

OVERVIEW

TANF-NEON/TANF Loan (TANF)	Nevada	U.S. Average or Total
Annual (federal-only) block grant amount	\$43,762,394	\$16,488,600,000 (total)
% of TANF block grants spent on cash assistance, 2024	16.8%	21.8%
% families who participated in TANF per 100 families with children living in poverty, 2022-23	12.0%	20%
Total # families receiving TANF in 2025	5,015	848,631 (total)
% of cases designated "Child-Only" in 2025	46.5%	39.3%
"Unobligated balance" (or stockpiled amounts, which must be used for cash assistance or admin)		
TANF Funds "unobligated balance," as of 2024	\$0	\$7,986,470,560 (total)
"Unobligated balance" as share of total block grant amount	0%	49.5%
Change (+ or -) in "unobligated balance" from 2023	-\$58,406,291	+\$241,306,628

NEVADA'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>	\$386/month, or 17% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)	<p>Consider increasing the maximum benefit level to support families with children during challenging periods.</p> <p>Examples: In New Mexico, families can receive as much as \$549/month. Colorado provides \$649/month.</p>
<p>Recurring benefit increases</p> <p>Has Nevada mandated increases to these amounts, as costs of living increase?</p>	No.	<p>Consider making recurring increases, tied to a cost-of-living or poverty measurement.</p> <p>Examples: Nebraska and North Dakota 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>Each employed household member can deduct 100% of their gross earnings for the first three months; 75% for the next three months; and 65% for the next three months.</p>	<p>Consider allowing deductions throughout the period of assistance.</p> <p>Example: In Colorado, families may deduct \$100 of all income for the first six months of assistance, and then another 67% of remaining earned income on an ongoing basis.</p>
<p>HOW ELSE DOES NEVADA DETERMINE THE GENEROSITY OF CASH ASSISTANCE?</p>		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Time limit</p> <p>Does Nevada allow families to receive cash assistance up to the federal limit of 60 months?</p>	<p>The state enables 60 months of assistance, but not without restrictions. After 24 months of assistance, they are temporarily ineligible for 12 consecutive months.</p>	<p>Consider maintaining the lifetime limit of 60 months without restrictions.</p> <p>Examples: Colorado and California 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. If a family is earning above income limits, they may receive additional support through the Employment Retention Program.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Providing one-time cash payments to families in with specific financial needs</p> <p>Does Nevada provide a formal diversion program to support families with specific short-term needs?</p>	<p>Yes, and the payment is known as a Self-Sufficiency Grant.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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>The period of ineligibility is determined by dividing the amount of the self-sufficiency grant (i.e., diversion payment) by the maximum benefit amount available to a family of that size. There is no designated limit on diversion payment amounts, and therefore no limit on the period of ineligibility.</p>	<p>Consider providing the grant followed by a period of ineligibility of no more than three months.</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 along with TANF cash assistance.</p>
<p>Providing assistance with diaper purchases</p> <p>Does Nevada 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>Families can earn no more than \$2,888/month to be considered for eligibility.</p>	<p>N/A</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>Parents can deduct \$90 or 20% of earnings, whichever is greater, during the eligibility assessment.</p>	<p>Consider providing a higher deduction to provide support to more employed parents.</p> <p>Examples: Example: In Arizona, parents may deduct \$90 and then 30% of the remaining income and some child care expenses</p>
<p>Asset limit</p> <p>How much can a family maintain in savings while still being eligible for cash assistance?</p>	<p>Parents can retain up to \$10,000 for eligibility.</p>	<p>Consider eliminating the asset limit to support families' retention of savings.</p> <p>Example: Colorado has eliminated the asset test.</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 sixth month of pregnancy.</p>	<p>Providing cash assistance during pregnancy is critical for early development outcomes and in reducing parental stress.</p> <p>Examples: Oklahoma and Colorado provide it throughout pregnancy.</p>

Nevada

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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 Nevada once they have been in the country <i>for five years or longer</i>?</p>	Yes.	N/A
<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 Nevada if they have been in the country for <i>less than five years</i>?</p>	Generally, no. But there is an exemption for “battered” non-citizens. They can receive state-funded assistance if otherwise eligible.	<p>Consider using state funds to provide cash assistance to more immigrant parents.</p> <p>Example: Colorado provides cash assistance to families before five years’ residence.</p>
HOW DOES NEVADA 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 Nevada “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 to support economic stability.</p> <p>Example: Colorado passes through a portion of child support to the household.</p>

WHAT ARE NEVADA'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 Nevada provide eligibility to parents without a search for employment?</p>	<p>No, not in all cases.</p>	<p>Consider providing cash assistance to families before or during a search for employment, to help stabilize their economic circumstances as soon as possible.</p> <p>Examples: Several states require no job search before processing applications, including Arizona, Oklahoma, and Nebraska.</p>
<p>Counting educational activities as “core” work requirements</p> <p>Does Nevada 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>Example: New Mexico allows 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>No. A single parent may be exempt while caring for a child for no more than three 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>Example: Colorado provides 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>Other conditions for exceptions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care of an ill or incapacitated family member; Inability to find childcare for a child under six; Pregnant and determined by a physician to be unable to work. 	<p>Consider adding other exemptions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caregiver’s disability Circumstances involving domestic violence

WHICH RESTRICTIONS ON CASH ASSISTANCE HAS NEVADA 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>	No, state withdraws the benefit for the entire family.	<p>In cases of non-compliance with work requirements, consider only reducing the benefit amount.</p> <p>Examples: California and Oregon merely reduce the benefit.</p>
<p>Lifting drug felony bans</p> <p>Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for cash assistance?</p>	Yes.	N/A
<p>Refraining from drug testing applicants or recipients</p> <p>Does Nevada refrain from enforcing drug testing of parents who are either receiving or applying for cash assistance?</p>	Yes.	N/A
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Lifting the family cap for a new birth</p> <p>Can families receive additional support if they have another child while receiving assistance?</p>	Yes, Nevada 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>