

Utah’s Cash Assistance (TANF) policy: Utah Family Employment Program		
HOW MUCH CASH ASSISTANCE CAN A FAMILY OF THREE RECEIVE?		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p><b>Maximum benefit allowed</b></p> <p>What is the maximum monthly amount a family of three could receive in cash assistance?</p>	<p>\$662/month, or 31% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) in 2024.</p>	<p><b>Consider increasing the maximum benefit level.</b></p> <p><b>Example: California’s maximum benefit for a family of three is either \$1,171/month for those in urban counties, or 54.4% FPL, or \$1,112 for those in rural counties, or 51.7% FPL.</b></p>
<p><b>Recurring benefit increases</b></p> <p>Has the state mandated increases to these amounts, as the cost of living rises?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p><b>Make recurring benefit increases, tied to a cost-of-living or poverty measurement.</b></p> <p><b>Example: Wyoming, Colorado, and Nebraska have mandated periodic increases.</b></p>
WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR CASH ASSISTANCE?		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p><b>Maximum income</b></p> <p>How much can a family of three earn and still be considered eligible to receive cash assistance?</p>	<p>A family of three must have gross income no higher than \$1,050/month (49% FPL).</p>	<p><b>Consider increasing income limits, disregards, and/or deductions in order to enable more families to receive cash assistance.</b></p> <p><b>Example: New Mexico’s gross income limit for a family of three is \$1,761/month (85% FPL).</b></p>
<p><b>Asset limit</b></p> <p>How much can a family maintain in savings while still being eligible</p>	<p>\$2,000</p>	<p><b>Eliminate the asset limit in order to promote economic</b></p>

for cash assistance?		<p>stability by enabling families to maintain savings (e.g., Colorado).</p> <p>Alternatively, increase the asset limit (e.g., Nevada permits families to retain \$10,000 and remain eligible).</p>
<p><b>Eligibility during pregnancy for parents without children</b></p> <p>Are pregnant people with no children in the household eligible for cash assistance?</p>	<p>Yes, beginning in the third trimester.</p>	<p>Consider providing eligibility to low-income pregnant people with no other children from the first month of pregnancy, in order to support maternal health and children’s early development (e.g., Maryland, Colorado).</p>
<b>ADDITIONAL RULES AND RESTRICTIONS</b>		
<b>Flexibility</b>	<b>Current policy</b>	<b>Potential improvement</b>
<p><b>Time limit</b></p> <p>Does the state allow families to receive cash assistance up to the federal limit of 60 months?</p>	<p>Utah limits cash assistance to 36 months in a lifetime, although families may apply for an extension.</p>	<p>Consider maintaining the lifetime limit of 60 months to support families during reversals such as job loss (e.g., Colorado, Montana, Nevada).</p>
<p><b>Lifting full-family sanctions</b></p> <p>Are other family members able to continue receiving cash benefits if an adult does not meet work requirements?</p>	<p>No. When parents do not participate in required work activities, benefits for the entire household may be terminated.</p>	<p>Consider reducing the benefit in place of full-family sanctions (e.g., Illinois, Oregon).</p>
<p><b>Lifting drug felony bans</b></p> <p>Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for cash assistance?</p>	<p>Yes. Utah has modified the ban so that individuals may receive benefits under the condition that anyone who is “drug-dependent” receives</p>	<p>Consider eliminating the ban (e.g., Wyoming, New Mexico).</p>

	available treatment for the dependency and makes progress in overcoming it.	
<p><b>Lifting the family cap for a new birth</b></p> <p>Can families receive additional cash assistance if they have another child while receiving assistance?</p>	Yes. Utah has never implemented a family cap.	N/A