

## OVERVIEW

Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) (TANF)	Nebraska	U.S. Average or Total
Annual (federal-only) block grant amount	\$56,627,234	\$16,488,600,000 (total)
% of TANF block grants spent on cash assistance, 2024	17.1%	21.8%
% families who participated in TANF per 100 families with children living in poverty, 2022-23	17%	20%
Total # families receiving TANF in 2025	2,351	848,631 (total)
% of cases designated "Child-Only" in 2025	68.8%	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	\$83,980,092	\$7,986,470,560 (total)
"Unobligated balance" as share of total block grant amount	148.30%	49.5%
Change (+ or -) in "unobligated balance" from 2023	+ \$8,179,859	+\$241,306,628

## NEBRASKA'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>	<p>\$584/month or 26% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for 2026.</p>	<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 Nebraska mandated increases to these amounts, as costs of living increase?</p>	<p>Yes. Nebraska adjusts benefit levels every other year based on the growth of the Computer Price Index (CPI).</p>	<p>N/A</p>

# Nebraska

TANF State Profile Summary 2025/2026

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>Yes, they may deduct 50% of their gross earned income when calculating benefit amounts.</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 NEBRASKA DETERMINE THE GENEROSITY OF CASH ASSISTANCE?

Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p><b>Time limit</b></p> <p>Does Nebraska allow families to receive cash assistance up to the federal limit of 60 months?</p>	<p>Yes. Families in which a parent is disabled may receive it for longer.</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>Yes, families can receive 20% of their previous benefit for up to five consecutive months.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Providing one-time cash payments to families in with specific financial needs</b></p> <p>Does Nebraska provide a formal diversion program to support families with specific short-term needs?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<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> Colorado and Kentucky provide diversion payments.</p>

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Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p><b>Eligibility for monthly assistance less than six months after a diversion payment</b></p> <p>Can families who receive diversionary payments apply for monthly assistance within six months afterward?</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 Nebraska provide assistance to families with diaper expenses using TANF funds?</p>	No.	<p><b>Providing assistance with diaper costs provides significant support for families with young children.</b></p> <p><b>Examples:</b> Hawaii and Washington provide diaper assistance.</p>
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>	Families can earn up to \$1,280/month and be considered for eligibility.	<p><b>Consider increasing the gross income limit to provide support to more families.</b></p> <p><b>Example:</b> Nevada maintains a gross income limit of \$2,888/month.</p>

# Nebraska

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Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<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>Parents may deduct 20% of their earned income.</p>	<p><b>Consider increasing deductions to provide more families with assistance.</b></p> <p><b>Example:</b> In Arizona, parents may deduct \$90 and then 30% of the remaining income and some child care expenses.</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>A single parent may retain up to \$4,000 in cash or savings accounts. A family with two adults may retain up to \$6,000.</p>	<p><b>Consider increasing or eliminating the asset limit to support families' retention of savings.</b></p> <p><b>Example:</b> Kentucky families can retain \$10,000 in savings. Colorado, Alabama, and Ohio have eliminated asset limits.</p>
<p><b>Eligibility during pregnancy for parents without children</b></p> <p>Are pregnant individuals with no children in the household eligible for cash assistance?</p>	<p>Yes, during the final trimester of pregnancy.</p>	<p><b>Providing cash assistance during pregnancy is critical for early development outcomes and in reducing parental stress.</b></p> <p><b>Examples:</b> Kansas and Colorado provide cash assistance to pregnant individuals in any trimester of their pregnancy.</p>
<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 parents who hold green cards access cash assistance in Nebraska once they have been in the country <i>for five years or longer</i>?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

# Nebraska

TANF State Profile Summary 2025/2026

Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<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 Nebraska if they have been in the country for <i>less than five years</i>?</p>	No.	<p><b>Consider using state funds to provide cash assistance to these parents.</b></p> <p><b>Example:</b> Colorado provides cash assistance to some caregivers before five years' residence, using state funds.</p>

## HOW DOES NEBRASKA TREAT CHILD SUPPORT OWED TO A FAMILY APPLYING FOR AND RECEIVING CASH ASSISTANCE?

Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p><b>Child support pass-through</b></p> <p>Does Nebraska “pass through” a portion of the payments received by the state in child support for the family?</p>	No.	<p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Examples:</b> Montana and Colorado pass through a portion of child support to the household. Michigan provides the entire of child support amount to families in addition to cash assistance.</p>

## WHAT ARE NEBRASKA’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 Nebraska provide eligibility to parents without a search for employment?</p>	Yes, there is no job search required.	N/A

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Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p><b>Counting educational activities as “core” work requirements</b></p> <p>Does Nebraska 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 count as “core” work activities, including Ohio, Kentucky, and Iowa.</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, a single parent may be exempt while caring for a child for no more than three months.</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> New Mexico and Kentucky provide exemptions for parents with children up to twelve months of age.</p>
<p><b>Other exemptions from work requirements</b></p> <p>What are other conditions for exemptions from work requirements?</p>	<p>Other conditions for exemption include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pregnancy if within a month of the due date</li> <li>• Physical or mental injury</li> <li>• Caring for a disabled family member.</li> <li>• Domestic violence</li> <li>• Single parents unable to access childcare for a child under five.</li> </ul>	<p>N/A</p>

WHICH RESTRICTIONS ON CASH ASSISTANCE HAS NEBRASKA 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 state withdraws the benefit for the entire household.</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 Oregon 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 Nebraska 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. The state repealed the family cap in 2007.</p>	<p>N/A</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>