

Missouri’s Cash Assistance (TANF) policy: Temporary Assistance 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>\$292/month or 13.6% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) in 2024.</p>	<p>Consider increasing the maximum benefit level.</p> <p>Example: Nebraska’s maximum benefit for a family of three is \$552/month, or 26% 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>Example: 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>There is a gross maximum income limit of \$1,465/month (68% FPL).</p>	<p>Consider increasing the income limit for eligibility.</p> <p>Examples: Iowa’s gross income limit is \$1,571/month (73% FPL). Nevada’s gross income limit is \$2,693/month (125% 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 \$1,000 in savings, checking and other accounts when applying for the benefit; once</p>	<p>Consider either increasing or eliminating the asset limit to promote economic mobility by</p>

	they are receiving benefits, up to \$5,000 are allowable.	enabling families to save. Examples: Indiana has increased the asset limit for cash assistance to \$10,000, and Ohio has eliminated the asset limit.
Eligibility during pregnancy for parents without children Are pregnant people with no children eligible for cash assistance?	No.	Provide eligibility to low-income pregnant people with no other children in order to support basic needs required for maternal health and children’s early development. Examples: Maryland and Illinois provide eligibility to parents without other children from the first month of pregnancy.
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?	Missouri limits access to cash assistance to no more than 45 cumulative months in a lifetime.	Consider maintaining the lifetime limit of 60 months (e.g., Iowa, Kentucky, Oklahoma), so that parents and children may receive support after challenging events (such as job loss).
Lifting full-family sanctions Are other family members able to continue receiving cash benefits if an adult does not meet work requirements?	Noncompliance with work requirements can result in a reduction of 50% in the family benefit, but after a period of time without sufficient work	Consider only <i>reducing</i> the benefit, so that children may continue receiving cash assistance (e.g., Alabama,

	compliance the case will be closed.	Maryland).
<p>Lifting drug felony bans</p> <p>Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for cash assistance?</p>	No.	<p>Consider modifying the ban (e.g. Kansas, Iowa) or eliminating it entirely, (e.g., Illinois, Kentucky).</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>	Yes. Missouri never enacted a family cap.	N/A