

Other TANF-Funded Caseloads

Jon Peacock, August 2006

Many people still think of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant as primarily a source of funding for parents who are unable to obtain or keep unsubsidized employment, but that is no longer the case. The vast majority of current TANF beneficiaries do not receive cash assistance.

In Wisconsin, TANF currently pays for only about 7,200 W-2 cash assistance cases and 11,400 child-only cases. In contrast to those relatively low numbers, TANF funds assisted an average of more than 31,000 Wisconsin families per month receiving child care subsidies and more than 216,000 who received the state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) last year.

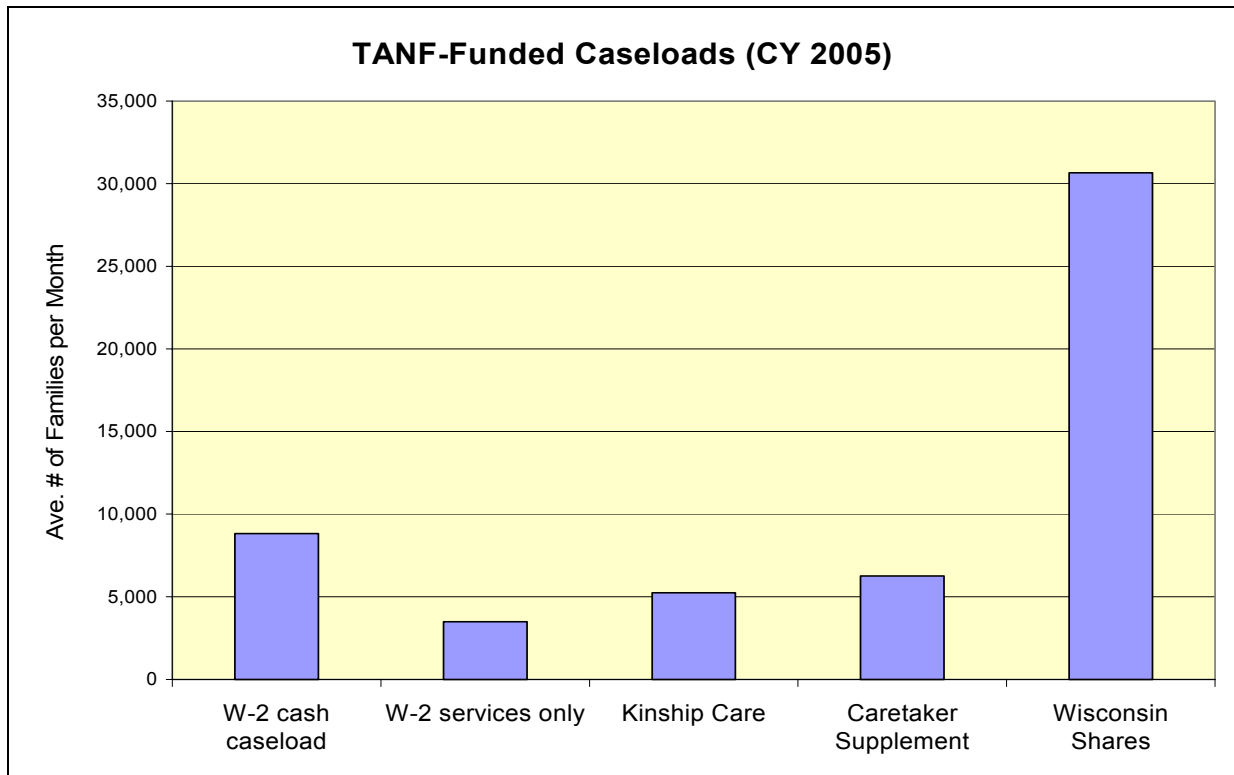


Figure 1 shows the size of the different populations in Wisconsin participating in programs that are primarily funded with TANF dollars, except for the number receiving the EITC, which would dwarf the other figures in the chart. It uses the average number of families served each month during calendar year 2005.

The bar graph does not attempt to show all of the different uses of TANF funds. Yet even though it does not capture all the TANF-funded programs, nor the more than 216,000 families receiving the EITC, the chart illustrates that the TANF block grant has become something much more than a funding source for the W-2 program.

