

Massachusetts’s Cash Assistance (TANF): Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children		
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>\$823/month, or about 38% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) in 2024.</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>No, although the Legislature reviews and adjusts benefits periodically.</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>Families in subsidized housing can be considered eligible if they earn \$783/month or less in gross income; this amount is \$823/month for families who are not in subsidized housing.</p>	<p>Consider increasing the income limit.</p> <p>Examples: In Connecticut, after deductions and income disregards, a family of three may earn as much as \$1,753/month (82% FPL). 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>Massachusetts repealed the asset limit in 2022, so that families can retain savings up to any amount.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

<p>Eligibility during pregnancy for parents without children</p> <p>Are pregnant people with no children in the household eligible for cash assistance?</p>	<p>Yes. Massachusetts will provide cash assistance to pregnant parents without other children beginning in the sixth month 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., Connecticut).</p>
<p>ADDITIONAL RULES AND RESTRICTIONS</p>		
<p>Flexibility</p>	<p>Current policy</p>	<p>Potential improvement</p>
<p>Time limit</p> <p>Does the state allow families to receive cash assistance up to the federal limit of 60 months?</p>	<p>Massachusetts limits lifetime cash assistance to 24 months within a 5-year period, although extensions are considered in some circumstances.</p>	<p>Consider maintaining the lifetime limit of 60 months without restrictions (e.g., Vermont, New York, Maine, and Rhode Island).</p>
<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>	<p>Yes. Noncompliance with work requirements results in a reduction of the benefit amount so that children can receive assistance, but not the noncompliant adult.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Lifting drug felony bans</p> <p>Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for cash assistance?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<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>	<p>Yes. Massachusetts never enacted a family cap.</p>	<p>N/A</p>