

OVERVIEW

Successful Families Program (TANF)	Kansas	U.S. Average or Total
Annual (federal-only) block grant amount	\$101,477,697	\$16,488,600,000 (total)
% of TANF block grants spent on cash assistance, 2024	5.7%	21.8%
% families who participated in TANF per 100 families with children living in poverty, 2022-23	8%	20%
Total # families receiving TANF in 2025	2,804	848,631 (total)
% of cases designated "Child-Only" in 2025	40.8%	39.3%
"Unobligated balance" (or stockpiled amounts, which must be used for cash assistance or admin)		
TANF Funds "unobligated balance," as of 2024	\$71,597,031	\$7,986,470,560 (total)
"Unobligated balance" as share of total block grant amount	70.6%	49.5%
Change (+ or -) in "unobligated balance" from 2023	+\$3,964,991	+\$241,306,628

KANSAS' 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>\$429/month, or 20% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).</p>	<p>Consider increasing the maximum benefit level to provide more support to families with children during challenging periods.</p> <p>Example: Nebraska provides \$584/month.</p>
<p>Recurring benefit increases</p> <p>Has Kansas 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>Examples: Nebraska and Texas mandate 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>The family may deduct \$90 and then another 60% of remaining earned income.</p>	<p>Consider providing an additional deduction for the first few months of employment to further stabilize the family's circumstances.</p> <p>Example: In Rhode Island, when an adult family member becomes employed, 100% of their earned income can be deducted for the first six months of employment, as long as the household's gross countable income is less than or equal to 185% FPL.</p>

HOW ELSE DOES KANSAS DETERMINE THE GENEROSITY OF CASH ASSISTANCE?

Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Time limit</p> <p>Does Kansas allow families to receive cash assistance up to the federal limit of 60 months?</p>	<p>No, families are limited to 24 months in a lifetime.</p>	<p>Consider maintaining the lifetime limit of 60 months so that families can easily return to the program after setbacks like job loss.</p> <p>Examples: Pennsylvania and Maryland 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>Yes. Families that become ineligible because of higher income are eligible for a five-month Work Incentive Payment (WIP).</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Providing one-time cash payments to families in with specific financial needs</p> <p>Does Kansas provide a formal diversion program to support families with specific short-term needs?</p>	Yes.	N/A
<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>	No. The state imposes a 12-month period of ineligibility.	<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>	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 Kansas 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.</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 \$519/month.</p>	<p>Consider increasing the gross income limit to provide eligibility to more families.</p> <p>Example: Iowa's gross income limit is \$1,571/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>Yes, the family may deduct \$90 from earned income.</p>	<p>Consider providing a higher deduction to provide greater support to employed parents.</p> <p>Examples: In Iowa, families 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>The family can maintain up to \$2,750 in savings.</p>	<p>Consider increasing or eliminating the asset limit to support families' retention of savings.</p> <p>Example: Kentucky maintains a \$10,000 asset limit. Alabama and Ohio have eliminated asset limits.</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, during any trimester 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 if they have resided in the U.S. <i>for five years</i>?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<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 Kansas 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: Wisconsin provides cash assistance to some families before five years' residence.</p>

HOW DOES KANSAS 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 Kansas “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.</p> <p>Example: Mississippi provides up to \$100 of any child support to the household.</p>

WHAT ARE KANSAS' 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 Kansas provide eligibility to parents without a search for employment?</p>	Yes, no job search is required.	N/A
<p>Counting educational activities as “core” work requirements</p> <p>Does Kansas provide credit for all educational activities, including college, as “core” work activities for cash assistance?</p>	No.	<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 under twelve months of age exempt from work requirements?</p>	<p>No. Exemptions apply for parents of children under two months.</p>	<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 old.</p>
<p>Other exemptions from work requirements</p> <p>What are other conditions for exemptions from work requirements?</p>	<p>Another condition for an exemption includes caring for a disabled family member in the home.</p>	<p>Consider adding other exemptions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnancy • Caregiver's disability • Circumstances relating to domestic violence

WHICH RESTRICTIONS ON CASH ASSISTANCE HAS KANSAS 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>Yes, Kansas never enacted a ban on eligibility for persons with drug-related felony convictions.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Kansas

TANF State Profile Summary 2025/2026

Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Refraining from drug testing applicants or recipients</p> <p>Does Kansas refrain from enforcing drug testing of caregivers who are either receiving or applying for cash assistance?</p>	No.	<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: Iowa refrains from drug testing applicants and recipients.</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>	Yes, Kansas 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>