



Minnesota

TANF State Profile Summary 2025/2026

OVERVIEW

Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) (TANF)	Minnesota	U.S. Average or Total
Annual (federal-only) block grant amount (for 2024)	\$259,569,108	\$16,488,600,000 (total)
% of TANF block grants spent on cash assistance, 2024	27.7%	21.8%
% families who participated in TANF per 100 families with children living in poverty, 2022-23	41.0%	20%
Total # families receiving TANF in 2025	13,249	848,631 (total)
% of cases designated "Child-Only" in 2025	40.5%	39.3%
"Unobligated balance" (or stockpiled amounts, which must be used for cash assistance or admin)		
TANF Funds "unobligated balance," as of 2024	\$25,396,940	\$7,986,470,560 (total)
"Unobligated balance" as share of total block grant amount	9.8%	49.5%
Change (+ or -) in "unobligated balance" from 2023	+ \$25,396,938	+\$241,306,628

MINNESOTA'S CASH ASSISTANCE (TANF) POLICY

HOW MUCH CASH ASSISTANCE CAN A FAMILY OF THREE RECEIVE?		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
Maximum benefit allowed What is the maximum monthly amount a family of three could receive in cash assistance?	\$1,430/month, or 64% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)	N/A
Recurring benefit increases Has Minnesota mandated increases to these amounts, as costs of living increase?	No.	Consider making recurring increases, tied to a cost-of-living or poverty measurement. Examples: Ohio mandates annual cost-of-living updates.

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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>Parents can deduct the first \$65 of earnings for each working adult, and then 50% of all remaining earned income.</p>	<p>Consider allowing a larger deduction for a period after family member becomes employed.</p> <p>Example: 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 MINNESOTA DETERMINE THE GENEROSITY OF CASH ASSISTANCE?

Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Time limit</p> <p>Does Minnesota allow families to receive cash assistance up to the federal limit of 60 months?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</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, to avoid benefit cliffs and support economic stability.</p> <p>Example: Wyoming provides 50% of families’ former assistance amounts for up to six consecutive months.</p>
<p>Providing one-time cash payments to families in with specific financial needs</p> <p>Does Minnesota provide a formal diversion program to support families with specific short-term needs?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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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 period of ineligibility of only four months.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Providing assistance with housing</p> <p>Does the state provide housing vouchers with TANF funds?</p>	<p>Yes, TANF families are eligible for a flat \$110 per month housing supplement, if the family does not receive HUD rental assistance and is not a child-only case.</p>	<p>Consider providing more assistance with housing costs.</p> <p>Examples: Maine provides \$300/month and Hawaii provides \$500/month.</p>
<p>Providing assistance with diaper purchases</p> <p>Does Minnesota 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: 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>\$3,276/month for a two-parent family with one child.</p> <p>\$3,211/month for a single-parent family with two children.</p>	<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>

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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>Parents can deduct the first \$65 of earnings for each working adult, and then 50% of all remaining earned income.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Asset limit</p> <p>How much can a family maintain in savings while still being eligible for cash assistance?</p>	<p>\$10,000</p>	<p>Consider eliminating the asset limit to support families' retention of savings.</p> <p>Example: Ohio 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, during any trimester.</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 Minnesota 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</p> <p>Can parents who hold green cards access cash assistance in Minnesota if they have been in the country <i>for less than five years</i>?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

HOW DOES MINNESOTA 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 Minnesota “pass through” a portion of the payments received by the state in child support for the family?</p>	<p>Yes, the state passes through 100% of current child support payments and maintenance collected by the state.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
WHAT ARE MINNESOTA’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 Minnesota provide eligibility to parents without a search for employment?</p>	<p>No. Parents must participate in work activities program (including job search) for 4 months, or application is denied.</p>	<p>Consider providing cash assistance to families before or a search for employment.</p> <p>Examples: Ohio and Michigan require no job search before processing applications.</p>
<p>Counting educational activities as “core” work requirements</p> <p>Does Minnesota 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, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania allow participation in postsecondary education to count as a “core” work activity.</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>Yes, exemptions apply for single parents of children under twelve months.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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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 potential exemptions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circumstances involving domestic violence • Participation in approved educational or training programs 	<p>Consider including care of a family member with a disability and pregnancy as exemptions from work requirements.</p>

WHICH RESTRICTIONS ON CASH ASSISTANCE HAS MINNESOTA 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: Illinois 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.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Refraining from drug testing applicants or recipients</p> <p>Does Minnesota refrain from enforcing drug testing of applicants or recipients of cash assistance?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<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>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>



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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>