

Oklahoma’s Cash Assistance (TANF) policy: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families		
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 less than 14% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) in 2024.</p>	<p>Consider increasing the maximum benefit level.</p> <p>Examples: New Mexico’s maximum benefit for a family of three is \$550/month, or 26% FPL.</p> <p>California’s maximum benefit ranges from \$1,112/month for those in rural counties, to \$1,171/month (52% FPL) for those in urban counties.</p>
<p>Recurring benefit increases</p> <p>Has the state mandated increases to these amounts, as the cost of living rises?</p>	<p>No, and the benefit amount has not been increased since 1996.</p>	<p>Consider mandating recurring benefit increases, tied to a cost-of-living or poverty measurement.</p> <p>Examples: Wyoming, Colorado, and Nebraska have mandated periodic increases.</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 family of three is \$1,193/month (55% FPL).</p>	<p>Consider increasing limits, disregards, and/or deductions as other states have done 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) <i>after</i></p>

		disregarding 50% of the monthly gross countable earned income of each earner for up to four months.
<p>Asset limit</p> <p>How much can a family maintain in savings while still being eligible for cash assistance?</p>	<p>Oklahoma imposes an asset limit of \$1,000 for recipients of cash assistance.</p>	<p>Consider eliminating the asset limit to enable families to promote economic mobility by enabling families to maintain savings (e.g., Colorado).</p> <p>Alternatively, some states increase the asset limit. Texas allows eligible households to retain up to \$5,000 in savings or cash accounts.</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.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
ADDITIONAL RULES AND RESTRICTIONS		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Time limit</p> <p>Does the state allow families to receive cash assistance up to the federal limit of 60 months?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</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, benefits are denied in consequence of parents' noncompliance with work requirements.</p>	<p>Consider reducing the benefit in place of full-family sanctions (e.g., Illinois, Oregon).</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. Oklahoma repealed the family cap in 2009 in order to save on administrative costs.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
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