

Kansas’s Cash Assistance (TANF) policy: Successful Families 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>From \$386/month in rural counties to \$429/month in areas with higher costs of living, or between 18% and 20% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).</p>	<p><b>Consider increasing the maximum benefit level.</b></p> <p><b>Example: North Dakota’s maximum benefit for a family of three is \$872/month, or 45% 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 \$603/month (28% FPL).</p>	<p><b>Consider increasing the gross income level.</b></p> <p><b>Example: Oklahoma’s gross income level is \$1,193/month (55% FPL).</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 \$2,750 in savings, checking and other accounts.</p>	<p><b>Consider either eliminating or increasing the asset limit to enable families to save and promote economic mobility, as other states have done.</b></p>

		<b>Examples: Indiana has eliminated the asset limit for cash assistance to \$10,000, and Ohio has eliminated the asset limit.</b>
<b>Eligibility during pregnancy for parents without children</b>  Are pregnant people with no children eligible for cash assistance?	Yes, from the first month of pregnancy.	N/A
<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?	Kansas limits access cash assistance to no more than 24 months in a lifetime.	<b>Consider maintaining the lifetime limit of 60 months as many states do (e.g., Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi), so that parents and children may receive support after challenging events (such as job loss).</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?	Adults who are not in compliance with work requirements receive escalating penalties for each instance of noncompliance: 1. After the first instance, the household is ineligible for at least three months and the parent must reapply for the benefit; 2. after the second instance, ineligibility extends to six months, with the same requirement to reapply; 3. after the third instance, the family is ineligible for one year, and reapplication is required; 4. in consequence of any further noncompliance,	<b>Consider only <i>reducing</i> the benefit, so that children may continue receiving cash assistance (e.g., Alabama, Maryland).</b>

	the entire household is ineligible for TANF for ten years.	
<p><b>Lifting drug felony bans</b></p> <p>Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for cash assistance?</p>	<p>Kansas has modified its ban for TANF cash assistance so that individuals who participate in required drug treatment programs or have completed such programs may receive cash assistance.</p>	<p><b>Consider eliminating the ban entirely, as other states have done (e.g., Illinois, Kentucky).</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. Kansas never enacted a family cap.</p>	<p><b>N/A</b></p>