

OVERVIEW

Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) (TANF)	[State name]	U.S. Average or Total
Annual (federal-only) block grant amount	\$265,907,706	\$16,488,600,000 (total)
% of TANF block grants spent on cash assistance, 2024	7.5%	21.8%
% families who participated in TANF per 100 families with children living in poverty, 2022-23	15.0%	20%
Total # families receiving TANF in 2025	5,129	848,631 (total)
% of cases designated "Child-Only" in 2025	54.6%	39.3%
"Unobligated balance" (or stockpiled amounts, which must be used for cash assistance or admin)		
TANF Funds "unobligated balance," as of 2024	\$0	\$7,986,470,560 (total)
"Unobligated balance" as share of total block grant amount	0%	49.5%
Change (+ or -) in "unobligated balance" from 2023	\$0	+\$241,306,628

CONNECTICUT'S CASH ASSISTANCE (TANF) POLICY

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>	\$833/month, or 39% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)	<p>Consider increasing the maximum benefit to support families with children during challenging periods.</p> <p>Example: New Hampshire provides a maximum benefit that at 60% FPL (\$1,333 for 2025).</p>
<p>Recurring benefit increases</p> <p>Has Connecticut mandated increases to these amounts, as costs of living increase?</p>	Yes.	N/A
<p>Deductions for calculation of benefit amount</p> <p>Can parents deduct some earnings or expenses from their income?</p>	All income under 100% FPL (or \$2,221/month) is deductible.	N/A

HOW ELSE DOES CONNECTICUT DETERMINE THE GENEROSITY OF CASH ASSISTANCE?		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Time limit</p> <p>Does Connecticut allow families to receive cash assistance up to the federal limit of 60 months?</p>	<p>No, the lifetime limit is 36 months in Connecticut, with two opportunities for six-month extensions.</p>	<p>Consider maintaining the lifetime limit of 60 months, as many states do, so that families can easily return to the program after setbacks like job loss.</p> <p>Examples: New Hampshire and Rhode Island maintain the 60-month limit without restrictions.</p>
<p>Transitional cash benefits for families who become ineligible after receiving cash assistance</p> <p>Will parents and caregivers who are newly ineligible for cash assistance receive additional cash support for a limited period?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Consider providing a portion of the benefit once parents increase earnings, to avoid benefit cliffs and support economic stability.</p> <p>Example: Vermont families can receive transitional assistance for six months after traditional benefits stop.</p>
<p>Providing one-time cash payments to families in with specific financial needs</p> <p>Does Connecticut provide a formal diversion program to support families with specific short-term needs?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Eligibility for monthly assistance less than six months after a diversion payment</p> <p>Can families who receive diversionary payments apply for monthly assistance within six months afterward?</p>	<p>Yes. The state prevents assistance for no more than three months.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Connecticut

TANF State Profile Summary 2025-2026

Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Providing assistance with housing</p> <p>Does the state provide housing vouchers with TANF funds?</p>	No.	<p>Providing housing vouchers alongside cash assistance can ease high costs for eligible families.</p> <p>Examples: Hawaii and Maine provide housing vouchers worth several hundred dollars along with TANF cash assistance.</p>
<p>Providing assistance with diaper purchases</p> <p>Does Connecticut provide assistance to families with diaper expenses using TANF funds?</p>	No.	<p>Providing assistance with diaper costs provides significant support for families with young children.</p> <p>Examples: Hawaii and Washington provide assistance with diapers for families with very young children receiving TANF cash assistance.</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 for cash assistance eligibility?</p>	New applicants must earn less than \$1,221/month.	<p>Consider increasing the gross income limit to provide potential eligibility to more families.</p> <p>Example: Rhode Island's gross income limit is \$4,997/month, or 225% FPL in 2025.</p>
<p>Deductions for assessment of benefit eligibility</p> <p>Can families deduct a portion of earnings or some expenses from their income to meet income eligibility requirements?</p>	Parents can deduct \$90 for work expenses for initial eligibility.	<p>Consider providing a higher deduction to provide support to more families.</p> <p>Example: In Vermont, families can deduct \$250 plus 25% of remaining income.</p>

Connecticut

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Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Asset limit</p> <p>How much can a family maintain in savings while still being eligible for cash assistance?</p>	<p>\$6,000</p>	<p>Consider increasing or eliminating the asset limit to support families' retention of savings.</p> <p>Examples: Massachusetts has eliminated an asset limit for cash assistance.</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, from the first month of pregnancy.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Provision of federal TANF cash assistance to immigrant families who are lawful permanent residents (LPRs) *after* five years' residence in US</p> <p>Can parents who hold green cards access cash assistance in Connecticut once they have been in the country <i>for five years or longer</i>?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Use of state funds to provide cash assistance to immigrant families who are lawful permanent residents (LPRs) with less than five years' residence in US</p> <p>Can parents who hold green cards access cash assistance in Connecticut if they have been in the country for <i>less than five years</i>?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

HOW DOES CONNECTICUT TREAT CHILD SUPPORT OWED TO A FAMILY APPLYING FOR AND RECEIVING CASH ASSISTANCE?		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Child support pass-through</p> <p>Does Connecticut “pass through” a portion of the payments received by the state in child support for the family?</p>	Yes.	N/A
WHAT ARE CONNECTICUT’S WORK REQUIREMENTS FOR CASH ASSISTANCE?		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Provision of cash assistance to out-of-work parents before they search for a job</p> <p>Does Connecticut provide eligibility to parents without a search for employment?</p>	Yes.	N/A
<p>Counting educational activities as “core” work requirements</p> <p>Does Connecticut provide credit for all educational activities, including college, as “core” work activities for cash assistance?</p>	No.	<p>Consider allowing postsecondary attendance and vocational education to count as “core” work participation.</p> <p>Examples: Pennsylvania allows specific types of postsecondary education to exempt parents for other work activities.</p>
<p>Exemption for caregivers of infants</p> <p>Are parents or caregivers caring for a child under twelve months of age exempt from work requirements?</p>	Yes, exemptions apply for single parents of children under twelve months.	<p>Consider providing an exemption from work requirements for the first year of life, to support parents’ mental health and children’s development.</p> <p>Examples: Colorado, Georgia, and Mississippi provide exemptions for parents with children up to twelve months of age.</p>

Connecticut

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Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Other exemptions from work requirements</p> <p>What are other conditions for exemptions from work requirements?</p>	<p>Other conditions for exemption include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being “incapacitated” • Being “unable to work” during pregnancy 	<p>Consider adding other exemptions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circumstances involving domestic violence • Caring for family member with disability • Inability to obtain childcare for a child under 6

WHICH RESTRICTIONS ON CASH ASSISTANCE HAS CONNECTICUT EASED?

Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<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>Yes, the state merely reduces the benefit amount, and reductions exceed 25% of the total benefit.</p>	<p>N/A</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>Refraining from drug testing applicants or recipients</p> <p>Does Connecticut refrain from enforcing drug testing of caregivers who are either receiving or applying 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>A partial family cap applies to TFA programs in Connecticut. Additional benefits for children born to TFA units are reduced by approximately one-half in some circumstances.</p>	<p>Consider discontinuing the family cap in order to support early development and reduce parental stress after birth.</p> <p>Examples: Massachusetts repealed its family cap in 2019.</p>

NOTES ON SOURCES:

TANF state profiles were compiled by extensive review of administrative guidelines including those published in state TANF manuals. Additionally, NCCP researchers referred to enacted state legislative resources.

NCCP gratefully acknowledges the of states' TANF-to-poverty ratios as developed and provided by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities:

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (2025, April 11). *AFDC and TANF caseload and poverty data*. <https://www.cbpp.org/research/income-security/afdc-and-tanf-caseload-and-poverty-data>

We have gratefully drawn on the publication of federal data on states' TANF block grant spending, including financial data, spending allocations, and caseload information:

Administration for Children & Families, Office of Family Assistance. (2024, November 7). *TANF financial data — FY 2023*. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. <https://acf.gov/ofa/data/tanf-financial-data-fy-2023>

Administration for Children & Families, Office of Family Assistance. (n.d.). *TANF and MOE Spending and Transfers by Activity, FY 2023* [PDF]. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. https://acf.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ofa/fy2023_tanf_and_moe_financial_pie_charts_final.pdf

Administration for Children & Families, Office of Family Assistance. (n.d.). *TANF caseload data 2023*. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. <https://acf.gov/ofa/data/tanf-caseload-data-2023>