

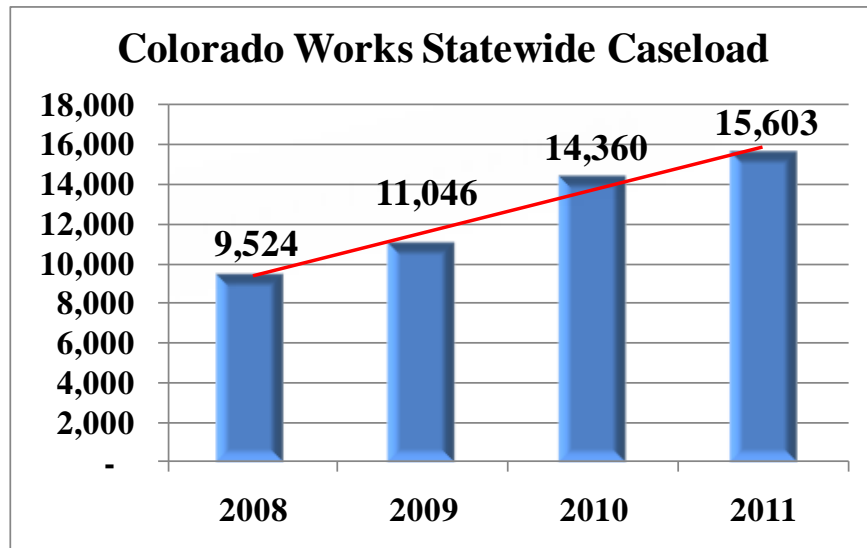
- TANF is the Federal name for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.
- Colorado Works is the state name for the Federal TANF program.
- Colorado Works caseloads have increased by **63.8%** since 2008 due to the economic downturn.
- The devolution of the state program to local county departments allowed counties to develop local programs, services, solutions, and partnerships to better serve local needs.

**COLORADO WORKS (TANF) CASELOADS**

Colorado Works is Colorado’s version of the federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program. The program provides temporary assistance to needy families for a maximum of 60 months (5 years) over a lifetime.

With the economic downturn, statewide Colorado Works caseloads increased more than **63.8%** from **9,525** in March 2008 to **15,603** in March 2011.

**Colorado Works Statewide Caseload, 2008-2011**



**Source:** CBMS Issuance Data, 2010. Data is point in time and does not reflect annual totals.

**Colorado Works Caseload Increases**

Between March 2008 and March 2011, households served under the Colorado Works Program increased by **63.8%**, from **9,524** households to **15,603** households.

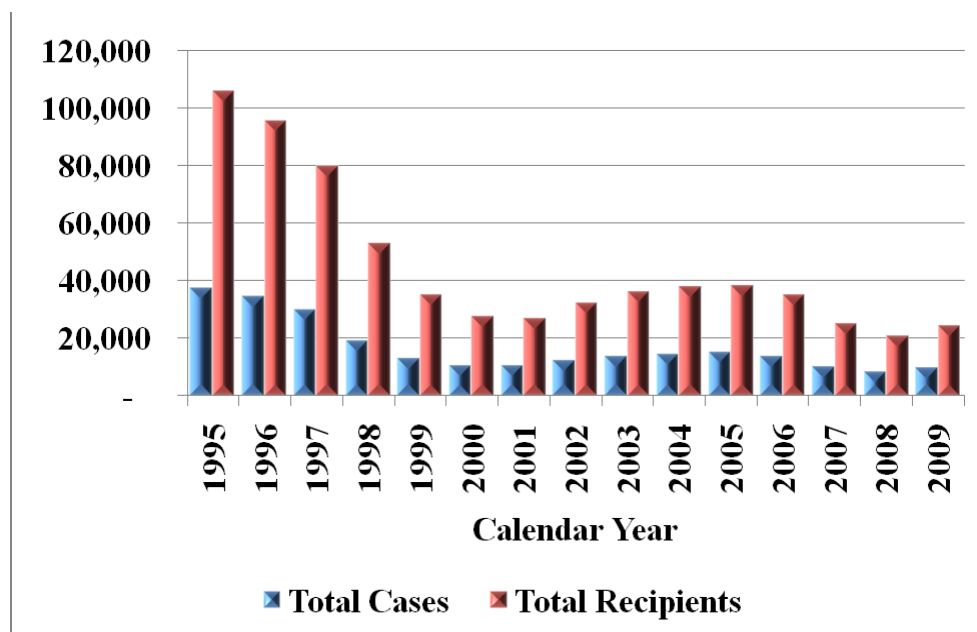
**Welfare Reform (TANF) and the Devolution of AFDC to the Counties**

In July 1997, Welfare Reform was enacted in Colorado. The Aid to Families with Dependent Child (AFDC) was eliminated and replaced with the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Program. In Colorado, TANF shifted the responsibility for the previous AFDC program to the counties. The devolution of the state program to local county departments allowed counties to develop local programs, services, solutions, and partnerships to better serve local needs.

With welfare reform, the number of cases and TANF recipients declined dramatically. This decline is shown in the following graph that displays total TANF caseloads and recipients. The decline can be attributed to a number of factors including:

- A 5 year life-time limit on TANF eligibility where before there was no limit in AFDC.
- More stringent requirements for participants in TANF, such as the establishment of Individual Responsibility Contracts.

**TANF Caseload Size for Calendar Years 1995-2009**



**Source:** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families;  
Online at: [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/data-reports/index.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/data-reports/index.htm).