



Financial Eligibility Rules for TANF Cash Assistance

Wyoming

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

Asset Test

Applicants and recipients must have countable assets below \$2,500.

For most families, the fair market value of a car up to \$12,000 is excluded as a countable asset. For two-parent families with a child in common, the combined fair market value of two cars up to \$12,000 is excluded. The entire equity value of additional cars is counted as an asset.

Gross Income Limit

Applicants and recipients are not subject to a gross income test.

Benefit Calculation

To be eligible for assistance, the countable monthly income (income after specified deductions) of applicants and recipients must be below the maximum benefit for a family of their size. A recipient's benefit equals the difference between countable income and the maximum benefit.

Countable income equals gross monthly income less \$200 of earnings for single-parent families and less \$400 for two-parent families.

Maximum Benefit Levels

Maximum monthly benefit levels vary for different groups of families.

	<u>Family Size</u>			
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
Families with a shelter cost obligation	\$195	\$320	\$340	\$340
Families with no shelter cost obligation and families living with a relative who receives SSI	\$115	\$205	\$235	\$235

II. Other Rules Affecting Eligibility or Benefit Levels

Treatment of Child Support Income

Child support payments are retained by the state as reimbursement for cash assistance payments. If child support payments exceed the maximum benefit, the family is ineligible.

Treatment of Housing Assistance

As noted above, the maximum benefit for which a family may be eligible varies based on whether or not the family receives housing assistance.

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

As under AFDC, when a family receives a non-recurring lump sum payment, such as a personal injury award or lottery winnings, the family is ineligible for assistance for a period of months equal to the lump sum divided by the state's need standard.

Individual Development Accounts

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