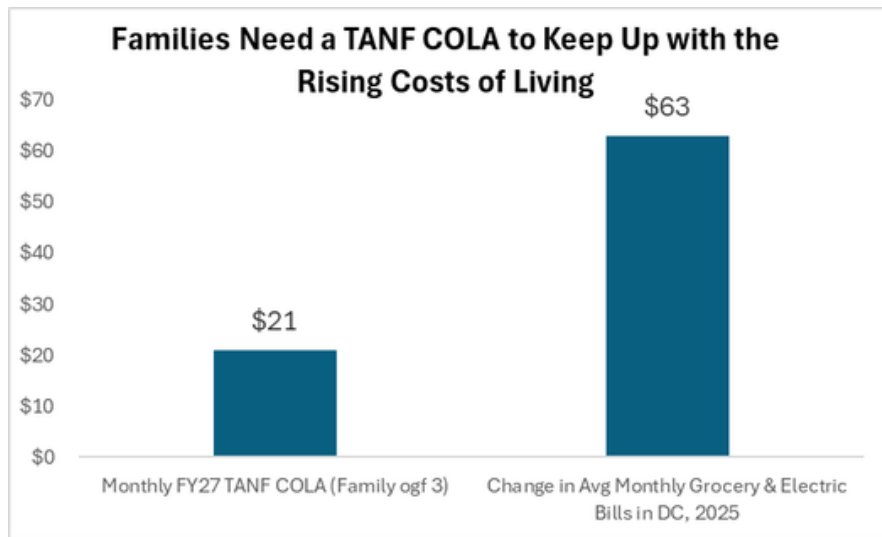


A TANF Inflation Adjustment Is Needed To Help Families with Children Keep Up with Rising Costs

Cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) are a standard way to ensure incomes and public benefits keep pace with rising prices. **The DC Council should fund a FY 27 COLA for the 45,000 parents and children relying on TANF, most of whom live on less than \$10,000 a year.**

COLAs Protect TANF Benefits Against the Rising Cost of Living

- Average grocery bills in DC grew \$300 per month on (\$1,040 to \$1,340) from 2017 to 2025, while average monthly rent rose \$480 (from \$2,060 to \$2,540).
- The TANF COLA for FY27 would be \$21 a month for a family of 3. This is just one third of the \$63 increase in average monthly grocery and electricity bills in DC last year.



TANF's COLA is a Reasonable Investment

- Eliminating TANF's COLA would create large future costs, as more families fall behind on bills and face crises such as food insecurity and homelessness.
- TANF's FY27 COLA is modest – 2.6% – and would put benefits at just \$824 a month.
- Local expenditures on TANF grew more slowly than the overall DC budget between 2019 and 2024.

To learn more, visit <https://dcfpi.org/all/eliminating-tanfs-cola-will-harm-the-districts-most-vulnerable-families/>
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