

Maine's Cash Assistance (TANF) policy: ASPIRE Program		
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>\$723/month, or about 34% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).</p>	<p>Consider increasing the maximum benefit level.</p> <p>Example: Minnesota's maximum benefit for a family of three is \$1,370/month, or 62% FPL.</p>
<p>Recurring benefit increases</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>Maximum income</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 \$1,023/month (47.5% FPL).</p>	<p>Consider increasing the income limit, as other states have.</p> <p>Example: Minnesota extends eligibility to families earning as much as \$1,507/month in net income, after some deductions.</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 \$10,000. Maine increased this limit from \$2,000 in 2023.</p>	<p>Consider eliminating the asset limit to promote economic mobility by enabling families to maintain savings, as other states do (e.g., Massachusetts, Maryland).</p>
<p>Eligibility during pregnancy for parents without children</p> <p>Are pregnant people with no children in the household eligible</p>	<p>Yes. Maine will provide cash assistance to pregnant parents</p>	<p>Consider providing eligibility to low-income pregnant people</p>

for cash assistance?	without other children beginning in the sixth month of pregnancy.	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, as many states are doing (e.g., Colorado, Michigan, Washington, and Kansas).
ADDITIONAL RULES AND RESTRICTIONS		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
Time limit Does the state allow families to receive cash assistance up to the federal limit of 60 months?	Yes.	N/A
Lifting full-family sanctions Are other family members able to continue receiving cash benefits if an adult does not meet work requirements?	Yes. Maine repealed full-family sanctions in 2021. Benefit amounts will be merely reduced to exclude assistance only for the noncompliant adult.	N/A
Lifting drug felony bans Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for cash assistance?	Yes. Maine law prohibits denial of assistance based on drug-related conviction.	N/A
Lifting the family cap for a new birth Can families receive additional cash assistance if they have another child while receiving assistance?	Yes. Maine never enacted a family cap.	N/A