

Idaho’s Cash Assistance (TANF) policy: Temporary Assistance for Families in Idaho (TAFI)		
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>\$309/month, regardless of family size. This is 14% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for a family of three, although less for larger families.</p>	<p>Consider increasing the maximum benefit level.</p> <p>Examples: Wyoming’s maximum monthly benefit level ranges from \$576 to \$838, depending on housing supports, which is between 27% and 39% FPL.</p> <p>North Dakota’s maximum benefit for a family of three is \$872/month, or 45% 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.</p>	<p>Make recurring increases to state benefit amounts, tied to a cost-of-living or poverty measurement.</p> <p>Examples: Wyoming mandates periodic increases according to an index developed by the state.</p> <p>Ohio requires scheduled cost-of-living updates to TANF benefit amounts each year on January 1st.</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 gross income limit of \$389/month (18% FPL in 2024) has been in effect since 2002.</p>	<p>Consider increasing the gross income limit to enable low-income families to receive cash assistance.</p>

		<p>Examples: Families in Utah have a gross income limit of \$1,050/month, or 49% FPL.</p> <p>In Texas, single-parent families with two children have a gross income limit of \$751/month, or 34% FPL; two-parent families with one child must have gross income no greater than \$824/month, or 38% FPL.</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 assets up to \$5,000.</p>	<p>Consider removing or further increasing the asset limit to enable families to save and promote economic mobility.</p> <p>Examples: Indiana has lifted the asset limit for cash assistance to \$10,000; Ohio has entirely eliminated the asset limit.</p>
<p>Eligibility during pregnancy for parents without children</p> <p>Are pregnant people with no children eligible for cash assistance?</p>	<p>Yes, starting in the third trimester of pregnancy.</p>	<p>Consider providing eligibility to low-income pregnant people with no other children from the first month of pregnancy, in order to support basic needs required for maternal health and children’s early development (e.g., Kansas).</p>
ADDITIONAL RULES AND RESTRICTIONS		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Time limit</p> <p>Does the state allow families to receive cash assistance up to the federal limit of 60 months?</p>	<p>Idaho limits access cash assistance to no more than 24 months in a lifetime, while providing extensions up to 36</p>	<p>Consider maintaining the lifetime limit of 60 months as many states do (e.g., North</p>

	months for specific circumstances such as caring for an unwell child.	Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming).
<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>	Yes. Administrative changes in 2019 direct that sanctions for noncompliance with work requirements result only in reductions to cash assistance benefits.	N/A
<p>Lifting drug felony bans</p> <p>Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for cash assistance?</p>	Yes. Idaho has modified the ban.	Consider fully eliminating the ban (e.g., Montana, Wyoming).
<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>	Yes. Idaho never enacted a family cap.	N/A