

GET RID OF OUTDATED ASSET LIMITS FOR TFA, SAGA CASH, & STATE SUPPLEMENT

ELIMINATING ASSET LIMITS WILL SAVE MONEY AND TIME

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WHAT ARE ASSETS?

An asset is anything of value. Some examples are cash, cars, and land. But CT also considers pending lawsuits, possible inheritance, life insurance policies, funeral contracts, and long-term care insurance policies to be assets. In fact, 11 of 51 questions on the DSS application are about assets. All of the answers to these 11 questions must be checked by DSS before families can get help.

WHAT ARE ASSET LIMITS?

Cash assistance programs are for people and families with very little or NO EARNED INCOME. To get this kind of help in Connecticut, you must have very few assets. If you have assets worth more than the limits, you can't get cash assistance. For example:

- If you are **elderly or disabled, you can have only \$1,600** worth of assets.
- If you get cash assistance and you DON'T have a family, you can have **only \$250 worth of assets.**
- If you get cash assistance and have a family, **your family can only have one car** and it must be worth less than \$9,500; and you can have only \$3,000 in other assets.

WHY SHOULD ASSET LIMITS BE ELIMINATED?

Asset limits cost the State money.

It takes a lot of time for DSS workers to verify assets. This costs money and wastes time that DSS workers could be using to process applications.

Very few people have assets over the limit.

Denials for being over assets account for **significantly less than one percent of total denials.** Most people who apply for cash assistance have very little of value. In fact, the average cash resources of a family that gets cash assistance is only \$315.

Asset limits keep people from being self-sufficient.

Asset limits force low-income families to "spend down" personal reserves that can keep families from falling deeper into poverty and help them move to financial security and opportunity.

Other states are doing it-and it's working! Other states report that eliminating asset limits had a minimal impact on the caseload and saved money.

8 states have eliminated asset tests. Here's what they have to say:

- Eliminating the TFA asset test resulted in a **savings of up to ninety minutes per case** in Colorado.
- The state of Virginia **accrued savings of \$323,050 in administrative staff time** after eliminating its TFA asset test.
- Oklahoma is **spending \$1 million less** to administer its Medicaid program after eliminating asset tests.
- New Mexico estimates that increased cost of enrollment was **easily offset by administrative cost savings.**