



OVERVIEW

Temporary Assistance for Families in Idaho (TANF)	Idaho	U.S. Average or Total
Annual (federal-only) block grant amount	\$30,307,166	\$16,488,600,000 (total)
% of TANF block grants spent on cash assistance, 2024	3.9%	21.8%
% families who participated in TANF per 100 families with children living in poverty, 2022-23	7%	20%
Total # families receiving TANF in 2025	1,441	848,631 (total)
% of cases designated "Child-Only" in 2025	96.7%	39.3%
"Unobligated balance" (or stockpiled amounts, which must be used for cash assistance or admin)		
TANF Funds "unobligated balance," as of 2024	\$21,719,151	\$7,986,470,560 (total)
"Unobligated balance" as share of total block grant amount	71.7%	49.5%
Change (+ or -) in "unobligated balance" from 2023	+\$5,271,603	+\$241,306,628

IDAHO'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>	<p>\$389/month, or 18% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL), for those with earned income.</p>	<p>Increase the maximum benefit level to provide more support to families with children during challenging periods.</p> <p>Examples: Wyoming provides a maximum benefit of \$902/month.</p>
<p>Recurring benefit increases</p> <p>Has Idaho mandated increases to these amounts, as costs of living increase?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Consider making recurring increases, tied to a cost-of-living or poverty measurement.</p> <p>Example: Nebraska mandates routine increases to benefit amounts.</p>

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>Yes, parents can deduct 60% of their gross income.</p>	<p>The state could consider a larger deduction for a period after family member becomes employed.</p> <p>Example: Alabama allows a deduction of 100% of earned income when an adult first gains employment, for up to twelve months.</p>

HOW ELSE DOES IDAHO DETERMINE THE GENEROSITY OF CASH ASSISTANCE?

Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Time limit</p> <p>Does Idaho allow families to receive cash assistance up to the federal limit of 60 months?</p>	<p>No, the state limits assistance to 24 months, with possible extensions.</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>Examples: Georgia and West Virginia provide some transitional assistance to families no longer receiving assistance.</p>

Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Providing one-time cash payments to families in with specific financial needs</p> <p>Does Idaho 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>No. The state prevents assistance for up to six months.</p>	<p>Consider shortening the period of ineligibility.</p> <p>Examples: Florida and Arizona provide diversion payments to families who are then ineligible for monthly assistance for just three months. Arkansas also maintains a shorter (100-day) period of ineligibility.</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.</p>
<p>Providing assistance with diaper purchases</p> <p>Does Idaho 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.</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>A family can earn up to \$389/month and remain eligible for assistance.</p>	<p>Consider increasing the gross income limit to provide potential eligibility to more families.</p> <p>Examples: In Utah, families can earn up to \$1,050/month. In Montana, they can earn up to \$2,888/month.</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>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Consider providing disregards in order to provide support for more families.</p> <p>Example: Arkansas provides a 20% work-related deduction for eligibility assessment.</p>
<p>Asset limit</p> <p>How much can a family maintain in savings while still being eligible for cash assistance?</p>	<p>Families may retain up to \$5,000 in cash or savings accounts.</p>	<p>Consider increasing or eliminating the asset limit to support parents' ability to save.</p> <p>Examples: Michigan has increased the asset limit to \$15,000. Ohio and Colorado have eliminated it entirely.</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, starting in the third trimester.</p>	<p>Consider providing cash assistance during pregnancy to support early development outcomes and reduce parental stress.</p> <p>Examples: Michigan and Colorado provide cash assistance in any trimester 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 Idaho once they have been in the country <i>for five years or longer</i>?</p>	<p>Yes, but only individuals who can either be credited with 40 quarters (10 years) of work in the U.S. or who are veterans may receive this assistance.</p>	<p>Consider providing access to eligible applicants who are legally-protected residents after five years' US residence, as 43 states and the District of Columbia do.</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 Idaho if they have been in the country for <i>less than five years</i>?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Consider using state funds to provide cash assistance to these parents.</p> <p>Examples: Colorado and Maryland provide cash assistance to some caregivers before five years' residence, using state funds.</p>

HOW DOES IDAHO 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 Idaho “pass through” a portion of the payments received by the state in child support for the family?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Consider “passing through” at least a portion of child support payments collected by the state to support economic stability.</p> <p>Example: Mississippi provides up to \$100 of any child support to the household.</p>

WHAT ARE IDAHO'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 Idaho provide eligibility to parents without a search for employment?</p>	<p>No, parents must participate in a job search program, or their application will be denied.</p>	<p>Consider providing cash assistance to families before or a search for employment.</p> <p>Examples: Arkansas, Tennessee, and Texas require no job search before processing applications.</p>
<p>Counting educational activities as "core" work requirements</p> <p>Does Idaho provide credit for all educational activities, including college, as "core" work activities for cash assistance?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Consider allowing postsecondary attendance and vocational education to count as "core" work participation.</p> <p>Examples: Ohio, Georgia, and Pennsylvania allow participation in postsecondary education to count as "core" 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>	<p>No. Exemptions only apply for single parents of children under 6 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>

Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Other exemptions from work requirements</p> <p>What are other conditions for exemptions from work requirements?</p>	<p>Being a single custodial parent of a child less than 6 years old and being unable to find childcare is also an exemption from work requirements.</p>	<p>Consider adding other exemptions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnancy • Caregiver’s disability • Circumstances involving domestic violence • Caring for family member with disability

WHICH RESTRICTIONS ON CASH ASSISTANCE HAS IDAHO 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 will enact full-family sanctions although not immediately.</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 withdraws a portion of the benefit, never enacting a full-family sanction.</p>
<p>Lifting drug felony bans</p> <p>Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for cash assistance?</p>	<p>Yes, as long as they are in compliance with requirements involving treatment.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Refraining from drug testing applicants or recipients</p> <p>Does Idaho refrain from enforcing drug testing of caregivers who are either receiving or applying for cash assistance?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Consider making treatment available to all parents and refrain from any drug testing, since it does not effectively support low-income parents or children.</p> <p>Examples: Florida and Alabama refrain from drug testing applicants and recipients.</p>



Idaho

TANF State Profile Summary 2025/2026

Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
Lifting the family cap for a new birth Can families receive additional cash assistance if they have another child while receiving assistance?	Yes. Idaho never enacted a family cap.	N/A



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>