ‘{:,.0f}’.format(WEI) }} ${{ ‘{:,.0f}’.format(WEIC) }} (Converted to Monthly)

**Income Totals**

Gross Monthly Earned Income Total: ${{ ‘{:,.0f}’.format(GMEI) }}

Countable Monthly Earned Income: ${{ ‘{:,.0f}’.format(CMEI) }}

Child Support Paid Outside the Household: ${{ ‘{:,.0f}’.format(CSP) }}

Total Income (Countable Earned Income + Unearned Income – Child Support Paid): ${{ ‘{:,.0f}’.format(TI) }}

### **Step 3: Eligibility & Shelter Costs**

Standard of Need (SON) Test: {{ SONResult }}

{%p if SONResult == “FAILED” %}

**Results**

It seems that you are not eligible for TANF benefits. This is because your income is higher than the ‘standard of need’ for your household size as set by DHHS.

This is only an estimate – if you have questions or think this result may be wrong, you can [contact Maine Equal Justice](https://maineequaljustice.org/contact-us/).

{%p endif %}

{%p if SONResult == “PASSED” %}

Basic TANF Grant Amount: ${{ ‘{:,.0f}’.format(BasicGrant) }}

*(This number may be different from the Final Estimated TANF Benefit)*

Income for Special Need Housing Allowance purposes: ${{ ‘{:,.0f}’.format(SNHAI) }}

*(Basic TANF grant + Total Income + Child Support Received\*)*

*\*We do not ask about child support you receive in this tool because DHHS does complex calculations about families getting child support and how it is ‘passed through’ DHHS. When you first apply, they will almost always set the amount to ‘0’ until they are able to do these ‘pass through’ calculations.*

Shelter costs: ${{ ‘{:,.0f}’.format(SC) }}

Eligible for Special Need Housing Allowance?: {{ SNHAResult }}

*(To be eligible for the Special Need Housing Allowance your shelter costs must be 50% of your ‘Income for Special Need Housing Allowance purposes’ or higher. If you are eligible the Special Needs Housing Allowance, up to $300, will be added to your benefit amount.)*

### **Results – Final TANF Benefits Estimate**

**Final Estimated TANF Benefit Amount:** ${{ ‘{:,.0f}’.format(FinalResult) }}

{%p endif %}

### **Next Steps and More Resources**

**To apply for TANF, you have options! You can:**

* Apply online through [My Maine Connection](https://www1.maine.gov/benefits/account/login.html)
* Download an [application from Maine DHHS](https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/sites/maine.gov.dhhs/files/inline-files/GeneralApp.pdf) and mail, email, or fax:
  + Mail: Office for Family Independence, 114 Corn Shop Lane, Farmington, ME 04938
  + Email: [Farmington.DHHS@Maine.gov](mailto:Farmington.DHHS@Maine.gov)
  + Fax: 207-778-8429
* Visit [your local DHHS office](https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/about/contact/offices) and apply in person.
* Call [your local DHHS office](https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/about/contact/offices) and apply over the phone.

**After you apply for TANF**

* DHHS will call you for an interview and ask you for documents to verify your income and household information. You can mail, fax, or email those documents to DHHS, or upload them online at My Maine Connection.
* DHHS needs to approve or deny a case within 30 days of the date of application. If you’re approved, you’ll get TANF benefits back to the date you applied.
* You have to attend ASPIRE orientation before you can be approved for TANF. After you apply, make sure you look out for a letter from DHHS with the date and time of orientation. If you can’t make that time, you can call Fedcap to reschedule!
* If your TANF is approved, DHHS will send you a letter that explains how much your TANF benefits are every month and how to use them.

**Legal Services**

* If you are denied TANF or you disagree with how much DHHS gives you, you have rights.
* You may be able to get help from [Pine Tree Legal Assistance](https://ptla.org) or [Maine Equal Justice](https://maineequaljustice.org/)!

**Other benefits you may be eligible for**

* Maine uses the same application for SNAP, MaineCare, and TANF. You can apply for all three programs at the same time to see what income, food, and healthcare support you qualify for.

**Other resources**

* [Good Shepherd Maine food bank map](https://www.gsfb.org/food-map/)
* Your [local CAP Agency](https://mecap.org/caas/) may be able to connect you with other services and support programs in your area.
* You can ask [Maine211](https://211maine.org/) about services and support in your area.