



Sources: TANF Fails to Meet Basic Needs

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Alabama

TANF level: [Alabama Department of Human Resources](#)

Site directions: Scroll down and find FA Standards table. See payment standard for a family of three.

Alaska

TANF level: [Alaska Department of Health and Social Services: Division of Public Assistance](#)

Site directions: Look at the last column Max PYMT for "Adult Included" part of the table. See benefit level for family of three.

Comments: The maximum payment is the same for one-parent (or guardian) families and two-parent families.

Arizona

TANF level: [Arizona Department of Economic Security](#)

Site directions: On the side panel go to FAA Policy Manual; click on FAA6 - Case Maintenance, Administrative, and Lists; click on AA6.S Standards, Fees, and Amounts; go to 04 Federal Poverty Level /Income Standards; click on A. CA Income Standards (A1, A2); Finally, click on .01 A1 Income Maximum, Need and Payment Standards. See CA Payment Standard column for a family of three. The manual does not show the 20% administrative reduction to benefits.

Comments: The benefit level was reduced by 20% administratively, but the statutes weren't changed. (The state has a statute that says the benefit level can be reduced to stay within the appropriation so that's how the 20% cut was made). The A2 table has to do with recipients who don't have housing expenses.

Arkansas

TANF level: [Arkansas Department of Human Services](#)

Site directions: Click on *Program: Financial Assistance*, click on *section*, and then click on "FA 2300 - Need". Go to page 87. See the standard of need for an assistance unit of three.

Alternative link [here](#).

California

TANF level: [California Department of Social Services](#)

Site directions: Click on most recent month; go to page five of the document; scroll down to section titled "CalWORKs Non-Exempt Assistance Unit Maximum Aid Payment (MAP) and CalFRESH Allotment." Look at family of three, Region 1, under the MAP table.

Alternative link [here](#).

Colorado

TANF level: [Colorado Department of Human Services](#)

Site directions: Click on Standards of Assistance charts. Find the grant standard for two children and one relative caretaker.

Alternative link [here](#).

Alternative site directions: Click on "Browse the CCR by Agency Name" link; scroll down to "Human Services Department"; click on Income Maintenance (Volume 3); click on Colorado Works link; click 3.606 Colorado Works Eligibility Determination for Payments; click on 3.606.2 in the left directory pane; in the table, find the payment corresponding to One Caretaker Relatives of Children and Two for number of dependent children.

Comments: In Colorado, the benefit amount is tied to household composition and the number of adults and children, therefore for a household of three children \$404, one adult and two children \$462 and two adults and a child \$483.

Connecticut

TANF level: [Connecticut Department of Social Services](#)

Site directions: Go to page 82 (page 76 on the actual page) and see Temporary Family Assistance Payment Standards table. Find payment standard for family of three for Region A.

Comments: This benefit is for Region A, which is the wealthiest region and therefore higher than the typical benefit a family receives. The state also has a COLA, but it has been reduced every time there have been budget cuts, with an exception for the most recent year.

Delaware

TANF level: [Delaware Health and Social Services](#)

Site directions: See "2013 TANF Monthly Grant Amounts and Income Limits" table. Find grant amount for a family of three.

Alternate link [here](#).

Comments: 10/1/2011 reverted to \$338 with the end of Emergency Contingency Fund under ARRA.

Florida

TANF level: [Florida Department of Children and Families](#)

Site directions: Find the payment standard for Filing Unit Size 3 in Tier 1. (Note: make sure you are looking at Unit size 3 and not 2.5).

Alternative link [here](#): §414.095(10) statute listing Fla. cash assistance limits

Georgia

TANF level: [Georgia Department of Human Services](#)

Site direction: Go to page 54. Look under Family Maximum column for an AU size of 3.

Hawaii

TANF level: No online source. There is a two-tiered system of benefits. As of July 1, 2010, expected benefits are \$610 for work required and \$763 for work exempt. As of September 2009, there was a 20% reduction on benefits that are work exempt and work required.

Idaho

TANF level: [Idaho Department of Health and Welfare](#)

Site Directions: See page 14 under subheading "Overview", second bullet point. Note that Idaho pays fixed amount regardless of household size.

Alternate link [here](#).

Alternative site directions: See TAFI IDAPA Rule, under TAFI resources on right panel. In the PDF, go to page 21 and see 248. Maximum Grant Amount.

Illinois

TANF level: [Illinois Department of Human Services](#)

Site Directions: See table "Group I - Caretaker and Children Monthly Allowance Per Number Of Days"
Find row for unit size of three.

Comments: There are three different groups, where TANF levels vary by county: Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3. Groups for TANF levels in Illinois can be found [here](#).

Indiana

TANF level: [Indiana Family and Social Services Administration](#)

Site directions: Scroll down to table labeled "Income Standard;" Find Maximum Monthly Benefit for Family Size of 3.

Iowa

TANF level: [Iowa Department of Human Services](#)

Site directions: Go to page 33. Find the table labeled Schedule of Needs. Find the schedule of basic needs for three persons.

Kansas

TANF level: [Kansas Department for Children and Families](#)

Site directions: Scroll down to the table labeled Cash Assistance Payments. See the level for a family of three in a high cost high population county (last column).

Comments: This benefit level is for "High Cost, High Population Counties". In order to access data sent by the Kansas Department for Children and Families, please refer to the two tables on pages 15 and 16 of this document.

Kentucky

TANF level: [Division of Family Support Manual](#)

Site directions: Go to page 218. Should say MS 2820 at top of page. See table labeled "Maximum Payment Scale." Find the maximum benefit for 3 Eligible Persons.

Comments: This is the 2012 version of the operations manual.

Louisiana

TANF level: [Louisiana Department of Social Services](#)

Site directions: In the table, find the "Flat Grant" for a three persons (Last Column).

Comments: Says effective date July 14, 2000.

Alternative link [here](#).

Alternative link directions: Choose TANF State Plan Link. Then Scroll down to page titled B-911-2. Last updated 1/3/2012

Maine

TANF level: [Maine Department of Health and Human Services](#)

Site directions: Click on Appendices. Word Doc will download. See page 2 and table labeled "TANF and PaS Program Income Tests, Standard of Need, and Maximum Payment Charts for Applicants: ADULT INCLUDED." Look under the "Basic" column. Find the maximum benefit grant for 3 people in a filing unit.

Comments: This document was last updated 07/08. **From Advocate:** "Hi lfe, your chart is correct for Maine for a family of 3. We do provide a \$100 housing special need payment as part of the TANF grant to families with housing costs (narrowly defined) that equal or exceed 75% of income. This looks to be beyond the scope of this report, but wanted to be sure that you knew about it. Approximately 40% of TANF cases get this special needs payment."

Maryland

TANF levels: [Division of State Documents](#)

Site directions: Click on the link that says, "Search on word or phrase;" search FIP schedule; Click on 07.03.03.17.htm link should bring you to document of called .17 FIP Schedule. Find the "Allowable Amount to be Paid" for three people in an Assistance Unit.

Comments: The state has still suspended annual adjustment - 7/1/13

Massachusetts

TANF level: [Massachusetts Department of Health and Human Services](#)

Site directions: Click on the DTA facts and figures link. Scroll down to page 2 to see a chart entitled Grant Levels and Eligibility Standards: TAFDC. Look for the benefit level for a family of three for non-exempt (second column of payments) participants. Do not use the exempt benefit.

Comments: The base-grant amount for nonexempt families is \$578. Our benefit level included \$40. Note this is not the average benefit for the state. An annual clothing allowance in the amount of \$150 per child receiving TANF cash assistance in September 2012 was reduced from \$150 to \$40.

Michigan

TANF level: [Michigan Department of Human Services](#)

Site directions: In the table find cash grant for "eligible grantee" for a group of three.

Alternate link [here](#).

Site directions: Under Reference Manuals click the "Tables" link. Then click the subheading "FIP Monthly Assistance Payment Standard." In the table labeled "FIP Monthly Assistance Payment Standard; (Effective 10/1/2008)" Find the "eligible grantee" for a group of three.

Minnesota

TANF level: [Minnesota Department of Human Services](#)

Site directions: Go to page 1161 (Chapter 20, Section 9). See the table "MFIP/DWP ASSISTANCE STANDARDS." The amount of the TANF cash grant is in the column labeled "cash portion" under "Transitional Standard". Find for three eligible persons.

Mississippi

TANF level: [Mississippi Department of Human Services](#)

Site directions: Click on chapter 15 - tables link. In the PDF, go to page 2. In the table entitled Amount of Payment in Assistance Payments Program: TABLE II, find the payment amount for a family of three.

Missouri

TANF level: [Missouri Department of Social Services](#)

Site directions: Click on Temporary Assistance/Case management link; scroll down to the bottom to click on Appendix B; See chart "from July 1, 1993 on." Find the "34.526% of Need" for a family of three.

Montana

TANF level: [Department of Health and Human Services](#)

Site directions: Click on "Revised Monthly Income Standards - Eligibility and Payment Standards" and scroll to the table labeled "Payment Standards to be Used." Then click on Monthly Income Standards

Link; scroll down to page 6 and see "Payment Standards to be Used TANF Cash Assistance" table. Find the payment standard per month for a family of three.

Nebraska

TANF level: [Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services](#)

Site directions: Select Chapter 3 link; Go to page 18; Find the standard payment for unit of three under the table: 3-008.07B5 Ninety Percent of the Payment Maximum. Please note the standard is NOT 90% of the payment maximum.

Nevada

TANF level: [Nevada Department of Health and Human Services](#)

Site directions: Click on "Financial Help" on the top blue bar. Select "Facts and FAQs" in the dropdown box; scroll down the index and click on "Need/Payment Standards" under the subheading "Income/Consideration/Budgeting." In the Table, find the Payment allowance for a family of three.

New Hampshire

TANF level available [here](#).

Site directions: Scroll down near the bottom to the section labeled "He-W 658.02 Financial Assistance to Needy Families Payment Standard." Add together the BMPA for a family of three, found in the chart, and the maximum unsubsidized housing cost, found under section (e).

Comments: The payment standard for Financial Assistance to Needy Families financial assistance and categorically needy medical assistance shall:

- (1) Be based upon the size of the assistance group; and
- (2) Consist of 2 components:
 - a. The basic maintenance payment allowance (BMPA); and
 - b. Shelter costs, if incurred, up to the maximum subsidized or unsubsidized shelter payment allowance described in (e) below.

New Jersey

TANF level: [Department of Human Services](#)

Site Directions: Go to pg. 47, look at last column labeled "Maximum Benefit Level", see benefit for a family of three.

Alternative links [here](#) and [here](#).

New Mexico

TANF level: [Human Services Department](#)

Site directions: Go to the table labeled Cash Assistance & Support Services. Find the Maximum Monthly Benefit for a family of three.

Alternate link [here](#).

Alternative link directions: Go to page 20. Find the table labeled See table labeled "Standard of Need for the Benefit Group." Find the maximum monthly grant amount for three persons.

Comments: 15% reduction effective 1/2011 subtracts \$67 for family of three to \$380; [appears](#) that 15% is deducted.

New York

TANF rate varies according to county. The highest possible TANF benefit level was used in our research (\$836). For county-by-county TANF data, please refer to the TANF sources spreadsheet, which can be found on our [website](#).

North Carolina

TANF level: [Department of Health and Human Services](#)

Site directions: Find the table under section F. "Determining the Amount of Benefit Diversion to Give to the Family." Find the payment standard for a family of three.

North Dakota

TANF level: [Department of Human Services](#)

Site directions: Click the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families link in the left panel. Then scroll down to TANF Benefit Calculation 400-19-110. Click on the TANF Standard of Need 400-19-110-05 link. Find the standard of need for one caretaker and two children.

Ohio

TANF level: [Department of Job and Family Services](#)

Site directions: Click on the link "Action Change Transmittal Letters." This will take you to a list of letters discussing changes like benefit level increases. Find the letter with the most recent benefit change.

Oklahoma

TANF level: [Oklahoma Department of Human Services](#)

Site directions: In the PDF viewer, go to page 4 and see table A. under Schedule IX - TANF, Emergency Assistance (EA). Table is called "Adult only or adults and children included in the assistance payment." Find the payment standard for a family of three.

Oregon

TANF level available [here](#).

Site directions: See the third table, "Payment Standard Need Group". Find the payment standard for a need group of three.

Alternate link [here](#).

Alternative link directions: Go to subheading Determining and Calculating benefits. Click on Income & Payment Standards link. See to second table.

Comments: Document revised 4/1/12. The adjusted income limit is no longer the same as the payment standard. The cooperation incentive ended on Sept 30, 2010, but the grant level was increased to make up for some of that loss. Here's a [link](#) to a policy transmittal that explains the change.

Pennsylvania

TANF level: [Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare](#)

Site directions: Click on Cash Assistance Link. Go to Chapter 168: Determining Eligibility and Payment Amount. Scroll down to Appendix b and click on link. See Group 1 table; find the family allowance for a family of three.

Rhode Island

TANF level, [Rhode Island Department of Human Services](#)

Site directions: Should already redirect you to Standards of Assistance Chart, but if not, go to section 1426.05. In the chart, find the cash assistance monthly standard for a plan size of three.

South Carolina

TANF level: No online source. [South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center](#) confirmed the maximum TANF benefit level for a family of three was increased to \$228 as of October 1, 2013.

South Dakota

TANF level: [South Dakota Legislature](#)

Site directions: In the table, find the Independent Living Arrangement for 3 persons

Tennessee

TANF level, [Tennessee Department of Human Services](#)

Site direction: Go to Chapter 1240-01-50 and click on link. See page 26, Table 1. Find the Maximum Payment (SPA) for three persons.

Texas

TANF level: [Texas Health and Human Services Commission](#)

Site Directions: See table labeled TANF for Families, Maximum Payments. Find the payment for a family of three with one adult.

Comments: The Texas legislature (through appropriations) sets the maximum TANF cash grant for a family of three at 17% of the federal poverty guidelines.

Utah

TANF level: [Utah Department of Workforce Services](#)

Site directions: Go to page 6. In the table, find the Cash Assistance Payment Amount for a household of three.

Alternate link [here](#).

Vermont

TANF level: [Vermont Department for Children and Families](#)

Site directions: Click on the latest version of "Annual Report on Vermont's Reach Up Program" under Economic Service Division. Go to page 14 and see Current Maximum Grants table for a family of three, Outside of Chittenden County column.

Comments: Levels vary; this number is from outside Chittenden County and does not include the housing supplement, both of which were used to calculate the 2008 number. This benefit level is unchanged from 2008.

Virginia

TANF level: [Virginia Department of Social Services](#)

Site directions: Go to page 26. See standard of assistance column for a family of three. Document last updated 7/11.

Comments/Confirmation: In Virginia, the TANF benefit amounts depend on the geographic areas. There are three separate locality groups. Family of 3: Group I: \$292, Group II: \$320, Group III: \$389. The groups are listed as follows on page 23 of [this document](#).

Washington

TANF level: [Washington Department of Social and Health Services](#)

Site direction: See the first table under "WAC 388-478-0020 Payment standards for TANF, SFA, and RCA" for those who are obligated to pay shelter costs. Find the payment standard for a unit with three persons.

Comments: TANF benefit levels were cut by 15 percent effective February 1, 2011, reducing benefits for a family of three by \$84 each month from \$562 to \$478.

West Virginia

TANF level available [here](#).

Site directions: Find the WWV Payment (before 100% SON column) for a family of three on Income Limits chart.

Wisconsin

TANF level: [Wisconsin Department of Children and Families](#)

Site directions: See "Community Service Jobs" paragraph, second sentence; last updated 5/13.

Comments: Wisconsin is reducing benefit levels by \$20 for many TANF recipients. Benefits were reduced from \$673 to \$653 monthly for those participating in community service and benefits were reduced from \$628 to \$608 for those participating in transitional placements. Effective Oct 1, 2011.

Wyoming

TANF level: [Wyoming Department of Family Services](#)

Site directions: Look under column C Shelter Included Maximum Benefit for a family of three.

TANF NonShared Living				
Persons in Plan	I & II	III	IV	V
	100%	100%	100%	100%
1	224	229	241	267
2	309	314	326	352
3	386	391	403	429
4	454	459	471	497
5	515	520	532	558
6	576	581	593	619
7	637	642	654	680
8	698	703	715	741
For each additional person, add \$61 to the 100% column.				

Table I - This table represents 100% of the basic and shelter allowances. This table is to be used in all TANF cases when:

- (1) All persons in the home are included in the same assistance plan;
- (2) The only person excluded from the plan is an SSI recipient to whom the statutory 1/3 reduction has been applied to the SSI payment or is a child in joint custody who is ineligible to receive assistance in accordance with 2220;
- (3) There is a shared living arrangement resulting from a commercial and bona fide landlord/tenant relationship with persons excluded from the assistance plan; or
- (4) There is a specialized living, commercial board and room, or commercial room-only arrangement.

COUNTY GROUP ASSIGNMENTS

04-12

Shelter Group	County	Region Number	County Number	County Code	Shelter Group	County	Region Number	County Number	County Code
I	Allen	28	1	AL	II	Linn	28	54	LN
II	Anderson	28	2	AN	II	Logan	23	55	LG
II	Atchison	26	3	AT	II	Lyon	23	56	LY
I	Barber	28	4	BA	I	Marion	23	57	MN
II	Barton	23	5	BT	II	Marshall	28	58	MS
I	Bourbon	28	6	BB	IV	McPherson	23	59	MP
II	Brown	28	7	BR	I	Meade	23	60	ME
IV	Butler	32	8	BU	IV	Miami	28	61	MI
I	Chase	23	9	CS	II	Mitchell	23	62	MC
I	Chautauqua	28	10	CQ	I	Montgomery	28	63	MG
I	Cherokee	28	11	CK	II	Morris	23	64	MR
II	Cheyenne	23	12	CN	III	Morton	23	65	MT
II	Clark	23	13	CA	II	Nemaha	28	66	NM
II	Clay	23	14	CY	I	Neosho	28	67	NO
II	Cloud	23	15	CD	II	Ness	23	68	NS
II	Coffey	28	16	CF	II	Norton	23	69	NT
I	Comanche	23	17	CM	IV	Osage	28	70	OS
I	Cowley	32	18	CL	II	Osborne	23	71	OB
I	Crawford	28	19	CR	II	Ottawa	23	72	OT
II	Decatur	23	20	DC	III	Pawnee	23	73	PN
II	Dickinson	23	21	DK	II	Phillips	23	74	PL
II	Doniphan	28	22	DP	II	Pottawatomie	28	75	PT
V	Douglas	26	23	DG	I	Pratt	32	76	PR
I	Edwards	23	24	ED	II	Rawlins	23	77	RA
I	Elk	32	25	EK	IV	Reno	23	78	RN
II	Ellis	23	26	EL	II	Republic	23	79	RP
II	Ellsworth	23	27	EW	IV	Rice	23	80	RC
I	Finney	23	28	FI	IV	Riley	23	81	RL
II	Ford	23	29	FO	II	Rooks	23	82	RO
III	Franklin	28	30	FR	II	Rush	23	83	RH
II	Geary	28	31	GE	II	Russell	23	84	RS
II	Gove	23	32	GO	II	Salline	23	85	SA
II	Graham	23	33	GH	II	Scott	23	86	SC
II	Grant	23	34	GT	IV	Sedgwick	32	87	SG
III	Gray	23	35	GY	III	Seward	23	88	SW
II	Greeley	23	36	GL	IV	Shawnee	28	89	SN
I	Greenwood	32	37	GW	II	Sheridan	23	90	SD
II	Hamilton	23	38	HM	III	Sherman	23	91	SH
I	Harper	32	39	HP	II	Smith	23	92	SM
V	Harvey	23	40	HV	I	Stafford	23	93	SF
II	Haskell	23	41	HS	I	Stanton	23	94	ST
II	Hodgeman	23	42	HG	II	Stevens	23	95	SV
II	Jackson	28	43	JA	I	Sumner	32	96	SU
IV	Jefferson	28	44	JF	II	Thomas	23	97	TH
II	Jewell	28	45	JW	II	Trego	23	98	TR
V	Johnson	26	46	JO	II	Wabaunsee	28	99	WB
II	Kearny	23	47	KE	II	Wallace	23	100	WA
II	Kingman	32	48	KM	II	Washington	23	101	WS
III	Kiowa	23	49	KW	II	Wichita	23	102	WH
I	Labelle	28	50	LB	I	Wilson	28	103	WL
II	Lane	23	51	LE	I	Woodson	28	104	WO
IV	Leavenworth	26	52	LV	IV	Wyandotte	26	105	WY
II	Lincoln	23	53	LC					

Region
23 - West
26 - Kansas City

Region
28 - East
32 - Wichita