



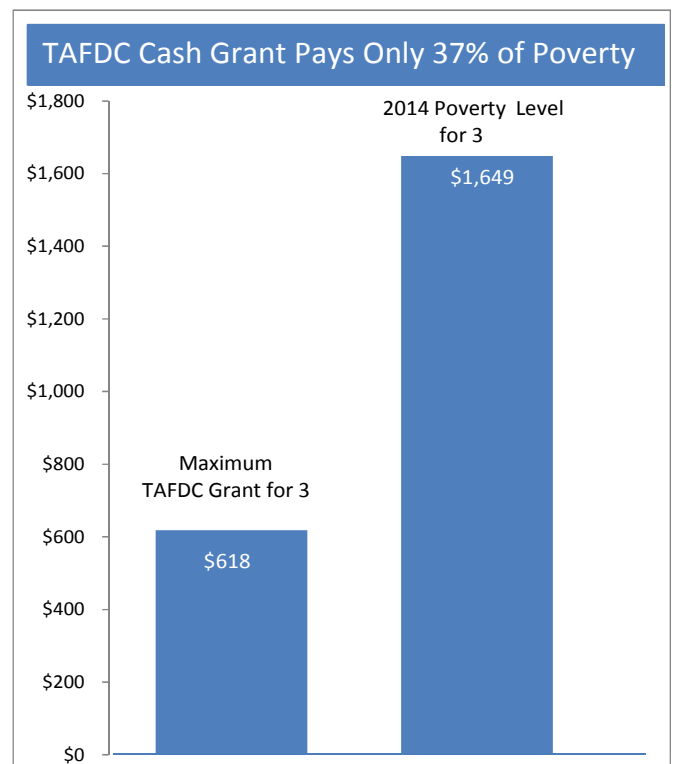
The FY 15 Budget Should Invest TAFDC Savings To Provide a Long Overdue Grant Increase

The Administration projects spending \$44 million *less* for TAFDC (4403-2000) in FY 15 than the FY 14 budget because of projected declining caseloads.

- \$36 million is enough to support a 15% increase – about \$70 a month for the typical family. This would be \$8.2 million *less* than level-funding.
- TAFDC grants were last raised in July 2000.
- Grants have lost nearly half their value to inflation over the last 25 years. A modest increase of \$70 a month is long overdue.

TAFDC grants pay barely one-third of the federal poverty level.

- The maximum grant for a family of 3 with no income is \$618 a month, only 37% of the federal poverty level.
- Grants are too low for families to pay rent, so more families become homeless.
- Children in extreme poverty are at real risk of permanent harm.



Please ask the Senate President and Chairman Brewer to invest part of the savings from the caseload decline in our lowest income children. Please ask them to include a desperately needed grant increase in the FY 15 budget.

Item 4403-2000 (requested change from FY 14 budget in italics; requested appropriation is \$8.2 million less than FY 14)

provided further, that the need standard shall be equal to the standard in effect in fiscal year 2014 *plus 15 percent* unless the department determines that a reduction in the monthly payment standard shall be implemented before the end of the fiscal year to keep program expenditures within the amounts appropriated in this item;

. . . . \$293,764,539

*Action for Boston Community Development
American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts
Arise for Social Justice
Bay Area Rape Crisis Center
Black Ministerial Alliance of Greater Boston
Coalition for Social Justice
Disability Law Center of Massachusetts
Crittenton Women’s Union
Greater Boston Legal Services
Homes for Families
Jane Doe, Inc.
Jewish Community Relations Council
Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Economic
Justice
Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy*

*Massachusetts Association on Community Action
Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless
Massachusetts Council of Churches
Massachusetts Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy
Coalition
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
National Association of Social Workers, MA
Chapter
Neighbor to Neighbor
Poor People’s United Fund
Progressive Massachusetts
Project Hope
Rosie’s Place
SEIU Local 509*

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