

Arizona’s Cash Assistance (TANF) policy: Cash Assistance Program		
HOW MUCH CASH ASSISTANCE CAN A FAMILY OF THREE RECEIVE?		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Maximum benefit allowed</p> <p>What is the maximum monthly amount a family of three could receive in cash assistance?</p>	<p>Between \$218/month and \$347/month, or between 10% and 16% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), depending on the family’s shelter obligations.</p>	<p>Increase the maximum benefit level.</p> <p>Example: New Mexico’s maximum benefit for a family of three is \$550/month, or 26% FPL.</p>
<p>Recurring benefit increases</p> <p>Has the state mandated increases to these amounts, as the cost of living rises?</p>	<p>No. Current benefit amounts are valued at just 23-36% of their worth in 1992.</p>	<p>Make recurring benefit increases, tied to a cost-of-living or poverty measurement.</p> <p>Examples: Wyoming, Colorado, and Nebraska mandate periodic increases.</p>
WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR CASH ASSISTANCE?		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Maximum income</p> <p>How much can a family of three earn and still be considered eligible to receive cash assistance?</p>	<p>A family of three may earn as much as \$2,152/month (100% FPL).</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Asset limit</p> <p>How much can a family maintain in savings while still being eligible for cash assistance?</p>	<p>Families can retain up to \$2,000.</p>	<p>Consider eliminating the asset limit to promote economic mobility by enabling families to save (e.g., Colorado).</p> <p>Alternatively, increase the asset limit.</p> <p>Example: Nevada permits families to retain \$10,000.</p>

<p>Eligibility during pregnancy for parents without children</p> <p>Are pregnant people with no children in the household eligible for cash assistance?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Consider providing eligibility to low-income pregnant people with no other children.</p> <p>Example: Montana provides eligibility from the third month of pregnancy, and Colorado from the first month.</p>
<p>ADDITIONAL RULES AND RESTRICTIONS</p>		
<p>Flexibility</p>	<p>Current policy</p>	<p>Potential improvement</p>
<p>Time limit</p> <p>Does the state allow families to receive cash assistance up to the federal limit of 60 months?</p>	<p>Arizona limits cash assistance to 12 months in a lifetime, although families may apply for an additional 12 months.</p>	<p>Consider maintaining the lifetime limit of 60 months to support families during reversals such as job loss (e.g., Colorado, Montana, Nevada).</p>
<p>Lifting full-family sanctions</p> <p>Are other family members able to continue receiving cash benefits if an adult does not meet work requirements?</p>	<p>The first instance of noncompliance with work requirements results in a 50% reduction of cash assistance; the second results in discontinuation of benefit payments; a third instance closes a family’s case.</p>	<p>Consider reducing the benefit in place of full-family sanctions (e.g., Illinois, Oregon).</p>
<p>Lifting drug felony bans</p> <p>Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for cash assistance?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Eliminate the ban or modify it to extend eligibility to those that have completed treatment or other programs related to their sentence.</p> <p>Examples: Wyoming and New Mexico have fully eliminated the drug felony ban.</p>

		<p>Montana grants eligibility to those convicted of drug-related felonies if they verify active participation in treatment or compliance with other conditions.</p>
<p>Lifting the family cap for a new birth</p> <p>Can families receive additional cash assistance if they have another child while receiving assistance?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Discontinue the family cap. It is not a federal requirement and does not exist in most states. Cash support during early childhood is important for reducing parental stress and building better developmental outcomes in children.</p>