

## OVERVIEW

Oregon Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)	Oregon	U.S. Average or Total
Annual (federal-only) block grant amount (in millions, for 2023)	\$158,156,417	\$16,488,600,000 (total)
% of TANF block grants spent on cash assistance, 2024	22.1%	24.6%
% families who participated in TANF per 100 families with children living in poverty, 2022-23	34%	21%
Total # families receiving TANF in 2025	18,582	826,345 (total)
% of cases designated "Child-Only" in 2025	33.6%	46.6%
<b>"Unobligated balance" (or stockpiled amounts, which must be used for cash assistance or admin)</b>		
TANF Funds "unobligated balance," as of 2024	\$172,605,226	\$7,745,163,932 (total)
"Unobligated balance" as share of total block grant amount	109%	47.7%
Change (+ or -) in "unobligated balance" from 2023	-\$4,334,061	N/A

## OREGON'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>\$506/month, or 22% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).</p> <p>In addition, the state provides a clothing allowance three times each year to families who are eligible for TANF.</p>	<p><b>Consider increasing the maximum benefit level to support families with children during challenging periods.</b></p> <p><b>Examples:</b> Washington provides \$706/month, and California provides \$1,175/month.</p>
<p><b>Recurring benefit increases</b></p> <p>Has Oregon mandated increases to these amounts, as costs of living increase?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p><b>Consider making recurring increases, tied to a cost-of-living or poverty measurement.</b></p> <p><b>Examples:</b> Colorado and California mandate routine increases to benefit amounts.</p>

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>Families may deduct 50% of their income.</p>	<p><b>Consider allowing larger deductions, particularly during the first few months of assistance.</b></p> <p><b>Example:</b> In Nevada, each employed household member can deduct 100% of their gross earnings for the first three months of assistance.</p>

**HOW ELSE DOES OREGON DETERMINE THE GENEROSITY OF CASH ASSISTANCE?**

Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p><b>Time limit</b></p> <p>Does Oregon 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 once parents increase earnings, to avoid benefit cliffs and support economic stability.</b></p> <p><b>Example:</b> Montana and California provide some transitional assistance to families no longer receiving TANF.</p>
<p><b>Providing one-time cash payments to families in with specific financial needs</b></p> <p>Does Oregon provide a formal diversion program to support families with specific short-term needs?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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>	<p>Yes, families are eligible within three months of a diversion payment.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Providing assistance with housing</b></p> <p>Does the state provide housing vouchers with TANF funds?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<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. California provides a support program to establish permanent housing for many cash assistance recipients.</p>
<p><b>Providing assistance with diaper purchases</b></p> <p>Does Oregon provide assistance to families with diaper expenses using TANF funds?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p><b>Providing assistance with diaper costs provides significant support for families</b></p> <p><b>Examples:</b> California and Washington provide assistance with diapers for families.</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>	<p>\$616/month.</p>	<p><b>Consider increasing the gross income limit to provide eligibility to more families.</b></p> <p><b>Example:</b> Washington's gross income limit is \$2,412/month.</p>

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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 \$240 if working or \$120 if not, then 50% of earned income.</p>	<p>N/A</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 retain up to \$10,000.</p>	<p><b>Consider eliminating the asset limit to support families' retention of savings.</b></p> <p><b>Example:</b> Colorado has eliminated asset limits.</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, beginning a month prior to due date</p>	<p><b>Consider providing cash assistance during pregnancy to support early development outcomes and reduce parental stress.</b></p> <p><b>Examples:</b> California and Colorado provide cash assistance in any trimester of 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 Oregon once they have been in the country <i>for five years or longer</i>?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>



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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 Oregon if they have been in the country for <i>less than five years</i>?</p>	Yes.	N/A

## HOW DOES OREGON 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 Oregon “pass through” a portion of the payments received by the state in child support for the family?</p>	Yes.	N/A

## WHAT ARE OREGON’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 Oregon provide eligibility to parents without a search for employment?</p>	Yes, there is no job search required.	N/A
<p><b>Counting educational activities as “core” work requirements</b></p> <p>Does Oregon provide credit for all educational activities, including college, as “core” work activities for cash assistance?</p>	No.	<p><b>Consider counting postsecondary attendance as a “core” work activity.</b></p> <p><b>Example:</b> California considers participation in postsecondary education a “core” work activity.</p>

Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<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, exemptions apply for parents with children under 6 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>Examples:</b> Colorado provides exemptions for parents with children up to twelve months of age. Washington provides exemptions until children reach 24 months.</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>• Caring for relatives in the home</li> <li>• Pregnancy within a month of the due date, experiencing medical complications</li> <li>• Circumstances in which work participation would cause undue hardship or is contrary to best interests of children or other dependents</li> </ul>	<p><b>Consider adding other exemptions, including circumstances involving domestic violence.</b></p>
WHICH RESTRICTIONS ON CASH ASSISTANCE HAS OREGON 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>Yes, the state will only reduce the benefit, and never more than 25%.</p>	<p>N/A</p>



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<p><b>Lifting drug felony bans</b></p> <p>Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for cash assistance?</p>	<p>Yes (unless the individual is fleeing).</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Refraining from drug testing applicants or recipients</b></p> <p>Does Oregon 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, Oregon never enacted a family cap.</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>