



OVERVIEW

Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) (TANF)	Florida	U.S. Average or Total
Annual (federal-only) block grant amount (for 2024)	\$560,484,398	\$16,488,600,000 (total)
% of TANF block grants spent on cash assistance, 2024	9.8%	21.8%
% families who participated in TANF per 100 families with children living in poverty, 2022-23	10%	20%
Total # families receiving TANF in 2025	22,339	848,631 (total)
% of cases designated "Child-Only" in 2025	65.1%	39.3%
"Unobligated balance" (or stockpiled amounts, which must be used for cash assistance or admin)		
TANF Funds "unobligated balance," as of 2024	\$202,045,581	\$7,986,470,560 (total)
"Unobligated balance" as share of total block grant amount	36%	49.5%
Change (+ or -) in "unobligated balance" from 2023	-\$52,028,963	+\$241,306,628

FLORIDA'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>	Between \$198/month and \$303/month, depending on housing costs (or between 9% and 14% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).	<p>Consider increasing the maximum benefit level to support families with children during challenging periods.</p> <p>Example: Louisiana provides \$484/month, and Maryland provides a maximum benefit of \$753/month.</p>
<p>Recurring benefit increases</p> <p>Has Florida mandated increases to these amounts, as costs of living increase?</p>	No.	<p>Consider making recurring increases, tied to a cost-of-living or poverty measurement.</p> <p>Examples: Nebraska regularly updates benefit amounts.</p>



Florida

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Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Deductions for calculation of benefit amount</p> <p>Can parents deduct some earnings or expenses from their income when calculating the benefit amount?</p>	<p>Families can deduct one \$90 work expense, an additional \$200, and then 50% of the remaining income.</p>	<p>Consider increasing earned income deductions.</p> <p>Example: Arkansas provides a 20% “work-related” deduction as well as a 60% “work incentive” deduction.</p>

HOW ELSE DOES FLORIDA DETERMINE THE GENEROSITY OF CASH ASSISTANCE?

Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Time limit</p> <p>Does Florida allow families to receive cash assistance up to the federal limit of 60 months?</p>	<p>48 months</p>	<p>Consider maintaining the lifetime limit of 60 months, as many states do, so that families can return to the support when setbacks like job loss occur.</p> <p>Examples: Alabama, Iowa, and Kentucky 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: Georgia, West Virginia, and Tennessee provide transitional assistance.</p>
<p>Providing one-time cash payments to families in with specific financial needs</p> <p>Does Florida provide a formal diversion program to support families with specific short-term needs?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>



Florida

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Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<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 imposes a three-month period of ineligibility.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Providing assistance with housing</p> <p>Does the state provide housing vouchers with TANF funds?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<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 Florida provide assistance to families with diaper expenses using TANF funds?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Providing assistance with diaper costs provides significant support for families with young children.</p> <p>Examples: Indiana 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>	<p>Family income cannot exceed \$4,109/month (or 185% FPL).</p>	<p>N/A</p>



Florida

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Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<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>	<p>Yes, they can deduct \$90 from gross earned income.</p>	<p>Consider providing a higher deduction in order to increase support for employed parents.</p> <p>Example: In Arkansas, parents may deduct 20% of earned income.</p>
<p>Asset limit</p> <p>How much can a family maintain in savings while still being eligible for cash assistance?</p>	<p>\$2,000</p>	<p>Consider increasing or eliminating the asset limit to support families' retention of savings.</p> <p>Examples: Arkansas' limit on resources is \$3,000. Alabama has eliminated the consideration of cash assets or resource tests for eligibility.</p>
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<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, during the last month of pregnancy.</p>	<p>Consider providing cash assistance from the first month of pregnancy to support early development and reduce parental stress.</p> <p>Examples: Georgia, Kansas, and Oklahoma provide cash assistance to pregnant people throughout the full term of pregnancy.</p>

Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<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 Florida once they have been in the country <i>for five years or longer</i>?</p>	Yes.	N/A
<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 Florida if they have been in the country for <i>less than five years</i>?</p>	No.	<p>Consider using state funds to provide cash assistance to these parents.</p> <p>Example: Maryland provides cash assistance to some LPR caregivers before five years' residence, using state funds.</p>
<p>HOW DOES FLORIDA TREAT CHILD SUPPORT OWED TO A FAMILY APPLYING FOR AND RECEIVING CASH ASSISTANCE?</p>		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Child support pass-through</p> <p>Does Florida “pass through” a portion of the payments received by the state in child support for the family?</p>	No.	<p>Consider “passing through” at least a portion of child support payments collected by the state for this family, to contribute to the household’s economic stability.</p> <p>Example: Mississippi provides up to \$100 of any child support to the household.</p>

WHAT ARE FLORIDA'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 Florida provide eligibility to parents without a search for employment?</p>	<p>Yes, there is no job search required.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Counting educational activities as "core" work requirements</p> <p>Does Florida provide credit for all educational activities, including college, as "core" work activities for cash assistance?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Consider allowing postsecondary attendance to count as "core" work participation.</p> <p>Examples: Ohio and Kentucky, allow postsecondary education to count.</p>
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Exemption for caregivers of infants</p> <p>Are parents or caregivers caring for a child less than one year old exempt from work requirements?</p>	<p>No, exemptions apply only for single parents of children under three months.</p>	<p>Consider providing an exemption from work requirements for the first year of each infant's life, to support parents' mental health and children's development.</p> <p>Example: Georgia and Mississippi provide exemptions for parents with children up to twelve months of age.</p>
<p>Other exemptions from work requirements</p> <p>What are other conditions for exemptions from work requirements?</p>	<p>No other special exemptions provided by the state.</p>	<p>Consider adding other exemptions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caregiver's disability • Care of any person living in the home with a disability • Circumstances involving domestic violence

WHICH RESTRICTIONS ON CASH ASSISTANCE HAS FLORIDA 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>No, the state withdraws the benefit for the entire household.</p>	<p>In cases of non-compliance with work requirements, consider only reducing the benefit amount instead and eliminating full-family sanctions.</p> <p>Examples: Arkansas merely reduces the benefit.</p>
<p>Lifting drug felony bans</p> <p>Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for cash assistance?</p>	<p>For most, yes, although Florida does ban eligibility for those with convictions that involve drug trafficking.</p>	<p>Consider fully eliminating the ban on assistance for those with drug-related felony convictions to provide support for families in challenging times.</p> <p>Examples: Alabama, Arkansas, and Mississippi consider those with felony convictions eligible as long as they meet other requirements.</p>
<p>Refraining from drug testing applicants or recipients</p> <p>Does Florida refrain from enforcing drug testing of caregivers?</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>No. A first child added to the family will receive 50% of the benefits for an additional person, and any additional children bring no addition to the benefit.</p>	<p>Consider discontinuing the family cap in order to support early development and reduce parental stress after birth.</p> <p>Examples: Alabama never enacted the ban on cash assistance for newborn children, and Georgia has repealed its family cap.</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 drawn on the publication of federal data on states' TANF block grant spending, including financial data, spending allocations, and caseload information:

Office of Family Assistance. (2026, February 10). *TANF and MOE spending and transfers by activity, FY 2024*. Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <https://acf.gov/ofa/data/tanf-and-moe-spending-and-transfers-activity-fy-2024>

Office of Family Assistance. (2025). *TANF caseload data 2025*. Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <https://acf.gov/ofa/data/tanf-caseload-data-2025>