



Financial Eligibility Rules for TANF Cash Assistance

Kansas

I. Rules Used to Determine Recipients' Ongoing Eligibility and Benefit Levels

Asset Test

Recipients must have countable assets below \$2,000.

For recipients who own a car, the value of one car is excluded entirely from countable assets.

Additional vehicles may be exempt if used over 50% of the time for employment, used as the family's home, needed for medical treatment of a specific medical problem, or specially equipped for use by a handicapped person. If not exempt, the entire equity value of second and subsequent vehicles is counted.

Gross Income Limit

Recipients are not subject to a gross income test.

Benefit Calculation

A recipient's benefit equals the difference between countable income (income after specified deductions) and the maximum benefit. If countable income exceeds the maximum benefit, the family is not eligible for assistance.

Countable income equals gross monthly income less these deductions in the following order:

- child support income, up to a maximum of \$40
- \$90 and 40% of remaining earnings
- deduction for out-of-pocket child care expenses: \$200 a month for children age and under, and up to \$175 a month for children over age 2

Maximum Benefit Levels

Maximum monthly benefit levels vary for different groups of families. They also vary by region.

Benefits for families other than those sharing housing with persons not in the assistance unit:

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>In Region with Most Recipients</u>	<u>Lowest in State</u>	<u>Highest in State</u>
1	\$241	\$224	\$267
2	\$326	\$309	\$352
3	\$403	\$386	\$429
4	\$471	\$454	\$497

Benefits for families sharing housing with persons not in the assistance unit:

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>In Region with Most Recipients</u>	<u>Lowest in State</u>	<u>Highest in State</u>
1	\$175	\$168	\$186
2	\$271	\$263	\$284
3	\$359	\$349	\$375
4	\$432	\$421	\$449

II. Rules Used to Determine Applicants' Initial Eligibility

Asset Test

Applicants must meet the same asset test as recipients, listed above.

Gross Income Limit

Applicants are not subject to a gross income test.

Net Income Test

An applicant's net income (income after specified deductions) must fall below the appropriate maximum benefit level for its family. If net income is below the maximum benefit, the applicant is eligible for assistance, and benefits are calculated as described above for recipients.

Net income equals gross monthly income less these deductions in the following order:

- child support income, up to a maximum of \$40
- \$90 of earnings, unless the applicant received assistance in the prior four months. If so, the deduction is \$90 and 40% of remaining earnings.
- deduction for out-of-pocket child care expenses: \$200 a month for children age and under, and up to \$175 a month for children over 2

III. Other Rules Affecting Eligibility or Benefit Levels

Treatment of Child Support Income

The first \$40 in child support is passed through to the family and disregarded for eligibility and benefit determination purposes. Any remainder is retained by the state as reimbursement for cash assistance payments. If the remainder exceeds the maximum benefit, the family is ineligible.

Treatment of Housing Assistance

Eligibility and benefits are not affected by a family's actual housing costs or by residence in subsidized housing.

Treatment of SSI as Income

As under AFDC, a family member receiving SSI benefits is excluded from the assistance unit. The SSI recipient's income and resources are not considered when determining eligibility or benefits for the rest of the family.

Treatment of EITC Benefits Received

As under AFDC, an EITC payment received by a family member - whether as a lump sum at the end of the year or through advance payments - is not counted as income for any purpose. Lump sum EITC payments are counted as assets starting in the second month after the month of receipt.

Lump Sum Income

Non-recurring lump sum income, such as a personal injury award or lottery winnings, is treated as an asset starting in the month after the month in which it is received.

Individual Development Accounts

State policy does not authorize Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) for TANF-eligible families.

New Unearned Income Rules

Interest that does not exceed \$50 per month and educational income are not counted as income in determining eligibility and benefit levels.