

West Virginia’s Cash Assistance (TANF) policy: WV Works		
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>\$542/month, or 25% FPL in 2024.</p>	<p>Consider increasing the maximum benefit level.</p> <p>Example: North Dakota’s maximum benefit for a family of three is \$872/month, or 45% 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 income limit of \$3,228/month (150% FPL in 2024).</p>	<p>N/A</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 \$2,000.</p>	<p>Consider either increasing or eliminating the asset limit in order to promote economic mobility by enabling families to retain savings.</p>

		Examples: Indiana has lifted the asset limit for cash assistance to \$10,000, and Ohio has eliminated the asset limit.
<p>Eligibility during pregnancy for parents without children</p> <p>Are pregnant people with no children eligible for cash assistance?</p>	No.	<p>Consider providing eligibility to low-income pregnant people with no other children in order to support basic needs required for maternal health and early development.</p> <p>Example: Maryland provides eligibility to parents without other children from the first month of pregnancy.</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>	Yes.	N/A
<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>	No. The first instance of noncompliance with work requirements results in ineligibility for the household for one month; the second instance for six months; and the third instance for twelve months.	Consider only <i>reducing</i> the benefit so that children may continue receiving cash assistance in all cases (e.g., Alabama, Maryland).
<p>Lifting drug felony bans</p> <p>Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for cash assistance?</p>	No. West Virginia has modified its ban for SNAP benefits, but not for TANF cash assistance.	Consider eliminating the ban entirely (e.g., Alabama), or modifying it to enable adults who are in compliance with drug treatment plans to apply

		for cash assistance (e.g., Tennessee).
<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. West Virginia never enacted a family cap.</p>	<p>N/A</p>