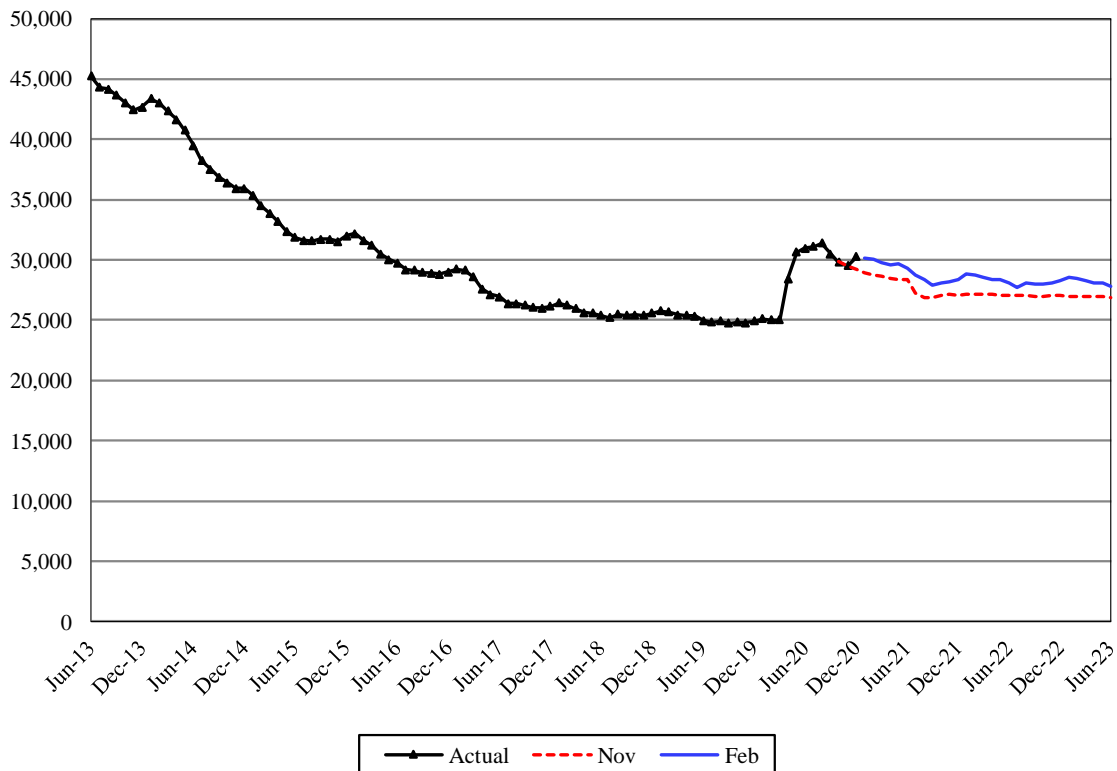


Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Caseload Forecast Council
February 12, 2021

TANF Assistance Units (Courtesy Forecast)



The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) forecast combines two forecasts: one for WorkFirst or “All Family” cases that include children and their parents and one for “Child Only” cases in which the parents or guardians do not receive part of the grant and are not subject to work requirements. WorkFirst cases made up 52% of the caseload during calendar year 2019.

Forecast Comparisons (Fiscal Year Averages)

Fiscal Year	Nov-20 Forecast	Feb-21 Forecast	Nov to Feb Difference	Percent Difference
2021	29,414	30,125	711	2.4%
2022	27,077	28,377	1,300	4.8%
2023	26,981	28,119	1,138	4.2%

The February 2021 forecast is, on average, 1,219 cases or 4.5 percent higher than the November 2020 forecast for the 2021-23 Biennium. The November forecast had a downward trend that did not show up the subsequent actuals, so the February forecast removes that trend until July 2021 when the caseload is expected to begin stabilizing after the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Tracking the Current Forecast

	Nov-20 Forecast	Actual	Variance	Percent Variance
Oct-20	29,879	29,770	-109	-0.4%
Nov-20	29,507	29,514	7	0.0%
Dec-20	29,208	30,275	1,067	3.7%

Actuals had been tracking 322 cases or 1.1% above the November 2020 forecast.

Fiscal Year Caseload Change

	Fiscal Year	Caseload	Change from Prior Year	Percent Change
Actual	2014	42,572		
	2015	35,160	-7,412	-17.4%
	2016	31,287	-3,873	-11.0%
	2017	28,556	-2,731	-8.7%
	2018	26,032	-2,525	-8.8%
	2019	25,424	-608	-2.3%
	2020	26,181	757	3.0%
Forecast	2021	30,125	3,944	15.1%
	2022	28,377	-1,748	-5.8%
	2023	28,119	-258	-0.9%

The forecast also includes step adjustments for legislative changes to WorkFirst sanction policy adding an average of 1,062 households in FY 2021, changes to TANF time limits adding an average of 86 households, and expansion of WorkFirst benefits to include victims of human trafficking adding three households.

Risks to the Forecast

Risks to this forecast are high. Estimates are based on current law and policy, but COVID-19 emergency policies are subject to change. In the absence of additional specific information, the Caseload Forecast Council is assuming that the COVID emergency will end and policies will go back to “normal” starting in July 2021. Changes in economic conditions and policy could change results.