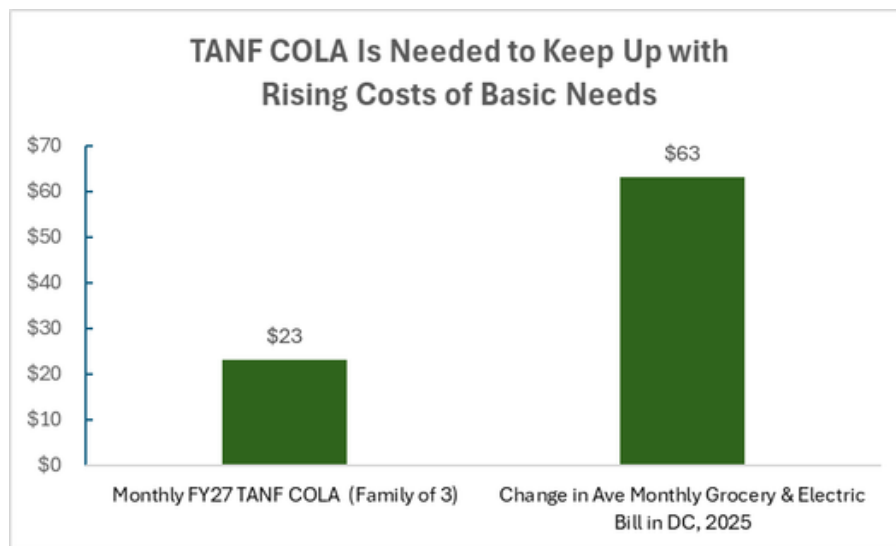


A TANF Inflation Adjustment Is Needed To Help Families with Children Keep Up with Rising Costs

Cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) are a standard tool to ensure incomes and public benefits keep pace with rising prices. **A COLA is essential for the 45,000 parents and children relying on TANF, most of whom live on less than \$10,000 in family income.**

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 is \$23 a month for a family of 3. This is far less than 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 will create larger future costs, as more families fall behind on bills and face trauma such as food insecurity and homelessness.
- TANF's COLA is modest. Benefits have not increased by more than 4%, except during COVID-19 and the FY17-19 restoration effort.
- DC continues to fund COLAs that benefit middle- and higher-income residents.

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