TANF Extension Request to Congress

September 19, 2023

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Finance
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jason Smith
Chairman
House Committee on Ways and Means
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member
House Committee on Ways and Means
372 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

September 19, 2023

As representatives of the nation’s public agencies responsible for state and local workforce and health and human services systems, we are writing to express our urgent request to Congress to provide a one-year extension to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, effective through September 2024.

TANF is a critical program providing funding to state and local governments to support the economic mobility of families experiencing poverty with benefits and services. Through TANF funding, families receive economic supports to meet their basic needs, employment and training skills that provide families with sustaining wages, child care and other vital services.

Congress last reauthorized TANF in 2005 and has renewed the program through a series of short-term extensions, creating significant uncertainty about the availability of funds for state and local governments tasked with administering the program. A full-year extension of TANF is necessary to ensure agencies on the ground have the capacity to continue to serve families and children.

The need for a full-year extension is especially pronounced due to recent passage of the Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA; PL 118-5) in June 2023, which authorized changes to TANF's employment and education outcome-based measures. State and local agencies are working hard to faithfully implement these new program requirements while providing essential services to program participants. As we continue to navigate these changes, we urge Congress to pass a one-year extension to support implementation of the FRA while minimizing disruptions in TANF service delivery for families and children.

Please contact Christine Johnson at cjohnson@aphsa.org for further information or with any questions.

Tracy Wareing Evans
President and CEO
American Public Human Services Association

David Adkins
Executive Director/CEO
The Council of State Governments

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National Association of Counties

Dan Makelky
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Brad Turner-Little
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National Association of Workforce Boards

Tim Storey
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National Conference of State Legislatures

Bill McBride
Executive Director
National Governors Association

Clarence E. Anthony
CEO & Executive Director
National League of Cities

Cc:
Rep. Vern Buchanan
Rep. Adrian Smith
Rep. Mike Kelly
Sen. Debbie Stabenow
Sen. Maria Cantwell
Sen. Robert Menendez
Rep. David Schweikert
Rep. Darin LaHood
Rep. Brad Wenstrup
Rep. Jodey Arrington
Rep. Drew Ferguson
Rep. Ron Estes
Rep. Lloyd Smucker
Rep. Kevin Hern
Rep. Carol Miller
Rep. Greg Murphy
Rep. David Kustoff
Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick
Rep. Greg Steube
Rep. Claudia Tenney

Rep. Michelle Fischbach
Rep. Blake Moore
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Rep. Beth Van Duyne
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Sen. Margaret Wood Hassan
Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto
Sen. Elizabeth Warren
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Sen. John Thune
Sen. Tim Scott
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