



# Report Highlights

## Coordination of Public Assistance and Workforce Development Programs

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### Why We Conducted This Review

We evaluated the public assistance programs related to workforce development to identify areas of potential coordination. We conducted this evaluation in response to House Resolution 100 of the 2023 Regular Legislative Session, which requested the legislative auditor to (1) evaluate participation, costs, and outcomes for public assistance programs in the state and (2) identify areas for improved coordination. In Louisiana, various state agencies administer public assistance programs that are directly and indirectly related to workforce development.

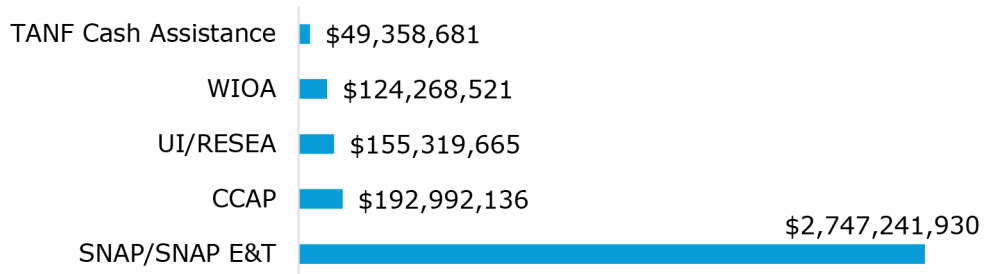
### What We Found

**Objective 1: To evaluate participation, costs, and outcomes for certain public assistance and workforce development programs in the state.**

In 2023, Louisiana served approximately 1.07 million individuals and spent approximately \$3.27 billion, primarily in federal dollars, on the following programs:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- SNAP Employment & Training Initiative (SNAP E&T)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance programs, including:
  - Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP)
  - Strategies to Empower People Program (STEP)
  - Kinship Care Subsidy Program (KCSP)
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- State Unemployment Insurance (UI) Program
- Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) Program
- Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

#### Total Costs (Benefits, Program, and Administrative) 2023



**Source:** Prepared by legislative auditor’s staff using self-reported information provided by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC), Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS), and Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE).

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## What We Found (Cont.)

### Public Assistance Program Participants 2023



Program Participants	FY 23
SNAP	891,649
WIOA	76,661
UI	41,565
RESEA	24,053
CCAP	21,326
FITAP	7,523
KCSP	2,959
STEP	1,767
SNAP E&T	1,669

**Source:** Prepared by legislative auditor's staff using self-reported information provided by DCFS, LWC, LCTCS, and LDOE.

### Objective 2: To identify areas for improved coordination among certain public assistance and workforce development programs.

- **While Louisiana has a unified WIOA state plan, the state needs increased collaboration among agencies and stakeholders in order to implement a unified vision and plan for how to best coordinate and administer public assistance and workforce development programs. Improved coordination of these programs must flow from the governor and cabinet-level leadership.** Stakeholders with the various agencies and entities we interviewed as part of this review stated that any change to the current workforce development delivery system in Louisiana must be a priority of the governor.
- **Other states vary in the level of coordination that exists among agencies and programs. In Louisiana, potential strategies for improved coordination include increased public information and data and/or document sharing.** Several other states, including Colorado, Michigan, Texas, Utah, and Washington, have websites that include a clear picture of available services and how to apply.
- **Measuring program outcomes could help the state determine which programs, and which contractors and providers, are most effective in meeting their goals.** Outcome information can assist state leaders in making more informed decisions regarding resources and funding.