10 Critical Things to Know about TANF and SB233

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a short-term assistance program providing both cash assistance and non-cash services to help families become self-sufficient.

1. **TANF Eligibility Guidelines and Benefit Levels**
   - Set dollar amounts in statute
   - Last updated in 1988

2. **Indiana’s Eligibility Level**
   - 4th lowest in the country
   - Only Louisiana’s, Arkansas’ and Alabama’s are lower.

3. **Indiana’s TANF Participation**
   - Just over 8,600 families STATEWIDE were participating in TANF as of December 2020.

4. **Senate Bill 233 Includes Modest, Gradual Increases to TANF Income Requirements**
   - Income eligibility will phase up from 16% of federal poverty guidelines (FPG) to 35% of FPG in 2023...
   - ...then to 50% of FPG in 2024.

5. **Benefits will Increase**
   - Adjusted for inflation from 1996
   - Then indexed to the Social Security Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)

6. **Parts of TANF will NOT Change in SB233**
   - Applicants must still meet the Asset Test — owning assets worth less than $1,000 total.
   - 20 days of job searching required before program approval
   - 24-month lifetime limit for adult participants (60 months for kids)
   - 30 hours of work participation

7. **TANF Could Help Those in Deep Poverty Get Back into the Labor Force**
   - Nearly 60% of adults in deep poverty were not in the labor force in 2019.

8. **People in Deep Poverty Need Training**
   - 63% of adults in deep poverty have no post-secondary skills training, as of 2018.

9. **TANF Benefits**
   - Childcare assistance
   - Workforce training
   - Job-readiness
   - Case management
   - Work supports, (e.g., uniforms, transportation)

10. **Families in Deep Poverty Aren’t Going Away**
    - They just are not getting support to rebound.