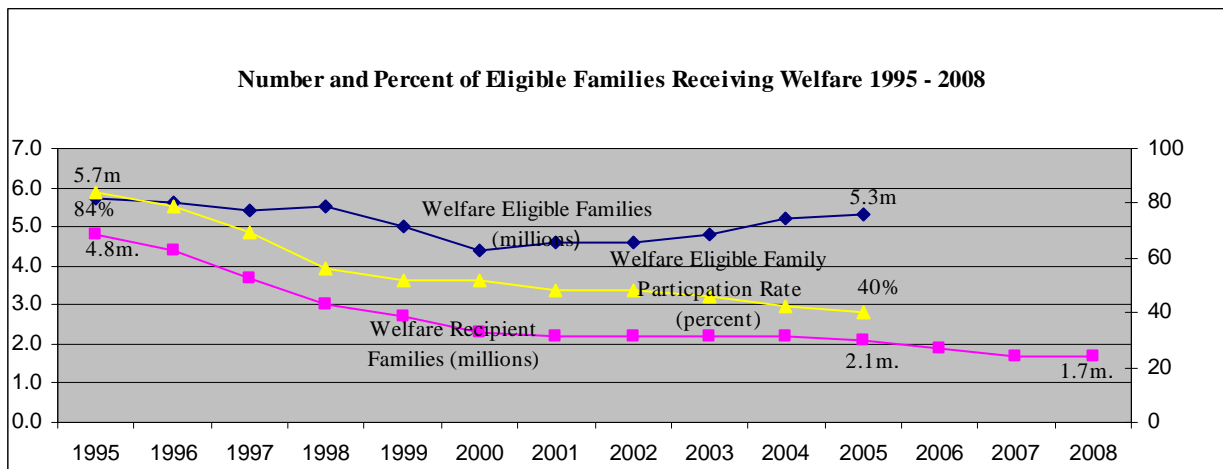


## ADVOCATE FOR AN IMPROVED SAFETY NET FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

In 1996 the federal government enacted sweeping welfare reform legislation eliminating “welfare as we know it” by replacing Aid to Families with Dependent Children or “AFDC” with Temporary Assistance to Needy Families or “TANF” as the national welfare program for families with children. Here are some of the consequences:

- A drop in the percentage of poor children receiving aid from 62% in 1996 to 24% in 2007.
- A drop in the percentage of eligible families receiving aid from 84% in 1995 to 40% in 2005, the most recent year for which eligibility estimates are available.
- Over 1.7 million single mother families with an annual income of less than \$3,000 in 2004, a 56% increase since 1995 in this measure of extreme poverty.
- A drop in the average welfare benefit to just 29% of the poverty line, about \$5 a day per person.
- Hundreds of thousands of needy children a year cut off from aid because their mother has reached the arbitrary maximum “time limit” or has allegedly “failed to comply” with work or other requirements.
- Work programs that do not guarantee decent child care, real job training, or a job.
- A five year waiting period for legal immigrants before they qualify for coverage.



Congress must reauthorize TANF by September 30, 2010. Legal Momentum has established the EndPovertyNow coalition and list serve to identify and promote targeted changes to the TANF program that will make it a meaningful safety net and a true stepping stone to economic security. Join the EndPovertyNow list serve by sending an email with “join” in the subject line to [tcasey@legalmomentum.org](mailto:tcasey@legalmomentum.org)

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