

Illinois’s Cash Assistance (TANF) policy: Cash Assistance		
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>\$725/month, or 33% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).</p> <p>(A “child-only” household including only children can receive \$544/month.)</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>N/A</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 (including an initial disregard of \$852), net earnings for a family of three must not exceed the maximum payment (\$725/month).</p>	<p>N/A</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>Illinois has no asset limit for cash assistance.</p>	<p>N/A</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. Illinois provides cash assistance to pregnant parents without children from the first month of pregnancy.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

ADDITIONAL RULES AND RESTRICTIONS		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<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>	Yes.	N/A
<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>	Yes.	N/A
<p><b>Lifting drug felony bans</b></p> <p>Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for cash assistance?</p>	Yes. Illinois fully eliminated its ban in 2021.	N/A
<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>	Yes.	N/A