

Florida’s Cash Assistance (TANF) policy: Temporary Cash Assistance 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>Maximum amount varies according to shelter obligations: \$198/month, or 9% of the Federal Poverty Limit (FPL) for families with no shelter obligations; \$258/month (12% FPL) for families with shelter obligations under \$50; and \$303/month (14% FPL) for families with shelter obligations above \$50.</p>	<p><b>Consider increasing the maximum benefit level.</b></p> <p><b>Example: Louisiana’s maximum benefit for a family of three is \$484/month, or 22% 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>No.</p>	<p><b>Make recurring increases to state benefit amounts, tied to a cost-of-living or poverty measurement.</b></p> <p><b>Example: Ohio requires scheduled cost-of-living updates to TANF benefit amounts each year on January 1st.</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>There is a gross income limit of \$3,981/month (185% FPL). After disregarding the first \$200 of earnings and half of other earnings, the remaining monthly amount must be less than \$198, \$258, or \$303</p>	<p><b>N/A</b></p>

	depending on shelter obligations.	
<b>Asset limit</b>  How much can a family maintain in savings while still being eligible for cash assistance?	Families can retain up to \$2,000.	<b>Consider either increasing or removing the asset limit to promote economic mobility by enabling families to save (e.g., Colorado).</b>
<b>Eligibility during pregnancy for parents without children</b>  Are pregnant people with no children in the household eligible for cash assistance?	<b>Yes, during the last month of pregnancy. Assistance can be accessed during the third trimester if the pregnant parent is restricted from work by a physician’s order, though such parents may also be required to attend parenting classes or other preparatory activities.</b>	<b>Consider providing eligibility to low-income pregnant people with no other children earlier in pregnancy and without additional requirements.</b>  <b>Example: Maryland provides eligibility from the first month of pregnancy.</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL RULES AND RESTRICTIONS</b>		
<b>Flexibility</b>	<b>Current policy</b>	<b>Potential improvement</b>
<b>Time limit</b>  Does the state allow families to receive cash assistance up to the federal limit of 60 months?	Florida limits access cash assistance to no more than 48 months in a lifetime.	<b>Consider maintaining the lifetime limit of 60 months to support families during reversals such as job loss (e.g., Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi).</b>
<b>Lifting full-family sanctions</b>  Are other family members able to continue receiving cash benefits if an adult does not meet work requirements?	The first instance of noncompliance with work requirements results in suspension of the entire benefit payment amount.	<b>Consider reducing the benefit (e.g., Alabama) in response to noncompliance with work requirements, so that children continue to access support.</b>
<b>Lifting drug felony bans</b>  Are persons convicted of drug-	Florida has modified its ban to	<b>Consider eliminating the ban</b>

<p>related felonies eligible for cash assistance?</p>	<p>extend eligibility to those convicted of drug-related felonies that are not related to drug trafficking, and to those compliant with treatment program requirements.</p>	<p><b>entirely (e.g., Alabama).</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>The birth of a child ten months or more after the opening of a case may qualify the household for an increase of 50% of the usual benefit for a child. Any subsequent births will not qualify for additional cash assistance. Further, for a family that reapplies for assistance after six or more months of non-receipt, there will be no increase for any child born ten months or more after reapplication.</p>	<p><b>Discontinue the family cap entirely. 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.</b></p>