

SB 829_PJC_Support.pdf

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SB 829

Department of Human Services – Family Investment Program – Contract & Program Review Hearing of the Senate Finance Committee

March 10, 2022

1:00 PM

SUPPORT

The Public Justice Center (PJC) is a not-for-profit civil rights and anti-poverty legal services organization which seeks to advance social justice, economic and racial equity, and fundamental human rights in Maryland. Our Health Rights Project supports policies and practices that promote the overall health of Marylanders struggling to make ends meet, with the explicit goal of promoting strategies that work to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in health outcomes. **PJC stands in strong support of SB 829**, which would require certain contractors with the Family Investment Program (FIP) to provide services in a manner that complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. It would also require the Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) to collect and report certain data and hire a consultant to make recommendations on the FIP.

As the state agency that administers vital public benefits programs, including Temporary Cash Assistance and the Temporary Disability Assistance Program, DHS touches the lives of many low-income individuals and families, many of whom have experienced trauma. The strength of the FIP depends on DHS understanding and meeting the needs of the populations it serves and ensuring that the contractors it employs are doing the same. FIP participants with disabilities in particular experience significant challenges to participating in programs and activities when the entities contracted with DHS do not meet federal standards for providing disability related accommodations. This can result in inequities in program outcomes for individuals with disabilities as compared to individuals without disabilities participating in the FIP. By virtue of administering programs that impact health and economic security, DHS is in a unique position to prevent further trauma of its client communities navigating its benefits programs and promote empowerment.

SB 829 would put in place much needed protections for individuals with disabilities by requiring contractors with the FIP to adhere to the Americans with Disabilities Act. Similarly, by requiring DHS to hire an independent consultant to conduct a review of the FIP and collect and report crucial data, DHS will be better able to make needed and timely changes to the FIP's design that increase equity and accessibility for benefits recipients. SB 829, if passed, would also allow for meaningful and authentic input from stakeholders, including individuals with lived experience receiving benefits, to DHS to collaborate in shaping its programming.

The Public Justice Center is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and as such does not endorse or oppose any political party or candidate for elected office.

SB 829 would not only hold DHS and its contractors accountable to increasing access to the FIP to low-income individuals and families, but it would also transform the FIP in a way that empowers its diverse client communities. For these reasons, the Public Justice Center urges the committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report for **SB 829**. If you have any questions about this testimony, please contact Ashley Black at 410-625-9409 x 224 or blacka@publicjustice.org.

SB 829 _MFN_FAV_Macsherry.pdf

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Position: FAV



**Testimony Concerning SB 829 “Department of Human Services - Family Investment
Program - Contract and Program Review”
Submitted to the Senate Finance Committee
March 10, 2022**

Position: **SUPPORT**

Maryland Family Network (MFN) supports SB 829 which would require the Department of Human Services to hire an outside consultant to conduct a thorough review of the Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) Program to ensure the program is employing best practices that will achieve meaningful outcomes for family economic stability.

MFN has worked since 1945 to improve the availability and quality of child care and other supports for children and families in Maryland. We have been active in state and federal debates on welfare reform and are strongly committed to ensuring that low- and moderate-income families -- and indeed, all families -- have the supports they need to care for their children and to be economically self-sufficient.

According to DHS caseload data, over 22,000 Maryland families rely on TCA to meet their basic needs, and more than 70% of TCA recipients are children. In order to comply with federal rules, TCA recipients must participate in federally defined work activities for a certain number of hours each week. If the TCA recipient is a single parent and has a child under the age of six, they only need to complete 20 hours per week. In 2018, half (49.5%) of work-eligible recipients were single parents with a child under the age of six according to data published by University of Maryland School of Social Work Ruth Young Center for Families & Children ([*“Participation in Federally Defined Work Activities across Maryland” September 2019*](#)).

Unfortunately, TCA’s work programs rarely lead parents to jobs that provide economic stability. A review, and possible redesign, of Maryland’s work program could help parents gain the education, skills, and work experience that would allow them to find and maintain quality jobs that can lift their families above the poverty line. This would benefit children greatly. For this reason, MFN urges your favorable consideration of SB 829.

Health Care for the Homeless - SB 829 FAV - TCA Re

Uploaded by: Joanna Diamond

Position: FAV



**HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS TESTIMONY
IN SUPPORT OF**

**SB 829 – Department of Human Services - Family Investment Program - Contract and
Program Review**

**Senate Finance Committee
March 10, 2022**

Health Care for the Homeless supports SB 829, which requires the Department of Human Services to hire an outside consultant to conduct a thorough review of the Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) Program to ensure the program is employing best practices that will achieve meaningful outcomes for family economic stability. In particular, the bill requires that any non-governmental entities that the government contracts with for work activity requirements have performance-based incentives for 1) education and training, 2) job placement and placement wage, 3) employment retention, and 4) exiting TCA due to earnings that are at least 150% of the state's minimum wage. The bill also has a focus on providing accommodations to people with disabilities and people experiencing homelessness.

Health Care for the Homeless works with many clients who utilize TCA and we have an inherent understanding of the importance of this program for families experiencing poverty as well as the barriers the current TCA system erects in preventing families from exiting homelessness. As a former Health Care for the Homeless social worker in pediatrics has stated:

Imagine that you and your children suddenly became homeless, having no place to go and no income – no means of paying for a place to stay. After many weeks on a waiting list, you arrive at a shelter and are provided with a bed to sleep in a congregated room with many other families. You are informed that the shelter resources are limited and you will eventually need to pay for your own supplies like toilet paper, diapers, personal hygiene items, clothes, shoes and transportation. Or you're meeting with a case worker, at a shelter or community agency, to discuss housing options but since you don't have an income you cannot apply for any programs because of the application fees, security deposit and the required proof of income. Maybe you have a doctor's appointment for yourself or your child, but since you don't have an income, you do not have transportation to get to the appointment. Perhaps you need to call your children's school or schedule medical appointments but due to no income, you can't pay for a phone.

Everyone has the right to have essential needs met such as food and shelter. For homeless families with children, the stress from trying to obtain shelter, food and personal items is enormous. Having access to a source of income while trying to get on your feet, secure housing and employment, is vital to the health of homeless families with children.

TCA is a starting point for families to move from homelessness to stability. Since most housing programs require clients to have an income, TCA enables families experiencing homelessness access to these programs so they can obtain stable housing. When clients are forced into unpaid and unskilled work that denies them employment opportunities after exiting TCA, this can delay access to housing and increase their shelter stay. For families who are housed, the current TCA unpaid work requirements can jeopardize housing and result in homelessness.

Reviewing the TCA program, as SB 829 intends, also helps dismantle historically racist policies. The federal TANF program – particularly the strict work requirement - is rooted in a history of racism that perpetuates false and harmful assumptions about families living in poverty.¹ Far too often, TCA recipients are placed into temporary, unpaid work experience activities with little to no opportunity for employment after they have completed their placement. Recipients who are forced into these unpaid work experience placements have the most difficulty securing employment after TCA, and overall make the lowest earnings post-TCA.²

If Maryland is going to reduce the number of households living in deep poverty and increase employment, the TCA contracts must be improved. SB 829 improves education, employment outcomes, and wages. This bill is a critical measure in improving the lives of people living in the deepest of poverty. As such, we urge a favorable report on SB 829.

Health Care for the Homeless is Maryland's leading provider of integrated health services and supportive housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. We work to prevent and end homelessness for vulnerable individuals and families by providing quality, integrated health care and promoting access to affordable housing and sustainable incomes through direct service, advocacy, and community engagement. We deliver integrated medical care, mental health services, state-certified addiction treatment, dental care, social services, and housing support services for over 10,000 Marylanders annually at sites in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. For more information, visit www.hchmd.org.

¹ [Life After Welfare Series - University of Maryland, Baltimore \(umaryland.edu\)](http://www.umaryland.edu/media/ssw/fwrtg/welfare-research/work-supports-and-initiatives/workactivities.pdf?&)

² <https://www.ssw.umaryland.edu/media/ssw/fwrtg/welfare-research/work-supports-and-initiatives/workactivities.pdf?&>

SB829_MD Center on Economic Policy_FAV.pdf

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A Thorough Review of Maryland's Primary Family Income Support Program Is Overdue

Position Statement Supporting Senate Bill 829

Given before the Senate Finance Committee

Maryland's economic security programs provide vital supports that can help families meet their basic needs and set them on a pathway to greater stability and economic opportunity. However, the requirements for people to participate in family income support programs, such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), are often rooted in racist ideas and policies, resulting in an inadequate system of support. **The Maryland Center on Economic Policy supports Senate Bill 829 because it would take an in-depth look at how the state's income support programs are serving families and provide opportunities for improvement.**

Maryland's Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) program (our state's TANF program) is the only cash assistance program that provides economic support to families with children who have very low incomes. Cash assistance is flexible and allows families to address whatever their needs are in the moment, whether that is paying rent, buying clothes or school supplies for the children, or paying utility bills.

However, the program also includes a range of onerous eligibility requirements, including strict work participation requirements. These requirements, put in place when the federal TANF program was created in the 1990s, are the outgrowth of decades of anti-Black racism and stereotypes that have always accompanied family income support programs in the U.S.¹ It is also clear that Maryland's current program is not helping families in the long term. Almost 68% of former TCA recipients are living in deep poverty five years after they received TCA and 80% of families still live in poverty².

SB 829 would:

- Create a one-time comprehensive review of the TCA program by an experienced outside consultant who will assess the TCA program through an antiracist, client-centered, and trauma-informed lens. This review is vital to identifying ways that the state can improve its program so that families have better outcomes in the long term.
- Improve the vendor contracts that the state Department of Human Services uses to administer its TCA work programs. Currently, Maryland spends \$30 million annually on contracts related to TCA work activities. Each DHS vendor contract ranges from \$100,000 to over \$4 million.

- Increase economic mobility by requiring vendor contracts to be performance-based, and that measure overall program impact, progress toward employment for participants, and employment outcomes for families who leave TCA for work.

Data make it clear that Maryland's TCA program is not meeting families' needs today. Conducting a thorough review of the program and creating basic standards for the contractors who receive public funds for administering the program would create a path for improving economic security for thousands of Maryland families.

For these reasons, the Maryland Center on Economic Policy respectfully requests that the Finance Committee make a favorable report on Senate Bill 829.

Equity Impact Analysis: Senate Bill 829

Bill summary

SB 829 would:

- Create a one-time comprehensive review of the TCA program by an experienced outside consultant.
- Improve the vendor contracts that the state Department of Human Services uses to administer its TCA work programs.
- Require vendor contracts to be performance-based, and that measure overall program impact, progress toward employment for participants, and employment outcomes for families who leave TCA for work.

Background

Congress created the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program 26 years ago as the nation's primary source of cash assistance to families with children when they fall on hard times or have very low incomes. TANF replaced Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), a program that had been in existence since 1935. Since TANF's creation, the accessibility and adequacy of cash assistance has fallen dramatically and, in some states, primarily in the South and where Black children are likelier to live, TANF cash assistance has all but disappeared. Temporary Cash Assistance is Maryland's TANF program.

TANF provides a vital support to families with the lowest incomes: cash assistance. Other anti-poverty programs, such as SNAP and refundable tax credits, have grown significantly and have had a tremendous impact on reducing hardship, especially for Black and Latinx families and individuals. Yet families with little or no cash income still need monthly cash assistance to be more economically secure.

In large part because of work requirements, TANF today reaches few non-working families and leaves many families with children with no regular cash income. These requirements, put in place when the federal TANF program was created in the 1990s, are the outgrowth of decades of anti-Black racism and stereotypes that have always accompanied family income support programs in the U.S.

In Maryland, the program has had very limited success in moving families to long-term economic stability.

68% of former TCA recipients are living in deep poverty five years after they received TCA and 80% of families still live in poverty.

Equity Implications

- Steep barriers, including discrimination in the labor market and in government policies, have led to disproportionate levels of poverty among Black mothers, so they are more likely to participate in family income support programs like TCA.
- State data on the unpaid “work experience” program shows that 78% of the participants are Black and 90% are women.
- Work requirements and other eligibility requirements that were put in place when the federal TANF program was created in the 1990s, are the outgrowth of decades of anti-Black racism and stereotypes that have always accompanied family income support programs in the U.S.

Impact

Senate Bill 829 would likely **improve racial, gender and economic equity** in Maryland.

¹ Ife Floyd et. al., “TANF Policies Reflect Racist Legacy of Cash Assistance,” Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, August 2021, <https://www.cbpp.org/research/family-income-support/tanf-policies-reflect-racist-legacy-of-cash-assistance>

² “Life After Welfare,” University of Maryland School of Social Work, 2021 update, <https://www.ssw.umaryland.edu/media/ssw/fwrtg/welfare-research/life-after-welfare/Life-after-Welfare,-2021-Updated-2-15-22.pdf?&>

Testimony.LaDonnaPavetti.MDSB0829.HB1041.pdf

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**Testimony of LaDonna Pavetti, Ph.D., Vice President for Family Income Support at the Center
on Budget and Policy Priorities in Support of HB 1041/SB 0829**

**Senate Finance Committee
March 10, 2022**

Good afternoon. I am testifying today in support of HB 1041/SB 0829 1 because it advances policies that will help to improve Maryland's Family Investment Program (FIP).

My name is LaDonna Pavetti and I am the Vice President for Family Income Support at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a nonpartisan policy think tank that focuses on improving the lives of families with low incomes. I lead the Center's work on TANF (TCA and FIP in Maryland) which involves working with state and federal agencies and advocates to increase TANF's effectiveness. Before coming to the Center, I was a senior fellow at Mathematica Policy Research, a leading social policy research organization. I have worked on TANF since it was created and worked on AFDC prior to its creation. My work has primarily focused on studying program implementation, with a focus on identifying best practices. Most recently, I have been working with state agencies to redesign their TANF work programs to increase their effectiveness. Over the course of my career, I have worked in more than half the states. Most recently, I have been asked to provide guidance to improve TANF work programs in Vermont, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, California, Pennsylvania, and Oregon. I also regularly work with advocates in more than half the states and recently conducted focus groups with TANF recipients in Maine, Indiana, and Louisiana.

HB 1041/SB 829 would take significant steps towards improving the Family Investment Program (FIP), building on what we have learned about key elements of effective programs over the last 25 years. In recent years, several states have embarked on efforts to redesign their TANF work programs to make them more trauma-informed, to provide individualized services that take into account the needs of the whole family and to focus on families' strengths and create optimal conditions for achieving success. The provision in HB 1041/SB 829 that requires the state to hire an outside consultant to conduct a review of Maryland's FIP program will provide an analysis of the program's current operations that will lay the groundwork for improving FIP's effectiveness and eliminating program elements that reinforce rather than disrupt systemic racism. The way HB 1041/SB 829 structures that analysis will allow Maryland to learn from and benefit from efforts already under way in other states. The provision in HB 1041/SB 829 that requires the Department to review its contracts will provide data on current program performance that will help the Department to monitor and improve outcomes for families now and in the future. It also adds incentives for participants to the contracts that will reward them for the steps they take to improve their circumstances, providing contractors with a positive tool for increasing engagement in work activities.

Last week, the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) released a report outlining six principles for modernizing TANF. The report was developed by the National Association of State TANF Administrators (NASTA), an affinity group within APHSA that is comprised of TANF directors from the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The report is significant in that it represents consensus among states that differ significantly in their political ideology.

The six core principles outlined in the report are:

1. To help families achieve economic mobility, TANF must support the physical, social, and emotional well-being of individuals and their families.
2. TANF must prioritize tailored solutions that help families succeed for the long-term.
3. TANF should foster conditions that advance a person's sense of agency over their life and belonging within their community.
4. To best help families achieve their goals, TANF policies should be centered in evidence and promising practices that reflect the lived experiences of families.
5. The broader workforce system must provide a coordinated continuum of services that support all jobseekers' strengths, goals, and needs.
6. Families must have access to adequate assistance and services that allows them to meet their basic needs while working to achieve their long-term goals.

While the report primarily uses these principles to identify federal policy changes that could help modernize the program, it can also serve as a roadmap for how states can use the flexibility they have to implement a new approach to providing assistance to families who are struggling to make ends meet and are seeking opportunities to improve their circumstances. HB 1041/SB 829 lays the groundwork for Maryland to be a leader in developing and implementing a new generation of policies and programs that will help families to significantly improve their employment and earnings.

WA - SB 829 - TCA Contract Review - FAV.pdf

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Welfare Advocates

Founded 1979

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Senate Bill 829

Department of Human Services - Family Investment Administration – Contract and Program Review

Senate Finance Committee

March 10, 2022

Support

Welfare Advocates is a statewide coalition of community-based organizations, advocacy groups, faith communities, and consumers, whose mission it is to educate ourselves and the wider community and to advocate for an adequate safety net and public policies that support families moving to economic stability.

Welfare Advocates strongly supports SB 829, which requires the Department of Human Services to hire an outside consultant to conduct a thorough review of the Temporary Cash Assistance Program – through a trauma-informed, anti-racist, client-centered assessment - to ensure the program is employing best practices that will achieve meaningful outcomes for family economic stability. Moreover, the bill requires the Department to annually review all of their contracts with workforce vendors to examine if the programs are providing tangible, marketable skills that lead to quality employment opportunities for TCA recipients.

The Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) program serves families with children who live in deep poverty. TCA, the cash assistance part of Maryland's TANF program, was created as part of Welfare Reform in the mid-nineties. Today, over 22,000 Maryland's families have to rely on TCA to meet their basic needs, and more than 70% of TCA recipients are children.¹ Families use TCA benefits to purchase housing, food, transportation, and other basic needs. These funds are immediately spent in the local economy, generating economic growth.

While TCA is a critical safety-net for those living in the deepest levels of poverty, it is not a pathway to economic stability for the vast majority of recipients. In order to receive TCA, able-bodied adults in the household are required to participate in federally defined work activities. Although the original intent for the work requirement might have been for recipients to obtain employment after a short spell of receiving benefits, numerous studies show the workforce component of cash assistance does not result in long-term, stable employment.² In fact, data from the Life After Welfare report shows that five years after receiving TCA, 80% of families still live in poverty and, most disturbingly, almost 68% of former recipients are living in deep poverty.³

SB 829 requires DHS to hire an outside consultant to review Maryland's TCA workforce program, and make suggestions on how the program can be improved. If Maryland is going to reduce the number of households living in deep poverty – and truly create a bridge out of poverty for families on TCA - a critical area to focus on is improving workforce development programs. Far too often, TCA recipients are placed into temporary, unpaid work activities with little to no opportunity for employment after they have completed their placement. Instead of offering the labor of TCA recipients to the lowest contract bidder, we can partner with innovative educational, training and skill-building programs that provide meaningful opportunities to locate employment in high-wage, growing industries. Investing resources into an independent, thorough examination of our state's TCA program is a good investment in the future of Maryland families, employers, and our economy as a whole.

For the reasons stated above, we respectfully urge a favorable report on SB 829.

Submitted by Lisa Klingenmaier, Chair of Welfare Advocates

¹ DHS Caseload Data. FY 2021.

² Ideas 42. Work Requirements Don't Work. 2019. <http://www.ideas42.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/ideas42-Work-Requirements-Paper.pdf>

³ University of Maryland School of Social Work. *Life After Welfare Series*. <https://www.ssw.umaryland.edu/familywelfare/safety-net-research/life-after-welfare-series/?&>

HPRP Testimony SB 829_favorable.pdf

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Support – SB 829: Department of Human Services - Family Investment Program - Contract and Program Review

Hearing of the Senate Finance Committee, March 10, 2022

Testimony of Michelle S. Madaio, Homeless Persons Representation Project

The Homeless Persons Representation Project, Inc. (HPRP) is a non-profit civil legal services organization that provides free legal representation to people who are experiencing homeless or at risk of homelessness on legal issues that will lead to an end to homelessness. Over the last 25 years since welfare reform, HPRP has represented thousands of families in appealing unlawful denials and terminations of Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA). HPRP supports SB 829 because it provides a long overdue redesign of the work vendor contracts used to administer the TCA work program, as well as a review of the TCA program through a trauma-informed and antiracist lens, consistent with recommendations made by the Program Advancement Through Community Outreach Workgroup with the Department of Human Services, including people with lived expertise and directly impacted by Maryland's TCA program.¹

Maryland must redesign its TCA work vendor contracts so that workforce development programs provide parents with high quality jobs and earnings with a living wage.

Maryland spends \$30 million per year in federal TANF dollars on administering its work program.² This is only 6% of Maryland's share of TANF spending and three times less than what it spent on work activities 20 years prior.³ Currently, Maryland's TCA work vendor contracts focus on number of TCA participants enrolled with compensation tied to a fixed price per person enrolled. The contracts heavily emphasize meeting the work participation rate, enrollment, and attendance, but there is little if any reference to what performance or outcomes the work vendors must meet to ensure participants are succeeding during and after completing the program. Work vendor contracts also lack information about compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and need for vendors to provide individuals with disabilities (a high percentage of the TCA population) with reasonable accommodations. **In Maryland, "the annual median earnings after exiting TCA do not reach the federal poverty level for a family of three, even four years after exit."**⁴

¹ The Program Advancement Through Community Outreach formed in November 2020 and meets monthly. It includes members from the Maryland Department of Human Services, local Department of Social Services, economic justice advocates and advocates with lived expertise in the TCA program, with the purpose of discussing and recommending ways to improve access to public benefits in Maryland.

² Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, "Maryland TANF Spending," (2020), *available at* https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/tanf_spending_md.pdf

³ Id.

⁴ Lauren A. Hall, Letitia Logan Passarella, "Life After Welfare 2021 Annual Update," University of Maryland School of Social Work, at 38, *available at* <https://www.ssw.umaryland.edu/media/ssw/fwrtg/welfare-research/life-after-welfare/Life-after-Welfare,-2021-Updated-2-15-22.pdf?&>

SB 829 will improve Maryland’s work programs like experiences in other states that have redesigned their vendor contracts.

Maryland continues to rely on outdated models of work activities, including 30% of work-eligible families participating in unpaid “work experience” and community service, making Maryland an outlier.⁵ Maryland places 0% of families in some of the work activities that are known to provide better outcomes for TANF recipients, including subsidized employment and on-the-job-training.⁶ SB 829 will help Maryland use the money it is already spending on work programs to focus on outcomes with higher rates of employment and earnings. Other states have revised their TANF vendor contracts and are using evidence-based models of TANF work programs that lead to the acquisition of marketable skills, certificate programs, paid internships and subsidized employment. For example, the LEAP (Learn Earn Advance Prosper) program in DC provides TANF recipients with a paid internship and direct entry into permanent employment in DC Government or a private employer.⁷ Shortly after DC redesigned its vendor contracts in the TANF program, it “resulted in a ten-fold increase in the share of TANF recipients participating in work activities.”⁸ The Pennsylvania KEYS Program assists parents receiving TANF who are in certificate or degree programs in 14 community colleges.⁹

SB 829 proposes a much-needed review of Maryland’s TCA program through a trauma-informed and antiracist lens with recommendations to employ best practices and improve the program’s impact.

The one-time review established by SB 829 is critical given the racist history and policies baked into the design of the TANF program.¹⁰ Given the profound trauma families are experiencing when they enter the TCA program, it is critical that Maryland’s policies, procedures, and communication with families is grounded in an understanding of and responsive to the impact of trauma on an individual. Many states and cities have conducted similar reviews of their TANF program and assessment tools including New York, DC, Rhode Island, Maine, New Jersey, and Philadelphia.

HPRP strongly urges the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 829. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Madaio (she/her) at (410) 716-0521 or mmadaio@hprplaw.org.

⁵ Nationally, only 1.7% of work-eligible parents are in this category of unpaid “work experience.” See U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, “Percentage of Work-Eligible Individuals Participating in Work Activities for Sufficient Hours for the Family to Count as Meeting the All-Families Work Requirement Monthly Average, Fiscal Year 2020,” Table 4B, available at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ofa/wpr2020table04b.pdf>.

⁶ Id. In FY2020, Maryland placed 0% of families in subsidized employment, on-the-job training, and education related to employment.

⁷ Sarah Anne Hughes, “D.C. Is Trying to Get More Struggling Moms Back to Work as a Benefits Cut Looms,” Washington City Paper (July 28, 2016), available at <https://washingtoncitypaper.com/article/195504/dc-is-trying-to-get-more-struggling-moms-back-to-work-as-a-benefit-cut-looms/>

⁸ Ed Lazere, “DC’s New Approach to the TANF Employment Program: The Promises and Challenges,” DC Fiscal Policy Institute (February 23, 2012), available at <https://www.dcfpi.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/2-23-12-TANF-Reform.pdf>

⁹ Josh Bone, “TANF Education and Training: Pennsylvania’s KEYS Program,” Center for Law and Social Policy (April 14, 2010), available at <https://www.clasp.org/sites/default/files/publications/2017/04/KEYS.pdf>

¹⁰ See Ife Floyd, Ladonna Pavetti, Laura Meyer, Ali Safawi, Liz Schott, Evelyn Bellew, Abigail Magnus, “TANF Policies Reflect Racist Legacy of Cash Assistance,” Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (August 4, 2021), available at <https://www.cbpp.org/research/family-income-support/tanf-policies-reflect-racist-legacy-of-cash-assistanceorg>; see also American Public Human Services Association, “Core Principles for TANF Modernization: A Legislative Framework for TANF Reform,” (March 2022) available at <https://files.constantcontact.com/391325ca001/905334d8-53b0-4cae-89a3-7892d31c11b4.pdf> (constantcontact.com)

MD Catholic Conference_FAV_SB0829.pdf

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ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

March 10th, 2022

SB 829

Department of Human Services - Family Investment Program - Contract and Program Review

Senate Finance Committee

Position: Support

The Maryland Catholic Conference (“Conference”) represents the public-policy interests of the three Roman Catholic (arch)dioceses serving Maryland: the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington.

Senate Bill 829 which requires the Department of Human Services to hire an outside consultant to conduct a thorough review of the Temporary Cash Assistance Program – through a trauma-informed, anti-racist, client-centered assessment - to ensure the program is employing best practices that will achieve meaningful outcomes for family economic stability. Moreover, the bill requires the Department to annually review all of their contracts with workforce vendors to examine if the programs are providing tangible, marketable skills that lead to quality employment opportunities for TCA recipients.

The Maryland Catholic Conferences supports policies that protect human life and dignity, strengthen families, encourage and reward work, preserve a safety net for the vulnerable, and build public/private partnerships to overcome poverty. State policies should form a "Circle of Protection" around programs that serve poor and vulnerable people in our communities and avoid placing additional burdens on people and families struggling to live in dignity. Senate Bill 829 seeks to examine the current Temporary Cash Assistance Program and make suggestions to how the program can be improved to greatly benefit our most vulnerable Marylanders.

For these reasons, the Conference appreciates your consideration and urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 829.

SB829 FAV BJC TCA Contract Review.pdf

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Beth Am Congregation
Beth El Congregation
Beth Israel Congregation
Beth Shalom Congregation of
Howard County
Beth Tfiloh Congregation
B'nai B'rith, Chesapeake Bay Region
B'nai Israel Congregation
B'nai Jacob Shaarei Zion Congregation
Bolton Street Synagogue
Chevra Ahavas Chesed, Inc.
Chevrei Tzedek Congregation
Chizuk Amuno Congregation
Congregation Beit Tikvah
Congregation Beth Shalom of
Carroll County
Congregation Tiferes Yisroel
Federation of Jewish Women's
Organizations of Maryland
Hadassah
Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation
J Street
Jewish Federation of Howard County
Jewish Labor Committee
Jewish War Veterans
Jewish War Veterans, Ladies Auxiliary
Jewish Women International
Jews For Judaism
Moses Montefiore Anshe Emunah
Hebrew Congregation
National Council of Jewish Women
Ner Tamid Congregation
Rabbinical Council of America
Religious Zionists of America
Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation
Shomrei Emunah Congregation
Simon E. Sobeloff Jewish Law Society
Suburban Orthodox Congregation
Temple Beth Shalom
Temple Isaiah
Zionist Organization of America
Baltimore District



WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Senate Bill 829 – Department of Human Services - Family Investment Administration – Contract and Program Review

Finance Committee

March 10, 2022

SUPPORT

Background: Senate Bill 829, (SB829) would require the Department of Human Services to hire a consultant to review the Temporary Cash Assistance Program (TCA). The consultant would look at the TCA program to make sure it is using best practices when it comes to trauma-informed, anti-racist and client centered assessments. The bill also requires the Department to review annually their contract with workforce vendors to make sure they are providing real job skills that will lead to job opportunities for TCA recipients.

Written Comments: The Baltimore Jewish Council represents The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore and all of its agencies, including Jewish Community Services (JCS), which provides social services to low-income Marylanders. Maryland has one of the highest rates of Deep Poverty in the country, with almost 50% of those living in poverty, living in deep poverty. It is these individuals and families who receive public benefits such as TCA. TCA, while a vital safety-net for those living in deep poverty, has not created a means to get out of poverty. TCA was created to help those in need receive job skills to pull them out poverty, by requiring residents to participate in federally defined work activities. However, the program has not created these outcomes. In fact, 80% of TCA recipients five years after receiving TCA are still living in poverty. This program needs to be reviewed to figure out how outcomes can be improved. SB829 aims to do this by hiring an outside consultant to review the program and requiring annual reviews of contracted TCA program vendors.

For these reasons, the Baltimore Jewish Councils asks for a favorable report on SB829.

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.

MAP_SB 829_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Stacey Jefferson

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 829

Department of Human Services - Family Investment Program - Contract
and Program Review
March 10, 2022

Submitted by Julia Gross and Kali Schumitz, Co-Chairs

Member Agencies:

211 Maryland
Baltimore Jewish Council
Behavioral Health System Baltimore
CASH Campaign of Maryland
Energy Advocates
Episcopal Diocese of Maryland
Family League of Baltimore
Fuel Fund of Maryland
Job Opportunities Task Force
Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services,
Inc.
League of Women Voters of Maryland
Loyola University Maryland
Maryland Center on Economic Policy
Maryland Community Action
Partnership
Maryland Family Network
Maryland Food Bank
Maryland Hunger Solutions
Paul's Place
St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore
Welfare Advocates

Marylanders Against Poverty

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The Maryland Alliance for the Poor (MAP) strongly supports SB 829, which would require a thorough evaluation of the effectiveness of Maryland's Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) program.

TCA is Maryland's cash assistance program that funded in large part by the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant. TCA is available to low income or no income families. Adult members of the household are required to participate in work activities each week. Our TCA program is not living up to the promises of the mid-1990's – it is not leading recipients to work and increased wages. **Five years after leaving TCA 68% of former recipients live in deep poverty (less than 50% of the poverty line)**, which is less than \$9,155 per year for a family of two.

While the TANF block grant provides states with significant flexibility to design their welfare programs, it does tie funding to a state achieving a target work participation rate. These work participation requirements are deeply rooted in our country's history of racist ideas and policies, and this reduces the effectiveness of this program for all TCA participants, regardless of race.

SB 829 would require the Department of Human Services to hire an outside consultant to review Maryland's TCA program, and make suggestions on how the program can be improved. It also would help ensure that the contractors receiving state funds to administer workforce participation services are providing meaningful programming that helps parents receiving TCA get back on a permanent path to economic security.

MAP appreciates your consideration, and strongly urges a favorable report with amendments on SB 829.

Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) is a coalition of service providers, faith communities, and advocacy organizations advancing statewide public policies and programs necessary to alleviate the burdens faced by Marylanders living in or near poverty, and to address the underlying systemic causes of poverty.

SB 829_TCA- Contract Review_BHSB_FAVORABLE.pdf

Uploaded by: Stacey Jefferson

Position: FAV



March 10, 2022

**Senate Finance Committee
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

SB 829 Department of Human Services- Family Investment Administration-Contract and Program Review

Behavioral Health System Baltimore (BHSB) is a nonprofit organization that serves as the local behavioral health authority (LBHA) for Baltimore City. BHSB works to increase access to a full range of quality behavioral health (mental health and substance use) services and advocates for innovative approaches to prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery for individuals, families, and communities. **Baltimore City represents nearly 35 percent of the public behavioral health system in Maryland, serving over 77,000 people with mental illness and substance use disorders (collectively referred to as “behavioral health”) annually.**

Behavioral Health System Baltimore supports SB 829- Department of Human Services- Family Investment Administration- Contract and Program Review. This bill requires the Department of Human Services to hire an outside consultant to conduct a thorough review of the Temporary Cash Assistance Program- through a trauma-informed, anti-racist, client centered assessment- to ensure the program is employing best practices that will achieve meaningful outcomes for family economic stability. In addition, the bill requires the Department to annually review all of their contracts with workforce vendors to examine if the programs are providing tangible, marketable skills that lead to quality employment opportunities for TCA recipients.

The Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) program serves families with children who live in deep poverty. TCA, the cash assistance part of Maryland’s TANF program, was created as part of Welfare Reform in the mid-nineties. Today, over 22,000 Maryland’s families have to rely on TCA to meet their basic needs, and more than 70% of TCA recipients are children.¹ Families use TCA benefits to purchase housing, food, transportation, and other basic needs.

BHSB supports SB 829 because it will require a thorough investigation of the TCA program and make recommendations to improve the program trauma -informed lens. Studies show that children living in deep poverty are five times more likely to experience abuse and neglect and other adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), which begins a lifelong struggle with negative mental, behavioral, and physical health outcomes.² A meaningful review of the TCA program will help to ensure that it is employing best practices to achieve meaningful outcomes for family economic stability. Economic stability for families helps to mitigate children’s exposure to ACEs as it reduces parental stress by helping them with the resources needed to care for their children.

The CDC estimates lifetime costs associated with ACEs at approximately \$2 trillion nationwide, measures that prevent and address childhood trauma not only work to improve the public health of our state, but also have a high rate of return on investment and decrease healthcare, education, and welfare program costs in the long term. Maryland must continue to enact policies such as the one in SB 829 that prevent and mitigate ACEs. **As such, BHSB urges the Senate Finance Committee to support SB 829.**

¹ DHS Caseload Data. FY2021.

² <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/fastfact.html>

SB829_DHS_LOI.pdf

Uploaded by: Lauren Graziano

Position: INFO

Date: March 10, 2022

Bill number: SB 829

Committee: Finance

Bill title: Department of Human Services - Family Investment Program - Contract and Program Review

DHS Position: Letter of Information

The Department of Human Services (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of information in regards to Senate Bill 829 (SB 829). The bill would require the Department to conduct an annual review of vendors providing employment and training services to be made available to the public. It would also require the inclusion of certain performance based contract incentives, as well as a review of DHS work programs by an independent consultant.

HB 1041 would require certain performance measures to be included in the Department's contracts with vendors who provide job training and employment services to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/ Temporary Cash Assistance (TANF/TCA) customers. Specifically, the bill suggests the inclusion of performance based contract incentives for:

1. Education and Training
2. Job Placement
3. Higher Wage
4. Job Retention
5. Exiting program at 150% of State Minimum Wage or higher

It is worth noting that the bill does not include contract incentives for Work Participation Rate (WPR)--the only federal compliance measure used nationally to determine the success of the TANF/TCA program.

With respect to the independent study required by the bill, the Department would suggest the study be completed prior to the implementation of any new performance metrics. Rather, the findings of the study should inform best practice and the criteria by which to evaluate the success of the job training and employment services available to this population. Furthermore, the Department believes this study can be done with existing resources, through existing research partnerships.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to share the aforementioned information with the Committee, and hopes it is helpful during deliberations.