



# Michigan

TANF State Profile Summary 2025-26

## OVERVIEW

Family Independence Program (FIP) (TANF)	Michigan	U.S. Average or Total
Annual (federal-only) block grant amount (for 2024)	\$772,794,194	\$16,488,600,000 (total)
% of TANF block grants spent on cash assistance, 2024	2.4%	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	8,610	848,631 (total)
% of cases designated "Child-Only" in 2025	44.5%	39.3%
<b>"Unobligated balance" (or stockpiled amounts, which must be used for cash assistance or admin)</b>		
TANF Funds "unobligated balance," as of 2024	\$45,223,497	\$7,986,470,560 (total)
"Unobligated balance" as share of total block grant amount	5.9%	49.5%
Change (+ or -) in "unobligated balance" from 2023	-\$62,956,621	+\$241,306,628

## MICHIGAN'S CASH ASSISTANCE (TANF) POLICY

HOW MUCH CASH ASSISTANCE CAN A FAMILY OF THREE RECEIVE?		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p><b>Maximum benefit allowed</b></p> <p>What is the maximum monthly amount a family of three could receive in cash assistance?</p>	\$583/month, or 26% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) in 2026.	<p><b>Consider increasing the maximum benefit level to provide more support to families with children during challenging periods.</b></p> <p><b>Examples:</b> Ohio provides a maximum benefit of \$623/month. Minnesota provides \$1,430/month.</p>
<p><b>Recurring benefit increases</b></p> <p>Has Michigan mandated increases to these amounts, as the costs of living increase?</p>	No.	<p><b>Consider making recurring increases, tied to a cost-of-living or poverty measurement.</b></p> <p><b>Example:</b> Ohio mandates annual cost-of-living updates.</p>



# Michigan

TANF State Profile Summary 2025-26

Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p><b>Deductions for calculation of benefit amount</b></p> <p>Can parents deduct some earnings or expenses from their income when calculating the benefit amount?</p>	<p>For ongoing benefits, \$200 is deducted, plus 50% of the remainder of each employed person’s monthly earned income is disregarded.</p>	<p><b>The state could consider a larger deduction for a period after family member becomes employed.</b></p> <p><b>Example:</b> Rhode Island allows a deduction of 100% of earned income when an adult first gains employment while in the state’s works program for up to six months.</p>

## HOW ELSE DOES MICHIGAN DETERMINE THE GENEROSITY OF CASH ASSISTANCE?

Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p><b>Time limit</b></p> <p>Does Michigan allow families to receive cash assistance up to the federal limit of 60 months?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Transitional cash benefits for families who become ineligible after receiving cash assistance</b></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><b>Consider providing a portion of the benefit, to avoid benefit cliffs and support economic stability.</b></p> <p><b>Example:</b> Wyoming provides 50% of families’ former assistance amounts for up to six consecutive months.</p>



# Michigan

TANF State Profile Summary 2025-26

Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p><b>Providing one-time cash payments to families in with specific financial needs</b></p> <p>Does Michigan provide a formal diversion program to support families with specific short-term needs?</p>	No.	<p><b>Consider providing a generous one-time “diversion” payment that can help families with critical expenses (such as car repairs), enabling caregivers to remain employed and deferring the need for cash assistance.</b></p> <p><b>Examples:</b> Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Kentucky provide diversion payments.</p>
<p><b>Eligibility for monthly assistance less than six months after a diversion payment</b></p> <p>Can families who receive diversionary payments receive monthly assistance within six months?</p>	N/A	N/A
<p><b>Providing assistance with housing</b></p> <p>Does the state provide housing vouchers with TANF funds?</p>	No.	<p><b>Providing housing vouchers alongside cash assistance can ease high costs for eligible families.</b></p> <p><b>Examples:</b> Hawaii and Maine provide housing vouchers worth several hundred dollars along with TANF cash assistance.</p>
<p><b>Providing assistance with diaper purchases</b></p> <p>Does Michigan provide assistance to families with diaper expenses using TANF funds?</p>	Yes. Families receiving cash assistance or other benefits can access diapers every four months.	N/A



# Michigan

TANF State Profile Summary 2025-26

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR CASH ASSISTANCE?		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p><b>Maximum income</b></p> <p>How much can a family of three earn and still be considered for cash assistance eligibility?</p>	<p>Families may earn up to \$928/month at time of application.</p>	<p><b>Consider increasing the gross income limit to provide support to more families.</b></p> <p><b>Example:</b> Minnesota maintains a gross income limit of 85% FPL, or \$3,211/month.</p>
<p><b>Deductions for assessment of benefit eligibility</b></p> <p>Can families deduct a portion of earnings or some expenses from their income to meet income eligibility requirements?</p>	<p>Deductions include \$200 and then 20% of remaining income.</p>	<p><b>Consider increasing disregards in order to provide support for more families.</b></p> <p><b>Example:</b> In Ohio, families can deduct \$250 and another 50% of their remaining earned income in order to be considered for eligibility.</p>
<p><b>Asset limit</b></p> <p>How much can a family maintain in savings while still being eligible for cash assistance?</p>	<p>Families may maintain no more than \$15,000 in cash, investments, and retirement plans.</p>	<p><b>Consider eliminating the asset limit to support families' retention of savings.</b></p> <p><b>Example:</b> Ohio has eliminated the consideration of cash assets or resource tests for cash assistance eligibility.</p>
<p><b>Eligibility during pregnancy for parents without children</b></p> <p>Are pregnant people with no children in the household eligible for cash assistance?</p>	<p>Yes, during any trimester.</p>	<p>N/A</p>



# Michigan

TANF State Profile Summary 2025-26

Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p><b>Provision of federal TANF cash assistance to immigrant families who are lawful permanent residents (LPRs) *after* five years' residence in US</b></p> <p>Can such parents who hold green cards access cash assistance in Michigan?</p>	Yes.	N/A
<p><b>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</b></p> <p>Can parents who hold green cards access cash assistance in Michigan if they have been in the country for less than five years?</p>	No.	<p><b>Consider using state funds to provide cash assistance to these parents.</b></p> <p><b>Examples:</b> Maryland and New York provide cash assistance to some caregivers before five years' residence, using state funds.</p>
<p><b>HOW DOES MICHIGAN TREAT CHILD SUPPORT OWED TO A FAMILY APPLYING FOR AND RECEIVING CASH ASSISTANCE?</b></p>		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p><b>Child support pass-through</b></p> <p>Does Michigan “pass through” a portion of the payments received by the state in child support for the family?</p>	Yes, 100% of child support payments are “passed through” to families.	N/A



# Michigan

TANF State Profile Summary 2025-26

## WHAT ARE MICHIGAN'S WORK REQUIREMENTS FOR CASH ASSISTANCE?

Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p><b>Provision of cash assistance to out-of-work parents before they search for a job</b></p> <p>Does Michigan provide eligibility to parents without a search for employment?</p>	<p>No. Parents must participate in a job search program for 21-30 days, or their application will be denied.</p>	<p><b>To help unemployed parents to stabilize their financial circumstances quickly, consider providing cash assistance without requiring an immediate job search.</b></p> <p><b>Examples:</b> Ohio and Pennsylvania do not require a job search during the application process.</p>
<p><b>Counting educational activities as "core" work requirements</b></p> <p>Does Michigan provide credit for all educational activities, including college, as "core" work activities for cash assistance?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p><b>Consider allowing postsecondary attendance and vocational education to count as "core" work participation.</b></p> <p><b>Examples:</b> Several states allow specific types of postsecondary education for different periods to exempt parents for other work activities, including Ohio, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania.</p>
<p><b>Exemption for caregivers of infants</b></p> <p>Are parents or caregivers caring for a child under twelve months of age exempt from work requirements?</p>	<p>No, parents are exempt for only two months after the birth of a child.</p>	<p><b>Consider providing an exemption from work requirements for the first year of each infant's life, to support their early development and reduce parental stress.</b></p> <p><b>Example:</b> Ohio and Pennsylvania provide exemptions for parents with children up to 12 months.</p>



# Michigan

TANF State Profile Summary 2025-26

Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p><b>Other exemptions from work requirements</b></p> <p>What are other conditions for exemptions from work requirements?</p>	<p>Other reasons for exemptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Care for a disabled child/spouse in the home</li> <li>Disabilities or medical diagnoses</li> <li>Circumstances relating to domestic violence</li> </ul>	<p><b>Consider exempting single custodial parents who are unable to access child care for a child under 5.</b></p>

## WHICH RESTRICTIONS ON CASH ASSISTANCE HAS MICHIGAN EASED?

Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p><b>Lifting full-family sanctions</b></p> <p>Are other family members able to continue receiving cash benefits if an adult does not meet work requirements?</p>	<p>No, the family will withdraw the entire benefit for the family.</p>	<p><b>In cases of non-compliance with work requirements, consider only reducing the benefit amount instead and eliminating full-family sanctions.</b></p> <p><b>Examples:</b> Arkansas and Pennsylvania will merely reduce the benefit.</p>
<p><b>Lifting drug felony bans</b></p> <p>Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for cash assistance?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Refraining from drug testing applicants or recipients</b></p> <p>Does Michigan 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><b>Lifting the family cap for a new birth</b></p> <p>Can families receive additional cash assistance if they have another child while receiving assistance?</p>	<p>Yes. Michigan never enacted a family cap policy.</p>	<p>N/A</p>



# Michigan

TANF State Profile Summary 2025-26

## 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>