

California’s Cash Assistance (TANF) policy: CalWorks Program		
HOW MUCH CASH ASSISTANCE CAN A FAMILY OF THREE RECEIVE?		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p><b>Maximum benefit allowed</b></p> <p>What is the maximum monthly amount a family of three could receive in cash assistance?</p>	<p>\$1,171/month for those in urban counties, or 54% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL); \$1,112/month for rural counties, or 52% FPL.</p> <p>Families in which adults are unable to work because of disability receive more.</p>	<p><b>Consider increasing the maximum benefit level.</b></p> <p><b>Example: Minnesota’s maximum benefit for a family of three is \$1,370/month, or 62% FPL.</b></p>
<p><b>Recurring benefit increases</b></p> <p>Has the state mandated increases to these amounts, as the cost of living rises?</p>	<p>Yes. Annual increases tied to the cost of living are mandated.</p>	<p><b>N/A</b></p>
WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR CASH ASSISTANCE?		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p><b>Maximum income</b></p> <p>How much can a family of three earn and still be considered eligible to receive cash assistance?</p>	<p>After deductions and income disregards, a family of three may earn as much as \$1,753/month (82% FPL) in urban counties and \$1,664/month (77% FPL) in rural counties.</p>	<p><b>N/A</b></p>
<p><b>Asset limit</b></p> <p>How much can a family maintain in savings while still being eligible for cash assistance?</p>	<p>Families can retain assets up to \$11,634. California mandates periodic increases to its TANF asset limits.</p>	<p><b>Consider either increasing or removing the asset limit to promote economic mobility by enabling families to save (e.g., Colorado).</b></p>

<p><b>Eligibility during pregnancy for parents without children</b></p> <p>Are pregnant people with no children in the household eligible for cash assistance?</p>	<p>Yes. California provides cash assistance to pregnant parents without children at any point during the pregnancy.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>ADDITIONAL RULES AND RESTRICTIONS</b></p>		
<p><b>Flexibility</b></p>	<p><b>Current policy</b></p>	<p><b>Potential improvement</b></p>
<p><b>Time limit</b></p> <p>Does the state allow families to receive cash assistance up to the federal limit of 60 months?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Lifting full-family sanctions</b></p> <p>Are other family members able to continue receiving cash benefits if an adult does not meet work requirements?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Lifting drug felony bans</b></p> <p>Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for cash assistance?</p>	<p>California has modified its ban to extend eligibility to those convicted of drug-related felonies who comply with the terms of their probation or parole, including participation in treatment if required.</p>	<p><b>Consider fully eliminating the ban (e.g., Wyoming, New Mexico).</b></p>
<p><b>Lifting the family cap for a new birth</b></p> <p>Can families receive additional cash assistance if they have another child while receiving assistance?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>