

Ohio's Cash Assistance (TANF) policy: Ohio Works First (OWF) 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>\$589/month, or less than 28% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) in 2024</p>	<p>Consider increasing the maximum benefit level.</p> <p>Example: Illinois provides maximum benefits close to 34% FPL. North Dakota's benefit is nearly 41% FPL.</p>
<p>Recurring benefit increases</p> <p>Has the state mandated increases to these amounts in future, as the cost of living rises?</p>	<p>Yes.</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>The gross income limit for a family of three is \$1,036/month, or 48% FPL.</p>	<p>Increase limits, disregards, and/or deductions in order to enable families earning more to receive cash assistance.</p> <p>Example: A family of three in South Carolina can earn up to \$1,035/month (48% FPL) after disregarding 50% of the monthly gross countable earned income of each earner for up to four months.</p>
<p>Asset limit</p> <p>How much can a family maintain in savings while still being eligible for cash assistance?</p>	<p>There is no resource or asset limit required for eligibility.</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, Ohio provides cash assistance from the first month of pregnancy to those without other children in the household.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
ADDITIONAL RULES AND RESTRICTIONS		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Time limit</p> <p>Does Ohio allow families to receive cash assistance up to the federal limit of 60 months?</p>	<p>The state limits assistance to 36 months, whether consecutive or not, although families may apply for an extension of benefits.</p>	<p>Consider maintaining the full lifetime limit of 60 months (e.g., Kentucky, West Virginia).</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>No. All sanctions for noncompliance with work requirements affect the entire household.</p>	<p>Reduce benefit amount in place of full-family sanctions if parents do not meet work requirements (e.g., Illinois), so that children may retain assistance.</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. Ohio never implemented a family cap policy.</p>	<p>N/A</p>