

**2023 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES**

**HB 1036**

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1036  
1/4/2023

Relating to the administration of the temporary assistance for needy families program.

Chairman Weisz called the meeting to order at 1:31pm

Chairman Robin Weisz, Vice Chairman Matthew Ruby, Reps. Karen A. Anderson, Mike Beltz, Clayton Fegley, Kathy Frelich, Dawson Holle, Dwight Kiefert, Carrie McLeod, Todd Porter, Brandon Prichard, Karen M. Rohr, Jayme Davis, and Gretchen Dobervich. All present.

### Discussion Topics:

- Family benefits limit
- Poverty level cutoff
- Household income eligibility
- Child support
- Cost of temporary assistance.

Vice Chairman Ruby introduced HB 1036.

Michele Gee, Economic Assistance Section of Health and Human Services, provided neutral testimony on HB 1036 (No. 12350).

Chairman Weisz closed the meeting at 1:44pm

*Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1036  
2/6/2023

Relating to the administration of the temporary assistance for needy families program.

Chairman Weisz called the meeting to order at 2:55 PM

Chairman Robin Weisz, Vice Chairman Matthew Ruby, Reps. Karen A. Anderson, Mike Beltz, Clayton Fegley, Kathy Frelich, Dawson Holle, Dwight Kiefert, Carrie McLeod, Todd Porter, Brandon Prichard, Karen M. Rohr, Jayme Davis, and Gretchen Dobervich. All present.

### Discussion Topics:

- Family benefits limit
- Poverty level cutoff
- Committee work

Representative Dobervich moved a Do Pass and rerefer to Appropriations.

Representative McLeod seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Robin Weisz	Y
Representative Matthew Ruby	Y
Representative Karen A. Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Beltz	Y
Representative Jayme Davis	Y
Representative Gretchen Dobervich	Y
Representative Clayton Fegley	Y
Representative Kathy Frelich	Y
Representative Dawson Holle	N
Representative Dwight Kiefert	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative Todd Porter	Y
Representative Brandon Prichard	N
Representative Karen M. Rohr	Y

Motion carried 12-2-0.

Representative Ruby Carrier.

Chairman Robin Weisz adjourned the meeting at 3:02 PM

*Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1036: Human Services Committee (Rep. Weisz, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (12 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1036 was rereferred to the **Appropriations Committee**.

**2023 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS**

**HB 1036**

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Appropriations Committee**  
Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

HB 1036  
2/15/2023

Relating to the administration of the temporary assistance for needy families program

**8:14 AM Chairman Vigesaa-** Meeting was called to order and roll call was taken:

**Members present;** Chairman Vigesaa, Representative Kempenich, Representative B. Anderson, Representative Brandenburg, Representative Hanson, Representative Kreidt, Representative Martinson, Representative Mitskog, Representative Meier, Representative Mock, Representative Monson, Representative Nathe, Representative J. Nelson, Representative O'Brien, Representative Pyle, Representative Richter, Representative Sanford, Representative Schatz, Representative Schobinger, Representative Strinden, Representative G. Stemen and Representative Swiontek.

**Members not Present-** Representative Bellew

**Discussion Topics:**

- Income Level for TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) Participants
- Federal Component

**Representative Weisz-** Introduces the bill.

**Michele Gee- Director, Economic Assistance Division ND Human Services-** Here to answer committee questions.

**Chairman Vigesaa** Closed the meeting for HB 1036 8:38 AM

*Risa Berube, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations Committee Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

HB 1036  
2/16/2023

Relating to the administration of the temporary assistance for needy families program

**10:20 AM Chairman Vigesaa-** Meeting was called to order and roll call was taken:

**Members Present;** Chairman Vigesaa, Representative Kempenich, Representative B. Anderson, Representative Bellew, Representative Hanson, Representative Kreidt, Representative Martinson, Representative Mitskog, Representative Meier, Representative Mock, Representative Monson, Representative Nathe, Representative J. Nelson, Representative O'Brien, Representative Pyle, Representative Richter, Representative Sanford, Representative Schatz, Representative Schobinger, Representative Strinden, Representative G. Stemen and Representative Swiontek.

**Members not Present-** Representative Brandenburg

### Discussion Topics:

- Additional Participants
- 5 Year Limit of Benefits
- Work Requirement
- Inflation Increase

**Representative J. Nelson** Move for a Do Pass

**Representative Strinden-** Seconds the motion.

Committee discussion- Roll call vote

Representatives	Vote
Representative Don Vigesaa	N
Representative Keith Kempenich	Y
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Larry Bellew	N
Representative Mike Brandenburg	A
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Gary Kreidt	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative Corey Mock	Y
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	Y

Representative Brandy Pyle	Y
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	Y
Representative Mike Schatz	N
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	Y
Representative Greg Stemen	Y
Representative Michelle Strinden	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	Y

**Motion Carries 19-3-1 Representative Weisz will carry the bill.**

**10:30 AM Chairman Vigesaa** Closed the meeting for HB 1036

*Risa Berube, Committee Clerk*



**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1036: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Vigesaa, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (19 YEAS, 3 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1036 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

**2023 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES**

**HB 1036**

# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Human Services Committee**  
Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

HB 1036  
3/20/2023

Relating to the administration of the temporary assistance for needy families program.

9:00 AM **Vice Chairman Cleary** called the hearing to order. **Senators Cleary, Clemens, K. Roers, Hogan, Weston** are present. **Senator Lee** was absent.

**Discussion Topics:**

- Benefits
- Assistance
- TANIF limits
- Poverty

9:01 AM **Senator Hogan** introduced HB 1036 in favor #25894

9:03 AM **Christopher Dobson, Executive Director North Dakota Catholic Conference** in favor verbal

9:05 AM **Representative Kimberly Jacobson, Zone Director, Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone**, testimony in favor #25762, 25763

9:12 AM **Michele Gee, Director of the Economic Assistance Section, North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services** testimony neutral #25769

9:30 AM **Vice Chair Cleary** closed the hearing.

*Patricia Lahr, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Human Services Committee**  
Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

HB 1036  
3/20/2023

Relating to the administration of the temporary assistance for needy families program.

11:31 AM **Chairman Lee** called the meeting to order. **Senators Lee, Cleary, Clemens, K. Roers, Hogan, Weston** are present.

## Discussion Topics:

- Study

**Senator Lee** calls for discussion

**Senator Hogan** moved to adopt amendment, to remove (or more), page 3 line 12 and 13. LC 23.0212.01002.

**Senator Cleary** seconded the motion.

Roll call vote.

Senators	Vote
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Kent Weston	Y

The motion passed 6-0-0.

**Senator Hogan** DO PASS as **AMENDED** and **REREFER** to **APPROPRIATIONS**.

**Senator Cleary** seconded the motion.

Roll call vote.

Senators	Vote
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Kent Weston	Y

The motion passed 6-0-0.

**Senator Hogan** will carry HB 1036.

11:37 AM **Madam Chair Lee** closed the meeting.  
*Patricia Lahr, Committee Clerk*

March 20, 2023

AGT  
3-20-23  
(1-1)

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1036

Page 3, line 12, remove "or"

Page 3, line 13, remove "more"

Renumber accordingly

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1036: Human Services Committee (Sen. Lee, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1036 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

Page 3, line 12, remove "or"

Page 3, line 13, remove "more"

Renumber accordingly

**2023 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS**

**HB 1036**

# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations - Human Resources Division Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1036  
3/28/2023

A BILL relating to the administration of the temporary assistance for needy families' program.

10:00 AM Chairman Dever called the meeting to order. Members present: Senators Dever, Davison, Burckhard, Mathern, Kreun.

### Discussion Topics:

- TANF dollars
- Fiscal note
- Committee action

10:00 AM Committee discussion.

10:04 AM Michelle Gee, ND Department of Health & Human Services, answered questions.

10:28 AM Senator Davison moved DO NOT PASS on HB 1036.  
Senator Burckhard seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Curt Kreun	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	N

Motion passed 4-1-0.

Senator Davison will carry the bill.

10:30 AM Chairman Dever closed the meeting.

*Susan Huntington, Committee Clerk*



# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1036  
3/31/2023

Relating to the administration of the temporary assistance for needy families program.

11:00 AM Chairman Bekkedahl opened the hearing on HB 1036.

Members present: Senators Bekkedahl, Krebsbach, Burckhard, Davison, Dever, Dwyer, Erbele, Kreun, Meyer, Roers, Schaible, Sorvaag, Vedaa, Wanzek, Rust, and Mathern.

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

11:00 AM Senator Dever introduced the bill verbally.

11:02 AM Senator Dever moved DO NOT PASS.  
Senator Davison seconded.

Roll call vote.

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Karen K. Krebsbach	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Curt Kreun	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	N
Senator Scott Meyer	A
Senator Jim P. Roers	Y
Senator David S. Rust	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Shawn Vedaa	Y
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion passed. 14-1-1

Senator Dever will carry the bill.

11:10 AM Chairman Bekkedahl closed the meeting.

*Justin Boone on behalf of Kathleen Hall, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1036, as amended: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman)** recommends **DO NOT PASS** (14 YEAS, 1 NAY, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1036, as amended, was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**TESTIMONY**

**HB 1036**

**Testimony  
House Bill No. 1036  
House Human Services Committee  
Representative Robin Weisz, Chairman  
January 4, 2023**

Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Michele Gee, Director of the Economic Assistance Section with the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). I appear before you to provide testimony on House Bill 1036.

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program was originally established as part of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), replacing the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) Program.

House Bill 1036 proposes changes to North Dakota Century Code section 50-09-29, setting the maximum benefit level for the TANF Program at “fifty percent or more of the federal poverty level based on household size”.

The TANF benefit level is currently defined in section 75-02-01.2-35 of the North Dakota Administrative Code and represents the amount of household income, adjusted by household size and living arrangement, that is necessary to maintain a standard of living compatible with decency and health. The six basic items of need considered are shelter, food, clothing, personal need items, household supplies, fuel and utilities.

The current standard of need as outlined in North Dakota Administrative Code means that families whose household income is approximately 22-25% of the Federal Poverty Limit may be eligible to receive assistance from the TANF program. Translated into dollars and cents, this means that a single parent household with two children may be eligible to receive a financial benefit from TANF if their household income is equal to or less than \$5,069 a year, or approximately \$422 of earnings per month.

The change proposed in House Bill 1036 would allow families with household income that is equal to approximately 50% of the Federal Poverty Limit to become eligible for TANF financial assistance in North Dakota. This would mean that a single parent household with two children may be eligible for the TANF program if their income is equal to or less than \$11,520 a year, or approximately \$960 a month.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to try to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you.

Testimony Prepared for the  
**Senate Human Services Committee**

March 20, 2023

By: Kim Jacobson, Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone Director

**RE: House Bill 1036 – TANF Income Limits**

Chair Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, my name is Kim Jacobson. I am the Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone Director, which includes the service area of Traill and Steele Counties. In addition, I serve as President of the North Dakota Human Service Zone Director Association. Please consider my testimony in support of HB 1036.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is an economic assistance program administered by human service zones. This program assists the lowest income and most economically fragile families with young children. At the same time, TANF is the most highly regulated and technical program both to participate in and administer.

Many of our current policies and laws surrounding TANF are over twenty-five years old and stem from 1997's Welfare Reform Reauthorization Act. North Dakota currently utilizes the standard of need for TANF equivalent to 22-25% of the federal poverty level. To help you understand how income restrictive this level of eligibility truly is, I refer you to the enclosed attachment. When looking at 25% of federal poverty level, a household of two would have an **annual income** of \$4,930 or a **monthly income** of \$411. This is shockingly low and outdated.

The TANF program, its educational and occupational supports are key to assisting low income, often single-parent households and their children. I urge you to pass HB 1036 which would increase the federal poverty level for TANF eligibility to approximately 50% of the federal poverty level (\$9,860 annual or \$822 monthly). While this threshold is also very low, it would make progress to assist our lowest income families while North Dakota has opportunity to study and modernize the TANF program.

Thank you for consideration of my testimony. I stand for questions from the committee.

## 2023 Poverty Guidelines: 48 Contiguous States (all states except Alaska and Hawaii)

### Per Month

Household/ Family Size	25%	50%	75%	100%	125%	130%	133%	135%	138%	150%	175%	180%	185%	200%
1	\$304	\$608	\$911	\$1,215	\$1,519	\$1,580	\$1,616	\$1,640	\$1,677	\$1,823	\$2,126	\$2,187	\$2,248	\$2,430
2	\$411	\$822	\$1,233	\$1,643	\$2,054	\$2,136	\$2,186	\$2,219	\$2,268	\$2,465	\$2,876	\$2,958	\$3,040	\$3,287
3	\$518	\$1,036	\$1,554	\$2,072	\$2,590	\$2,693	\$2,755	\$2,797	\$2,859	\$3,108	\$3,625	\$3,729	\$3,833	\$4,143
4	\$625	\$1,250	\$1,875	\$2,500	\$3,125	\$3,250	\$3,325	\$3,375	\$3,450	\$3,750	\$4,375	\$4,500	\$4,625	\$5,000
5	\$732	\$1,464	\$2,196	\$2,928	\$3,660	\$3,807	\$3,895	\$3,953	\$4,041	\$4,393	\$5,125	\$5,271	\$5,417	\$5,857
6	\$839	\$1,678	\$2,518	\$3,357	\$4,196	\$4,364	\$4,464	\$4,532	\$4,632	\$5,035	\$5,874	\$6,042	\$6,210	\$6,713
7	\$946	\$1,893	\$2,839	\$3,785	\$4,731	\$4,921	\$5,034	\$5,110	\$5,223	\$5,678	\$6,624	\$6,813	\$7,002	\$7,570
8	\$1,053	\$2,107	\$3,160	\$4,213	\$5,267	\$5,477	\$5,604	\$5,688	\$5,814	\$6,320	\$7,373	\$7,584	\$7,795	\$8,427
9	\$1,160	\$2,321	\$3,481	\$4,642	\$5,802	\$6,034	\$6,173	\$6,266	\$6,406	\$6,963	\$8,123	\$8,355	\$8,587	\$9,283
10	\$1,268	\$2,535	\$3,803	\$5,070	\$6,338	\$6,591	\$6,743	\$6,845	\$6,997	\$7,605	\$8,873	\$9,126	\$9,380	\$10,140
11	\$1,375	\$2,749	\$4,124	\$5,498	\$6,873	\$7,148	\$7,313	\$7,423	\$7,588	\$8,248	\$9,622	\$9,897	\$10,172	\$10,997
12	\$1,482	\$2,963	\$4,445	\$5,927	\$7,408	\$7,705	\$7,882	\$8,001	\$8,179	\$8,890	\$10,372	\$10,668	\$10,964	\$11,853
13	\$1,589	\$3,178	\$4,766	\$6,355	\$7,944	\$8,262	\$8,452	\$8,579	\$8,770	\$9,533	\$11,121	\$11,439	\$11,757	\$12,710
14	\$1,696	\$3,392	\$5,088	\$6,783	\$8,479	\$8,818	\$9,022	\$9,158	\$9,361	\$10,175	\$11,871	\$12,210	\$12,549	\$13,567

Household/ Family Size	225%	250%	275%	300%	325%	350%	375%	400%	500%	600%	700%	800%	1000%
1	\$2,734	\$3,038	\$3,341	\$3,645	\$3,949	\$4,253	\$4,556	\$4,860	\$6,075	\$7,290	\$8,505	\$9,720	\$12,150
2	\$3,698	\$4,108	\$4,519	\$4,930	\$5,341	\$5,752	\$6,163	\$6,573	\$8,217	\$9,860	\$11,503	\$13,147	\$16,433
3	\$4,661	\$5,179	\$5,697	\$6,215	\$6,733	\$7,251	\$7,769	\$8,287	\$10,358	\$12,430	\$14,502	\$16,573	\$20,717
4	\$5,625	\$6,250	\$6,875	\$7,500	\$8,125	\$8,750	\$9,375	\$10,000	\$12,500	\$15,000	\$17,500	\$20,000	\$25,000
5	\$6,589	\$7,321	\$8,053	\$8,785	\$9,517	\$10,249	\$10,981	\$11,713	\$14,642	\$17,570	\$20,498	\$23,427	\$29,283
6	\$7,553	\$8,392	\$9,231	\$10,070	\$10,909	\$11,748	\$12,588	\$13,427	\$16,783	\$20,140	\$23,497	\$26,853	\$33,567
7	\$8,516	\$9,463	\$10,409	\$11,355	\$12,301	\$13,248	\$14,194	\$15,140	\$18,925	\$22,710	\$26,495	\$30,280	\$37,850
8	\$9,480	\$10,533	\$11,587	\$12,640	\$13,693	\$14,747	\$15,800	\$16,853	\$21,067	\$25,280	\$29,493	\$33,707	\$42,133
9	\$10,444	\$11,604	\$12,765	\$13,925	\$15,085	\$16,246	\$17,406	\$18,567	\$23,208	\$27,850	\$32,492	\$37,133	\$46,417
10	\$11,408	\$12,675	\$13,943	\$15,210	\$16,478	\$17,745	\$19,013	\$20,280	\$25,350	\$30,420	\$35,490	\$40,560	\$50,700
11	\$12,371	\$13,746	\$15,120	\$16,495	\$17,870	\$19,244	\$20,619	\$21,993	\$27,492	\$32,990	\$38,488	\$43,987	\$54,983
12	\$13,335	\$14,817	\$16,298	\$17,780	\$19,262	\$20,743	\$22,225	\$23,707	\$29,633	\$35,560	\$41,487	\$47,413	\$59,267
13	\$14,299	\$15,888	\$17,476	\$19,065	\$20,654	\$22,243	\$23,831	\$25,420	\$31,775	\$38,130	\$44,485	\$50,840	\$63,550
14	\$15,263	\$16,958	\$18,654	\$20,350	\$22,046	\$23,742	\$25,438	\$27,133	\$33,917	\$40,700	\$47,483	\$54,267	\$67,833

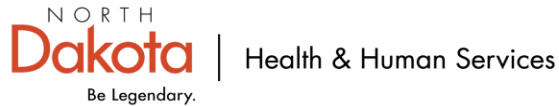
## 2023 Poverty Guidelines: 48 Contiguous States (all states except Alaska and Hawaii)

Per Year

Household/ Family Size	25%	50%	75%	100%	125%	130%	133%	135%	138%	150%	175%	180%	185%	200%
1	\$3,645	\$7,290	\$10,935	\$14,580	\$18,225	\$18,954	\$19,391	\$19,683	\$20,120	\$21,870	\$25,515	\$26,244	\$26,973	\$29,160
2	\$4,930	\$9,860	\$14,790	\$19,720	\$24,650	\$25,636	\$26,228	\$26,622	\$27,214	\$29,580	\$34,510	\$35,496	\$36,482	\$39,440
3	\$6,215	\$12,430	\$18,645	\$24,860	\$31,075	\$32,318	\$33,064	\$33,561	\$34,307	\$37,290	\$43,505	\$44,748	\$45,991	\$49,720
4	\$7,500	\$15,000	\$22,500	\$30,000	\$37,500	\$39,000	\$39,900	\$40,500	\$41,400	\$45,000	\$52,500	\$54,000	\$55,500	\$60,000
5	\$8,785	\$17,570	\$26,355	\$35,140	\$43,925	\$45,682	\$46,736	\$47,439	\$48,493	\$52,710	\$61,495	\$63,252	\$65,009	\$70,280
6	\$10,070	\$20,140	\$30,210	\$40,280	\$50,350	\$52,364	\$53,572	\$54,378	\$55,586	\$60,420	\$70,490	\$72,504	\$74,518	\$80,560
7	\$11,355	\$22,710	\$34,065	\$45,420	\$56,775	\$59,046	\$60,409	\$61,317	\$62,680	\$68,130	\$79,485	\$81,756	\$84,027	\$90,840
8	\$12,640	\$25,280	\$37,920	\$50,560	\$63,200	\$65,728	\$67,245	\$68,256	\$69,773	\$75,840	\$88,480	\$91,008	\$93,536	\$101,120
9	\$13,925	\$27,850	\$41,775	\$55,700	\$69,625	\$72,410	\$74,081	\$75,195	\$76,866	\$83,550	\$97,475	\$100,260	\$103,045	\$111,400
10	\$15,210	\$30,420	\$45,630	\$60,840	\$76,050	\$79,092	\$80,917	\$82,134	\$83,959	\$91,260	\$106,470	\$109,512	\$112,554	\$121,680
11	\$16,495	\$32,990	\$49,485	\$65,980	\$82,475	\$85,774	\$87,753	\$89,073	\$91,052	\$98,970	\$115,465	\$118,764	\$122,063	\$131,960
12	\$17,780	\$35,560	\$53,340	\$71,120	\$88,900	\$92,456	\$94,590	\$96,012	\$98,146	\$106,680	\$124,460	\$128,016	\$131,572	\$142,240
13	\$19,065	\$38,130	\$57,195	\$76,260	\$95,325	\$99,138	\$101,426	\$102,951	\$105,239	\$114,390	\$133,455	\$137,268	\$141,081	\$152,520
14	\$20,350	\$40,700	\$61,050	\$81,400	\$101,750	\$105,820	\$108,262	\$109,890	\$112,332	\$122,100	\$142,450	\$146,520	\$150,590	\$162,800

Household/ Family Size	225%	250%	275%	300%	325%	350%	375%	400%	500%	600%	700%	800%	1000%
1	\$32,805	\$36,450	\$40,095	\$43,740	\$47,385	\$51,030	\$54,675	\$58,320	\$72,900	\$87,480	\$102,060	\$116,640	\$145,800
2	\$44,370	\$49,300	\$54,230	\$59,160	\$64,090	\$69,020	\$73,950	\$78,880	\$98,600	\$118,320	\$138,040	\$157,760	\$197,200
3	\$55,935	\$62,150	\$68,365	\$74,580	\$80,795	\$87,010	\$93,225	\$99,440	\$124,300	\$149,160	\$174,020	\$198,880	\$248,600
4	\$67,500	\$75,000	\$82,500	\$90,000	\$97,500	\$105,000	\$112,500	\$120,000	\$150,000	\$180,000	\$210,000	\$240,000	\$300,000
5	\$79,065	\$87,850	\$96,635	\$105,420	\$114,205	\$122,990	\$131,775	\$140,560	\$175,700	\$210,840	\$245,980	\$281,120	\$351,400
6	\$90,630	\$100,700	\$110,770	\$120,840	\$130,910	\$140,980	\$151,050	\$161,120	\$201,400	\$241,680	\$281,960	\$322,240	\$402,800
7	\$102,195	\$113,550	\$124,905	\$136,260	\$147,615	\$158,970	\$170,325	\$181,680	\$227,100	\$272,520	\$317,940	\$363,360	\$454,200
8	\$113,760	\$126,400	\$139,040	\$151,680	\$164,320	\$176,960	\$189,600	\$202,240	\$252,800	\$303,360	\$353,920	\$404,480	\$505,600
9	\$125,325	\$139,250	\$153,175	\$167,100	\$181,025	\$194,950	\$208,875	\$222,800	\$278,500	\$334,200	\$389,900	\$445,600	\$557,000
10	\$136,890	\$152,100	\$167,310	\$182,520	\$197,730	\$212,940	\$228,150	\$243,360	\$304,200	\$365,040	\$425,880	\$486,720	\$608,400
11	\$148,455	\$164,950	\$181,445	\$197,940	\$214,435	\$230,930	\$247,425	\$263,920	\$329,900	\$395,880	\$461,860	\$527,840	\$659,800
12	\$160,020	\$177,800	\$195,580	\$213,360	\$231,140	\$248,920	\$266,700	\$284,480	\$355,600	\$426,720	\$497,840	\$568,960	\$711,200
13	\$171,585	\$190,650	\$209,715	\$228,780	\$247,845	\$266,910	\$285,975	\$305,040	\$381,300	\$457,560	\$533,820	\$610,080	\$762,600
14	\$183,150	\$203,500	\$223,850	\$244,200	\$264,550	\$284,900	\$305,250	\$325,600	\$407,000	\$488,400	\$569,800	\$651,200	\$814,000





**Testimony**  
**House Bill No. 1036**  
**Senate Human Services Committee**  
**Senator Judy Lee, Chairman**  
March 20, 2023

Chairman Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Michele Gee, Director of the Economic Assistance Section with the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). I appear before you to provide testimony on House Bill 1036.

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program was originally established as part of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), replacing the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) Program.

House Bill 1036 proposes changes to North Dakota Century Code section 50-09-29, setting the maximum benefit level for the TANF Program at "fifty percent or more of the federal poverty level based on household size".

The TANF benefit level is currently defined in section 75-02-01.2-35 of the North Dakota Administrative Code and represents the amount of household income, adjusted by household size and living arrangement, that is necessary to maintain a standard of living compatible with decency and health. The six basic items of need considered are shelter, food, clothing, personal need items, household supplies, fuel and utilities.

The current standard of need as outlined in North Dakota Administrative Code means that families whose household income is approximately 22-25% of the Federal Poverty Limit may be eligible to receive assistance from the TANF program. Translated into dollars and cents, this means that a single parent household with two children may be eligible to receive a financial benefit from TANF if their household income is equal to or less than \$5,069 a year, or approximately \$422 of earnings per month.

The change proposed in House Bill 1036 would allow families with household income that is equal to approximately 50% of the Federal Poverty Limit to become eligible for TANF financial assistance in North Dakota. This would mean that a single parent household with two children may be eligible for the TANF program if their income is equal to or less than \$11,520 a year, or approximately \$960 a month.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to try to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you.

# Appendix: Comparison of the 2023 state median income (SMI) and federal poverty level

Families potentially eligible for CCAP

Families potentially eligible for LIHEAP and SNAP

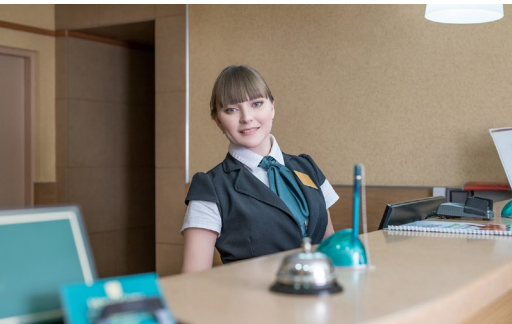
Families potentially eligible for TANF

Household Size	25% Federal Poverty Level		100% Federal Poverty Level		10% SMI		60% SMI		85% SMI		100% SMI	
	Annual Income	Hourly Wage	Annual Income	Hourly Wage	Annual Income	Hourly Wage	Annual Income	Hourly Wage	Annual Income	Hourly Wage	Annual Income	Hourly Wage
1	\$ 3,645	\$ 1.75	\$ 14,580	\$ 7.01	\$ 5,568	\$ 2.68	\$ 33,407	\$ 16.06	\$ 47,328	\$ 22.75	\$ 55,680	\$ 26.77
2	\$ 4,930	\$ 2.37	\$ 19,720	\$ 9.48	\$ 7,284	\$ 3.50	\$ 43,686	\$ 21.00	\$ 61,896	\$ 29.76	\$ 72,819	\$ 35.01
3	\$ 6,215	\$ 2.99	\$ 24,860	\$ 11.95	\$ 9,000	\$ 4.33	\$ 53,965	\$ 25.94	\$ 76,452	\$ 36.76	\$ 89,944	\$ 43.24
4	\$ 7,500	\$ 3.61	\$ 30,000	\$ 14.42	\$ 10,704	\$ 5.15	\$ 64,245	\$ 30.89	\$ 91,020	\$ 43.76	\$ 107,082	\$ 51.48
5	\$ 8,785	\$ 4.22	\$ 35,140	\$ 16.89	\$ 12,420	\$ 5.97	\$ 74,524	\$ 35.83	\$ 105,576	\$ 50.76	\$ 124,207	\$ 59.71
6	\$ 10,070	\$ 4.84	\$ 40,280	\$ 19.37	\$ 14,136	\$ 6.80	\$ 84,803	\$ 40.77	\$ 120,132	\$ 57.76	\$ 141,332	\$ 67.95
7	\$ 11,355	\$ 5.46	\$ 45,420	\$ 21.84	\$ 14,460	\$ 6.95	\$ 86,730	\$ 41.70	\$ 122,868	\$ 59.07	\$ 144,551	\$ 69.50
8	\$ 12,640	\$ 6.08	\$ 50,560	\$ 24.31	\$ 14,772	\$ 7.10	\$ 88,658	\$ 42.62	\$ 125,604	\$ 60.39	\$ 147,769	\$ 71.04

"Hourly wage" is calculated by assuming 2080 hours worked per year, per annual income noted.

Multiple wage earners could combine earnings to attain the noted household Income/hourly wage.

# 88% of Jobs in the ND labor market pay an average wage of \$35/hour or less



Less than \$15 / hr	\$15 - \$20 / hour	\$20 - \$28 / hour	\$28 - \$35 / hour	>\$35 / hour
Child care worker Waiter/Waitress Dishwasher Bartender Fast food Short order cook Cashiers Hotel clerk Laundry/Dry cleaning Maid/Housecleaner	Home health/PT aide Personal care aide Hair stylist Retail Receptionist/secretary Restaurant cook Preschool teacher EMTs & paramedics Assemblers Maintenance workers Nursing assistant Laborer Substitute teacher Stocker/order filler Landscaping/grounds Janitor	Carpenter Loan processor Legal secretary Correctional officers Auto service tech Surgical tech Roofer Lic Practical Nurse Dental assistant Firefighter Surgical assistant Clergy Social worker Police Hotel manager Truck driver	School counselor Rotary drill operator HR specialist Accountant Real Estate Sales PR specialist Counselor Registered Nurse Comp network specialist Construction supervisor Dental hygienist Architectural drafter Speech pathologist	Engineer Constr mgr Electrician Lineman Gen/Op mgr Loan officer Lawyer Sales Software dev Veterinarian Pharmacist Physician Dentist Psychologist
<p><b>48,790</b></p> <p># of people employed in a job with average wage of &lt;\$15/hour</p> <p>represents 13% of total jobs</p>	<p><b>90,050</b></p> <p>25%</p>	<p><b>109,930</b></p> <p>30%</p>	<p><b>73,420</b></p> <p>20%</p>	<p><b>45,000</b></p> <p>12%</p>

Source: Job Service ND 2021 Employment and Wages by Occupation dataset | mean wage by occupation; 741,920 jobs included in statewide wage summary

# TANF Standard of Need

(Monthly Benefit Level)

Caretakers	Children										
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0	\$0	\$166	\$243	\$316	\$393	\$466	\$543	\$617	\$693	\$767	\$843
1	\$237	\$335	\$436	\$533	\$632	\$731	\$830	\$929	\$1028	\$1127	\$1225
2	\$335	\$436	\$533	\$632	\$731	\$830	\$929	\$1028	\$1127	\$1225	\$1325

**Senate Human Services Committee**  
**HB 1036**  
**March 20, 2023**  
**Senator Kathy Hogan**

Chair Lee and members of the Senate Human Service Committee, my name is Kathy Hogan, and I represent District 21.

HB 1036 is a simple bill that simply raises the monthly Temporary Assistance to Needy Family (TANF) benefit from 25% of the poverty level to 50% of the poverty level.

TANF is a federal program that was converted from the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program that was established in the 1930 with the Social Security Act during the great depression to a block grant program with the passage of Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA).

The TANF program provides states (which includes DC and territories for this purpose) with flexibility in operating programs designed to help low-income families with children achieve economic self-sufficiency. The federal government does not provide TANF cash assistance directly to the public. Instead, states use their TANF grants to fund monthly cash assistance payments to low-income families with children, as well as a wide range of services that are designed to address one or more of the program's four broad purposes:

- Provide assistance to needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives.
- End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.
- Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.
- Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

These purposes were outlined in the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), the law that created TANF, replacing the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and related programs.

Since the major work that was done during the 1997 legislative session to outline the structure for the TANF program few modifications have been made to that structure. Since that time, the numbers of families receiving assistance have consistently dropped and the % of funding to assistance low income has also dropped as TANF funding has been redirected to other programs. Two reference documents are linked

[https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/tanf\\_spending\\_nd.pdf](https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/tanf_spending_nd.pdf)

<https://www.cbpp.org/large-shares-of-tanf-funds-not-used-for-basic-assistance-or-supporting-work>

In July 1996 the maximum monthly benefit was \$431/month which was 40% of the 1996 poverty level. In July 2021 the maximum month benefit was \$486/month which is 27% of the poverty level. This has been a 33% drop for our lowest income families with children compared to the poverty level.

How did this happen in ND? I think it is not any person or systems fault, it is simply that poor families do not have an advocate to monitor the trends. During the Interim Human Services Committee as we were studying the challenges of getting working families off all assistance such as Child Care Assistance, SNAP or Medicaid, it became evident that we had not been monitoring these trends. This bill invites us to provide increased financial support to the lowest income families with children.

On a side note, after researching this national trend and looking at the ND data, this bill emerged. In addition to proposing an increase in the poverty level for payments, I hope that we as a legislature can better monitor the uses of all TANF funds. In some states, there have been excessive abuses of the TANF block grant funds, and we need to assure that we are more diligent in monitoring these funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these comments, I am willing to answer any questions.