

**PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**

WLFME -
States

ERIC/ANDREA -
FYI
(from Melissa)

-BR

FYI, things I learned from talking to Jason DeParle today:

His story will run this weekend. It's a look at how states are spending their TANF grants. Basic point is that they have a lot more to spend per case - he's still running the numbers, but it looks like a nationwide average increase of \$3200 to \$5500 by his count today. Lots of variation -- Wisconsin has more than \$20,000 per case, he sez.

Article looks at three states:

Wisconsin, an example of a state that invested lots of money in poor people early;

Texas, a "middling" state, with 40 percent of its money going to services for the poor, 40 percent being transferred into non-poverty programs and 20 percent in a rainy day fund; and

New Mexico, a "bad" state, with lots of unspent dollars and no progress because of a fight between the legislature and the Governor.

Tone, I'd guess, will be pretty neutral. He will note that even in Wisconsin, \$100 million in excess TANF funds has been "blatantly" moved to a property tax cut through passage of an EITC that counts as MOE.