Welfare Rules Databook

Welfare Rules Databook:
State TANF Policies
as of July 2011

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The Urban Institute

August
2012

This project was funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families and the Department of Health and Human Services, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

The authors thank Linda Giannarelli for her input and guidance during this process. The authors also thank the many state TANF administrators for verifying the WRD data, as well as our HHS/ACF project officer, Timothy Baker, and the other HHS staff who provided comments. In addition, this paper could not have been written if not for the past and present Urban Institute staff members who were integral to the development and continuation of the Welfare Rules Database.

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Introduction and Background

This publication, *The Welfare Rules Databook*, provides tables containing key Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) policies for each state as of July 2011, as well as longitudinal tables describing various state policies for selected years between 1996 and 2011. The tables are based on the information in the Welfare Rules Database (WRD), a publicly available, online database originally developed under the Urban Institute's *Assessing the New Federalism* project.

The *Databook* is divided into five groups of tables: initial eligibility in 2011; benefits in 2011; requirements in 2011; ongoing eligibility in 2011; and policies across time, 1996–2011. Each chapter begins with an overview of the policies, followed by details relating to specific tables.

The *Databook* summarizes the detailed information in the WRD. Users interested in a greater level of detail are encouraged to use the full database, available at http://anfdata.urban.org/wrd/WRDWelcome.cfm. This site includes a point-and-click interface, as well as documentation.

The following sections discuss the background and structure of the WRD and the contents and structure of the tables in this book.

The Welfare Rules Database

The Welfare Rules Database is a comprehensive resource for comparing cash assistance programs across all 50 states and the District of Columbia, researching changes across time in cash assistance rules within a single state, or determining the rules governing cash assistance in one state at a point in time. The WRD is longitudinal and currently provides information on state

Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and TANF policies from 1996 through 2011. The WRD was initially developed to meet the needs of researchers under the Urban Institute's *Assessing the New Federalism* project and was made publicly available in August 1999. The Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (HHS/ACF) and the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (HHS/ASPE) currently fund the maintenance and development of the WRD.

The Development of the WRD

The WRD was developed in response to the increasing difficulty since the early 1990s of tracking how states operate their cash assistance programs for needy families. Under AFDC, the structure of eligibility and benefit computation was mostly determined federally. States were allowed to set certain policies—such as the standards used to establish eligibility and benefits, and the rules for two-parent families—but those choices were detailed in the State Plans they submitted to HHS/ACF and in annual reports issued by HHS/ACF summarizing the State Plans. In the early to mid-1990s, as more states received waivers to experiment with their welfare rules, it became increasingly difficult to research states' policies. The Waiver Terms and Conditions agreed to by the state and the federal government often did not provide full implementation details, and the implementation schedules often changed after the agreement was reached. The August 1996 passage of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), replacing AFDC with the TANF block grant, further increased both the degree of variation across state programs and the difficulty of tracking program rules. In addition, the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, which reauthorized the TANF program in 2006, strengthened work participation requirements and further altered state TANF policies.

Currently, states are periodically required to submit to the federal government TANF State Plans that provide an overview of their choices under the block grant. However, the plans' level of detail varies considerably across states, and they generally offer insufficient information to completely understand the details of eligibility, benefit computation, and client requirements. Further, although states are expected to notify the federal government if any of their choices change after the plan is submitted, they are not required to do so.

The WRD was developed to provide detailed information about states' TANF policies, going beyond the level of detail in most states' official State Plans and capturing changes in policies that occur between the submissions of those plans. The WRD focuses on cash assistance policies and some closely tied transitional benefits. Its main focus is federally funded policies; however, information on policies provided under separate state or solely state funding is included when those benefits are considered part of the same basic program by the state and are therefore included in the caseworker manual. Thus, benefits paid to two-parent units and certain immigrant units are included, even when they do not use federal funds. The WRD does not separately identify which policies use state funds, and it does not attempt to capture other uses of federal TANF funds (such as state earned income tax credits, child care programs, etc.).

Contents of the WRD

The WRD provides in-depth information on a wide range of policy topics. These topics are currently organized into 30 categories that together describe most significant dimensions of state policies. While the categories may be ordered in various ways, it is useful to consider the rules in the sequence in which individuals seeking and receiving assistance will likely encounter them. The 30 categories are listed below, organized into five sections, beginning with initial eligibility.

I. Initial Eligibility

A. Does the state try to divert some families from becoming recipients?
Diversion

B. How does family composition or individual status affect eligibility?
Eligibility by Number/Type of Parents
Eligibility of Units Headed by a Minor Parent
Eligibility of Pregnant Women
Employment-Related Eligibility of Two-Parent Families
Eligibility of Individual Family Members
Inclusion of Noncitizens in the Unit
Treatment of Additional Adults in the Household[1]

C. What level of assets can a family have and still be eligible?
Asset Test

D. How is income counted in determining eligibility?
Countable Income
Income and Assets of Children
In-Kind Income
Deemed Income
Child Support
Earned Income Disregards

E. How much income can a family have and still be eligible?
Income Eligibility Tests
Dollar Amounts[2]

II. Benefits

A. If a family passes all eligibility tests, what is received?
Benefit Computation[3]

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[1] Treatment of Additional Adults in the Household includes policies related to both financial and nonfinancial eligibility, as well as benefit computation. Therefore, the category could be included under sections I.A, I.D, and II.A.
[2] Information in Dollar Amounts is also relevant to other categories, including Deemed Income, Income Eligibility Tests, and Benefit Computation.
[3] Most states base benefits on the net income of the recipient. Net income is calculated by determining the gross income of a recipient and subtracting any earned income disregards the state may allow. Therefore, the Earned Income Disregard category is also relevant for section II.A.

III. Requirements

A. Once determined eligible, what must a recipient family do to maintain benefits?

Contracts and Agreements
School Policies for Dependent Children
Immunization and Health Screening Requirements
Child Support Sanctions[4]

B. What work activities are required?

Activities Exemptions
Activities Requirements
Activities Sanctions
Minor Parent Activities Requirements and Bonuses
Components

IV. Ongoing Eligibility

A. How long can a family receive benefits?

Time Limits

B. Are children eligible if born while the family receives benefits?

Family Cap

Note: The categories under sections I.B–I.E and II may also be relevant to ongoing eligibility. In most states, recipients are also required to pass nonfinancial and financial tests to continue receiving benefits. These tests may differ for initial and ongoing eligibility.

[4] The child support requirements for which a recipient may be sanctioned are included in the Child Support category listed under section I.D.

Sources of Information for the WRD, and Verification of the Data

The primary sources of information for the WRD (and thus for the tables in the *Databook*) are the caseworker manuals and/or regulations used in each state and the District of Columbia.[5] The Urban Institute has a subscription or other arrangement with each state[6] to obtain the manuals or regulations as well as the ongoing updates to those manuals or regulations. These documents provide a consistent source of detailed information on policy changes and implementation dates across states and time.

States were given the opportunity to verify the key policies in the 2011 *Databook* tables. The 42 states that reviewed the *Databook* tables are:

Alabama	Illinois	Nebraska	Pennsylvania
Arizona	Indiana	Nevada	South Carolina
Arkansas	Iowa	New Hampshire	South Dakota
California	Kansas	New Jersey	Tennessee
Connecticut	Kentucky	New Mexico	Texas
Delaware	Louisiana	New York	Vermont
D.C.	Maryland	North Carolina	Virginia
Florida	Massachusetts	North Dakota	West Virginia
Georgia	Michigan	Ohio	Wisconsin
Hawaii	Minnesota	Oklahoma	Wyoming
Idaho	Missouri		

A similar verification process was performed over the past 12 years for the 1999–2010 data. In those verification rounds, 44 states reviewed the complete 1999 data or the 1999 tables, 46 states reviewed the complete 2000 data or the 2000 tables, 45 states reviewed the 2001 tables, 46 states reviewed the 2002 tables, 45 states reviewed the 2003 tables, 46 states reviewed the 2004 and 2005 tables, 44 states reviewed the 2006 and 2007 tables, 47 states reviewed the 2008

[5] Owing to the difficulty of obtaining caseworker manuals during the transition from AFDC to TANF, the 1996 data in the WRD are coded using several different sources, including (a) caseworker manuals, when available; (b) AFDC State Plans submitted by states to the federal government; (c) waiver terms and conditions; and (d) telephone calls to states to clarify the implementation dates of waivers.
[6] From this point forward, “states” refers to the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

tables, 42 states reviewed the 2009 tables, and 46 states reviewed the 2010 tables. Portions of the 1996–98 data in the WRD have been verified against selected secondary sources but have not been fully reviewed by state TANF staff because of their historic nature.

General Points about the WRD

The WRD

- contains information on the cash assistance rules *in effect* in each state across time. It does not include information on proposals or legislation that has not been implemented.
- focuses on welfare *rules*. The database does not contain information regarding caseloads, budgets, outcomes, or administrative practices.
- contains at least one "record" (a set of coded variables) for each state, year, and category of rules.
- contains additional records when the state changes a policy during the year or when the state's policy varies by geographic regions of the state, demographic characteristics of the assistance units, or "component" groups across the state. (The term "component" is used when the state's caseload is divided into mutually exclusive groups based on multiple characteristics.)
- indicates when states vary policies by county. For those policies determined at the county level, the WRD captures the policies for the largest county in the state.[7]
- contains for every year, state, and category of rules one record that is designated the "majority rule" record. This record represents the policy that affected the majority of the caseload for the majority of the year.

It is important to note that neither the WRD nor the *Databook* addresses the issue of how rules may be implemented in practice. As noted above, the WRD is based on caseworker manuals and regulations, which typically do not include information on the likelihood of various outcomes. For instance, if a particular type of recipient may be assigned to one of several work activities, the manuals do not typically address the issue of which activity is the most likely

[7] The states that allow counties to vary policies (that are included in this book) are California and Colorado. The largest counties in each state are Los Angeles County in California and Denver County in Colorado. The WRD provides additional information on other states that allow counties to vary policies (that are not included in this book).

assignment. Thus, for certain policies, two states may look quite similar in the database and yet in practice be quite different, and other states' policies may look quite different and yet be similar in practice.

The Databook

Content of the Databook

The descriptions of the policies in this *Databook* should be considered from the point of view of the individuals and families to whom the policies apply. The book describes the rules that affect individuals and families in each state, but it generally does not specify whether those policies are imposed as a result of federal or state requirements. Thus, this book does not exhaustively describe federal requirements or prohibitions. Unless a specific policy could not be fully discussed without identifying that the policy stemmed from a federal regulation, the federal-versus-state distinction is not mentioned. For example, in the case of time limits, it is difficult to fully explain TANF policies without discussing the federal government's 60-month limit. However, usually we simply state the policies and do not discuss which level of government (federal versus state) institutes the specific requirements.

The tables included in this book are designed to provide readers with easy access to key TANF policies across states as of July 2011. The first four chapters of the *Databook* provide information as of July 2011 across four broad policy areas: initial eligibility, benefits, requirements, and ongoing eligibility. For selected policies, longitudinal tables include data from 1996 through 2011.

The data for the tables are extracted from the WRD and represent only a portion of the overall information in the database. Even for the policy areas addressed in this book, further details are available online in the WRD. In general, the *Databook* tables focus on the "majority rule" (the policy that affects the majority of the state's caseload for the majority of the year) for a particular aspect of policy, while the online database allows exploration of policy variations across months of the year and different subsets of the caseload.

Structure of the Tables

Each table follows the same general structure and was created using the same set of rules. Typically, the body of each table includes one row per state, which represents the policies that affect the majority of the caseload as of July 2011. Units composing the majority of the caseload tend to be nonexempt, single-parent units with children.

Some tables include more information than just the rules for the majority of the caseload. In some cases, the information is represented as an additional row for the state, whereas other types of information are included as footnotes.

- Additional data as a second row: A second row is added to the body of the table if a state divides its entire caseload into mutually exclusive groups that are treated differently across more than one policy. These groups—"components" in the WRD—are usually defined by more than one characteristic, such as "units containing a child under 13 years old whose unit head is job ready." Descriptions of states' components are located in appendix 1.

- Additional data as a footnote: Several types of variations may appear as footnotes in the tables. These include variation by type of assistance unit (two-parent units versus one-parent units or applicants versus recipients) or geographic areas (pilot projects in a few counties versus the rest of the state). In some, but not all, tables these types of policies are footnoted. The tables do not capture all the variation in policies across regions and types of units, but the WRD contains this information. In addition, states that allow counties to vary policy are footnoted. The footnote indicates the name of the county (the largest in population in the state) to which the policy applies.

Each 2011 table is numbered by chapter and section. For example, table III.A.1 refers to the first table in chapter III, section A. The longitudinal tables are numbered L1 through L10. The numbering of the tables in this book corresponds to the numbering of the tables in the 1999 through 2010 books.

Policies as of July 2011

I. Initial Eligibility

The tables in this chapter of the *Databook* describe key aspects of the rules imposed on families and individuals to determine initial eligibility for TANF cash assistance, as of July 2011. Rules for initial eligibility apply to individuals who are newly applying or reapplying for assistance. To be eligible, an applicant family must pass both nonfinancial tests based on the demographic characteristics of the family and its members, and financial tests based on the income and asset holdings available to the family. This chapter is divided into five sections covering initial eligibility rules related to diversion, family composition, assets, income definitions, and income tests.

A. Does the state try to divert some families from becoming recipients?

During the 1990s, first under state waivers and then after the passage of PRWORA, states began focusing their efforts on decreasing caseloads, as well as encouraging families to become self-sufficient. To meet these goals, many states developed policies that attempt to divert from assistance those applicants needing the least amount of state help to become self-sufficient.

Two policies intended to encourage self-sufficiency are diversion and job search at application. As of July 2011, more than 30 states have formal diversion programs. Under these programs, families may choose to receive a lump-sum cash payment to deal with immediate needs instead of receiving a monthly TANF benefit. Generally, states provide benefits to families to alleviate short-term problems that interfere with either keeping or finding employment. Families that accept diversion payments typically are barred from applying for monthly TANF benefits for some period. Most diversion programs are voluntary; however, a few states require certain families to enroll in a diversion program before applying for monthly TANF benefits. These programs, generally lasting about four months, provide benefits to families but also require that they participate in job-related activities.

Almost 20 states have instituted job search-at-application policies, which encourage applicants to find work. These policies require applicants to look for jobs either before or while their applications are processed. To be eligible for aid, applicants must prove that they have searched for jobs at a set number of businesses or participated in the state's job-related programs. States hope that applicants who may not have previously pursued employment as aggressively as the state required will find jobs and no longer need assistance or at least be employed by the time they begin receiving assistance.

Below is a further discussion of these topics and the tables included in this section.

Formal diversion: Table I.A.1 describes states' formal diversion programs. For purposes of the WRD and this table, a formal diversion program diverts eligible applicants or recipients from ongoing TANF receipt by providing a lump-sum cash payment paid directly to the family or to a vendor for expenses incurred by the family. Other strategies that states may use to divert applicants from ongoing receipt of cash benefits (such as requiring an applicant to participate in job search or resource and referral services) are not identified as diversion programs in this table.

Families applying for a diversion payment must still be eligible for assistance using the state's eligibility rules (see sections I.B–I.E). The rules generally are the same for families that apply for diversion and those that apply for monthly assistance.

The amount of a diversion payment varies greatly across the states. Currently, 14 states (including five states with variable lump-sum payments) provide families a flat lump-sum amount of diversion, regardless of the family's size. These payments range from $1,000 to $4,000, depending on the state. Most states with diversion programs, however, determine the lump-sum diversion payment amount based on a multiple of the benefit the family would receive if it were eligible and received monthly TANF payments. The diversion payments range from two to four months' worth of monthly benefits, depending on the state. The majority offer up to three months of the maximum benefit the family would receive if receiving assistance. Note that the maximum diversion amount in these states is also affected by the variation in the states' maximum monthly benefit levels and the family size.

Table I.A.1 describes whether a state provides a diversion payment, the maximum payment, the form of the payment, how often a recipient may receive the maximum payment, the period of TANF ineligibility after receiving a diversion payment, and whether the diversion payment counts toward the state's time limit. States conducting pilot projects that provide diversion assistance in a few counties, but not statewide, are footnoted.

Related tables: Table L1 indicates whether each state had a formal diversion program in 1996 through 2011.

Mandatory job search at application: Table I.A.2 indicates which states require applicants to search for a job before application as a condition of eligibility, what kinds of activities are required, who is exempt from the activities, and what happens to individuals who do not comply with the requirement. Presently, 19 states require an applicant to seek employment either before or while the application is processed. The job search requirements vary considerably by state, as do the sanctions for noncompliance.

B. How does family composition or individual status affect eligibility?

To be eligible for either a diversion payment or monthly benefits, a family must pass several nonfinancial tests based on the demographic characteristics of the overall family or individuals within the family. States impose several rules on families to determine whether they are eligible for TANF. At the most basic level, the family must include a child or, in some states, a pregnant woman. If the family includes two parents, some states impose special eligibility tests based on the parents' current or prior labor force status. If the head of the family is a teenager, she may or may not be eligible to receive a benefit on her own, and in most states she is eligible only if she is living with her parents or in another state-approved setting.

Even when a family passes these tests, some family members may not be eligible to be part of the "assistance unit" (the group of people whose needs are considered in establishing the benefit). For instance, many states prohibit the inclusion of stepparents in the assistance unit, while other states require their inclusion, and still others give the family the option. The degree to which individual noncitizens are eligible to be in the assistance unit also varies from one state to the next. States base the eligibility of noncitizens on several factors, including when they arrived in the country, how long they have resided in the country, and their immigrant status.

Below is a further discussion of these topics and the tables included in this section.

<u>Eligibility of pregnant women:</u> Table I.B.1 indicates whether pregnant women who have no other children are eligible to receive TANF cash assistance. For those states that provide benefits, the table also indicates in which month of pregnancy benefits begin.

<u>Two-parent eligibility for applicants:</u> For states providing benefits to two-parent families, table I.B.2 describes any special eligibility rules imposed on two-parent applicant units where neither parent is disabled ("UP," or unemployed-parent families, in the former AFDC program).[8] Traditionally, states have imposed three types of tests: limits on hours of work, work history tests, and waiting periods. Under an "hours test," the unit is ineligible if the principal wage earner is working more than a specified number of hours a month. States may apply this rule when determining the initial or continuing eligibility of two-parent families.

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[8] North Dakota no longer provides TANF benefits to two-parent, nondisabled units. Also, in some states, benefits are provided to two-parent units under solely state-funded or separate state programs funded by state monies rather than the TANF grant. Table I.B.2 includes those states as providing benefits to two-parent families regardless of the funding source as long as these provisions are specified in each state's TANF policy manual.

Under a work history test, the eligibility of two-parent units is restricted to those where the principal wage earner worked during a certain number of calendar quarters over a specified number of years, or where the principal wage earner satisfies other criteria related to labor force attachment.

Waiting periods restrict the eligibility of two-parent families until a certain number of days or weeks after the family would otherwise have been eligible.[9] In other words, under a 30-day waiting period, if the principal wage earner becomes unemployed and the family would not have been eligible when the parent was working, the family would not become eligible to apply for assistance until one month after the parent lost his or her job.

Related tables: See table IV.A.1 for details on the hours test for recipients and table L2 for information on the rules for two-parent units in 1996 through 2011.

Minor parent eligibility: Table I.B.3 describes special eligibility rules for families where the parent is a minor (usually defined as under age 18 and never married). The first column indicates whether a minor parent can ever head a TANF unit and receive the benefit check in his or her own name. The second column indicates whether the state requires the minor parent to live with a parent or in another state-approved setting (referred to in the table as a living arrangement restriction). In nearly all states, unless exempt due to good cause, a minor parent must live with her own parent(s) or in some other state-approved setting.[10]

Related tables: See table I.D.1 for the rules related to the treatment of income from the parents of a minor parent who is heading her own assistance unit.

[9] Historically, waiting periods were only imposed on two-parent units. However, under TANF, some states have begun to apply waiting periods to all types of units. The WRD does not currently capture waiting periods that apply to all units.
[10] In general, states may not provide federally funded assistance to minor parents who are not living in an adult-supervised setting. However, there are some exceptions to this requirement.

Eligibility of stepparents: Table I.B.4 describes whether a stepparent is included in the TANF assistance unit. Depending on the state policy, stepparents may be required to be part of the unit, may be prohibited from being part of the unit, or may be included in the unit at the option of the family. This table focuses on rules for stepparents who have no child in common with their spouses and who have no biological children of their own in the assistance unit. State rules for stepparents not meeting these criteria may vary and are discussed in the WRD.

Related tables: See table I.D.2 for the rules related to the treatment of income from a stepparent who is not included in the assistance unit.

Eligibility of noncitizens: After the passage of PRWORA, noncitizens' access to federal TANF benefits was significantly restricted. PRWORA created the "qualified alien" distinction, which more narrowly defined the group of noncitizens potentially eligible for most federally funded TANF assistance.[11] Apart from a few exempted groups, the federal law further limited qualified aliens' access to assistance based on their date of entry into the country.[12] Qualified aliens who entered the United States before August 22, 1996 (the date PRWORA was passed), are potentially eligible for assistance without any waiting period, whereas certain qualified aliens who arrive in the country on or after August 22, 1996, are subject to a five-year bar on federal TANF assistance.[13] (If the noncitizen enters the United States on or after August 22, 1996, but is not qualified when he or she enters, the five-year clock begins on the date his or her immigrant

[11] Qualified aliens include legal permanent residents, asylees, refugees, aliens paroled into the United States for at least one year, aliens whose deportations are being withheld, aliens granted conditional entry, certain battered alien spouses and their children, battered alien children and their parents, Cuban/Haitian entrants, and aliens granted conditional entry before April 1, 1980.
[12] The federal law exempts several groups of aliens from the five-year bar. They are refugees and asylees, individuals who had their deportation withheld, veterans or individuals on active duty along with their spouses and unmarried dependent children, Cuban/Haitian entrants, and certain Amerasians.
[13] The five-year bar applies only to those aliens who entered the United States—whether legally or illegally—on or after August 22, 1996. Therefore, a person may have entered illegally in 1994 and become a legal permanent resident in 2000. As long as that person has been continuously present in the United States, the bar would not apply to him or her. See the Department of Justice's Interim Guidance on Verification of Citizenship, Qualified Alien Status and Eligibility under Title IV of PRWORA at 62 Federal Regulation 61415 (November 17, 1997).

status becomes qualified.) After the five-year bar, qualified aliens are again potentially eligible for federally funded TANF assistance. Although federal law determines which noncitizens are potentially eligible for benefits and during which periods, states have some flexibility. States can provide or deny assistance to certain qualified aliens the federal government has indicated are potentially eligible for benefits.[14] States can also provide state-funded assistance to certain aliens ineligible for federally funded assistance, such as qualified aliens during the five-year bar or certain unqualified aliens.

States have made three types of decisions about the eligibility of noncitizens: (1) Will some or all qualified aliens who arrived before PRWORA (pre-PRWORA) be eligible for benefits?; (2) Will some or all noncitizens who arrived on or after PRWORA (post-PRWORA) be eligible for benefits during the five-year bar?; and (3) Will some or all post-PRWORA noncitizens be eligible for benefits after the five-year bar? As of 2011, all states provide TANF benefits to at least some, if not all, pre-PRWORA qualified aliens. But states vary considerably in their decisions concerning post-PRWORA noncitizens. Tables I.B.5, I.B.6, and I.B.7 describe the variation in state policies concerning pre-PRWORA and post-PRWORA noncitizens.[15]

Table I.B.5 describes whether states consider pre-PRWORA qualified aliens eligible for federally funded assistance. The table provides eligibility rules for several different categories of qualified aliens, including legal permanent residents, asylees/refugees, noncitizens with

[14] States must permit the following qualified aliens who meet the state's eligibility criteria to receive TANF benefits for five years after the date of entry into the U.S. or the date asylum or withholding of deportation was granted: refugees (and victims of severe forms of trafficking and certain family members), asylees, aliens whose deportation has been withheld, Amerasians, and Cuban/Haitian entrants. Also, states may never deny eligibility to veterans or individuals on active duty along with their spouses and unmarried dependent children, and legal permanent residents with 40 qualified quarters of work who have not received any federal means-tested benefits during any quarters beginning after December 1996 (40 quarters is approximately 10 years for one person; however, an alien may be credited with quarters of coverage worked by a parent or a spouse under certain circumstances). The five-year bar on federal benefits does apply to legal permanent residents, however, even if they accumulate 40 quarters.

[15] These state rules must be viewed in the context of the federal prohibitions and requirements affecting the eligibility of noncitizens for federally funded assistance. The eligibility rules for noncitizens are very complex. This discussion is a summary intended for researchers and should not be used for assessing the policy options available to a state under federal law or whether particular state policies fully comport with federal law.

deportation withheld, noncitizens paroled in the country for at least one year, and battered noncitizens. Even if a state does not provide assistance to all qualified aliens, those qualifying for special exceptions based on work history or veteran or military status are still eligible for federally funded benefits.

Table I.B.6 shows whether states use their own funding to provide assistance to post-PRWORA qualified aliens during the five-year bar. (The table also indicates state-funded coverage of certain groups of nonqualified aliens.) Some states fund all qualified aliens, while others fund only legal permanent residents or particular groups of post-PRWORA noncitizens.

Table I.B.7 shows whether states consider post-PRWORA qualified aliens eligible for federally funded assistance after they have resided in the United States with a qualified alien status for at least five years. The table provides eligibility rules for several different categories of qualified aliens: legal permanent residents, asylees/refugees, noncitizens with deportation withheld, noncitizens paroled in the country for at least one year, and battered noncitizens. Even if a state does not provide assistance to all qualified aliens, those qualifying for special exceptions based on work history or veteran or military status are still eligible for federally funded benefits.

All noncitizen rules discussed here apply to individuals, not to entire families. Within a family, some individuals may be ineligible based on immigrant status, while others may remain eligible. The WRD provides details on the extent to which income of these ineligible family members is available to the eligible individuals in the unit. The WRD also provides information on income deemed from a noncitizen’s sponsor.

<u>Treatment of additional adults in the household:</u> Table I.B.8 captures policies related to “noncaretaker adults.” A noncaretaker adult is an additional adult living in the household with a

parent or caretaker of children. The noncaretaker adult is not the primary caretaker of the children, nor a parent of any children in the household. In this table, a noncaretaker adult could be an adult who is related to the parent or children, the partner of the parent, or a friend of the parent who is not a relative or in a relationship with the parent.

The table describes whether these groups are eligible to be included in the TANF unit. The table also provides information about how states count income and calculate benefits when these individuals are not included in the assistance unit.

C. What level of assets can a family have and still be eligible?

If the family passes the nonfinancial eligibility tests, the state then calculates the amount of assets the family owns. Most states restrict the amount of assets a family may hold and still be eligible for assistance; however, these amounts vary greatly by state and by type of asset.

If the family's total assets exceed the amounts determined by the state, the family is ineligible for assistance.

Asset limits for applicants: Table I.C.1 describes each state's asset tests for applicants. States determine the maximum value of assets—including vehicles—an applicant family may hold and still remain eligible for benefits.

The first column of the table provides the limit on the value of unrestricted assets a family may hold and still be eligible for assistance. Unrestricted assets include the cash value of any asset the state counts toward the limit, regardless of the asset's purpose.

The second column describes whether some or all of the value of a vehicle is excluded in determining the amount of a family's assets for eligibility purposes. When a portion of the vehicle's value is exempted, the value may be given in terms of equity or fair-market value. The fair-market value is the amount for which the vehicle could be sold, while the equity value is the fair-market value minus any amount still owed on the vehicle. When a family still owes money on a vehicle, the equity value will be less than the fair-market value, so this distinction is important when comparing vehicle exemption amounts across states.

Related tables: The limits may vary for determining the initial eligibility of applicants versus the continuing eligibility of recipients. For information on the asset test for recipients, see table IV.A.3. Tables L8 and L9 provide information on asset limits for recipients and the vehicle exemption for recipients, respectively, from 1996 through 2011.

D. How is income counted in determining eligibility?

Once a family has passed the state's asset tests, its available income is computed for eligibility purposes. States have discretion in determining the portion and types of earned and unearned income they will count, in addition to whose income will count, for eligibility purposes. Generally, states count most of the earned income from each assistance unit member toward the unit's gross income (total income of the unit); however, states vary greatly in their treatment of unearned income. There are several types of unearned income; this book only addresses unearned income in the form of child support payments (in chapter IV, Ongoing Eligibility). For more details on the treatment of other unearned income, including interest income, EITC income, and lump-sum income, see the WRD.

States determine not only how much and what type of income is counted, but also whose income is counted. Many states count a portion of or all income from certain individuals who are not part of the assistance unit but have an obligation to support a member of the assistance unit. For instance, as long as a nonapplicant—such as a stepparent or a parent of a minor parent—lives in the same home as the applicant, a portion of the nonapplicant's income may be counted against the applicant for eligibility and benefit computation purposes. Typically, states allow these individuals to allocate a portion of their income for their own needs, while any remaining income is "deemed available" to the assistance unit as unearned income. This income may or may not actually be available to the unit, but the state assumes the individual bears some financial responsibility and therefore requires that a portion of his or her income count against the unit.

Below is a further discussion of these topics and the tables included in this section.

Treatment of grandparent income: When a minor parent is potentially eligible to head her own assistance unit, a portion of her parents' income may be deemed available to the minor's unit when determining eligibility and benefits. Typically, income is deemed from the minor's parents (referred to here as grandparents) only if the minor is living in the home with her parents; in New Jersey, however, the income is deemed even if the minor is not living with her parents.

Generally, states allow the grandparents to disregard a portion of their earned income, similar to the earned income disregards available to applicants. In addition, the grandparents may subtract from their income a second disregard approximating the amount of their basic needs and the needs of their dependents outside the unit. The income that remains after these disregards is deemed available to the minor unit and is counted as unearned income for eligibility and benefit computation purposes.

Table I.D.1 describes the deeming process for grandparents' income. The first column indicates if the state deems income, the second column indicates the initial earned income disregard available to the grandparents, and the third column describes any other disregards available to the grandparents (most often referred to as the need-based disregard). The table indicates the income standards used by states to determine the disregard. To determine the value of these standards for a family size of three, see table I.E.3 (Eligibility Standards).

Related tables: Table I.B.3 describes whether minor parents are potentially eligible to head their own TANF units.

Treatment of stepparent income: In states where a stepparent is either always excluded from the assistance unit or may choose to be excluded from the assistance unit, a portion of the stepparent's income may be deemed available to the unit. As with grandparent deeming, states generally allow the stepparent to disregard a portion of his or her earned income, similar to the earned income disregards available to applicants. In addition, the stepparent may subtract from his or her income a second disregard approximating the amount of his or her basic needs and the needs of his or her dependents outside the unit. The remaining income after these disregards is deemed available to the stepparent's spouse and the spouse's dependents and is counted as unearned income for eligibility and benefit computation purposes.

Table I.D.2 describes the deeming process for stepparents' income. The first column indicates if the state deems income, the second column indicates the initial earned income disregard available to the stepparent, and the third column describes any other disregards available to the stepparent (most often referred to as the need-based disregard). The table indicates the income standards used by states to determine the disregard. To determine the value of these standards for a family of three, see table I.E.3 (Eligibility Standards).

Related tables: Table I.B.4 describes whether stepparents are potentially eligible to be included in the assistance unit.

E. How much income can a family have and still be eligible?

To determine initial eligibility for benefits, most states impose income eligibility tests on applicants. States use the total gross income calculated from the unit's earned and unearned income as a starting point for these tests. Many states currently impose one income test on applicants; others use a combination of tests, which may include a gross income test, a gross earnings test, an unearned income test, or a net income test. There are other tests, but these are the most common. A gross income test compares the unit's total income (earned and unearned) with a state-determined standard. If the unit's income is less than the standard, the next test is applied, if there is one, or the unit is considered eligible and a benefit is computed. A gross earnings test and an unearned income test both work similarly, but only the unit's earned income is used for a gross earnings test and only the unit's unearned income is used for an unearned income test.

States may also impose net income tests, either after a gross income test or in lieu of it. Net income is calculated by subtracting the state's earned income disregards from the unit's gross earned income and then adding to this amount the unit's unearned income. The net income is then compared to an income standard determined by the state. If the net income is less than the standard, the next test is applied, if there is one, or the unit is considered eligible and a benefit is computed.

The following sections describe the types of eligibility tests in the states, the earned income disregards used for the net income tests, the income eligibility standards used for the various tests, and a calculation of the maximum income for initial eligibility at application. The first three tables must be used together to fully understand the income eligibility tests in each state.

<u>Income eligibility tests for applicants:</u> Table I.E.1 describes states' income eligibility tests for determining whether an applicant can begin receiving benefits. The table indicates which state income standard is used for each test. To determine the value of the particular standard for a three-person family, see table I.E.3, discussed below. States that impose a net

income test generally disregard a portion of the unit's earned income before comparing the income to the state's income standard. These earnings disregards are captured in table I.E.2.

Even if a family passes all eligibility tests, in some states the family may not qualify for a positive benefit under that state's benefit computation formula. In those cases, the family will not receive a benefit. Some states have streamlined their eligibility policies and do not perform any income tests other than the implicit test imposed by benefit computation. In those states, table I.E.1 indicates "No explicit tests."

Related tables: As mentioned above, table I.E.3 provides the eligibility standard(s) used to determine eligibility for a three-person family. Tables I.D.1 and I.D.2 describe policies concerning the deeming of income from grandparents and stepparents that may be used when determining gross income for income eligibility tests. Table I.E.2 describes the earned income disregards that may be used for net income tests. Table I.E.4 combines information on the income eligibility tests applied to applicants with information on the earned income disregards and eligibility standards to show the maximum earnings a family can have and still be eligible for TANF. Table L3, in the last section of this book, provides the same information as in table I.E.4 for 1996 through 2011.

<u>Earned income disregards for income eligibility:</u> Table I.E.2 describes the earned income disregards applied to applicants' and recipients' income in determining net income for the income eligibility tests. In some cases, states also use net income tests to determine a recipient's continuing eligibility. If that is the case, and if different earned income disregards are used in applying net income tests for recipients versus applicants, the rules for recipients are footnoted. Additional disregards for child care expenses paid by a family or special disregards for units affected by a family cap or time limit are not included in this table; however, this information is

included in the WRD. When a state has no explicit net income tests, the table indicates "No explicit net income test." Some states have net income tests but do not apply any of the earned income disregards described in the table to the applicant's earnings. In those cases, "No disregards allowed" appears in the table.

Eligibility standards: As described earlier, most income tests involve state-established income amounts that vary by the size of the assistance unit. The WRD includes the standards for each family size from 1 through 12. Table I.E.3 provides the standards for a three-person assistance unit.

Table I.E.3 identifies the standard by the name used in the caseworker manual. Under the former AFDC program, the standard for income eligibility tests was the need standard. However, because of the complexity of state programs, identifying the need standard is no longer clear. States may compare an assistance unit's income against multiple standards, depending on the type or amount of income. Therefore, the term "need standard" is not used in the table unless the state explicitly uses it to refer to its eligibility standard.

Some details concerning eligibility standards are not included in table I.E.3. In some states, different dollar amounts are used in different regions of the state; in those cases, table I.E.3 includes the amounts applied to the majority of the state's caseload. In other states, the amounts may be higher for families with certain types of "special needs," such as a pregnancy; the amounts in table I.E.3 assume no special needs. Also, a few states vary standards for one-parent families, two-parent families, and child-only units; table I.E.3 includes values for a one-parent family with two children. And some states prorate the eligibility and/or benefit standards depending on whether a unit pays for shelter; the amounts in the table assume the unit pays all shelter costs and does not live in public housing.

Related tables: These standards by themselves are not necessarily comparable across states, since the income tests might differ. To determine how the standards are used in practice, see tables I.D.1, I.D.2, I.E.1, and IV.A.4.

<u>Maximum income for initial eligibility for a family of three:</u> Table I.E.4 synthesizes the various financial rules related to initial eligibility to provide information on the maximum amount of income a family of three can earn and still be eligible for assistance. The calculation incorporates information on the income eligibility rules for applicants, earned income disregards for eligibility and benefit computation, benefit computation policies, and the eligibility and payment standards. The calculation determines the maximum amount of earnings an applicant can have and still be technically eligible for assistance in each state. Technical eligibility does not mean the unit will necessarily receive a cash benefit, but it will have passed all eligibility tests and will be eligible for some positive amount. Most states only distribute a cash benefit if it is over $10.

The calculation assumes the assistance unit includes one parent and two children, has only earned income, has no child care expenses, contains no children subject to a family cap, has no special needs, pays for all shelter costs with no subsidies, and is subject to the benefit standard that applies to the majority of the state's caseload.

Related tables: Table L3 provides the maximum income for initial eligibility from 1996 through 2011. Table IV.A.5 provides information on the amount of earnings a recipient may receive and remain eligible for assistance.

Table I.A.1 Formal Diversion Payments, July 2011						
State	Diversion program	Maximum diversion payment[1]	Form of payment	How often recipient can receive maximum payment	Period of TANF ineligibility without penalty after payment	Payment counts toward the time limit
Alabama	No	—	—	—	—	—
Alaska	Yes	3 months	Vendor or cash payment	Four times in a lifetime but no more than once every 12 months	3 months[2]	No
Arizona	Yes[3]	3 months	Cash payment	Once per 4 months but no more than twice in a calendar year	3 months[4]	No
Arkansas	Yes	3 months	Cash loan[5]	Once in a lifetime	100 days	No[5]
California[6]	Yes	Varies[7]	Vendor or cash payment or services	As often as needed, up to maximums[8]	Immediately eligible	Varies[9]
Colorado[10]	Yes	Varies[11]	Vendor or cash payment	Three times in a lifetime but no more than twice every 12 months	Determined by Denver County[12]	No
Connecticut	Yes	3 months	Cash payment	Three times in a lifetime but no more than once every 12 months	3 months	Yes
Delaware	Yes[13]	$1,500	Vendor payment	Once every 12 months	Varies[14]	No
D.C.	Yes	3 months	Vendor or cash payment	Once every 12 months	Diversion payment divided by the monthly benefit the unit would receive	No
Florida	Yes[15]	Varies[15]	Cash payment	Varies[15]	Varies[15]	Varies[15]
Georgia	No	—	—	—	—	—
Hawaii	No	—	—	—	—	—
Idaho	Yes	3 months[16]	Cash payment	Once in a lifetime	Twice the number of months included in the payment	Yes
Illinois	Yes[17]	*	Cash payment	*	*	No
Indiana	No	—	—	—	—	—
Iowa	No	—	—	—	—	—
Kansas	No	—	—	—	—	—
Kentucky	Yes	$1,300	Vendor payment	Twice in a lifetime but no more than once in 24 months	12 months	No
Louisiana	No[18]	—	—	—	—	—
Maine	Yes[19]	3 months	Vendor payment	Once every 12 months	3 months[20]	No
Maryland	Yes	3 months	Vendor or cash payment	As often as needed	The number of months included in the payment	No
Massachusetts	No	—	—	—	—	—
Michigan	Yes[21]	3 months	Cash payment	Once every 12 months	4 months[22]	No
Minnesota	Yes[23]	Varies[24]	Vendor and cash payment	Once every 12 months	4 months[25]	No
Mississippi	No	—	—	—	—	—
Missouri	No	—	—	—	—	—
Montana	No	—	—	—	—	—
Nebraska	No	—	—	—	—	—
Nevada	No	—	—	—	—	—
New Hampshire	No	—	—	—	—	—
New Jersey	Yes[26]	$1,550 [27]	Cash payment	As often as needed[27]	Immediately eligible[28]	No
New Mexico	Yes[29]	$2,500 [30]	Cash payment	Twice in 60 months	12 months[31]	No

Table I.A.1 Formal Diversion Payments, July 2011

State	Diversion program	Maximum diversion payment[1]	Form of payment	How often recipient can receive maximum payment	Period of TANF ineligibility without penalty after payment	Payment counts toward the time limit
New York	Yes[32]	Varies[33]	Vendor or cash payment[33]	Once in a lifetime	Immediately eligible	No
North Carolina	Yes	3 months	Cash payment	Once every 12 months	Immediately eligible	No
North Dakota	Yes[34]	$1,720 [35]	Vendor or cash payment	Four out of every 12 months	Immediately eligible	No
Ohio	No	—	—	—	—	—
Oklahoma	No[36]	—	—	—	—	—
Oregon	No	—	—	—	—	—
Pennsylvania[37]	Yes[38]	3 months	Cash payment	Once every 12 months	12 months[39]	No
Rhode Island	No	—	—	—	—	—
South Carolina	No	—	—	—	—	—
South Dakota	Yes	2 months	Vendor or cash payment	As often as needed[40]	3 months[4]	No
Tennessee	Yes[41]	$1,200	Cash payment	Once in a lifetime	12 months[42]	No
Texas	Yes[43]	$1,000	Cash payment	Once every 12 months	12 months	No
Utah	Yes	3 months	Cash payment	As often as needed	3 months[4]	No
Vermont	Yes[44]	4 months	Cash payment	Once (one 4-month period) every 12 months	Immediately eligible	No
Virginia	Yes	4 months	Vendor or cash payment	Once every 12 months	160 days	No
Washington	Yes	$1,500	Vendor or cash Payment	Once every 12 months	12 months[45]	No
West Virginia	Yes	3 months	Cash payment	Once in a lifetime	3 months	No[46]
Wisconsin	Yes[47]	$1,600	Cash loan	Once every 12 months[48]	Immediately eligible	No
Wyoming	No	—	—	—	—	—

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

* Data not obtained.

[1] The maximum diversion payment is either a flat payment, regardless of the family's size and the state's maximum benefit (represented in the table by a dollar amount), or a multiple of the maximum benefit the family would have received if it were receiving monthly TANF benefits (represented in the table by a number of months of benefits the family could receive). If the state provides diversion payments based on a multiple of the maximum benefit, the amount will vary by the family size and the generosity of the state's maximum benefits.

[2] If a family applies for assistance during the three-month ineligibility period, the entire amount of the diversion payment is treated as unearned income to the family. The diversion payment is prorated equally over the three-month period, and the prorated amount is counted as monthly income.

[3] To be eligible, applicants must meet all eligibility requirements and be eligible for at least $1 in cash assistance benefits in the application month or next two months. Applicants are ineligible if they have received cash assistance in the month of application, have an open cash assistance sanction, or are employed but on leave of absence.

[4] If the unit applies for benefits during the three-month ineligibility period, the payment will be prorated over a three-month period and the amount will be deducted from the unit's monthly assistance payment.

[5] The diversion payment is considered a loan; therefore, the recipient must pay back any amount borrowed. Any amount paid back will not count toward the time limit.

[6] Counties have the option to vary their diversion programs. These policies refer to Los Angeles County.

[7] The maximum diversion cash payment is the greater of $2,000 or three times the maximum aid payment for the family size. In cases where an applicant has a one-time expense that exceeds the standard maximum diversion payment, payments up to $4,000 may be issued if necessary to retain self-sufficiency. Recipients may receive only $4,000 or three times the maximum aid payment for the family, whichever is greater, annually, and no more than $10,000 in a lifetime.

[8] Diversion payments may be made as often as needed, up to a maximum annual amount of the greater of $4,000 or (3 months * maximum aid payment) and a maximum lifetime amount of $10,000.

[9] If the unit applies for monthly TANF benefits after the diversion period (diversion amount divided by the maximum aid payment) ends, the state counts one month toward the time limit. If the unit applies during the diversion period, it can choose to count the diversion payment toward the time limit or to repay the diversion amount at a rate of 10 percent of the monthly benefit each month until the diversion is repaid. The number of months counted toward the 48-month time limit is calculated by dividing the total diversion payment by the maximum aid payment for the apparently eligible assistance unit at the time the diversion payment was made. The month(s) resulting from the calculation less any partial month, is (are) counted toward the 48-month time limit.

[10] Counties have the option to vary their diversion programs. These policies refer to Denver County.

[11] The amount of the payment is determined case by case. If assistance greater than $1,500 is requested, it must be approved by a designated staffing team.
[12] The period of ineligibility is determined by Denver County but can be no more than four consecutive calendar months. The client may apply for the diversion assistance during the period of ineligibility and it may be approved if circumstances beyond his or her control exist. Such circumstances include, but are not limited to, serious or terminal illness of an immediate family member, natural disaster such as fire or flood, child protection case involvement with activities that are incompatible with the individual responsibility contract, a lack of child care, job layoff, domestic violence, homelessness, and severe mental or physical disabilities.
[13] The program is related to retaining or obtaining employment and is only for parents living with natural or adopted children.
[14] The period of ineligibility depends on the amount of the diversion payment. Units receiving $1–$500.99 are ineligible for one month, units receiving $501–$1,000.99 are ineligible for two months, and units receiving $1,001–$1,500 are ineligible for three months.
[15] Florida has three separate diversion programs. An assistance unit may receive a one-time payment of up to $1,000 in up-front diversion or cash severance diversion, or up to the amount needed to relocate in relocation assistance. The unit is ineligible to receive assistance for three months after receiving up-front diversion and for six months after receiving relocation assistance or cash severance diversion. Up-front assistance is for individuals in need of assistance owing to unexpected circumstances or emergency situations. Relocation assistance is available for individuals who reside in an area with limited employment opportunities and experience one of the following: geographic isolation, formidable transportation barriers, isolation from extended family, or domestic violence that threatens the ability of a parent to maintain self-sufficiency. Cash severance diversion is available to TANF recipients if they meet the following criteria: are employed and receiving earnings, are able to verify their earnings, will remain employed for at least six months, have received cash assistance for at least six consecutive months since October 1996, and are eligible for at least one more month of TANF. Up-front diversion and relocation assistance do not count toward time limits. Cash severance diversion does not count toward time limits if the payment is made in a month in which the unit also receives a TANF payment. If the payment is made in a month in which the unit does not receive a TANF payment, the cash severance diversion payment counts as a month toward the time limit.
[16] All the unit's income is disregarded for benefit computation, so it will always receive three times the maximum benefit.
[17] An applicant who has found a job that will make him or her ineligible for cash assistance, or who wants to accept a job and withdraw his or her application for assistance, is eligible for a one-time payment to begin or maintain employment.
[18] Although it still exists in the law, Louisiana's diversion program has not received funding since September 2002. According to the legislation authorizing the program, a recipient can receive a cash payment worth up to four months of TANF benefits and is subsequently ineligible for TANF for four months without a penalty after receiving diversion. An individual can receive diversion payments twice in a lifetime, but no more than once every 12 months.
[19] To be eligible, applicants must be employed or looking for employment.
[20] Units that apply for benefits during the three-month ineligibility period must repay any diversion payment received for any period that was covered by both diversion and TANF.
[21] To receive diversion assistance, applicants must meet eligibility criteria for cash assistance in the application month or the following month, except participation in required work activities. The program targets families who are normally self-sufficient, have not received cash or diversion assistance payments from any state in the last 12 months, expect to need assistance only for a short time, and are able to return to self-sufficiency without further assistance. Decisions about diversion eligibility criteria are made case by case.
[22] If the family applies for TANF assistance during the four-month period of ineligibility, the diversion payment is treated as a loan and the family is obligated to repay the entire amount.
[23] Minnesota's four-month Diversionary Work Program (DWP) is mandatory for all TANF applicants, unless exempt. Recipients receive financial assistance and must participate in four months of intensive employment services focused on helping the participant obtain an unsubsidized job before entering regular TANF. Failure to comply with the employment services, which may include a structured job search, results in ineligibility for both DWP and TANF until compliance. After completing the four-month program, participants still requiring assistance may apply for TANF as applicants. See table I.A.2 for more information.
[24] DWP benefits are provided monthly and are equal to the difference between the unit's countable income and the sum of its actual housing costs, utility costs, $35 a month for telephone services, and up to $70 per unit member for personal needs. The total monthly grant amount cannot exceed the cash portion of the TANF transitional standard (see table II.A.3). DWP recipients are eligible to receive SNAP benefits in addition to their diversion benefits (unlike the TANF calculation, which combines the cash and SNAP benefits; see table II.A.2 for more details on the combined SNAP and TANF benefit). The unit is not required to assign child support payments over to the state while participating in DWP.
[25] The unit may apply for TANF at the completion of the four-month diversion program. If a unit applies for TANF any time within 12 months of receiving either TANF or DWP assistance, it moves directly into TANF and is not eligible to participate in diversion.
[26] New Jersey's diversion program, the Early Employment Initiative (EEI), is mandatory for applicants who have a work history that equals or exceeds four months of full-time employment in the past 12 months, appear to meet TANF eligibility requirements, are not in immediate need, and do not meet criteria for a deferral from work requirements. Participants receive a one-time lump-sum payment and are required to pursue an intensive job search for 15 to 30 days while their application is processed. If participants obtain employment and withdraw their applications, they are eligible to receive a second lump-sum payment to assist in the transition to employment. If no employment is secured, the applicant is referred back to the WFNJ/TANF agency for cash assistance. See table I.A.2 for more information.
[27] The maximum amount a family would receive is relative to the number of people in the unit. The amount included in the table is for a unit of eight or more people. The maximum diversion payment for a family of three is $750. If the agency feels an individual may benefit, he or she may be considered suitable for repeated participation in EEI when determining subsequent eligibility for the program.
[28] If a participant is unable to find a job through the diversion program or loses employment and reapplies for TANF benefits within 60 days of the original application, TANF benefits will be retroactive to the date of application. Any lump sum payment received under EEI is prorated from the date of the original application to the date of the reactivation and subtracted from the monthly grant amount for which the assistance unit is eligible. If this lump sum exceeds the family's monthly grant amount, the excess is counted as unearned income when calculating the monthly assistance benefits for any subsequent month. If the applicant loses his or her employment after 60 days from the application date, the family will need to reapply for TANF.
[29] The diversion payment is only available to help applicants keep a job, accept a bona fide offer of employment, or remedy an emergency situation or unexpected short-term need.
[30] The grant amount is $1,500 for a family of one to three people and $2,500 for a family of four or more.
[31] Units may apply for assistance after only four months of ineligibility if they can demonstrate good cause. Good cause may include loss of employment not due to voluntarily quitting, catastrophic illness or accident of a family member that requires an employed participant to leave

employment, being a victim of domestic violence, or another condition that renders an employed family member unable to care for the basic needs of the family.

[32] New York has three types of diversion payments: diversion payments (for crisis needs such as moving expenses, storage fees, or household structural or equipment repairs), diversion transportation payments (for employment-related transportation expenses), and diversion rental payments (for rental housing).

[33] The type and amount of the payment is determined case by case and is dependent upon the needs of the applicant.

[34] Eligible individuals include cash assistance applicants or reapplicants who meet eligibility criteria for cash assistance, but are deemed unable to meet the work requirements.

[35] Maximum diversion payments vary by the activity and supportive services for which the individual uses the payment. Cash payment for emergency needs is limited to $430 a month for up to four months. Additional supportive services can include $1,000 for the cost of books, tuition, and fees associated with a work activity; $500 for moving expenses related to a job offer or for vehicle repairs; $250 for employment-related clothing; and $150 for tools or equipment required for employment.

[36] Oklahoma's diversion program only operates when funding is available; the program has not received funding since June 2011. According to the legislation authorizing the program, recipients can receive a vendor payment worth up to three months of TANF benefits and are subsequently ineligible for TANF for twelve months without a penalty after receiving diversion. The diversion payment is only available to assist individuals in keeping a job or accepting a bona fide offer of employment, and individuals can only receive one payment in a lifetime.

[37] In addition to the program listed in the table, Pennsylvania operates a mandatory non-assistance diversion program for job-ready applicants. Families participating in this program receive benefits and services equivalent to what they would receive from TANF. Families may remain in the program for up to four months in a 12-month period. Families who require assistance after four months can enroll in TANF. See table I.A.2 for more information.

[38] To be eligible for a diversion payment, applicants must be currently employed or have received income from employment within 90 days of applying.

[39] If the family applies for and receives benefits during the ineligibility period, benefits are reduced by 5 percent each month until any overpayment is recouped.

[40] South Dakota has no formal limit on the number of payments a unit may receive, but a state source reports that it is unlikely that an assistance unit would receive a diversion payment more than once every 12 months.

[41] To be eligible, the applicant must have an identifiable one-time financial need, have been a resident of Tennessee for six months, have not received cash assistance in any state in the past two years, have never received a diversion payment in any state, have no identifiable barriers to employment, have a high school diploma or GED, and either be currently employed or have been steadily employed in six of the last 12 months, with at least three being consecutive. In two-parent units, both parents must meet the eligibility criteria to qualify for a diversion payment.

[42] Recipients of diversion payments who require emergency assistance may be eligible to apply for cash assistance during the ineligibility period if they meet certain criteria.

[43] To qualify for the state's diversion program, the assistance unit must meet one of the crisis criteria including (1) the caretaker or second parent lost employment in the process month, application month, or two months before application; (2) a dependent child experienced a loss of financial support from the legal parent or stepparent within the past 12 months as a result of death, divorce, separation, abandonment, or termination of child support and the caretaker was employed within 12 months of the application or process month; (3) the caretaker or second parent graduated from a university, college, junior college, or technical training school within 12 months of the application or process month and was underemployed or unemployed; or (4) the caretaker and/or second parent is currently employed but still meets TANF requirements and is facing the loss or potential loss of transportation and/or shelter or has a medical emergency temporarily preventing him/her from continuing to work. If the unit is sanctioned and fails to demonstrate cooperation within the allowed period or is not eligible for a TANF grant of at least $10, the unit is ineligible for diversion assistance.

[44] To be eligible for diversion assistance, an applicant family must meet cash assistance financial eligibility and diversion eligibility criteria, and, if it has no members who are mandatory applicants, must choose to participate in the diversion program. Families who meet the following criteria are mandatory applicants: at least one member of the family is work eligible, work-eligible individuals in the family are neither disregarded from nor meeting their cash assistance work requirement, none of the work-eligible individuals has received a diversion assistance payment in the 12 months before the application month, and at least one work-eligible adult is a single parent, caretaker, an able-to-work adult, or a noncaretaker adult.

[45] If the unit applies for benefits during the 12-month ineligibility period, the diversion payment becomes a loan. The amount of the loan is calculated by dividing the diversion payment by 12 and multiplying the quotient by the number of months remaining of the 12-month period since the diversion payment was received. The unit's monthly benefit is decreased by 5 percent each month until the loan is repaid.

[46] For units that received diversion assistance before July 2000, three months are counted toward the lifetime limit.

[47] The diversion payment is considered a loan to assist with expenses related to obtaining or maintaining employment, and it must be repaid. Repayments are expected within 12 months but may be extended to 24 months. The loan may be paid back in cash or through a combination of cash and volunteer community service (valued at the higher of the state or federal minimum wage).

[48] The caseworker may issue loans for between $25 and $1,600. In a 12-month period, a unit may receive several loans, but it may not receive more than $1,600 in total loans or have an outstanding loan balance of more than $1,600.

Table I.A.2 Mandatory Job Search at Application, July 2011[1]

State	Job search required	Description of job search requirement	Who is exempt from job search at application	What is the penalty for noncompliance
Alabama	No	—	—	—
Alaska	Yes	Participate in a job search program, which may include group or individual job search and job readiness activities	Individuals who are not job-ready, ill or incapacitated, caring for an ill or incapacitated family member, caring for a child under 12 months old, or who lack child care	Benefit is reduced[2]
Arizona	No	—	—	—
Arkansas	Yes	Complete number of job contacts (as determined by caseworker) in 10 days	Individuals with no recent work history, who have not completed the 10th grade, or who lack adequate transportation or child care	Application may be approved with 25% reduction in payment
California[3]	No	—	—	—
Colorado[4]	No	—	—	—
Connecticut	No	—	—	—
Delaware	No	—	—	—
D.C.	Yes	Participate in a 6-week job readiness program	Individuals who are exempt from work requirements, including persons who are ill or incapacitated, or if employed, working at least 30 hours in a one-parent unit or 35 hours in a two-parent unit	Noncompliant individual's needs are not included in the grant
Florida	No	—	—	—
Georgia	Yes	Make 12–24 job contacts within 6 weeks of initial application	Individuals who are not job-ready, ill or incapacitated, or caring for a child under 12 months old	Application is denied
Hawaii	Yes	Participate in work activities program, including job search, for no less than 2 weeks within 21 days of the program intake	Individuals who are exempt from work requirements, including persons who are age 65 or older, caring for an ill or incapacitated family member, or caring for a child under 6 months old	Application is denied
Idaho	Yes	Particpate in job search activites assigned on a case-by-case basis	Individuals who are the primary caretaker in the first 12 weeks after the birth of a child	Application is denied
Illinois	No	—	—	—
Indiana	Yes	Complete individualized work activities	Individuals who are declared unable to work by a medical professional, caring for a child under 12 weeks old, or caring for an incapacitated or ill household member	Application is denied
Iowa	No	—	—	—
Kansas	No	—	—	—
Kentucky	No	—	—	—
Louisiana	No[5]	—	—	—
Maine	No	—	—	—
Maryland	Yes	Participate in job search for at least 20 hours a week for 2 weeks	Individuals who are severely disabled or caring for a disabled child, caring for a child under 12 months old, or working at least 30 hours a week	Application is denied
Massachusetts	No	—	—	—

Table I.A.2 Mandatory Job Search at Application, July 2011[1]

State	Job search required	Description of job search requirement	Who is exempt from job search at application	What is the penalty for noncompliance
Michigan	Yes	Particpate in work requirements, including job search	Individuals who are ill or incapacitated, caring for an ill or incapacitated adult, caring for a child under 3 months old, aged 65 or older, victims of domestic violence, or who have pregnancy complications	Application is denied
Minnesota	Yes[6]	Participate in work activities program, including job search[7]	Individuals age 60 or older, applicants who are caring for a child under 12 months old, caring for an ill or incapacitated adult, units that received benefits in the past 12 months, and units with a refugee or asylee caregiver who arrived in the U.S. or who was given asylum in the past 12 months	Ineligible for assistance for 4 months
Mississippi	Yes	Make 3 job search contacts during the 30-day application period	Individuals who are exempt from work requirements	Application is denied
Missouri	No	—	—	—
Montana	No	—	—	—
Nebraska	No	—	—	—
Nevada	Yes	Complete individualized work activities[8]	—	Application is denied
New Hampshire	No	—	—	—
New Jersey	Yes[9]	Participate in job search program for 15 to 30 days	Individuals who are in at least the seventh month of pregnancy, are over age 62, are caring for a child under 3 months old, do not have a recent work history, or have drug or alcohol problems[10]	Application is denied
New Mexico	No	—	—	—
New York	Yes	Participate in activities deemed appropriate by the caseworker	Individuals age 60 or older, in the last month of pregnancy, ill or incapacitated, caring for a disabled household member, or caring for a child under 3 months old[11]	Application is denied
North Carolina	No	—	—	—
North Dakota	Yes	Participate in work activities program, including job search[12]	Determined by caseworkers on case-by-case basis	Application is denied
Ohio	No	—	—	—
Oklahoma	No	—	—	—
Oregon	No[13]	—	—	—
Pennsylvania	Yes[14]	Participate in an 8-week job search and job readiness program	Individuals who would be exempt from work requirements	Varies[15]
Rhode Island	No	—	—	—
South Carolina	Yes	Make 5 job contacts over 2 weeks[16]	Individuals who are in at least the seventh month of pregnancy, incapacitated, victim of domestic violence, or reapplying to cure a sanction within 60 days after the closure, ineligible aliens, and single-parent units with a child under 12 months old	Application is denied
South Dakota	No	—	—	—
Tennessee	No	—	—	—
Texas	No	—	—	—

Table I.A.2 Mandatory Job Search at Application, July 2011[1]

State	Job search required	Description of job search requirement	Who is exempt from job search at application	What is the penalty for noncompliance
Utah	No	—	—	—
Vermont	Yes	Participate in a job-seeking class or conduct individual job search with a case manager	Individuals who have barriers to work or lack a recent and stable work history[17]	Application is denied
Virginia	No	—	—	—
Washington	No	—	—	—
West Virginia	No	—	—	—
Wisconsin	Yes	Participate in a job search program	Individuals who are not job-ready	Application may be denied
Wyoming	No	—	—	—

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

* Data not obtained
[1] This table refers to single-parent unit heads over 21 years old.
2 The unit's grant will be reduced in the same way sanctions are applied for noncompliance with regular work activities: the grant is reduced by 40 percent at the first instance of noncompliance, 75 percent after four months of noncompliance with assigned work activities, and 100 percent after eight months of noncompliance.
[3] Counties have the option to vary their diversion programs. These policies refer to Los Angeles County.
[4] Counties have the option to vary their diversion programs. These policies refer to Denver County.
[5] Work-eligible applicants must register for work at a Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) Business and Career Solutions Center. Applicants who do not register will have their application denied.
[6] As a condition of eligibility, applicants must participate in the four-month Diversionary Work Program (DWP), during which they receive benefits and intensive employment services focused on helping them obtain unsubsidized jobs before receiving TANF. See table I.A.1 for more information.
[7] Although it is possible to participate in various activities that address barriers to employment, most applicants are placed in a structured job search. After the DWP is complete, participants still needing assistance may apply for TANF as applicants.
[8] Specific work requirements are developed with a caseworker and tailored to individual circumstances. Additional activities may be assigned.
[9] Job search is a mandatory part of the state's diversion program. Once in the program, participants receive an activity payment and are required to search for a job during the TANF application process. If no employment is secured, the applicant is referred back for traditional cash assistance. See table I.A.1 for more information.
[10] Recent work history is defined as four or more months of full-time employment in the past 12 months.
[11] The caretaker-of-a-child exemption may last for no more than 12 months in a recipient's lifetime, and it may not last for more than three months for any one child unless the social services official makes a determination to extend the exemption for up to the total of 12 months.
[12] Applicants determined eligible for diversion assistance will be placed in a work activities program. The caseworker determines specific activities, but they may include job search in addition to other work activities.
[13] Job search is not an eligibility requirement, but many applicants are assigned to job search and receive a labor-market test (a structured and assisted job search designed to assess the applicant's employability).
[14] Pennsylvania operates a mandatory, non-assistance program for work-eligible applicants. Families participating in this program receive benefits and services equivalent to what they would receive on TANF. Families requiring assistance after four months can enroll in TANF. See table I.A.1 for more information.
[15] Noncompliance may result in a fiscal sanction based on the state's TANF rules or ineligibility for the family.
[16] Extensions may be granted to continue job search throughout the application period if the requirement has not been met.
[17] Stable work history is defined as six or more months of employment in the past 12 months. In addition, applicants must have received wages for their most recent job that equaled or exceeded 150 percent of the federal poverty level.

Table I.B.1 Eligibility of Pregnant Women with No Other Children, July 2011

State	Eligible for cash benefits	Eligible in what month of pregnancy
Alabama	No	—
Alaska	Yes[1]	7
Arizona	No	—
Arkansas	No	—
California	Yes[2]	7
Colorado	Yes	From month of verification
Connecticut	Yes[3]	1
Delaware	Yes[4]	9 [5]
D.C.	Yes	5
Florida	Yes	9 [6]
Georgia	No	—
Hawaii	Yes	9
Idaho	Yes[7]	7
Illinois	Yes[8]	1
Indiana	No	—
Iowa	No	—
Kansas	Yes[9]	1
Kentucky	No	—
Louisiana	Yes[10]	6
Maine	Yes	7
Maryland	Yes	1
Massachusetts	Yes	6 [11]
Michigan	Yes[12]	1
Minnesota	Yes[8]	1
Mississippi	No	—
Missouri	No	—
Montana	Yes	7
Nebraska	Yes[9]	6
Nevada	Yes	6
New Hampshire	No	—
New Jersey	No	—
New Mexico	Yes[13]	7
New York	Yes[14]	1
North Carolina	No	—
North Dakota	Yes	6
Ohio	Yes	6
Oklahoma	No	—
Oregon	Yes	Month before the due date[15]
Pennsylvania	Yes[16]	From month of medical verification
Rhode Island	Yes[3]	7 [17]
South Carolina	No	—
South Dakota	No	—
Tennessee	Yes	6
Texas	No	—
Utah	Yes	6
Vermont	Yes	9 [18]
Virginia	No	—
Washington	Yes	1 [11]
West Virginia	No	—
Wisconsin	Yes[19]	6
Wyoming	No	—
Total states providing benefits	**32**	—

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

[1] The needs, resources, and income of all household members who would be required to be in the mandatory filing unit must be considered in determining eligibility. If eligible, the payment is determined based on only the pregnant woman's income and needs.
[2] A pregnant woman and the father of the unborn child, if living with her, are eligible for assistance. If the father of the unborn child is living in the home, his income, resources, and needs are counted to determine a pregnant woman's eligibility and benefits. After the child is born, the father will be included in the unit in the first month if he is eligible and his inclusion will increase the benefit amount. If adding the father results in a decrease in benefits, he will be added to the unit the following quarter.
[3] A pregnant woman must meet the eligibility requirements as if her child were already born and living with her.
[4] A pregnant woman's financial eligibility in the month that her child is due is determined by comparing her gross income to 185 percent of the standard of need for one person. If she lives with the father of her unborn child, financial eligibility is determined by comparing the sum of the pregnant woman's income and the father's income to the standard of need for three people (the number of people who would be included in the family unit when the child is born). If income exceeds the standard, the application is denied. If income is less than the standard, only the mother's income and needs are considered in determining the amount of the grant.
[5] A pregnant woman is eligible on the first day of the month in which the child is expected.
[6] A pregnant woman is eligible in the ninth month, unless her doctor verifies that she is unable to work; then she is eligible in the seventh month.
[7] A pregnant woman is eligible only if she is in her last trimester and unable to work for medical reasons.
[8] A pregnant woman and her spouse, if living with her, are eligible for assistance.
[9] A pregnant woman, her unborn child, and the father of the child, if living with her, are eligible for assistance.
[10] A pregnant woman must meet the eligibility requirements as if the child were already born and living with her. The father of the child or spouse of the pregnant woman, if living with her, is also eligible.
[11] A pregnant woman may only receive benefits after a licensed medical practitioner has verified the pregnancy and determined the expected date of delivery.
[12] A pregnant woman and her unborn child are eligible for assistance.
[13] The needs, resources and income of the otherwise eligible father of the unborn child are considered in determining eligibility and benefits if the father lives in the home.
[14] A pregnant woman and the father of the unborn child, if living with her, are eligible for assistance.
[15] A pregnant woman who is at risk or has a safety concern due to domestic violence may be eligible for benefits earlier.
[16] A pregnant woman must meet the eligibility requirements as if her child were already born and living with her. If the pregnant woman's spouse is living in the home, his income, resources, and needs are included in this calculation. If she is not married, the income, resources, and needs of the father will not be included in the eligibility calculation until the child is born and paternity has been established.
[17] A pregnant woman can begin to receive assistance within three months of her medically verified due date.
[18] A pregnant woman may be eligible in the seventh month if she is a minor or is documented as having a high-risk pregnancy.
[19] A pregnant woman is eligible in the third trimester if unmarried and medically verified to be at-risk. After the child is born, the mother and child may receive the Community Service Jobs level of benefits for the first 12 weeks.

Table I.B.2 Eligibility Rules for Two-Parent, Nondisabled Applicant Units, July 2011[1]

	Limit on hours	Work history[2]	Waiting period
Alabama	No limit	No	0
Alaska	No limit	No	0
Arizona	No limit	No	0
Arkansas	No limit	No	0
California	100[3]	No	0
Colorado	No limit	No	0
Connecticut	No limit	No	0
Delaware	No limit	No	0
D.C.	No limit	No	0
Florida	No limit	No	0
Georgia	No limit	Special requirement[4]	0
Hawaii	No limit	No	0
Idaho	No limit	No	0
Illinois	No limit	No	0
Indiana	No limit	No	0
Iowa	No limit	No	0
Kansas	No limit	No	0
Kentucky	100	Special requirement[5]	30 days
Louisiana	No limit	No	0
Maine	100	6 of 13 quarters	30 days
Maryland	No limit	No	0
Massachusetts	No limit	No	0
Michigan	No limit	No	30 days
Minnesota	No limit	No	0
Mississippi	100	6 of 13 quarters	30 days
Missouri	No limit	No	0
Montana	No limit	No	0
Nebraska	No limit	No	0
Nevada	No limit	No	0
New Hampshire[6]	—	—	—
New Jersey	No limit	No	0
New Mexico	No limit	No	0
New York	No limit	No	0
North Carolina	No limit	No	0
North Dakota[6]	—	—	—
Ohio	No limit	No	0
Oklahoma	No limit	6 of 13 quarters	30 days
Oregon	No limit	No	0
Pennsylvania	No limit	No	0
Rhode Island	No limit	No	0
South Carolina	No limit	No	0
South Dakota	100	Special requirement[7]	0
Tennessee	100	6 of 13 quarters	30 days
Texas	No limit	No	0
Utah	No limit	No	0
Vermont	No limit	No	0
Virginia	No limit	No	0

Table I.B.2 Eligibility Rules for Two-Parent, Nondisabled Applicant Units, July 2011[1]

	Limit on hours	Work history[2]	Waiting period
Washington	No limit	No	0
West Virginia	No limit	No	0
Wisconsin	No limit	No	0
Wyoming	No limit	No	0

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Note: In some states, benefits are provided to two-parent units under a state-funded program instead of through federal TANF. This table describes the treatment of two-parent units regardless of the funding source.

[1] Eligibility rules for two-parent, nondisabled families are special categorical rules in addition to the other state rules that all units must pass. Under the AFDC program, states imposed rules on two-parent families' work effort, including limits on hours of work, work history tests, and waiting periods. Some states have continued to impose these policies under TANF.
[2] Applicants have to demonstrate previous attachment to the workforce; under AFDC, applicants were required to work at least six of the last 13 quarters. The 13-quarter period must have ended within one year of applying for assistance. Generally, work history could also be established if one of the following applied: the applicant received unemployment compensation (UC) benefits within 12 months of the date of application, or the applicant would have been eligible for UC benefits within the previous 12 months but did not apply or his or her employment was not covered by UC laws.
[3] To be eligible for cash assistance, the individual has to have been employed less than 100 hours during the four-week period before the date of application.
[4] Applicants must be connected to the workforce, which includes one of the following: (1) currently working at least 20 hours a week, (2) receiving unemployment compensation (UC), or received UC benefits within 12 months of the application date, (3) unemployed or working less than 20 hours a week and earned $500 within the six months before application, (4) receiving retirement benefits or received retirement benefits in any of the six months before the application month, or (5) has received disability benefits based on 100 percent disability in any of the last six months.
[5] Applicants must have earned at least $1,000 during the 24 months before the month of application. Two semesters of full-time attendance in a postsecondary institution may be substituted for $500 of the $1,000.
[6] The state does not provide benefits to two-parent, nondisabled units.
[7] The parents in the unit must have a combined gross income in the past six months of at least $1,500 and must not have voluntarily terminated employment, reduced hours worked, or refused a job offer within the previous six months (without good cause).

Table I.B.3 Special Rules Imposed on Minor Parent Eligibility, July 2011

State	Can be head of unit	Living arrangement restriction[1]
Alabama	Yes	Yes
Alaska	Yes	Yes
Arizona	Yes	Yes
Arkansas	Yes	Yes
California	Yes	Yes[2]
Colorado	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	Yes	Yes
Delaware	No[3]	Yes
D.C.	Yes	Yes
Florida	Yes	Yes
Georgia	Yes	Yes
Hawaii	Yes	No
Idaho	No	Yes
Illinois	Yes	Yes[4]
Indiana	Yes	Yes
Iowa	Yes	Yes
Kansas	No	Yes
Kentucky	Yes	Yes
Louisiana	No[5]	Yes
Maine	Yes	Yes
Maryland	No	Yes
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes
Michigan	No	Yes
Minnesota	Yes	Yes
Mississippi	Yes	Yes
Missouri	Yes	Yes
Montana	No	Yes
Nebraska	Yes	No
Nevada	Yes	Yes
New Hampshire	Yes	Yes
New Jersey	Yes	Yes
New Mexico	Yes	Yes
New York	Yes[6]	Yes
North Carolina	No	Yes
North Dakota	Yes	Yes
Ohio	Yes	Yes[7]
Oklahoma	Yes	Yes
Oregon	Yes	Yes
Pennsylvania	Yes	Yes
Rhode Island	Yes	Yes
South Carolina	Yes	Yes
South Dakota	Yes	Yes
Tennessee	Yes	Yes
Texas	Yes	Yes
Utah	Yes	Yes
Vermont	Yes	Yes[8]
Virginia	Yes	Yes
Washington	Yes	Yes
West Virginia	No	Yes
Wisconsin	No	Yes
Wyoming	Yes	Yes
Total states with policy	**41**	**49**

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

[1] This variable indicates whether the state requires unmarried minor parents, who have not been legally emancipated, to live with their parent(s) or in another state-approved setting. If "Yes" is coded, a minor is not eligible to receive assistance unless living with a parent or in an approved setting.
[2] A minor parent is exempt from living with his or her parent(s) if he or she does not have a living parent or legal guardian, no state-licensed living arrangement is available, a child-protection services worker determines that such a living arrangement would be physically or emotionally unsafe, or the minor parent has lived apart from his or her parent(s) for more than 12 months.
[3] Children born to teenage parents are ineligible for cash assistance unless the parent is married. The minor parent may receive noncash assistance services in the form of vouchers for his or her child(ren) upon request; however, vouchers are not automatically distributed each month. Voucher payments are distributed through a protective payee to the minor parent's parent or the adult in the supervised living arrangement.
[4] Minor parents may receive benefits for up to six nonconsecutive months without complying with the residency requirement.
[5] A minor parent can head his or her own unit if he or she meets an exemption to the residency requirement.
[6] To receive assistance, the minor parent must be at least 16 years old.
[7] When the residency requirements are imposed, the benefit is paid to a protective payee whenever possible.
[8] Minor parents may be exempt if they are 17 years old and have lived independently for at least six months, live with their child's other parent and both parents are age 16 or older, or if no appropriate living arrangement is available.

Table I.B.4 Stepparent Eligibility, July 2011

State	Inclusion in the assistance unit
Alabama	Mandatory
Alaska	Prohibited
Arizona	Prohibited
Arkansas	Mandatory
California	Optional
Colorado	Prohibited
Connecticut	Prohibited
Delaware	Optional
D.C.	Optional
Florida	Optional
Georgia	Prohibited
Hawaii	Optional
Idaho	Prohibited
Illinois	Optional
Indiana	Optional
Iowa	Prohibited[1]
Kansas	Mandatory
Kentucky	Prohibited
Louisiana	Mandatory
Maine	Optional
Maryland	Prohibited
Massachusetts	Prohibited
Michigan	Mandatory
Minnesota	Mandatory
Mississippi	Prohibited
Missouri	Prohibited
Montana	Mandatory
Nebraska	Mandatory
Nevada	Optional
New Hampshire	Mandatory
New Jersey	Optional[2]
New Mexico	Mandatory
New York	Optional
North Carolina	Mandatory
North Dakota	Mandatory
Ohio	Prohibited
Oklahoma	Prohibited
Oregon	Mandatory
Pennsylvania	Optional
Rhode Island	Mandatory
South Carolina	Mandatory
South Dakota	Mandatory[3]
Tennessee	Prohibited[4]
Texas	Optional
Utah	Mandatory
Vermont	Mandatory
Virginia	Prohibited
Washington	Mandatory

Table I.B.4 Stepparent Eligibility, July 2011	
State	Inclusion in the assistance unit
West Virginia	Mandatory
Wisconsin	Mandatory[5]
Wyoming	Mandatory

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Note: The table describes units in which the stepparent has no child in common with the spouse (head of unit), the stepparent has no dependents of his or her own living in the unit, the spouse is living in the home, and the spouse is not incapacitated.

[1] The stepparent may be included if he or she is incapacitated.
[2] The stepparent is a mandatory participant in the unit unless the stepparent's income causes the assistance unit to become ineligible, in which case the stepparent is not required to be included in the unit. If the stepparent chooses not to receive assistance, the unit becomes a child-only unit (the spouse is also excluded from the unit) and his or her income is used to determine eligibility but not the benefit amount. For more information on deeming, see table I.D.2.
[3] A Native American stepparent who is under exclusive jurisdiction of a tribe for the purposes of determining the domestic relations rights of the family has the option of being included in the assistance unit.
[4] When a caretaker marries while receiving assistance, he or she can choose to exclude the new spouse from the assistance unit for up to three months, regardless of income. The three-month period begins on the first day of the month following the marriage. If the caretaker chooses to exclude the new spouse, his or her income and resources are not included in eligibility determination. Any children moving into the home with the new spouse may be required to be included in the assistance unit. If the caretaker chooses to include the new spouse, all of his or her countable income is included in eligibility determination and benefit computation. After three months, the new spouse becomes a mandatory assistance unit member, and his or her income and resources must be considered in determining eligibility and computing benefits.
[5] The stepparent is included in the W-2 group for income purposes but cannot be the mandatory work program participant.

Table I.B.5 State Practices Regarding Eligibility of Nonexempt, Pre-PRWORA, Qualified Aliens, July 2011[1]

State	Lawful permanent residents[2]	Asylees/Refugees[3]	Deportees[4]	Parolees[5]	Battered noncitizens[6]
Alabama	All	All	All	All	All
Alaska	All	All	All	All	All
Arizona	All	All	All	All	All
Arkansas	All	All	All	All	None
California	All	All	All	All	All[7]
Colorado	All	All	All	All	Some[8]
Connecticut	All	All	All	All	All
Delaware	All	All	All	All	All
D.C.	All	All	All	All	All
Florida	All	All[9]	All	All	All
Georgia	All	All	All	All	All
Hawaii[10]	All	All	All	All	All
Idaho	All	All	All	All	All
Illinois	All	All	All	All	Some[8]
Indiana	All	All	All	All	None
Iowa	All	All	All	All	All
Kansas	All	All	All	All	All
Kentucky	All	All	All	All	All
Louisiana	All	All	All	All	All
Maine	All	All	All	All	None
Maryland	All	All	All	All	Some[8]
Massachusetts	All	All	All	All	All
Michigan	All	All	All	All	All
Minnesota	All	All	All	All	All
Mississippi	None	All	All	None	None
Missouri	All	All	All	All	All
Montana	All	All[11]	All[11]	All	Some[8]
Nebraska	All	All	All	All	All
Nevada	All	All	None	All	All
New Hampshire	All	All	All	All	All
New Jersey	All	All	All	All	All
New Mexico	All	All	None	All	None
New York	All	All	All	All	Some[8]
North Carolina	All	All	All	All	Some[8]
North Dakota	All	All	All	All	None
Ohio	All	All	All	All	All
Oklahoma	All	All	All	All	All
Oregon	All	All	All	All	All
Pennsylvania	All	All	All	All	All
Rhode Island	All	All	All	All	All
South Carolina	Some	All	All	All	All
South Dakota	All	None	None	None	None
Tennessee	All	All	All	All	None
Texas	All	All	All	All	Some[8]
Utah	All	All	All	All	Some[8]

Table I.B.5 State Practices Regarding Eligibility of Nonexempt, Pre-PRWORA, Qualified Aliens, July 2011[1]

State	Lawful permanent residents[2]	Asylees/Refugees[3]	Deportees[4]	Parolees[5]	Battered noncitizens[6]
Vermont	All	All	All	All	All
Virginia	All	All	All	All	All
Washington	All	All	All	All	Some[8]
West Virginia	All	All	All	All	None
Wisconsin	All	All	All	All	All
Wyoming	All	All	All	All	All

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Note: This table refers only to the largest groups of qualified aliens that entered the United States before August 22, 1996. It does not address a few of the smaller groups of qualified aliens, including Cuban/Haitian entrants or aliens granted conditional entry before April 1, 1980.

[1] This table provides information on the eligibility of certain groups of qualified aliens for federally funded TANF assistance. It does not cover the eligibility of other nonqualified aliens who may be eligible for state-funded assistance. Aliens are categorized by their current immigrant status (rather than their initial status upon entry into the United States, if different).
[2] Lawful permanent residents are defined as individuals who have been admitted into the United States permanently.
[3] Asylees and refugees are immigrants who flee their countries owing to persecution because of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a social group. Refugees request permission to enter the country, while asylees are already in the United States and request permission to stay.
[4] Deportees are individuals who have been granted a stay of deportation or have had their deportation withheld.
[5] Parolees are individuals permitted entry into the United States in cases of emergency or because of an overriding public interest. The table only discusses the eligibility of aliens paroled into the United States for at least one year. Aliens paroled into the United States for less than a year are not “qualified” aliens according to the immigrant definition in PRWORA.
[6] Battered noncitizens refer to those individuals who meet the statutory definition of a battered alien pursuant to 8 USC 1641 (c).
[7] While battered noncitizens who meet the qualified alien definition are eligible for federally funded TANF benefits, all battered noncitizens who meet the definition of PRUCOL are eligible for CalWORKs state-funded benefits.
[8] Some battered noncitizens who meet the qualified alien definition are eligible.
[9] An asylee is eligible within eight months of the date asylee status was obtained.
[10] All immigrant units are funded through a state program with the same eligibility rules as TANF. No immigrant units, however, are eligible for federal TANF funding.
[11] Qualified aliens with this status are eligible for benefits for seven years beginning on the date they entered the United States.

Table I.B.6 States Using State Funds to Help Noncitizens Who Entered after Enactment and Are Ineligible for Federal TANF Assistance, July 2011

State	Qualified Aliens during their First Five Years in the Country[1]			
	Lawful permanent residents[2]	Parolees[3]	Battered noncitizens[4]	Nonqualified aliens[5]
Alabama	—	—	—	—
Alaska	—[6]	—	—	—
Arizona	—	X	—	—
Arkansas	—	—	—	—
California	X	X	X	X[7]
Colorado	—[6]	—	—	—
Connecticut	X[8]	X[8]	X[8]	—
Delaware	—	—	X	—
D.C.	—	—	—	—
Florida	—	—	—	—
Georgia	X	X	X	—
Hawaii	X	X	X	X[7]
Idaho	—	—	—	—
Illinois	—[6]	—	X	—
Indiana	—	—	—	—
Iowa	—	—	X	—
Kansas	—	—	—	—
Kentucky	—[6]	—	—	—
Louisiana	—	—	—	—
Maine	X	X	X	—
Maryland	X	X	X	—
Massachusetts	—	—	—	—
Michigan	—	—	—	—
Minnesota	—	—	—	X[9]
Mississippi	—	—	—	—
Missouri	—	—	—	—
Montana	—	—	—	—
Nebraska	X	X	X	—
Nevada	—	—	X	—
New Hampshire	—	—	—	—
New Jersey	—	—	X	—
New Mexico	X	X	X	—
New York	X	X	X	X[10]
North Carolina	—	—	—	—
North Dakota	—	—	—	—
Ohio	—	—	—	—
Oklahoma	—	—	—	—
Oregon	X[6]	X	X	—
Pennsylvania	X	X	X	—
Rhode Island	X	X	X	—
South Carolina	—	—	—	—
South Dakota	—	—	—	—
Tennessee	—	—	—	—
Texas	—	—	—	—

Table I.B.6 States Using State Funds to Help Noncitizens Who Entered after Enactment and Are Ineligible for Federal TANF Assistance, July 2011

State	Qualified Aliens during their First Five Years in the Country[1]			
	Lawful permanent residents[2]	Parolees[3]	Battered noncitizens[4]	Nonqualified aliens[5]
Utah	X	X	X	—
Vermont	X[6]	X	X	X
Virginia	—	—	—	—
Washington	X[6]	X	X	X[11]
West Virginia	—	—	—	—
Wisconsin	X	X	X	X[12]
Wyoming	X	X	X	—

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Note: This table refers only to noncitizens who entered the United States on or after August 22, 1996, and are ineligible for federally funded TANF assistance because of the five-year bar or nonqualified status. Refugees, asylees, and deportees are eligible for federal funding during this period and therefore are not included in this table.

[1] Qualified aliens are defined under PRWORA as lawful permanent residents (includes Amerasians), refugees, asylees, individuals who have had their deportation withheld, parolees admitted for one or more years, certain battered aliens, Cuban/Haitian entrants, and aliens granted conditional entry before April 1, 1980.
[2] Lawful permanent residents are defined as individuals who have been admitted into the United States permanently.
[3] Parolees are individuals permitted entry into the United States in cases of emergency or because of an overriding public interest. The table only discusses the eligibility of aliens paroled into the United States for at least one year. Aliens paroled into the United States for less than a year are not "qualified" aliens according to the immigrant definition in PRWORA.
[4] Battered noncitizens refer to those individuals who meet the statutory definition of a battered alien pursuant to 8 USC 1641 (c).
[5] The groups of noncitizens listed here are not qualified aliens as defined by federal law; therefore, these groups would never be eligible for most federally funded TANF benefits.
[6] Additionally, certain American Indians born in Canada may be regarded as lawful permanent residents for eligibility purposes and are therefore qualified aliens. These individuals are eligible for benefits during the five-year bar.
[7] All nonqualified aliens who are legally in the country and are not nonimmigrant aliens lawfully admitted for a temporary purpose or temporary residence are eligible for assistance.
[8] To be eligible, all noncitizens must pursue citizenship to the maximum extent allowed by law, unless incapable owing to mental retardation, a medical condition, a language barrier, or a domestic violence situation.
[9] Individuals with temporary protective status and some legal immigrants age 18–70 who have been in Minnesota for four years and are participating in literacy or citizenship classes are eligible.
[10] Individuals permanently residing in the United States under color of law as defined by the state and parolees in the country for less than one year are eligible for assistance.
[11] Individuals permanently residing in the United States under color of law may receive assistance if qualified.
[12] Individuals with employment authorized by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services are eligible for assistance.

Table I.B.7 State Practices Regarding Eligibility of Nonexempt, Post-PRWORA, Qualified Aliens after Five Years, July 2011[1]

State	Lawful permanent residents[2]	Asylees/Refugees[3]	Deportees[4]	Parolees[5]	Battered noncitizens[6]
Alabama	All	None	None	All	All
Alaska	All	All	All	All	Some[7]
Arizona	All	All[8]	All[8]	All[8]	All
Arkansas	All	None	None	None	None
California	All	All	All	All	All
Colorado	All	All[8]	All[8]	All	Some[7]
Connecticut	All	All	All	All	All
Delaware	All	All	All	All	All
D.C.	All	All	All	All	All
Florida	All	All	All	All	All
Georgia	All	All	All	All	All
Hawaii[9]	All	All	All	All	All
Idaho	All	All	All	All	All
Illinois	All	All	All	All	Some[7]
Indiana	None	All	All	None	None
Iowa	All	All	All	All	All
Kansas	All	None	None	All	All
Kentucky	All	All	All	All	All
Louisiana	All	All	All	All	All
Maine	All	All	All	All	All
Maryland	All	All	All	All	All
Massachusetts	All	All	All	All	All
Michigan	All	All	None	All	All
Minnesota	All	All	All	All	All
Mississippi	None	None	None	None	None
Missouri	All	All	All	All	All
Montana	All	All[8]	All[8]	All	Some[7]
Nebraska	All	All	All	All	All
Nevada	All	None	None	All	All
New Hampshire	All	All	All	All	All
New Jersey	All[10]	All	All	All	All
New Mexico	All	All	All	All	All
New York	All	All	All	All	Some[7]
North Carolina	All	All	All	All	Some[11]
North Dakota	All	None	None	None	None
Ohio	All	All	All	All	All
Oklahoma	All	All	All	All	All
Oregon	All	All	All	All	All
Pennsylvania	All	All	All	All	All
Rhode Island	All	All	All	All	All
South Carolina	All	All	All	All	All
South Dakota	All	All	All	All	All
Tennessee	All	All	All	All	None
Texas	None	None	None	None	Some[7]
Utah	All	All	All	All	Some[7]

Table I.B.7 State Practices Regarding Eligibility of Nonexempt, Post-PRWORA, Qualified Aliens after Five Years, July 2011[1]

State	Lawful permanent residents[2]	Asylees/Refugees[3]	Deportees[4]	Parolees[5]	Battered noncitizens[6]
Vermont	All	All	All	All	All
Virginia	All	All	All	All	All
Washington	All	All	All	All	All
West Virginia	All	All	All	All	None
Wisconsin	All	All	All	All	All
Wyoming	All	All	All	All	All

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Note: This table refers only to the largest groups of qualified aliens who entered the United States on or after August 22, 1996. It does not address a few smaller groups of qualified aliens, including Cuban/Haitian entrants or aliens granted conditional entry before April 1, 1980.

[1] This table identifies the eligibility for federally funded TANF assistance of certain groups of qualified aliens after the expiration of the five-year bar. It does not provide information on the eligibility of other nonqualified aliens who may be eligible for state-funded assistance. Aliens are categorized by their current immigrant status (rather than their initial status upon entry into the United States, if different).
[2] Lawful permanent residents are defined as individuals who have been admitted into the United States permanently.
[3] Asylees and refugees are immigrants who flee their countries owing to persecution because of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a social group. Refugees request permission to enter the country, while asylees are already in the United States and request permission to stay.
[4] Deportees are individuals granted a stay of deportation or who have had their deportation withheld.
[5] Parolees are individuals permitted entry into the United States in cases of emergency or because of an overriding public interest. The table only discusses the eligibility of aliens paroled into the United States for at least one year. Aliens paroled into the United States for less than a year are not "qualified" aliens according to the immigrant definition in PRWORA.
[6] Battered noncitizens refer to those individuals who meet the statutory definition of a battered alien pursuant to 8 USC 1641 (c).
[7] Some battered immigrants who meet the qualified alien definition are eligible.
[8] Qualified aliens with this status are only eligible for benefits for seven years beginning on the date they entered the United States.
[9] All immigrant units are funded through a state program with the same eligibility rules as TANF. No immigrant units, however, are eligible for federal TANF funding.
[10] Aliens who were not continuous residents of the United States (meaning they left the United States for 30 days or more) before becoming lawful permanent residents are ineligible for benefits.
[11] Battered immigrants must be the spouse, former spouse, widow, child, or parent of a child of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident.

Table I.B.8 Treatment of Noncaretaker Adults in Household, July 2011[1]

State	Which noncaretaker adults are eligible to receive assistance as part of the unit[2]	When a noncaretaker adult living in the household is not included in the TANF unit: Treatment of Income: Is the income of the noncaretaker adult counted against the unit for eligibility and benefit computation	Treatment of Income: How much of the adult's income is counted	Shared Living Costs: Under what circumstances are benefits or eligibility affected when sharing living costs	Shared Living Costs: How much are benefits or eligibility reduced when sharing living costs[3]
Alabama	None	Not counted	—-	No effect	—-
Alaska	None	Not counted	—-	Units pay less than 30% of need standard for shelter	Unspent portion of the 30% is subtracted from need standard before benefit calculations
Arizona	None	Not counted	—-	Adult not included in the unit pays 100% of shelter costs[4]	Need standard reduced 37% for eligibility and benefit calculations
Arkansas	Relatives only[5]	Not counted	—-	No effect	—-
California	Relatives and partners only[6]	Partners and nonrelatives only	Up to $336 for eligibility[7]	No effect	—-
Colorado	None	Not counted	—-	No effect	—-
Connecticut	Relatives only	Not counted	—-	No effect	—-
Delaware	None	Not counted	—-	No effect	—-
D.C.	Relatives only[8]	Not counted	—-	No effect	—-
Florida	Relatives only	Not counted	—-	No effect	—-
Georgia	None	Not counted	—-	No effect	—-
Hawaii	All adults[9]	Partners and parents only	Total monthly earned and unearned income less a standard deduction of 20% for benefits and eligibility	No effect	—-
Idaho	None	Not counted	—-	No effect	—-
Illinois	None	Not counted	—-	No effect	—-
Indiana	Relatives only[10]	Not counted	—-	No effect	—-
Iowa	None	Not counted	—-	No effect	—-
Kansas	Relatives only	Not counted	—-	One or more adults reside in household and are not included in the unit	Budgetary standards reduced to $375[11]
Kentucky	None	Not counted	—-	No effect	—-
Louisiana	None	Not counted	—-	No effect	—-
Maine	None	Not counted	—-	No effect	—-
Maryland	None	Not counted	—-	No effect	—-
Massachusetts	Relatives only	Not counted	—-	No effect	—-
Michigan	Relatives only	Not counted	—-	No effect	—-

Table I.B.8 Treatment of Noncaretaker Adults in Household, July 2011[1]

State	Which noncaretaker adults are eligible to receive assistance as part of the unit[2]	When a noncaretaker adult living in the household is not included in the TANF unit: Treatment of Income: Is the income of the noncaretaker adult counted against the unit for eligibility and benefit computation	Treatment of Income: How much of the adult's income is counted	Shared Living Costs: Under what circumstances are benefits or eligibility affected when sharing living costs	Shared Living Costs: How much are benefits or eligibility reduced when sharing living costs[3]
Minnesota	None	Not counted	—-	One or more nonrelative adults reside in household and are not included in the unit	Transitional standard reduced to $952[12]
Mississippi	None	Not counted	—-	No effect	—-
Missouri	None	Not counted	—-	No effect	—-
Montana	None	Not counted	—-	No effect	—-
Nebraska	None	Not counted	—-	Adult not included in the unit pays 100% of shelter costs	Actual amount contributed by the nonunit members, up to $103, is added to the unit's unearned income for benefit calculations[13]
Nevada	None	Not counted	—-	No effect	—-
New Hampshire	None	Cohabitating adult with a common child only	All	Adult residing in household and not included in the unit pays part or all of shelter costs	Payment standard reduced up to $368[14]
New Jersey	None	Not counted	—-	No effect	—-
New Mexico	Relatives only	Not counted	—-	Adult residing in household and not included in the unit pays part or all of shelter costs	Actual amount contributed by the nonunit members is added to the unit's unearned income
New York	All adults[15]	Not counted	—-	No effect	—-
North Carolina	None	Not counted	—-	No effect	—-
North Dakota	Relatives only	Not counted	—-	One or more adults reside in household and are not included in the unit	Standard of need is reduced by $50
Ohio	None	Not counted	—-	No effect	—-
Oklahoma	None	Opposite sex partners only	Remaining income after disregarding $120 of earnings and 100% of need standard for the partner and dependents outside the unit[16]	No effect	—-

Table I.B.8 Treatment of Noncaretaker Adults in Household, July 2011[1]

State	Which noncaretaker adults are eligible to receive assistance as part of the unit[2]	When a noncaretaker adult living in the household is not included in the TANF unit: Treatment of Income: Is the income of the noncaretaker adult counted against the unit for eligibility and benefit computation	Treatment of Income: How much of the adult's income is counted	Shared Living Costs: Under what circumstances are benefits or eligibility affected when sharing living costs	Shared Living Costs: How much are benefits or eligibility reduced when sharing living costs[3]
Oregon	Relatives only	Spouses and their children	100% minus SSI recipient	No effect	----
Pennsylvania	Relatives only [17]	Not counted	----	No effect	----
Rhode Island	Relatives only	Not counted	----	No effect	----
South Carolina	None	Not counted	----	No effect	----
South Dakota	Relatives only	Not counted	----	One or more adults reside in household and are not included in the unit or adult outside of household pays part or all of shelter costs	Payment standard reduced to $401[12]
Tennessee	None	Not counted	----	No effect	----
Texas	Relatives only	Not counted	----	No effect	----
Utah	None	Not counted	----	No effect	
Vermont	All adults[18]	Not counted	----	No effect	----
Virginia	All adults[10]	Not counted	----	No effect	----
Washington	None	Not counted	----	No effect	----
West Virginia	Relatives only[19]	Not counted	----	No effect	----
Wisconsin	None	Not counted	----	No effect	----
Wyoming	None	Not counted	----	Adult not included in the unit pays 100% of shelter costs	Maximum benefit reduced to $399[12]

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Note: When there is variation, the values in the table represent the amounts for individuals living in the largest county and for a family size of three.

[1] A "noncaretaker adult" is an additional adult living in the household with a parent or caretaker of children. The noncaretaker adult is not the primary caretaker of the children, nor a parent of any children in the household. In this table, a noncaretaker adult could be an adult who is related to the parent or children, the partner of the parent, or a friend of the parent who is not a relative or in a relationship with the parent. Separate policies may apply to noncaretaker adults who are renters or boarders sharing a household with the unit.
[2] When "all adults" appears in the table, it means relatives who are not primary caretakers, partners of the parent or caretaker, and nonrelative nonpartners are potentially eligible to receive assistance as part of the unit.
[3] Unless otherwise specified, the reduction applies to both eligibility calculations and benefit computation, when applicable.
[4] The shelter payments must be made directly to the landlord, mortgage company, owner, or other lien holder and be paid on an ongoing basis for three or more consecutive months.
[5] Only one additional adult may be included in the unit.
[6] Relatives, spouses of the primary caretaker, and registered domestic partners of the primary caretaker may be included at the option of the unit head.
[7] Partners and nonrelative nonpartners are not eligible for assistance, but a portion of their income is counted as unearned income for eligibility purposes of the unit. The amount of income available to the unit is equal to the cost of an "independent living arrangement," which is the sum of housing, utilities, and food for the adult alone. Actual expenses or $336, whichever is less, is counted for families living in the largest county.
[8] A caretaker relative is an optional group member who may be included or excluded from the group depending on which is advantageous to the group.
[9] The additional adult must provide care that is deemed essential and would need to be provided if the additional adult were not in the household.
[10] To be eligible, the adult must provide care to the children in the unit.

[11] The amount of the reduction varies by family size and county. The value in the table applies to a family size of three in the largest county.
[12] The amount of the reduction varies by family size. The value in the table applies to a family size of three.
[13] The amount added to the unit's unearned income varies by family size. The value in the table applies to a family size of three.
[14] The standard used to calculate the unit's benefit is equal to the actual amount the unit pays in shelter costs plus the maintenance payment allowance ($307) up to the payment standard ($675). If the unit does not pay any shelter costs, the standard equals $307. The amount of the standards varies by family size. The value in the table applies to a family size of three.
[15] To be eligible, the adult must be deemed essential to the well-being of the family applying for or receiving TANF benefits. Inclusion of noncaretaker adults is prohibited for voluntary Child Assistance Program (CAP) participants.
[16] Partners may also subtract the actual amount paid to individuals not living in the household but claimed as dependents, and alimony and child support payments made to individuals outside the household. The remaining income after all disregards are applied is counted in the unit's unearned income for eligibility and benefit computation purposes.
[17] To be eligible, the relative must not be eligible for TANF on his or her own but must be eligible for the state's general assistance program.
[18] Additional adults are only eligible if they are needy but not eligible for SSI or TANF on their own and they provide specific care and/or services that the unit head cannot perform and which are deemed essential and would need to be provided if the additional adult were not in the household.
[19] A caretaker relative who is not a natural or adoptive parent cannot be included in the unit when a parent resides in the home.

Table I.C.1 Asset Limits for Applicants, July 2011

State	Asset limit	Vehicle exemption
Alabama	No Limit	All vehicles owned by household
Alaska	$2,000/$3,000[1]	All vehicles owned by household[2]
Arizona	$2,000	All vehicles owned by household
Arkansas	$3,000	One vehicle per household
California	$2,000/$3,000[1]	$4,650[F]/one vehicle per licensed driver[3]
Colorado	No Limit	No Limit
Connecticut	$3,000	$9,500[4E]
Delaware	$10,000	All vehicles owned by household
D.C.	$2,000/$3,000[1]	All vehicles owned by household
Florida	$2,000	$8,500 [E]
Georgia	$1,000	$1,500/$4,650[5E]
Hawaii	$5,000	All vehicles owned by household
Idaho	$2,000	One vehicle owned by household[6]
Illinois	$2,000/$3,000/+$50[7]	One vehicle per household[8]
Indiana	$1,000	$5,000[E]
Iowa	$2,000	One vehicle per housheold[9]
Kansas	$2,000	All vehicles owned by hosuehold
Kentucky	2,000 [10]	All vehicles owned by household
Louisiana	No Limit	All vehicles owned by household
Maine	$2,000	One vehicle per household
Maryland	No Limit	All vehicles owned by household
Massachusetts	$2,500	$10,000[F]/$5,000[11E]
Michigan	$3,000	All vehicles owned by household
Minnesota	$2,000	$15,000[12F]
Mississippi	$2,000 [13]	All vehicles owned by household[14]
Missouri	$1,000	One vehicle per household[15]
Montana	$3,000	One vehicle per household
Nebraska	$4,000/$6,000[16]	One vehicle per household[17]
Nevada	$2,000	One vehicle per household
New Hampshire	$1,000	One vehicle per licensed driver
New Jersey	$2,000	All vehicles owned by household[F]
New Mexico	$3,500 [18]	All vehicles owned by household[19]
New York	$2,000/$3,000[1]	$4,650[F]/$9,300[20F]
North Carolina	$3,000	All vehicles owned by household
North Dakota	$3,000/$6,000/+$25 [21]	One vehicle per household
Ohio	No Limit	All vehicles owned by household
Oklahoma	$1,000	$5,000 [E]
Oregon	$2,500 [22]	$10,000[E]
Pennsylvania	$1,000	One vehicle per household
Rhode Island	$1,000	One vehicle per adult[23]
South Carolina	$2,500	One vehicle per licensed driver[24]
South Dakota	$2,000	One vehicle per household[25]
Tennessee	$2,000	$4,600[E]
Texas	$1,000	$4,650 of all vehicles owned by household[26F]
Utah	$2,000	All vehicles owned by household
Vermont	$2,000	One vehicle per adult
Virginia	No Limit	All vehicles owned by household
Washington	$1,000	$5,000[27E]

Table I.C.1 Asset Limits for Applicants, July 2011

State	Asset limit	Vehicle exemption
West Virginia	$2,000	One vehicle per household
Wisconsin	$2,500	$10,000 [E]
Wyoming	$2,500	One vehicle per household[28]

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

[E] Equity value of the vehicle.
[F] Fair-market value of the vehicle.

Note: Many states have separate policies regarding different types of vehicles, such as income-producing vehicles, recreational vehicles, and vehicles that are used as homes. See the Welfare Rules Database for more information on these policies.

[1] Units including an elderly person may exempt $3,000; all other units exempt $2,000.
[2] Vehicles are exempt if used to meet the family's basic needs such as getting food, medical care, or other essentials; going to and from work, school, training, or work activity (such as job search or community service); or transporting a disabled family member, whether or not he or she is part of the assistance unit. If the vehicle does not meet one of these requirements, the equity value of the vehicle is counted in the determination of resources.
[3] Each vehicle must be evaluated for both its equity and fair-market values; the higher of the two values counts against the family's asset limit. Before this calculation, all the following vehicles are completely excluded: (1) is necessary for long-distance travel that is essential for employment; (2) is necessary to transport a physically disabled household member; (3) would be exempt under previously stated exemptions but the vehicle is not in use because of temporary unemployment; (4) used to carry fuel or water to the home and is the primary method of obtaining fuel or water; and (5) the equity value of the vehicle is $1,501 or less. To determine the countable fair-market value of each remaining vehicle, exclude $4,650 from the vehicle's fair-market value. To determine the countable equity value of each remaining vehicle, exclude one additional vehicle per adult and one additional vehicle per licensed child who uses the vehicle to travel to school, employment, or job search. The full equity value of each remaining vehicle is counted. For each vehicle not completely excluded, the higher of the fair-market value or the equity value counts against the family's asset limit.
[4] The unit may exempt up to $9,500 of the vehicle's equity, or the entire value of one vehicle used to transport a handicapped person.
[5] If the vehicle is used to look for work, or to travel to work or education and training, the unit may exclude $4,650 of the value. If the vehicle is not used for these purposes, $1,500 of the equity value is excluded.
[6] The value of one specially equipped vehicle used to transport a disabled family member is also exempt. Also, all vehicles with fair-market values under $1,500 are exempt.
[7] The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $2,000, two people receive $3,000, and three or more people receive $3,000 plus $50 for every additional person.
[8] If a vehicle has special equipment for the disabled, the added value of the special equipment is exempt and does not increase the vehicle's value. When there is more than one vehicle, the equity value of the vehicle of greater value is exempt.
[9] Additionally, $4,658 of the equity value of another vehicle is exempt for each adult and working teenager whose resources must be considered in determining eligibility.
[10] Only liquid resources are considered for eligibility determinations. Liquid resources include cash, checking and savings accounts, CDs, stocks and bonds, and money market accounts.
[11] The state compares the value of the vehicle to two standards: $10,000 of the fair-market value and $5,000 of the equity value. If the value of the vehicle exceeds either limit, the excess counts toward the asset limit; if the value of the vehicle exceeds both limits, only the excess of the greater amount counts toward the asset limit.
[12] The amount is the loan value of the vehicle with the highest loan value that has not already been totally excluded under the following provisions: (1) exclude all motor vehicles essential to operating a self-employment business; (2) exclude any vehicle used as the unit's home; (3) exclude one vehicle per physically disabled person needed to transport the disabled unit member; (4) exclude the value of special equipment added to a vehicle for a handicapped member of the assistance unit; (5) exclude any vehicle used for certain long-distance traveling for the employment of a unit member; and (6) exclude any vehicle if at least 50 percent of its use is to produce income. $7,500 of the loan value of additional vehicles is also exempt. Minnesota uses the loan value of the vehicle as listed in the current NADA Used Car Guide, Midwest edition, instead of the fair-market value. The loan value is generally slightly less than the estimated fair-market value.
[13] If the unit is considered broad-based categorically eligible, it is not subject to asset limits.
[14] Determination of whether to count a vehicle is made case by case.
[15] $1,500 of the equity value of the unit's second vehicle is exempt.
[16] The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $4,000, and two or more people receive $6,000.
[17] The entire vehicle is exempt only if used for employment, training, or medical transportation. If a unit has more than one vehicle that meets the exemption criteria, only the vehicle with the greatest equity value will be exempt.
[18] The total limit is $3,500, but only $1,500 of that amount can be in liquid resources and only $2,000 can be in nonliquid resources.
[19] The entire vehicle is exempt only if used for transportation to work, work activities, or daily living requirements. If the vehicle is not used for these purposes, the entire equity value of the vehicle is subject to the asset test.
[20] If the vehicle is needed to seek or retain employment, $9,300 of the vehicle is exempt. Otherwise, $4,650 of the fair-market value is exempt.
[21] The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $3,000, two people receive $6,000, and another $25 is allowed for each additional person thereafter.
[22] The application process in Oregon has more than one phase. The asset limit for applicants first applying for TANF is $2,500. If the applicant makes it through the first stage of application, he or she must participate in the assessment program, in which he or she is assessed and given a case plan to follow. If the applicant does not follow the case plan, he or she maintains the $2,500 asset limit as long as he or she is in the assessment program. If the applicant complies with the case plan, he or she is allowed a $10,000 asset limit.

[23] Exemptions for adult drivers cannot exceed two vehicles per household. Additionally, the entire value of a vehicle used primarily to provide transportation for a disabled family member is exempt.
[24] Vehicles owned by or used to transport disabled individuals or that are essential to self-employment are also exempt.
[25] In addition to one primary vehicle, an assistance unit may totally exclude a vehicle used to transport water or fuel to the home when it is not piped in or to transport a disabled member or SSI recipient in the household. The assistance unit may also exclude $4,650 of the fair-market value of a vehicle used to transport members of the unit for education or employment.
[26] All licensed vehicles used for transporting a disabled household member are exempt.
[27] The entire equity value of a vehicle used to transport a disabled household member is also exempt.
[28] This exemption applies to a single-parent unit. Two vehicles are exempt for a married couple.

Table I.D.1 Treatment of Grandparent Income, July 2011[1]

State	Deeming	Earned income disregard	Other income disregards
Alabama	Yes	20%	100% of countable income divided by the number of persons in the household (inside and outside the unit that the grandparent is responsible for) times the family size[2]
Alaska	Yes	$90	100% of need standard for the family size
Arizona	No[+]	—	—
Arkansas	No	—	—
California	Yes	$90 [3]	100% of minimum basic standard of adequate care for the family size
Colorado	Yes	$90	100% of need standard for the family size
Connecticut	Yes	$90	100% of federal poverty level for the family size
Delaware	No[4]	—	—
D.C.	Yes	$90	100% of standard of assistance for the family size
Florida	Yes	$90	100% of federal poverty level for the family size
Georgia	Yes	$90	100% of standard of need for the family size
Hawaii	Yes	20%	100% of standard of need for the family size
Idaho	No[+]	—	(Grandparent is always included in the unit)
Illinois	Yes	Varies[5]	300% of payment standard for the family size
Indiana	Yes	$90	100% of need standard for the family size
Iowa	Yes	20%	100% of need standard for the family size and 58% of the remaining earnings
Kansas	No[+]	—	(Grandparent is always included in the unit)
Kentucky	Yes	$90	100% of standard of need for the family size
Louisiana	No[+]	—	(Grandparent is always included in the unit)
Maine	Yes	$108, 50%	100% of gross income test for the family size
Maryland	No[+]	—	(Grandparent is always included in the unit)
Massachusetts	Yes	—	200% of federal poverty level for the family size
Michigan	No[+]	—	(Grandparent is always included in the unit)
Minnesota	Yes	18%	200% of federal poverty level for the family size
Mississippi	Yes	$90	100% of need standard and payment standard for the family size
Missouri	Yes	100% of federal poverty level, $90[6]	100% of need standard for the family size
Montana	No[+]	—	(Grandparent is always included in the unit)
Nebraska	Yes	—	300% of federal poverty level for the family size
Nevada	Yes	Greater of $90 or 20%	100% of need standard for the family size
New Hampshire	Yes	20%	100% of standard of need for the family size
New Jersey	Yes[7]	50%	—
New Mexico	Yes	—	130% of federal poverty level for the family size
New York	Yes	$90	100% of need standard for the family size
North Carolina	No[+]	—	(Grandparent is always included in the unit)
North Dakota	Yes	Greater of $180 or 27%	100% of standard of need for the family size
Ohio	Yes	$90	100% of allocation allowance standard for the family size
Oklahoma	Yes	$120, 50%	100% of need standard for the family size
Oregon	Yes	$90	100% of adjusted income/payment standard for the family size
Pennsylvania	Yes	$90	100% of standard of need for the family size
Rhode Island	Yes	$90	100% of cash assistance monthly standard for the family size
South Carolina	Yes	—	185% of need standard for the family size
South Dakota	Yes	$90, 20%	100% of payment standard for the family size
Tennessee	Yes	$250	100% of consolidated need standard for the family size
Texas	Yes	$120	100% of budgetary needs standard for the family size

Table I.D.1 Treatment of Grandparent Income, July 2011[1]

State	Deeming	Earned income disregard	Other income disregards
Utah	Yes	$100	100% of adjusted standard needs budget for the family size
Vermont	No	—-	—
Virginia	Yes	$90	100% of standard of need for the family size
Washington	Yes	$90	100% of need standard for the family size
West Virginia	No[+]	—-	(Grandparent is always included in the unit)
Wisconsin	No[+]	—-	(Grandparent is always included in the unit)
Wyoming	Yes	$200[8]	100% of maximum benefit for the family size

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Notes: "Family size" represents the grandparent and all dependents outside the assistance unit. In general, states also deduct child support payments, alimony, and payments made to dependents outside the household from the grandparent's income before deeming to the unit. See table I.E.3 for information on the value of the standards for a family of three.

The table describes the treatment of grandparent's income for applicant units. If different policies are used for recipient units, it is footnoted.

[+] There is no deeming because the grandparent must be included in the unit for the minor to receive benefits. Therefore, the grandparent's income is treated like that of other unit members for eligibility and benefit computation purposes.

[1] In this table, "grandparent" refers to the parent of a minor parent. This table describes whether a portion of the grandparent's income is deemed available to the minor and her child when the grandparent is not part of the assistance unit but living in the household with the minor. The table describes the disregards that the grandparent and his or her dependents are allowed to claim for their own needs. The remaining income after these disregards are deducted from the grandparent's income is the amount available, or deemed, to the minor parent and her children.
[2] The grandparent's remaining income after deductions is divided by the total number of dependents who do not receive assistance plus the grandparent and her child applying for assistance (the minor parent's child is not included in this calculation). This amount is deemed and the remainder is allocated to the grandparent.
[3] Recipient units may disregard the lesser of the remainder of the unused $225 Disability Based Income disregard or $112, and 50 percent of the remainder.
[4] There is deeming if a minor parent's children were born on or before December 31, 1998. In such cases, the grandparent in applicant units may disregard 100 percent of the federal poverty level for the family size and recipient units may disregard 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
[5] The difference between 50 percent of the current federal poverty level for the applicant's family size and their TANF payment level is disregarded.
[6] The grandparent may initially disregard earned income up to 100 percent of the federal poverty level for the number of dependents in his or her household. He or she may then disregard an additional $90 of earned income.
[7] Income is deemed to a minor parent unit even if he or she is not living in the home with the grandparent. The rules for deeming are the same.
[8] Married couples with a child in common may disregard $400.

Table I.D.2 Treatment of Stepparent Income, July 2011

State	Deeming	Earned income disregard	Other income disregards
Alabama	No+	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
Alaska	Yes	$90	100% of need standard for the family size
Arizona	No[1]	—	—
Arkansas	No+	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
California	Yes	$90 [2]	—
Colorado	Yes	$90	100% of need standard for the family size
Connecticut	Yes	—	100% of federal poverty level for the family size
Delaware	Yes	$90	100% of standard of need for the family size
D.C.	No	—	—
Florida	Yes	$90	100% of federal poverty level for the family size
Georgia	Yes	$90	100% of standard of need for the family size
Hawaii	Yes	20%	100% of standard of need for the family size
Idaho	Yes	—	50% of stepparent's earned and unearned income
Illinois	Yes[3]	—	(Per-person share of payment standard for the family size) times (the stepparent plus any dependents of either spouse living in the home but not in the unit)[4]
Indiana	Yes	$90	100% of need standard for the family size
Iowa	Yes	20%	100% of need standard for the family size and 58% of remaining earnings[5]
Kansas	No+	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
Kentucky	Yes	$90	100% of standard of need for the family size
Louisiana	No+	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
Maine	Yes	$108, 50%	100% of gross income test for the family size
Maryland	Yes[6]	20%	100% of allowable payment for the family size[7]
Massachusetts	Yes	$90	100% of need standard and payment standard for the family size
Michigan	No+	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
Minnesota	No+	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
Mississippi	Yes[8]	$90	100% of need standard and payment standard for the family size
Missouri	Yes	$90	100% of need standard for the family size
Montana	No+	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
Nebraska	No+	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
Nevada	Yes	Greater of $90 or 20%	100% of need standard for the family size
New Hampshire	No+	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
New Jersey	Yes	—[9]	—[9]
New Mexico	No+	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
New York	Yes	$90	100% of need standard for the family size
North Carolina	No+	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
North Dakota	No+[10]	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
Ohio	Yes	$90	100% of allocation allowance standard for the family size
Oklahoma	Yes	$120, 50%	100% of need standard for the family size
Oregon	No+	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
Pennsylvania	Yes	$90	100% of standard of need for the family size
Rhode Island	No+	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
South Carolina	No+	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
South Dakota	No+[11]	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
Tennessee	Yes[12]	$250	100% of consolidated need standard for the family size
Texas	Yes[13]	$120	100% of budgetary needs standard for the family size
Utah	No+	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)

Table I.D.2 Treatment of Stepparent Income, July 2011

State	Deeming	Earned income disregard	Other income disregards
Vermont	No[+]	—-	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
Virginia	Yes	$90	100% of standard of need for the family size
Washington	No[+]	—-	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
West Virginia	No[+]	—-	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
Wisconsin	No[+]	—-	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
Wyoming	Yes	$200	100% of Maximum Benefit for the family size

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Notes: "Family size" represents the stepparent and all dependents outside the assistance unit. In general, states also deduct child support payments, alimony, and payments made to dependents outside the household from the stepparent's income before deeming to the unit. See table I.E.3 for information on the value of the standards for a family of three.

These policies apply to units in which the stepparent is not a part of the assistance unit but is living in the household, has no child in common with the spouse (head of unit), and has no dependents of his or her own living in the unit.

Unless otherwise noted, the stepparent's income is deemed to the spouse and the spouse's dependents.

[+] There is no deeming because the stepparent must be included in the unit. Therefore, the stepparent's income is treated like that of other unit members for eligibility and benefit computation purposes.

[1] There is no deeming because the stepparent must be included in the unit. Therefore, the stepparent's income is treated like that of other unit members for eligibility and benefit computation purposes.
[1] While not deeming in the traditional sense, the income of the stepparent is counted for the needy family test.
[2] If the stepparent is not included in the unit, there is a $90 earned income disregard for eligibility purposes. For benefit computation, the stepparent's income is added to all other family income and then disregard the less of the remainder of the unused $225 Disability Based Income disregard or $112, and 50 percent of the remainder.
[3] The stepparent's income is deemed only to the spouse.
[4] When computing the payment standard, the family size includes the TANF unit, the stepparent, and all dependents of either spouse.
[5] Deduct all child support payments and payments made to dependents outside the household before applying the 50 percent disregard.
[6] The stepparent's countable income is tested against 50 percent of the federal poverty level for a household size that includes the stepparent, the members of the assistance unit, and any other dependents not in the unit. When the income is below 50 percent of the federal poverty level, no income is deemed to the unit. When the income is over 50 percent of the federal poverty level, all the stepparent's income minus deductions is deemed to the unit.
[7] Deduct all child support, alimony, and child care paid to someone outside the household up to a maximum of $200 per child if employed full time and up to $100 per child if employed part time (full time is defined as 100 hours or more a month) before applying this disregard.
[8] If a recipient marries for the first time, his or her new spouse may receive a one-time, 100 percent disregard for six consecutive months.
[9] The stepparent is not required to be a member of the unit if his or her income makes the unit ineligible for benefits. If the stepparent chooses not to receive assistance, the unit becomes a child-only unit and the stepparent's income is treated as follows: (1) For determining the eligibility of the unit, the income of all household members, including the natural parent, his or her children, the stepparent, and any children the stepparent can claim as dependents, is used to determine the children's eligibility for assistance. If total household income is below 150 percent of the federal poverty level, the assistance unit is eligible for benefits. (2) For determining the benefits, all the income of the stepparent is excluded. However, the natural parent's earned income is reduced by the appropriate earnings disregard and by the payment benefit level for a unit of one. All remaining income of the natural parent is used in determining the benefits for the children.
[10] For the first six months of a new marriage, all stepparent income is disregarded, provided the parent was previously receiving benefits.
[11] A Native American stepparent who is under exclusive jurisdiction of a tribe for the purposes of determining the domestic relations rights of the family has the option of being included in the assistance unit.
[12] When a caretaker marries while receiving assistance, different deeming rules can apply. The caretaker can choose to exclude the new spouse and his or her income and resources for a period of three months, beginning on the first day of the month following the month of the marriage. During this time, eligibility and benefits for the unit are determined as if the spouse were not present in the home. No income is deemed, and the spouse's needs are not included. This policy applies regardless of the spouse's income and even if the spouse is the father of one of the assistance group children. After the three month period, the new spouse must be included in the assistance unit and his or her income and resources are fully counted.
[13] For the first six months of a new marriage, all stepparent income is disregarded, provided the family's total gross income is less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Table I.E.1 Income Eligibility Tests for Applicants, July 2011

State	Type of test	Income must be less than
Alabama	Net income	100% of Payment Standard
Alaska	Gross income	185% of Need Standard
	Net income	100% of Need Standard
Arizona	Gross income	185% of Need Standard
	Gross income	100% of Federal Poverty Level
	Net income	100% of Need Standard
Arkansas	Net income	100% of Income Eligibility Standard
California	Net income	100% of Minimum Basic Standard of Adequate Care
Colorado	Gross income	100% of Need Standard
	Net income	100% of Need Standard
Connecticut	Net income	100% of Need Standard
	Unearned income	100% of Payment Standard
Delaware	Gross income	185% of Standard of Need
	Net income	100% of Payment Standard
D.C.	Net income	100% of Payment Level
Florida	Gross income	185% of Federal Poverty Level
	Net income	100% of Payment Standard
Georgia	Gross income	185% of Standard of Need
	Net income	100% of Standard of Need
Hawaii	Gross income	185% of Standard of Need
	Net income	100% of Standard of Assistance
Idaho	No explicit tests	—-
Illinois	Net income	100% of Payment Standard
Indiana	Gross income	185% of Need Standard
	Net income	100% of Net Income Standard
Iowa	Gross income	185% of Need Standard
	Net income	100% of Need Standard
Kansas	Net income	100% of Budgetary Standards
Kentucky	Gross income	185% of Standard of Need
Louisiana	Net income	100% of Flat Grant Amount
Maine	Gross income	100% of Gross Income Test
Maryland	Net income	100% of Allowable Payment
Massachusetts	Gross income	185% of Need Standard and Payment Standard
	Net income	100% of Need Standard and Payment Standard
Michigan	No explicit tests	—-
Minnesota	Net income	100% of Transitional Standard
Mississippi	Gross income	185% of Need Standard and Payment Standard
	Net income	100% of Need Standard and Payment Standard
Missouri	Gross income	185% of Need Standard
	Net income	100% of Need Standard
Montana	Gross income	185% of Net Monthly Income Standard
	Net income	100% of Benefit Standard
Nebraska	No explicit tests	—-
Nevada	Gross income	130% of Federal Poverty Level
	Net income	100% of Need Standard
New Hampshire	Net income	100% of Payment Standard
New Jersey[1]	Gross income	150% of Maximum Benefit Payment Schedule
New Mexico	Gross income	85% of Federal Poverty Level

Table I.E.1 Income Eligibility Tests for Applicants, July 2011

State	Type of test	Income must be less than
New York	Gross income	185% of Need Standard and 100% of Federal Poverty Level
	Net income	100% of Need Standard
North Carolina	No explicit tests	—
North Dakota	No explicit tests	—
Ohio	Net income	50% of Federal Povery Level
Oklahoma	Gross income	185% of Need Standard
	Net income	100% of Need Standard
Oregon		
All, except JOBS Plus	Gross income	100% of Countable Income Limit
JOBS Plus	Gross income	100% of Food Stamp Countable Income Limit
Pennsylvania	Net income	100% of Standard of Need
Rhode Island	No explicit tests	—
South Carolina	Gross income	185% of Need Standard
South Dakota	No explicit tests	—
Tennessee	Gross income	185% of Consolidated Need Standard
Texas	Net income	100% of Budgetary Needs Standard[2]
	Net income	100% of Recognizable Needs[3]
Utah	Gross income	185% of Adjusted Standard Needs Budget
	Net income	100% of Adjusted Standard Needs Budget
Vermont	No explicit tests	—
Virginia	Gross income	185% of Standard of Need
	Net income	100% of Standard of Assistance
Washington	Gross earnings	100% of Maximum Gross Earned Income Limit
West Virginia	Gross income	100% of Standard of Need
Wisconsin	Gross income	115% of Federal Poverty Level
Wyoming	No explicit tests	—

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Notes: "No explicit tests" indicates that either the state imposes no income tests on applicants or the state imposes an income test, but the calculation of the test and disregards allowed for the test are no different from those used to calculate the benefit. See table II.A.2 for information on benefit computation policies.

See table I.E.3 for information on the value of the standards for a family of three.

[1] In households where the natural or adoptive parent is married to a non-needy stepparent, the gross household income may not exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty level.
[2] Apply only the $120 disregard for this test.
[3] Apply both the $120 disregard and the 33.3 percent disregard for this test.

Table I.E.2 Earned Income Disregards for Income Eligibility Purposes, July 2011

State	Earned income disregard
Alabama	20% [1]
Alaska	$90 [2]
Arizona	
All, except JOBSTART	$90 and 30% of remainder
JOBSTART	100% of subsidized wages[3]
Arkansas	20%[4]
California	$90
Colorado	$90 [5]
Connecticut	$90
Delaware	$90 [6]
D.C.	$160
Florida	$90 [7]
Georgia	$90
Hawaii	20%, $200, and 36% of remainder[8]
Idaho	No explicit net income test
Illinois	Varies; difference between 50 percent of the current federal poverty level for the applicant's family size and their TANF payment level
Indiana	$90 [6]
Iowa	20% [9]
Kansas	$90
Kentucky	No explicit net income test
Louisiana	$120
Maine	No explicit net income test
Maryland	20%
Massachusetts	$90
Michigan	No explicit net income test
Minnesota	18% [10]
Mississippi	$90 [11]
Missouri	$90
Montana	$200 and 25% of remainder
Nebraska	No explicit net income test
Nevada	No explicit net income test
New Hampshire	20%
New Jersey	No explicit net income test
New Mexico	No explicit net income test
New York	$90
North Carolina	No explicit net income test
North Dakota	No explicit net income test
Ohio	No disregards allowed
Oklahoma	$240 [12]
Oregon	No explicit net income test
Pennsylvania	$90 [13]
Rhode Island	No explicit net income test
South Carolina	No explicit net income test
South Dakota	No explicit net income test
Tennessee	No explicit net income test
Texas	$120 and 33.3% of remainder[14]

Table I.E.2 Earned Income Disregards for Income Eligibility Purposes, July 2011

State	Earned income disregard
Utah	$100 [15]
Vermont	No explicit net income test
Virginia	
VIEW	No explicit net income test[16]
All, except VIEW	$142 and 20% of remainder[17]
Washington	No explicit net income test
West Virginia	No explicit net income test
Wisconsin	No explicit net income test
Wyoming	No explicit net income test

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Notes: Only earned income disregards are described in the table. Child care disregards and other special disregards, such as deductions for units subject to a time limit or a family cap, are not included.

"No explicit net income test" indicates that either the state does not impose a net income test at application or the state imposes a net income test, but the calculation of the test and disregards allowed for the test are no different from those used to calculate the benefit. See table II.A.2 for information on benefit computation policies.

"No disregards allowed" indicates that the state does test net income for initial eligibility but does not allow units to apply the type of earned income disregard discussed in this table.

The table describes the disregards used for both applicant and recipient eligibility purposes. If different policies apply to applicants and recipients, the policies in the table apply to applicants and the recipients' policies are footnoted. Many states use a net income test for applicants but have no explicit net income test for recipients. These instances are not footnoted.

[1] The earned income disregard cannot be applied to the earnings of an individual receiving assistance beyond the 60th month under an extension.
[2] Recipients may disregard $150 and 33 percent of remainder in first 12 months, $150 and 25 percent of remainder in months 13–24, $150 and 20 percent of remainder in months 25–36, $150 and 15 percent of remainder in months 37–48, $150 and 10 percent of remainder in months 49–60, and $150 thereafter. Recipients include any units who have received assistance in one of the previous four months.
[3] In addition to the 100 percent disregard of all subsidized JOBSTART wages, recipients can disregard the standard $90 and 30 percent of the remainder for any non-JOBSTART earned income.
[4] Recipients may disregard 20 percent and 60 percent of the remainder.
[5] The $90 disregard only applies after the first 12 cumulative months of earnings.
[6] Recipients may disregard $120 and 33.3 percent of remainder for the first four months, $120 for the next eight months, and $90 thereafter.
[7] Applicant units receiving assistance in one of the last four months may disregard $200 and 50 percent.
[8] Recipients may disregard 20%, $200, and 55% of the remainder in the first 24 months.
[9] Recipients face no explicit net income test.
[10] Recipients may disregard 37 percent. Recipients include any units that have received assistance in one of the previous four months.
[11] If a recipient marries for the first time, his or her new spouse may receive a one-time 100 percent disregard for six consecutive months.
[12] This disregard applies to individuals working full time (defined as 20 hours a week for individuals with a child under age 6 and 30 hours a week for all others). Individuals who are not employed full time may disregard $120.
[13] Applicants who received TANF in one of the last four months are not subject to the net income test for new applicants and instead may claim the 50 percent earned income disregards used for benefit calculation.
[14] Recipients may disregard $120 and 90 percent of remainder (up to $1,400) for four of 12 months. The four months need not be consecutive. Once the recipient has received four months of the 90 percent disregard, he or she is not eligible to receive the disregard again until the TANF case has been denied and remains denied for one full month, and 12 calendar months have passed since the denial. The 12-month ineligibility period begins with the first full month of denial after the client used the fourth month of the 90 percent disregard. In all other months, recipients may disregard $120. The earnings of a TANF recipient's new spouse are excluded for six months after the date of the marriage if the total gross income of the budget group does not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level for the family size.
[15] Recipients may disregard $100 and 50 percent of remainder. Recipients include any units that have received assistance in one of the previous four months.
[16] All applicants must pass the same initial income eligibility tests. VIEW income eligibility tests and earned income disregards apply only to recipients who have met the initial eligibility requirements.
[17] The dollar amount of the initial disregard varies by family size. For one to three unit members, the disregard is $142. For four members, it is $153; for five members, it is $179; and for six or more members, it is $205.

Table I.E.3 Eligibility Standards, July 2011

State	State name for standard	Amount for family of three
Alabama	Payment standard	$215
Alaska	Need standard	$1,464
Arizona	Need standard	$964
Arkansas	Income eligibility standard	$223
California	Minimum basic standard of adequate care	$1,135
Colorado	Need standard	$421
Connecticut	Federal poverty level	$1,544
	Need standard	$768
	Payment standard	$560
Delaware	2009 federal poverty level	$1,526
	Standard of need	$1,144
	Payment standard	$338
D.C.	Standard of assistance	$712
	Payment level	$428
Florida	Federal poverty level	$1,544
	Payment standard	$303
Georgia	Standard of need	$424
Hawaii	Standard of need	$1,590
	Standard of assistance	$763
Idaho	—-	—-
Illinois	Payment standard	$432
Indiana	Federal poverty level	$1,544
	Need standard	$320
	Net income standard	$288
Iowa	Need standard	$849
Kansas	Budgetary standards	$429
Kentucky	Standard of need	$526
Louisiana	Flat grant amount	$240
Maine	Gross income test	$1,023
Maryland	Allowable payment	$574
Massachusetts		
Exempt	Federal poverty level	$1,544
	Need standard and payment standard	$633
Nonexempt	Federal poverty level	$1,544
	Need standard and payment standard	$618
Michigan	—-	—-
Minnesota	Federal poverty level	$1,544
	Transitional standard	$1,005
Mississippi	Need standard and payment standard	$368
Missouri	Need standard	$846
Montana	Net monthly income standard	$529
	Benefit standard	$415
Nebraska	Federal poverty level	$1,544
Nevada	Federal poverty level	$1,544
	Need standard	$1,158
New Hampshire	Standard of need	$3,187
	Payment standard	$675

Table I.E.3 Eligibility Standards, July 2011

State	State name for standard	Amount for family of three
New Jersey	Maximum benefit payment schedule	$424
	Federal poverty level	$1,544
New Mexico	Federal poverty level	$1,544
New York	Federal poverty level	$1,544
	Need standard	$788
North Carolina	—-	—-
North Dakota	Standard of need	$477
Ohio	Allocation allowance standard	$980
	Federal poverty level	$1,544
Oklahoma	Need standard	$645
Oregon		
All, except JOBS Plus	Countable income limit	$616
	Adjusted income/payment standard	$506
JOBS Plus	Food Stamp countable income limit	$1,984
	Adjusted income/payment standard	$506
Pennsylvania	Standard of need	$587
	Family size allowance	$403
Rhode Island	Cash assistance monthly standard	$554
South Carolina	Need standard	$763
South Dakota	Payment standard	$555
Tennessee	Consolidated need standard	$1,066
Texas	Budgetary needs standard	$751
	Recognizable needs	$188
Utah	Adjusted standard needs budget	$568
Vermont	—-	—-
Virginia		
VIEW	Standard of need	$322
	Federal poverty level	$1,544
	Standard of assistance	$320
All, except VIEW	Standard of need	$322
	Standard of assistance	$320
Washington	Maximum gross earned income limit	$1,124
	Need standard	$1,763
West Virginia	Standard of need	$991
Wisconsin	Federal poverty level	$1,544
Wyoming	Maximum benefit	$577

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Notes: The values in this table represent all standards used during the eligibility process, including those used for grandparent deeming, stepparent deeming, applicant income eligibility tests, and recipient income eligibility tests. See tables I.D.1, I.D.2, I.E.1, and IV.A.4 for more information on how these standards are used. This table provides information on the standards only; to determine how the standards are applied, see the companion tables listed above.

The amounts in the table are based on the following assumptions about the assistance unit: there is one adult and two children; the children are not subject to a family cap; and the unit has no special needs, pays for shelter, and lives in the most populated area of the state.

Table I.E.4 Maximum Income for Initial Eligibility for a Family of Three, July 2011[1]

State	Maximum earnings an applicant can receive and still be eligible for assistance
Alabama	$269
Alaska	$1,554
Arizona	$585
Arkansas	$279
California	$1,224
Colorado	$421
Connecticut	$880
Delaware	$428
D.C.	$588
Florida	$393
Georgia	$514
Hawaii	$1,740 [2]
Idaho	$648
Illinois	$772
Indiana	$378
Iowa	$1,061
Kansas	$519
Kentucky	$908
Louisiana	$359
Maine	$1,023
Maryland	$718
Massachusetts	
Exempt	$723
Nonexempt	$708
Michigan	$815
Minnesota	$1,224
Mississippi	$458
Missouri	$557
Montana	$753
Nebraska	$886
Nevada	$1,448
New Hampshire	$844
New Jersey	$636
New Mexico	$883
New York	$878
North Carolina	$681
North Dakota	$1,169
Ohio	$773
Oklahoma	$824
Oregon	$616
Pennsylvania	$677
Rhode Island	$1,277
South Carolina	$1,412
South Dakota	$782
Tennessee	$1,315
Texas	$401
Utah	$668
Vermont	$1,053

Table I.E.4 Maximum Income for Initial Eligibility for a Family of Three, July 2011[1]

State	Maximum earnings an applicant can receive and still be eligible for assistance
Virginia	$540
Washington	$954
West Virginia	$565
Wisconsin	—[3]
Wyoming	$776

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Note: Initial eligibility is calculated assuming that the unit is employed at application, has only earned income, has no child care expenses, contains one adult and no children subject to a family cap, has no special needs, pays for shelter, and lives in the most populated area of the state.

[1] The values in this table represent the maximum amount of earnings an applicant can have and still be technically eligible for assistance in each state. Technical eligibility does not mean that the unit will necessarily receive a cash benefit, but it will have passed all the eligibility tests and is eligible for some positive benefit. Most states only distribute a cash benefit equaling $10 or more.

[2] This threshold applies to units that have received assistance for no more than two months in a lifetime. For units applying for their third and subsequent months of benefits, the eligibility threshold for a family of three is $1,441.

[3] Units with earnings at application will not receive a cash benefit, except for some Community Service Job participants who may qualify for a prorated cash benefit. Applicants may earn up to $1,776 and still be eligible for nonfinancial assistance.

II. Benefits

The tables in this chapter of the *Databook* describe key aspects of the rules for calculating the assistance unit's benefit as of July 2011.

A. If a family passes all eligibility tests, what is received?

If a family passes all eligibility tests, both nonfinancial and financial, a benefit is computed. Although states use many different formulas to determine benefits, most states apply some general rules. All but two states allow recipients to disregard a portion of their earned income before benefit computation and then use the unit's total net income to calculate the benefit.[16] In the more straightforward calculations, net income is subtracted from a state-determined standard (often called the payment standard), which varies by family size, and the benefit paid is the difference—sometimes referred to as the income deficit. Some states, however, have developed more complex calculations. For instance, some states impose a statutory maximum benefit. In these states, the benefit is either the income deficit or the statutory maximum, whichever is less. Still other states multiply the income deficit by a percentage, which is sometimes referred to as the benefit reduction rate. This percentage of the income deficit is the benefit provided to the unit. Some states combine both a statutory maximum and benefit reduction rate into their calculation. The following section describes these policies in greater detail.

Earned income disregards for benefit computation: Table II.A.1 describes the earned income disregards allowed in determining net income for benefit computation. If a state does not apply any earned income disregards to compute net income for benefit computation (so all of a family's earnings are included as income for benefit computation), "no disregards allowed" appears in the table.

[16] Arkansas and Wisconsin do not vary their benefits by net income or allow disregards. Instead, they provide a flat benefit to the assistance unit. This means the unit receives a set amount every month no matter what its countable income is (as long as the income does not exceed the state's income eligibility thresholds).

Some states disregard a portion of the child care expenses paid by a family and/or allow special disregards for units subject to a family cap or time limit. Those disregards are not included in the table but are captured in the WRD.

In rare cases, states use different earned income disregards to determine the benefit of a unit in its first month of eligibility versus subsequent months. If that is the case, the body of the table describes the rules for the subsequent months of eligibility, and the rules for the first month are footnoted.

Related tables: Disregards for benefit computation and income eligibility may differ. For information on the earned income disregards used for income eligibility, see table I.E.2. Table L4, in the last section of this book, describes the earned income disregards used for benefit computation from 1996 through 2011.

<u>Benefit determination policies:</u> Table II.A.2 describes how states compute benefits for units that pass all applicable eligibility tests. In most cases, net income is subtracted from a payment standard, which typically varies by the size of the assistance unit. The table indicates which income standards are used by states to determine the benefit. To determine the value of these standards for a family size of three, see table II.A.3.

Related tables: Table II.A.3 provides the benefit standard(s) used to compute benefits for a three-person family. To calculate the net income used for benefit computation, table II.A.1 describes the earned income disregards allowed, and tables I.D.1, I.D.2, and IV.A.2 include policies on treatment of unearned income (amounts deemed from grandparent units and stepparent units, and child support income). Table II.A.4 combines information from tables II.A.2 and II.A.3 and presents the benefit paid to a three-person assistance unit with no net *income. Table L5, in the last section of this book, provides those maximum benefits for 1996 through 2011.*

Benefit standards: As described earlier, most benefit computation procedures involve state-established income amounts that vary by the size of the assistance unit. The WRD includes the benefit standards used for each family size from 1 through 12. Table II.A.3 provides the standards for a three-person assistance unit.

The table identifies the standard by the name used in the caseworker manual. Under the former AFDC program, the standards for benefit computation were the payment standard and, if the state included one, the maximum benefit. However, owing to the complexity of state programs, identifying the payment standard and maximum benefit is no longer clear. States may include multiple standards in the benefit calculation, depending on the type or amount of income. Therefore, the terms payment standard and maximum benefit are not used in the table unless the state explicitly uses them to refer to their benefit computation standards.

Some details concerning benefit standards are not included in the table. In some states, different dollar amounts are used in different regions of the state; in those cases, the table includes the amounts applied to the majority of the state's caseload. In other states, the amounts may be higher for families with certain special needs, such as a pregnancy; the amounts in the table assume no special needs. Also, a few states vary standards for one-parent families, two-parent families, and child-only units; the table includes values for a one-parent family with two children. And, some states prorate the eligibility and/or benefit standards depending on whether a unit pays for shelter; the amounts in the table assume the unit pays all shelter costs and does not live in public or subsidized housing.

Related tables: These standards by themselves are not necessarily comparable across states, since benefit computation procedures might differ. To determine how the standards are used in practice, see table II.A.2. Table II.A.4 provides the benefit paid to a three-person unit with no other income, and table L5 provides that information for 1996 through 2011.

Maximum monthly benefit for a family of three with no income: Table II.A.4 provides information on the maximum benefit in each state. The maximum benefit calculation combines the information on a state's benefit computation policies with the dollar amounts used for benefit computation to present the benefit paid to a three-person unit with no income. If a state computes benefits as a payment standard minus net income, then this figure will simply equal the payment standard. In other cases, this figure will equal a statutory maximum benefit that is less than the payment standard. In still other cases, it will be a percentage of the payment standard.

The calculation assumes the assistance unit includes one parent and two children, contains no children subject to a family cap, has no special needs, pays for all shelter costs with no subsidies, and is subject to the benefit standard that applies to the majority of the state's caseload.

Related tables: Table L5 provides the benefit paid to a three-person assistance unit with no net income for 1996 through 2011.

Table II.A.1 Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, July 2011

State	Earned income disregards
Alabama	100% in first 12 months, 20% thereafter[1]
Alaska	$150 and 33% of remainder in first 12 months, $150 and 25% of remainder in months 13–24, $150 and 20% of remainder in months 25–36, $150 and 15% of remainder in months 37–48, $150 and 10% of remainder in months 49–60, $150 thereafter[2]
Arizona	
All, except JOBSTART	$90 and 30% of remainder
JOBSTART	100% of subsidized wages[3]
Arkansas	No disregards–flat grant amount
California	$112 and 50% of remainder
Colorado	66.7% in first 12 months, $120 and 33.3% of remainder in next 4 months, $120 in next 8 months, $90 thereafter
Connecticut	100% up to the federal poverty level
Delaware	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 in next 8 months, $90 thereafter
D.C.	$160 and 66.7% of remainder
Florida	$200 and 50% of remainder
Georgia	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 in next 8 months, $90 thereafter
Hawaii	20%, $200, and 55% of remainder in first 24 months; 20%, $200, and 36% of remainder thereafter
Idaho	40%
Illinois	75%
Indiana	75%
Iowa	20% and 58% of remainder
Kansas	$90 and 60% of remainder
Kentucky	100% in first 2 months,[4] $120 and 33.3% of remainder in next 4 months, $120 in next 8 months, $90 thereafter
Louisiana	$1,020 in first 6 months,[5] $120 thereafter
Maine	$108 and 50% of remainder
Maryland	40%
Massachusetts	
Exempt	$120 and 33.3% of remainder
Nonexempt	$120 and 50% of remainder
Michigan	$200 and 20% of remainder
Minnesota	37%
Mississippi	100% in first 6 months, $90 thereafter[6]
Missouri	66.7% and $90 of remainder in first 12 months, $90 thereafter[7]
Montana	$200 and 25% of remainder
Nebraska	20%
Nevada	100% in first 3 months, 85% in months 4–6, 75% in months 7–9, 65% in months 10–12, $90 or 20% (whichever is greater) thereafter
New Hampshire	50%
New Jersey	100% in first month, 75% in next 6 months, 50% thereafter[8]
New Mexico	$125 and 50% of remainder[9]
New York	$90 and 48% of remainder
North Carolina	100% in first three months of employment,[10] 27.5% thereafter
North Dakota	$180 or 27% (whichever is greater) and 50% of remainder in first 6 months, $180 or 27% (whichever is greater) and 35% of remainder in months 7–9, $180 or 27% (whichever is greater) and 25% of remainder in months 10–13, $180 or 27% (whichever is greater) thereafter[11]
Ohio	$250 and 50% of remainder
Oklahoma	$240 and 50% of remainder[12]
Oregon	50%

Table II.A.1 Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, July 2011

State	Earned income disregards
Pennsylvania	50%
Rhode Island	$170 and 50% of remainder
South Carolina	50% in first 4 months,[13] $100 thereafter
South Dakota	$90 and 20% of remainder
Tennessee	$250 [14]
Texas	$120 and 90% of remainder (up to $1,400) for 4 of 12 months, $120 thereafter[15]
Utah	$100 and 50% of remainder
Vermont	$200 and 25% of remainder [16]
Virginia	$142 [17] and 20% of remainder
Washington	50%
West Virginia	40%
Wisconsin	No disregards–flat grant amount
Wyoming	$200 [18]

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Notes: Only earned income disregards are described in the table. Child care disregards and other special disregards, such as deductions for units subject to time limits and family caps, are not included.

The table describes the earned income disregards used to compute a recipient's benefit. If different disregards are used to compute an applicant's benefit in the first month, they are footnoted. When no duration is specified for the disregards, they remain for the entire period of receipt.

[1] The earned income disregard cannot be applied to the earnings of an individual receiving assistance beyond the 60th month under an extension.
[2] These disregards also apply to applicants who have received assistance in one of the previous four months.
[3] In addition to the 100 percent disregard of all subsidized JOBSTART wages, recipients can disregard the standard $90 and 30 percent of the remainder for any non-JOBSTART earned income.
[4] Recipients are eligible for the one-time 100 percent disregard if they become newly employed or report increased wages acquired after approval.
[5] The six months in which the extra $900 is disregarded need not be consecutive, but the recipient may use this extra disregard in no more than six months over the course of his or her lifetime.
[6] Recipients are eligible for the one-time 100 percent disregard if they find employment of 35 hours a week within 30 days of either their initial approval for TANF or the beginning of job-readiness training. If work is not found, the recipient will never be eligible to receive the disregard again. An additional 100 percent disregard is available to units for three months when the unit's case is subject to closure because of increased earnings and the individual is employed for at least 25 hours a week at the federal minimum wage or higher. The recipient may not have already received the six-month disregard, unless there has been at least a 12-month break in receipt of TANF benefits. The three-month disregard may be received more than once during the 60-month TANF benefit period, provided there is a period of at least 12 consecutive months in which a family does not receive TANF benefits before the family reapplies for assistance. If a recipient marries for the first time, his or her new spouse may receive a one-time 100 percent disregard for six consecutive months.
[7] These disregards apply only to recipients who become employed while receiving TANF. Applicants and those recipients who gained employment before receiving TANF are allowed to disregard $120 and 33.3 percent of the remainder for the first four months, $120 the next eight months, and $90 thereafter.
[8] These disregards apply to individuals working 20 or more hours a week. Individuals employed fewer than 20 hours a week may disregard 100 percent in the first month of employment and 50 percent thereafter. However, if an individual's hours increase to 20 hours during the first six months, he or she may disregard 75 percent for the remainder of the six-month period. The 100 percent disregard is applicable only once every 12 months, even if employment is lost and then regained.
[9] Two-parent units may disregard $225 and 50 percent of the remainder.
[10] The 100 percent disregard is available only once in a lifetime and may be received only if the recipient is newly employed for more than 20 hours a week at a job that is expected to be permanent.
[11] If a parent marries while receiving assistance, the income of his or her new spouse is disregarded for the first six months. The disregard for the new spouse applies only if his or her needs were not previously included in the unit.
[12] These disregards apply to individuals working full time, defined as 20 hours a week for recipients caring for a child under age 6 and 30 hours a week for all other recipients. Individuals working less than full time may disregard $120 and 50 percent of the remainder.
[13] The 50 percent disregard is available only once in a lifetime and may only be applied to consecutive months.
[14] If a parent marries while receiving assistance, the unit may choose to exclude the new spouse from the unit for three months. At the end of the three months, the new spouse becomes a mandatory member of the assistance unit, and his or her income is counted in benefit computation calculations.
[15] Once the recipient has received four months (they need not be consecutive) of the 90 percent disregard, he or she is not eligible to receive the disregard again until the TANF case has been denied and remains denied for one full month and 12 calendar months have passed since the denial. The 12-month ineligibility period begins with the first full month of denial after the client uses the fourth month of the 90 percent disregard. The earnings of a TANF recipient's new spouse are disregarded for six months if the total gross income of the budget group does not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
[16] These disregards apply to recipients with income from unsubsidized employment or a combination of subsidized and unsubsidized employment. For recipients with earnings from subsidized employment only, the disregard is $90.

[17] The disregard varies by family size; for one to three family members, the disregard is $142. For four members, the disregard is $153; for five members, the disregard is $179; and for six or more family members, the disregard is $205.
[18] Married couples with a child in common may disregard $400.

Table II.A.2 Benefit Determination Policies, July 2011

State	Benefit equals
Alabama	Payment standard minus net income
Alaska	Lesser of (63.22% of (need standard minus net income)) or maximum payment[1]
Arizona	
All, except JOBSTART	80% of (payment benefit minus net income)
JOBSTART	The cash value of the unit's SNAP and TANF benefit minus earnings after taxes[2]
Arkansas	Maximum payment level or 50% of maximum payment level (a flat grant amount)[3]
California	Maximum aid payment minus net income[4]
Colorado	Grant standard minus net income
Connecticut	Payment standard minus net income
Delaware	Lesser of (50% of (standard of need minus net income)) or payment standard
D.C.	Payment level minus net income
Florida	Payment standard minus net income
Georgia	Lesser of (standard of need minus net income) or family maximum
Hawaii	Standard of assistance minus net income
Idaho	Lesser of (work incentive payment minus net income) or maximum benefit
Illinois	Payment standard minus net income
Indiana	Net income standard minus net income
Iowa	Payment standard minus net income
Kansas	Budgetary standards minus net income
Kentucky	Lesser of (55% of (standard of need minus net income)) or maximum benefit
Louisiana	Flat grant amount minus net income
Maine	Lesser of (standard of need minus net income) or maximum benefit
Maryland	Allowable payment minus net income
Massachusetts	Need standard and payment standard minus net income
Michigan	Payment standard minus net income
Minnesota	Lesser of (family wage level minus net income) or transitional standard[5]
Mississippi	Lesser of (60% of (need standard and payment standard minus net income)) or maximum benefit
Missouri	Payment standard minus net income
Montana	Payment standard minus net income
Nebraska	Lesser of (standard of need minus net income) or payment maximum
Nevada	Payment allowance minus net income
New Hampshire	Payment standard minus net income
New Jersey	Maximum benefit payment schedule minus net income
New Mexico	Standard of need minus net income minus budgetary adjustment
New York	Need standard minus net income
North Carolina	50% of (need standard minus net income)
North Dakota	Standard of need minus net income
Ohio	Payment standard minus net income
Oklahoma	Payment standard minus net income
Oregon	
All, except JOBS Plus	Adjusted income/payment standard minus net income
JOBS Plus	The cash value of the unit's food stamp and TANF benefit minus a measure of net earnings[6]
Pennsylvania	Family size allowance minus net income
Rhode Island	Cash assistance monthly standard minus net income
South Carolina	28.39% of (need standard minus net income)
South Dakota	Payment standard minus net income
Tennessee	Lesser of (consolidated need standard minus net income) or maximum benefit[7]
Texas	Maximum grant minus net income
Utah	Maximum financial assistance payment minus net income

Table II.A.2 Benefit Determination Policies, July 2011

State	Benefit equals
Vermont	Payment standard minus net income
Virginia	
VIEW	Lesser of (federal poverty level minus net income) or (standard of assistance minus gross unearned income) or maximum benefit[8]
All, except VIEW	Lesser of (standard of assistance minus net income) or maximum benefit
Washington	Lesser of (payment standard minus net income) or maximum benefit[9]
West Virginia	Payment standard minus net income
Wisconsin	
W-2 Transition/Community Service Jobs	Benefit amount (a flat grant amount)
Trial Jobs	Varies by hours worked[10]
Unsubsidized Employment	None[11]
Wyoming	Maximum benefit minus net income

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Note: For information on the benefit standards, see table II.A.3.

[1] Two-parent units in which both parents are able to perform gainful activities will have their benefits reduced by 50 percent for July, August, and September.

[2] JOBSTART recipients receive wages from their subsidized employer. However, the state provides a supplemental payment for units whose adjusted gross income (earnings net of FICA and federal and state taxes) is less than the cash value of the SNAP and TANF benefits they would have otherwise received. The supplemental payment is determined by subtracting the unit's adjusted gross income from the cash value of its SNAP and TANF benefits.

[3] The benefit is equal to the maximum payment level for the unit size if the unit's gross income is less than $446. If the gross income is greater than $446, the benefit is reduced to 50 percent of the maximum payment level. Arkansas refers to this policy as the gross income trigger.

[4] In households with a stepparent not receiving assistance, the unit receives the lesser of (1) maximum aid payment (for family size including the stepparent) minus net income or (2) the maximum aid payment for family size excluding the stepparent.

[5] The calculation applies to recipients with earned income only. The calculation for recipients without earned income is transitional standard minus net income. The calculation for recipients with earned and unearned income is the following: if the family wage level minus earned income is less than the transitional standard, the benefit equals the family wage level minus total net income (earned and unearned income). If the family wage level minus earned income is greater than the transitional standard, the benefit equals the transitional standard minus unearned income. Also, the MFIP payment standards include the state's SNAP allotment. MFIP recipients' cash and SNAP grants are computed with the same calculation. A flat amount (based on family size) for the SNAP allotment is subtracted from the benefit amount, and any remaining amount is provided to the unit in cash. To calculate the TANF grant amount without SNAP, subtract the food portion of the MFIP standard from the benefit. Unless otherwise exempt, all applicants must first participate in a mandatory, four-month diversion program before receiving TANF. See table I.A.1 for benefit determination policies that apply during this period.

[6] The benefit is equal to the maximum of (A-C or B-D), where A equals the full benefit equivalent, the sum of welfare and SNAP benefits, calculated using normal rules. B equals the minimum benefit equivalent, A minus the difference between adjusted income/payment standard for the unit including the JOBS Plus participant and adjusted income/payment standard for the unit not including the JOBS Plus participant. C equals the JOBS Plus participant's wage multiplied by his or her available hours (all scheduled hours, regardless of whether the participant worked those hours), minus $90, $50 pass-through, and any garnishment withheld. D equals the JOBS Plus participant's wage times hours actually worked, minus $90, $50 pass-through, and any garnishment withheld.

[7] When a caretaker marries while receiving assistance, he or she can choose to exclude the new spouse from the assistance unit for up to three months. If the new spouse is not included in the unit, none of his or her income or resources is counted for eligibility or benefit computation purposes. If the caretaker chooses to include the new spouse in the unit, all his or her income is counted for eligibility and benefit computation calculations. After three months, the new spouse becomes a mandatory unit member and all his or her income is considered in determining eligibility and benefit computation.

[8] The benefit for two-parent units equals the lesser of (150 percent of (the federal poverty level minus net income)), or (standard of assistance minus gross unearned income), or maximum benefit. For all units, the maximum benefit only limits benefits for units with six or more members.

[9] The maximum benefit only limits benefits for units with nine or more members.

[10] Recipients in the Trial Jobs component participate in subsidized employment. These recipients do not receive benefits from the state. However, they do receive earnings from their employer. Employers are required to pay at least minimum wage for every hour worked. The employer receives a maximum subsidy of $300 per employee a month.

[11] Units in the unsubsidized employment component receive wages from an unsubsidized job and are ineligible for a cash benefit; they may still receive support services if they are otherwise eligible.

Table II.A.3 Benefit Standards, July 2011

State	Payment Standard: State name for standard	Payment Standard: Amount for family of three	Statutory Maximum Benefit: State name for standard	Statutory Maximum Benefit: Amount for family of three
Alabama	Payment standard	$215	—-	—-
Alaska	Need standard	$1,464	Maximum payment	$923
Arizona				
All, except JOBSTART	Payment benefit	$347	—-	—-
JOBSTART	Payment standard and food stamps[1]	—-	—-	—-
Arkansas	Maximum payment level	$204	—-	—-
California				
Nonexempt	Maximum aid payment	$638	—-	—-
Exempt	Maximum aid payment	$714	—-	—-
Colorado	Grant standard	$462	—-	—-
Connecticut	Payment standard	$576	—-	—-
Delaware	Standard of need	$1,144	Payment standard	$338
D.C.	Payment level	$428	—-	—-
Florida	Payment standard	$303	—-	—-
Georgia	Standard of need	$424	Family maximum	$280
Hawaii	Standard of assistance	$610 [2]	—-	—-
Idaho	Work incentive payment	$389	Maximum benefit	$309
Illinois	Payment standard	$432	—-	—-
Indiana	Net income standard	$288	—-	—-
Iowa	Payment standard	$426	—-	—-
Kansas	Budgetary standards	$429	—-	—-
Kentucky	Standard of need	$526	Maximum benefit	$262
Louisiana	Flat grant amount	$240	—-	—-
Maine	Standard of need	$620	Maximum benefit	$485
Maryland	Allowable payment	$574	—-	—-
Massachusetts				
Exempt	Need standard and payment standard	$633	—-	—-
Nonexempt	Need standard and payment standard	$618	—-	—-
Michigan	Payment standard	$492	—-	—-
Minnesota	Transitional standard	$1,005 ($532)[3]	—-	—-
	Family wage level	$1,106	Transitional standard	$1,005 ($532)[3]
Mississippi	Need standard and payment standard	$368	Maximum benefit	$170
Missouri	Payment standard	$292	—-	—-
Montana	Payment standard	$504	—-	—-
Nebraska	Standard of need	$710	Payment maximum	$364
Nevada	Payment allowance	$383	—-	—-
New Hampshire	Payment standard	$675	—-	—-
New Jersey	Maximum benefit payment schedule	$424 [4]	—-	—-
New Mexico	Standard of need	$447	—-	—-
New York	Need standard	$788	—-	—-
North Carolina	Need standard	$544	—-	—-
North Dakota	Standard of need	$427	—-	—-

Table II.A.3 Benefit Standards, July 2011

State	Payment Standard: State name for standard	Payment Standard: Amount for family of three	Statutory Maximum Benefit: State name for standard	Statutory Maximum Benefit: Amount for family of three
Ohio	Payment standard	$434	—	—
Oklahoma	Payment standard	$292	—	—
Oregon				
All, except JOBS Plus	Adjusted income/payment standard	$506	—	—
JOBS Plus	Adjusted income/payment standard (SNAP)[1]		—	—
Pennsylvania	Family size allowance	$403	—	—
Rhode Island	Cash assistance monthly standard	$554	—	—
South Carolina	Need standard	$763	—	—
South Dakota	Payment standard	$555	—	—
Tennessee	Consolidated need standard	$1,066	Maximum benefit	$185 [5]
Texas	Maximum grant	$260	—	—
Utah	Maximum financial assistance payment	$498	—	—
Vermont	Payment standard	$640	—	—
Virginia				
VIEW	Federal poverty level	$1,544	—	— [6]
	Standard of assistance	$320	—	—
All, except VIEW	Standard of assistance	$320	—	— [6]
Washington	Payment standard	$478	—	— [7]
West Virginia	Payment standard	$340	—	—
Wisconsin			—	—
W-2 Transition	Benefit amount	$628	—	—
Community Service Jobs	Benefit amount	$673 [8]	—	—
Trial Jobs/Unsubsidized Employment	No cash benefit[9]	—	—	—
Wyoming	Maximum benefit	$577	—	—

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Notes: This table provides information on the standards only. For information on how the standards are used, see table II.A.2.

The amounts in the table are based on the following assumptions about the assistance unit: there is one adult and two children; the children are not subject to a family cap; and the unit has no special needs, pays for shelter, and lives in the most populated area of the state.

[1] See the footnote in table II.A.2 for a description of the standard.
[2] Applies to units that have received assistance for at least two months in a lifetime. For units receiving their first and second months of benefits, the standard of assistance for a family of three is $763.
[3] Minnesota's transitional standard includes the food stamp allotment for each unit size. The SNAP and cash benefit are computed together for welfare recipients. The SNAP allotment is a flat benefit, based on family size, which is subtracted from the benefit amount. Any remaining benefit is given to the unit as cash. The value of the TANF benefit only is in parentheses.
[4] An additional $150 is added to the benefit amount for exempt units receiving assistance beyond the 60th month.
[5] For units where the caretaker is over age 60, disabled, caring full time for a disabled family member, or excluded from the assistance unit, the maximum benefit for a family of three is $232.
[6] The maximum benefit applies only to payments for units with six or more members.
[7] The maximum benefit applies only to payments for units with nine or more members.
[8] Community Service Jobs participants can receive a prorated payment if they are working 40 hours a week in a combination of unsubsidized employment, work training, and educational activities. Education may never fulfill more than 10 hours of the requirement. Participants working 20 to 29 hours a week in an unsubsidized job may receive $230, those working 15 to 19 hours receive $341, and individuals working 10 to 14 hours a week receive $452. Individuals who are working fewer than nine hours are eligible for the full payment. Individuals employed full time are not considered to have barriers to work and are therefore ineligible for payments.
[9] The benefits in these components are based on the wages earned by individual participants.

Table II.A.4 Maximum Monthly Benefit for a Family of Three with No Income, July 2011

State	Maximum benefit
Alabama	$215
Alaska	$923
Arizona	$278
Arkansas	$204
California	
Nonexempt	$638
Exempt	$714
Colorado	$462
Connecticut	$576
Delaware	$338
D.C.	$428
Florida	$303
Georgia	$280
Hawaii	$610 [1]
Idaho	$309
Illinois	$432
Indiana	$288
Iowa	$426
Kansas	$429
Kentucky	$262
Louisiana	$240
Maine	$485
Maryland	$574
Massachusetts	
Exempt	$633
Nonexempt	$618
Michigan	$492
Minnesota	$532
Mississippi	$170
Missouri	$292
Montana	$504
Nebraska	$364
Nevada	$383
New Hampshire	$675
New Jersey	$424
New Mexico	$313
New York	$788
North Carolina	$272
North Dakota	$427
Ohio	$434
Oklahoma	$292
Oregon	$549
Pennsylvania	$403
Rhode Island	$554
South Carolina	$216
South Dakota	$555
Tennessee	$185 [2]
Texas	$260
Utah	$498

Table II.A.4 Maximum Monthly Benefit for a Family of Three with No Income, July 2011

State	Maximum benefit
Vermont	$640
Virginia	$320
Washington	$478
West Virginia	$340
Wisconsin	
W-2 Transition	$628
Community Service Jobs	$673
Trial Jobs/Unsubsidized Employment	—[3]
Wyoming	$577

Source: The Urban Insitute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Note: Maximum benefits are calculated assuming that the unit contains one adult and no children subject to a family cap, has no special needs, pays for shelter, and lives in the most populated area of the state.

[1] This benefit applies to units that have received assistance for two or more months in a lifetime. For units applying for their first or second months of benefits, the maximum monthly benefit for a family of three is $763.
[2] For units where the caretaker is over 60, disabled, caring full time for a disabled family member, or excluded from the assistance unit, the maximum monthly benefit for a family of three is $232.
[3] The benefits in these components are based on the wages earned by individual recipients.

III. Requirements

The tables in this chapter of the *Databook* describe the requirements for the individual members of an assistance unit as of July 2011. Numerous requirements may be imposed on a family for it to become and/or remain eligible for TANF. To receive benefits, most states require recipients to negotiate and sign contracts that detail what is required of individuals within the unit. These requirements vary considerably by state but can include conditions for dependent children, such as immunization and school attendance, as well as conditions for the adult head of the household, such as work-related requirements.

The following two sections describe some requirements that individuals within the unit must fulfill to become and remain eligible for assistance, including those related to behavior and work activities.

A. Once determined eligible, what must a recipient family do to maintain benefits?

States may impose several types of behavioral requirements (requirements that attempt to influence or alter one's actions) on individuals in the assistance unit. These requirements may affect adults and/or children in the unit and may include anything from requiring adult recipients to submit to drug testing to requiring dependent children to maintain a minimum grade point average in school. Fulfilling behavioral requirements can be a condition of initial and/or continuing eligibility.

<u>Behavioral requirements:</u> Although behavioral requirements affect adults and minor parents in many states, this book focuses on requirements imposed on dependent children. The typical requirements imposed on dependent children include school, immunization, health screening, and other health requirements. The following describes these policies further:

- *School:*

  School policies may require children to attend school or to achieve at least a minimal grade point average. This book addresses only the school requirements imposed on dependent children, not those that may be imposed on minor parents (which are included in the WRD).

  States may also offer a school bonus, which provides financial incentives for assistance units whose children meet specific attendance or achievement standards. Unless otherwise noted, the school bonuses apply to both dependent children and minor parents.

- *Immunization:*

  These policies require parents to have their children immunized.

- *Health screening:*

  Health screening requirements may include regular checkups for both children and adults, although the requirements usually apply only to children.

- *Other health requirements:*

  Other health requirements primarily involve compliance with the rules of the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) program.

Table III.A.1 describes whether any requirements listed above are imposed for either initial or continuing eligibility. Requirements are only included in this table if (1) they are either explicitly mentioned in the manual as a requirement for cash assistance or recipients must sign a contract including one of the requirements to receive benefits, and (2) a sanction results from noncompliance. The table also describes whether the state provides school bonuses. The dollar amounts of bonuses, and the dollar amounts of sanctions for not complying with requirements, are not included in the table but are available in the WRD.

B. What work activities are required?

Under the TANF block grant, the federal government requires states to (1) meet the annual work participation rate determined by the federal government;[17] and (2) ensure that every recipient is working (as defined by the state) as soon as the state determines he or she is able or after 24 months of benefit receipt, whichever is earlier. Therefore, states require most adult heads of an assistance unit to perform some type of work-related activity after a given period. The activities available and the timing of the requirement vary greatly by state. Who is required to participate can also vary considerably. States may, and most do, exempt (or excuse) groups of recipients from participating in activities based on some demographic or individual characteristic. In cases where the recipient is not exempt but also not complying with activity requirements, the state may sanction the family by reducing or eliminating the unit's benefit. Below is a further discussion of these topics and the tables included in this section.

The policies included in the tables are effective as of July 2011. However, in early 2006 the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, which reauthorized the TANF program, became law and substantially changed work-related policies. The law narrows the definitions of work activities, counts more groups of individuals in the states' participation calculations, recalibrates the caseload reduction credit (using fiscal year 2005 as the base year instead of 1995), and tightens states' accountability, including imposing new penalties for noncompliance with work verification plans.[18] Although the basic work-related rules—who is exempt from work, how many hours of work are required, and what is the minimum sanction for noncompliance—did not

[17] The work participation rate indicates what percentage of the state TANF caseload must be participating in work activities. Both the number of hours required to qualify for the rate and the percentage have increased semiannually since 1996. According to legislation, as of 2011, 50 percent of a state's single-parent caseload was required to participate an average of 30 hours a week. Two-parent families were required to participate at a rate of 90 percent for an average of 35 hours a week.

[18] For more information about the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, see http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/law-reg/tfinrule.html.

change under the new legislation, states have responded and will continue to respond to the new legislation by changing these policies.

Work-related exemptions: States may, but are not required to, exempt certain individuals or groups from participating in work-related activities. Such an exemption does not, however, remove the individuals from the calculation of the state's federal work participation rate. The categories of recipients who may be removed from the denominator of the participation rate calculation include single parents of a child under 12 months old,[19] recipients sanctioned for refusing to meet work requirements under certain situations, and, following the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, parents needed in the home to care for a disabled family member.

Table III.B.1 describes each state's key rules for exempting the single-parent head of an assistance unit from work-related requirements. An individual may be exempt if he or she works a specified number of hours in an unsubsidized job, is ill or incapacitated, is caring for an ill or incapacitated person, is elderly, is in a specified month of pregnancy, or is caring for a child under a specified age. These exemptions are the most common, but this list is not exhaustive. For other exemption criteria, see the WRD.

Related tables: Table L6 provides the exemption for a parent caring for a young child from 1996 through 2011.

Work-related activities: Work programs vary widely from state to state based on several factors, including who must work, how much work is required, and what activities are considered work. Table III.B.2 provides a general overview of state activities requirements. The table describes when the recipient must begin participating, allowable activities the recipient could participate in, and how many hours the recipient must participate a week, including what

[19] Such parents may or may not be exempt from participation requirements. A single parent may only be excluded from the participation rate calculation under these circumstances for a maximum of 12 months over the assistance unit's lifetime.

share of those hours can be spent in education and training programs. Not all assistance units have the same work requirements. For simplicity, this table only includes the activities requirements for units headed by a single parent over age 20.

Users of this table should keep in mind that the caseworker manuals on which the WRD is based do not provide complete information about how these work requirements are implemented. In particular, caseworker manuals do not generally indicate the likelihood that a recipient will be assigned to one activity or another. Thus, two states could have the same potential activities but have very different policies for how often different activities are assigned. Alternatively, one state might include a potential activity not listed in another state's list but in practice rarely assign anyone to that activity. Another complexity is that one state may explicitly indicate that a particular type of recipient (such as one without a high school diploma) will always be assigned to a certain activity (such as education and training), whereas another state might not include such a provision in the manual but nevertheless be very likely to assign individuals without diplomas to educational activities. Despite these limitations, the table provides a starting point for understanding the range of work-related requirements across states.

<u>Work-related sanctions:</u> If adults required to participate in activities do not comply with requirements, the state can sanction the unit. States have discretion to define what constitutes noncompliance and what will result from the noncompliance. Typically, if a recipient does not participate in his or her assigned activities for the specified number of hours, he or she is not complying and could be sanctioned. A sanction generally results in the removal of the noncompliant individual from the unit for benefit computation, a percentage reduction in the

entire unit's benefit, or a full benefit sanction.[20] Often states increase the severity of the sanction based on the number of times or the amount of time the individual is noncompliant.

Table III.B.3 describes sanction policies for failing to comply with work requirements. The table provides both the initial sanction (for the first instance of noncompliance) and the most severe sanction (after multiple instances of noncompliance). For both the initial and most severe sanctions, the table describes the amount of the reduction in benefits and the duration of the sanction. When the sanction is described as "adult portion of the benefit," the state recomputes benefits using an assistance unit size that excludes the noncompliant adult. (If the adult has any income, some or all of it is deemed available to the children to prevent an increase in benefit.) The WRD includes more details on sanctions, including any sanctions that occur between the initial and most severe sanctions.

Related tables: Table L7 describes the most severe sanction for 1996 through 2011.

[20] The federal government requires that the minimum state sanction for noncompliance with work requirements be a pro rata reduction in benefits.

Table III.A.1 Behavioral Requirements, July 2011

State	School requirements[1]	School bonuses[2]	Immunization requirements[3]	Health screening requirements[4]
Alabama	No	No	No	No
Alaska	No	No	No	No
Arizona	Yes	No	Yes	No
Arkansas	Yes	No	Yes[5]	No
California	Yes	Yes[6]	Yes[5]	No
Colorado	Yes	Yes[6]	No	Yes
Connecticut	No	No	No	No
Delaware	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
D.C.	No	No	No	No
Florida	Yes	No	Yes[5]	No
Georgia	Yes	No	Yes	No
Hawaii	No	No	No	No
Idaho	Yes	No	Yes[5]	No
Illinois	Yes	No	No	No
Indiana	Yes	No	Yes	No
Iowa	No	No	No	No
Kansas	No	No	No	No
Kentucky	Yes	Yes	No	No
Louisiana	Yes	No	Yes[5,8]	No
Maine	No	No	Yes	No
Maryland	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Massachusetts	Yes	No	Yes	No
Michigan	Yes	No	Yes[7]	No
Minnesota	No	No	No	No
Mississippi	Yes	No	Yes[8]	No
Missouri	No	No	No	No
Montana	No	No	No	No
Nebraska	Yes	No	No	No
Nevada	Yes	No	Yes[5]	No
New Hampshire	Yes	No	No	No
New Jersey	Yes	No	Yes[9]	No
New Mexico	Yes	No	Yes	No
New York	Yes	No	No	No
North Carolina	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
North Dakota	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Ohio	No	Yes	No	No
Oklahoma	Yes	No	Yes[5]	No
Oregon	No	Yes[6]	No	No
Pennsylvania	No	No	No	No
Rhode Island	No	No	No	No
South Carolina	Yes	No	No	No
South Dakota	Yes	No	Yes	No
Tennessee	Yes	No	Yes[5]	Yes
Texas	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Utah	Yes	No	No	No
Vermont	No	Yes[6]	No	No
Virginia	Yes	No	Yes[7, 8]	No
Washington	Yes	No	No	No

Table III.A.1 Behavioral Requirements, July 2011

State	School requirements[1]	School bonuses[2]	Immunization requirements[3]	Health screening requirements[4]
West Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wisconsin	Yes	No	No	No
Wyoming	Yes	No	No	No
Total states with policy	**35**	**9**	**25**	**6**

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

[1] School requirements apply only to requirements for dependent children, not minor parents. A requirement is coded "Yes" only if the state explicitly mentions it as a requirement for cash assistance or if it is included as a requirement in the recipient's contract and noncompliance results in a sanction. These policies may require children to attend school or to achieve a minimum grade point average; they may also require parents to be involved in their children's education in some way.
[2] This variable captures financial incentives for assistance units whose children meet specific attendance or achievement standards. Unless otherwise noted, school bonuses apply to both dependent children and minor parents.
[3] Immunization requirements include information on standard immunizations for children. A requirement is coded "Yes" only if the state explicitly mentions it as a requirement for cash assistance or if it is included as a requirement in the recipient's contract and noncompliance results in a sanction.
[4] Health screening requirements include information on regular checkups for both children and adults, although the requirements usually apply only to children. A requirement is coded "Yes" only if the state explicitly mentions it as a requirement for cash assistance or if it is included as a requirement in the recipient's contract and noncompliance results in a sanction.
[5] The immunization requirement may be waived if the procedures would risk the child's health or violate the family's religious beliefs.
[6] School bonuses apply only to teen parents age 16 through 19.
[7] The immunization requirement may be waived if the procedures would risk the child's health or violate the family's religious beliefs. Children under 2 months old are exempt.
[8] Children are exempt from showing proof of required immunizations if they are enrolled in school or a licensed day care center.
[9] New Jersey state law requires all dependent children to be immunized regardless of whether they receive TANF benefits. However, welfare recipients' benefits may be sanctioned if they do not immunize their dependent children. Recipients are required to sign an IRP contract to receive benefits; an immunization requirement may be included in the IRP. If the recipient fails to immunize his or her children, he or she breaches the contract and receives a financial sanction.

Table III.B.1 Work-Related Activity Exemptions for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2011[1]

	Unit Head Exempt if:					
State	Working in unsubsidized job for (hours)	Ill or incapacitated	Caring for an ill or incapacitated person	Age (or older) (years)	In which month of pregnancy (or later)	Caring for child under age (months)
Alabama	No exemption	Yes	Yes	No exemption	No exemption[2]	3
Alaska	No exemption	Yes[3]	Yes[4]	No exemption	No exemption	12[5]
Arizona	40[6]	No	No	No exemption	No exemption	No exemption
Arkansas[7]	No exemption	Yes	Yes	60	7	3[8]
California[9]	No exemption	Yes[10]	Yes[10]	60[10]	No exemption[2]	24[11]
Colorado[12]	No exemption	Yes[13]	Yes[13]	No exemption	No exemption	No exemption[14]
Connecticut	No exemption	Yes	Yes	60	No exemption[15]	12[16]
Delaware	No exemption	Yes[17]	Yes[18]	No exemption	No exemption	12[8]
D.C.	30[19]	Yes	Yes	60	4	12
Florida	No exemption	No	Yes	No exemption	No exemption	3[20]
Georgia	No exemption	No	Yes	No exemption	No exemption	12[21]
Hawaii	No exemption	No[22]	Yes[23]	65	No exemption	6[8]
Idaho	No exemption	No	No	No exemption	No exemption	No exemption
Illinois	No exemption	No[22]	No[22]	60	No exemption[24]	12[20]
Indiana	No exemption	Yes	Yes	60	7	3
Iowa	No exemption	No	No	No exemption	No exemption	No exemption[25]
Kansas	No exemption	No	Yes	No exemption	No exemption	6[26]
Kentucky	30	Yes[13]	Yes[13]	60	No exemption	12[8]
Louisiana	No exemption	Yes	Yes	60	No exemption	No exemption
Maine	No exemption	No	Yes[27]	No exemption	No exemption	12[8]
Maryland[28]	30[29]	Yes	Yes	No exemption	No exemption	12[30]
Massachusetts						
Exempt[31]	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nonexempt	30[32]	—[17]	—[17]	No exemption[33]	No exemption[34]	No exemption[35]
Michigan	40[29]	Yes[36]	Yes	65	No exemption[2]	3[37]
Minnesota	No exemption	No[38]	No[22]	60[22]	No exemption[2]	12[39]
Mississippi	No exemption	Yes[40]	Yes[41]	60	No exemption[42]	12[8]
Missouri	No exemption	Yes	Yes[43]	60	7[13]	12
Montana	No exemption	No[44]	No[45]	No exemption	No exemption	No exemption[46]
Nebraska						
Time-limited assistance	No exemption	—[17]	—[17]	No exemption[47]	No exemption[48]	No exemption[49]
Non-time-limited assistance[31]	—	—	—	—	—	—[50]
Nevada	30[51]	No	Yes	No exemption	No exemption[52]	12[21]
New Hampshire						
New Hampshire Employment Program[53]	No exemption	Yes[54]	Yes	No exemption[33]	No exemption[55]	12[56]
Family Assistance Program[31]	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Jersey	No exemption	Yes	Yes	62	7[57]	3[58]
New Mexico	No exemption	Yes	Yes	60	7[59]	12[8]
New York	No exemption	Yes[60]	Yes	60	9	3[61]

Table III.B.1 Work-Related Activity Exemptions for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2011[1]

	Unit Head Exempt if:					
State	Working in unsubsidized job for (hours)	Ill or incapacitated	Caring for an ill or incapacitated person	Age (or older) (years)	In which month of pregnancy (or later)	Caring for child under age (months)
North Carolina	No exemption	No[62]	Yes	No exemption	No exemption	12 [8]
North Dakota	No exemption	Yes [13]	Yes [13]	65	4	2
Ohio	30	No	Yes[63]	No exemption	No exemption	12
Oklahoma	No exemption	Yes	Yes	No exemption	No exemption	4 [8]
Oregon	No exemption	No	Yes	60	9	24
Pennsylvania	No exemption	Yes	Yes	No exemption	No exemption	12 [8]
Rhode Island	No exemption	Yes	Yes	No exemption	7	12
South Carolina						
All, except CARES	No exemption	No[64]	No	No exemption	7 [65]	No exemption[66]
CARES[31]	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Dakota	No exemption	Yes[13]	Yes[13]	No exemption	No exemption	3
Tennessee	No exemption	Yes	Yes	65	No exemption[2]	12
Texas	No exemption	Yes[67]	Yes	60	No exemption[2]	12
Utah	No exemption	No	Yes[68]	No exemption	No exemption	No exemption
Vermont	No exemption	Yes	Yes	60	No exemption	24 [69]
Virginia	No exemption	Yes[70]	Yes	60	No exemption[71]	12 [72]
Washington	No exemption	Yes	Yes	55	No exemption	12 [8]
West Virginia	No exemption	Yes	Yes	No exemption	No exemption[2]	12 [73]
Wisconsin	No exemption	No[74]	No[75]	No exemption	No exemption	3
Wyoming	No exemption	No	No	65	No exemption	3 [8]

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

[1] This table refers to single-parent unit heads over 21 years old.
[2] A pregnant woman may qualify for an exemption if the pregnancy is disabling and prohibits her from participating in work or training programs.
[3] An incapacitated person may be fully or partially exempt from work requirements, but he or she is still required to participate in self-sufficiency activities.
[4] If the incapacitated person is an adult, the caretaker is exempt only if he or she is related to the person and providing 24-hour care.
[5] The exemption is limited to 12 cumulative months in the recipient's lifetime. While the caretaker is exempt, he or she may be required to participate in self-sufficiency activities.
[6] To be exempt, the job must pay at least the minimum wage and be expected to last at least 30 days.
[7] Counties are given discretion to grant temporary exempt status when the recipient does not have adequate support services, such as transportation or child care. A review of the exemptions occurs at least every six months. SSI/SSDI recipients and individuals ineligible because of immigration status are exempt.
[8] The exemption is limited to 12 cumulative months in the recipient's lifetime.
[9] Counties have the option to vary some activities exemptions. Statewide exemptions are noted; all other exemptions apply to Los Angeles County only.
[10] Statewide exemption.
[11] Recipients caring for two or more children under 6 years old are also exempt. The recipient may receive this exemption only once, but he or she may also receive a limited exemption for a second or subsequent child under 6 months old. Statewide exemption.
[12] Counties have the option to vary some activities exemptions. All exemptions apply to Denver County only.
[13] The state does not consider these groups technically exempt, but they may meet the state's criteria for good cause for noncompliance or deferral.
[14] A recipient caring for a child under the age of 6 may not be sanctioned if the individual has a demonstrated inability to obtain child care.
[15] A pregnant recipient may qualify for an exemption if her physician indicates that she is unable to work. She may also be exempt from work requirements for six weeks postpartum.
[16] The exemption applies only if the child less than 1 year old is not subject to a family cap.
[17] Individuals with this characteristic are placed in an alternative component. See appendix 1 for more information on components.
[18] To qualify for this exemption, the ill or incapacitated individual must be the child or the spouse of the exempt individual and living in the home.

[19] The hours apply to recipients with children age 6 or older. Recipients with children under 6 years old are required to work 20 hours to be exempt.
[20] The recipient may be required to attend classes or other activities.
[21] Single custodial parents can have one three-month exemption per child up to a cumulative total of 12 months.
[22] Recipients meeting these criteria are not exempt, but the state recognizes that they may not be able to participate fully. The amount of participation required from each recipient is determined case by case.
[23] To qualify for this exemption, the ill or incapacitated individual must be a family member living in the home who does not attend school full time.
[24] Pregnant women are not exempt, but they are considered to have a barrier to full-time employment for the six weeks before the due date and the 12 weeks after birth. The amount of participation required is determined case by case.
[25] Although recipients are not exempt, they may be absent from work without sanction if they have a newborn child. Absence from activities is determined using the standards of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993. The maximum time available for one parent is 12 workweeks during any 12-month period.
[26] The exemption cannot be claimed by any adult in the unit when at least one adult has reached the 48th month of cash assistance.
[27] To be exempt, the head of household must be caring for a spouse who is receiving SSI.
[28] In Maryland, exemptions do not apply to individuals who have received 24 cumulative months of federal cash assistance. The only exemption that may be available after 24 months is to single parents who are caring for a child under age 6 and who are unable to obtain appropriate child care.
[29] To be exempt, the job must pay minimum wage or higher.
[30] The exemption is limited to 12 cumulative months in the recipient's lifetime. A single parent caring for a child under the age of 6 who is unable to obtain child care may be exempt.
[31] Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from activities requirements. See appendix 1 for more information on the composition of the component.
[32] This exemption applies to parents whose youngest child is mandatory school age or older. If the youngest child is between 2 years old and mandatory full-time school age, 20 hours a week are required. (Parents with children less than 2 years old are placed in the exempt component and do not have work requirements.)
[33] Recipients age 60 and older are placed in an alternative component. See appendix 1 for more information on components.
[34] Women who are pregnant and within 120 days of their expected due date are placed in an alternative component. See appendix 1 for more information on components.
[35] Individuals caring for a child under 2 years old are placed in an alternative component. See appendix 1 for more information on components.
[36] Individuals with a mental or physical illness, limitation, or incapacity that is expected to last more than 90 days and that prevents participation in employment activities are required to undergo a medical review. After the medical review, the individual may be determined disabled and required to apply for SSI or RSDI, work-ready with limitations and referred to the work program, or work-ready and referred to the work program.
[37] Women are exempt from activities requirements for three months after giving birth when the newborn is in the home or for postpartum recovery when the newborn is not in the home.
[38] People meeting this criterion are not required to meet full participation requirements if their condition significantly restricts their employment opportunities or ability to maintain suitable employment for at least 20 hours a week. The number of hours and the types of activities required are determined case by case.
[39] The exemption applies once in a lifetime.
[40] If determined eligible for vocational rehabilitation, ill and incapacitated clients can be assigned to a work program activity.
[41] This exemption applies only to parents, not caretaker relatives.
[42] A recipient may only be exempt in her third trimester in the case of a complication with the pregnancy. She may also be exempt from work requirements for six weeks postpartum.
[43] The exemption applies only if no alternative care is available.
[44] A person declared totally incapacitated by a qualified medical professional and who is unable to engage in any participation activities may not be required to participate. The case must be reviewed monthly, and the individual must maintain biweekly contact with the case manager.
[45] A person who is needed in the home to care for a disabled child or family member who lives in the home and does not attend school full time may count this activity as a participation requirement. A physician must support the claim of need, the case must be reviewed at least quarterly, and the individual must maintain biweekly contact with the case manager.
[46] Individuals caring for a newborn child may count this activity toward participation requirements for two full months following the child's birth, up to a total of 12 months in an individual's lifetime. Individuals can choose not to participate in other work activities during this time.
[47] Recipients age 65 and older are placed in an alternative component. See appendix 1 for more information on components.
[48] Pregnant women are placed in an alternative component the month before the month of their due date. See appendix 1 for more information on components.
[49] Recipients caring for children under 3 months old are placed in an alternative component. See appendix 1 for more information on components.
[50] Recipients caring for a child under 3 months old are exempt and are non-time-limited for the period they qualify for this exemption. The exemption can be extended if a written statement from the attending physician states that the parent requires additional postpartum recovery time or if special medical conditions of the child require the presence of at least one parent or needy caretaker relative, guardian, or conservator. See appendix 1 for more information on components.
[51] Recipients working 30 hours a week or more are exempt only from job training requirements. A single custodial parent with a child under age 6 must be employed a minimum of 20 hours a week to be exempt from job training requirements.
[52] A woman is exempt only when determined unable to work by a physician. The exemption applies only to job training requirements.
[53] Exemptions are not available to individuals in this component who have received TANF assistance for 39 or more months.
[54] Recipients who are temporarily ill or incapacitated are exempt from work requirements until their illness or incapacity improves. If an individual is permanently disabled and unable to work, he or she is placed in the Family Assistance Program component.
[55] A pregnant woman with a verified medical condition that prevents participation is technically not exempt but is considered to have good cause for noncompliance.

[56] The exemption is limited to 12 cumulative months in the recipient's lifetime. If the recipient has received the 12-month exemption and has an additional child, the unit must participate in NHEP until the child is 12 weeks old. Recipients who have received TANF assistance for 39 or more months are not eligible for this exemption.
[57] Before the third trimester, recipients may be exempt if a physician certifies that a medical reason exists.
[58] The exemption may be extended if a physician certifies it is medically necessary for the parent or child.
[59] The exemption can be extended for up to six weeks beyond the end of the pregnancy.
[60] The exemption is limited to three months.
[61] The exemption may last for no more than 12 months in a recipient's lifetime, and it may not last for more than three months for any one child unless the social services official makes a determination to extend the exemption for up to the total 12 months.
[62] A health care provider may limit the activities and participation hours for a disabled individual to less than 30 a week.
[63] To qualify for this exemption, the ill or incapacitated individual must be a family member living in the home full time, and the disability must last a minimum of 30 days.
[64] Individuals with incapacities expected to last 90 days or longer are placed in the CARES program. See appendix 1 for more information on components.
[65] Although technically not an exemption, an individual in the seventh month of pregnancy has legal cause for not meeting participation requirements.
[66] A parent personally providing care for his or her child under age 1 will be expected to participate in the work program but cannot be sanctioned for failure to do so.
[67] To qualify for this exemption, the incapacity must be expected to last a minimum of 180 days.
[68] To qualify for this exemption, the ill or incapacitated individual must be a family member living in the home, and the disability must last a minimum of 30 days.
[69] Work requirements may be modified or deferred for recipients caring for a child under 24 months old. The work requirement cannot be deferred for more than 24 months during a lifetime. However, recipients who have exhausted the 24-month exemption and are caring for a child under 13 weeks old may receive a work exemption.
[70] To be fully exempt, a recipient must obtain a note from a doctor or other certified professional indicating that he or she is unable to participate in at least 20 hours of activities a week. If the individual can participate in at least 20 hours of activities a week, he or she must participate in work activities that take into consideration his or her limitations.
[71] A recipient in her third trimester of pregnancy may have the initial job search and/or job readiness assignment waived and be assigned to another activity.
[72] The exemption is limited to 12 cumulative months in the recipient's lifetime. The caretaker can be exempt for a maximum of six additional weeks if he or she has another child after the limit expires. Recipients caring for a child subject to a family cap are only exempt while the child is under 6 weeks old.
[73] The state does not consider these groups technically exempt, but they may meet the state's criteria for good cause for noncompliance or deferral. This is a one-time exemption and may be taken any time while the child is under 12 months old. In addition, all mothers are eligible for a 12-week postpartum exemption following the birth of any additional child.
[74] The state does not consider these groups technically exempt, but they may meet the state's criteria for good cause for noncompliance. In addition, the assignment of activity requirements may be adjusted case by case (e.g., the individual may be assigned to physical therapy or mental health treatment).
[75] The state does not consider these groups technically exempt, but they may meet the state's criteria for good cause for noncompliance. In addition, the assignment of activity requirements may be adjusted case by case (e.g., the individual can be assigned to care for the ill or incapacitated individual as her or his participation requirement; the ill or incapacitated individual must be the child or spouse of the exempt individual and living in the home).

Table III.B.2 Work-Related Activity Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2011[1]

State	Timing of requirement to benefit receipt	Allowable activities listed[2]	Minimum hour requirement	Limit on hours allowed for education and training
Alabama	Immediately	All	35 [3]	10 [4]
Alaska	Immediately	All	30	---
Arizona				
All, except JOBSTART	Immediately	Job-related, E&T, and CWEP/AWEP	Case-by-case basis	---
JOBSTART	Immediately	Subsidized employment	40	---
Arkansas	Immediately	All	30	---
California	After assessment	All[5]	32	---[6]
Colorado[7]	*	All[5]	22	---
Connecticut	Immediately	All	Case-by-case basis	---
Delaware				
All, except TWP	Immediately	All except postsecondary education	30 [8]	10 [9]
TWP	Immediately	Job-related, unsubsidized, and subsidized employment[10]	Case-by-case basis	---
D.C.	Immediately	All except CWEP/AWEP	30 [3]	10 [11]
Florida	Immediately	All except postsecondary education	30 [12]	10
Georgia	Immediately	All	30 [13]	10
Hawaii	Immediately	All	30 [3]	---
Idaho	Immediately	All except postsecondary education[14]	30 [3]	---
Illinois	After assessment	All	30	10
Indiana	Immediately	All	30 [3]	10
Iowa	Immediately	All except subsidized employment	30 [15]	---
Kansas	Immediately	All	30	10
Kentucky	Immediately	All	30	10
Louisiana	Immediately	All[5]	30 [3]	10 [16]
Maine	Immediately	All except CWEP/AWEP	30 [3]	10 [17]
Maryland	Immediately	All	30 [18]	16
Massachusetts				
Exempt[19]	---	---	---	---
Nonexempt	60 days	All	30 [20]	---
Michigan	Immediately	All	30 [3]	10
Minnesota	Immediately	All	31 [21]	In excess of 20 hours[22]
Mississippi	24 months	All	40	15
Missouri	24 months	All except community service	30 [3]	---
Montana	Immediately	All except subsidized employment	33 [23]	10 [24]
Nebraska				
Time-limited assistance	Immediately	All	30 [3]	10
Non-time-limited assistance	Immediately	Job-related	20	---
Nevada	Immediately	All	30 [3]	10 [11]

Table III.B.2 Work-Related Activity Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2011[1]

State	Timing of requirement to benefit receipt	Allowable activities listed[2]	Minimum hour requirement	Limit on hours allowed for education and training
New Hampshire				
New Hampshire Employment Program	Immediately	All except community service	30 [3]	10 [25]
Family Assistance Program[19]	---	---	---	---
New Jersey	Immediately	All	40	In excess of 20 hours
New Mexico				
New Mexico Works Program	90 days	All	34 [26]	In excess of 20 hours
Education Works Program	*	All[27]	20	---
New York	Immediately	All	40 [28]	---
North Carolina	Immediately	All	30 [3]	10 [17]
North Dakota	Immediately	All	30 [29]	---
Ohio	Immediately	All	30 [3]	---
Oklahoma	Immediately	All	30	---
Oregon				
All, except JOBS Plus	Upon application	All except unsubsidized employment and community service[5]	Case-by-case basis	---
JOBS Plus[30]	*	E&T and subsidized employment	40	---
Pennsylvania	Immediately	All	30 [3]	---
Rhode Island	Immediately	All[31]	30 [3]	10 [32]
South Carolina				
All, except CARES	Immediately	All except postsecondary education[33]	30 [3]	10
CARES	Immediately	All except unsubsidized/subsidized employment and CWEP/AWEP[34]	Case-by-case basis	---
South Dakota	Immediately	All except CWEP/AWEP	30 [3]	In excess of 15 hours
Tennessee	Immediately	All	30	10
Texas	After orientation	All[5]	30 [3]	10 [11]
Utah	Immediately	All	30 [3]	10 [11]
Vermont	Immediately	All	30 [3]	---
Virginia				
VIEW	Immediately	All	35 [35]	15
All, except VIEW[19]	---	---	---	---
Washington	Immediately	All	32	---
West Virginia	Immediately	All	30 [3]	10 [17]

Table III.B.2 Work-Related Activity Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2011[1]

State	Timing of requirement to benefit receipt	Allowable activities listed[2]	Minimum hour requirement	Limit on hours allowed for education and training
Wisconsin				
W-2 Transition	After assessment	Job-related, E&T, and community service	40 [28]	---
Unsubsidized employment[36]	After assessment	Job-related and employment	40	---
Trial Jobs	After assessment	Subsidized employment	40	---
Community service jobs	After assessment	Job-related, E&T, and community service	40 [28]	---
Wyoming	Immediately	All except postsecondary education and community service	30 [37]	In excess of 20 hours

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

* Data not obtained.

[1] The table contains the activity requirements for single-parent recipients age 21 or older.
[2] All possible activities include the following:
(a) Job-related activities include one or more of the following: job skills training, job readiness activities, job development and placement, job search.
(b) Education and training (E&T) activities include one or more of the following: basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, on-the-job training.
(c) Employment activities include one or more of the following: unsubsidized job, work supplement/subsidized job, CWEP/AWEP, community service.
[3] The hours apply to recipients with children age 6 or older. Recipients with children under 6 years old are required to work 20 hours.
[4] Generally, recipients are required to participate in either job-related or employment activities for at least 25 hours a week. However, on a case-by-case basis, the caseworker may determine that educational activities are necessary for a recipient to overcome barriers to employment. In these cases, the limit on the number of hours that may be spent in education may be waived.
[5] Recipients move from one set of activities to another after a certain period. Generally, they begin with job-related activities and end with employment; see the WRD for details.
[6] Nonexempt recipients already enrolled in an undergraduate program can participate in education for their entire requirement if it leads to self-supporting employment. Hourly limitations apply to other programs.
[7] Counties have the option to vary their activity requirements. These policies refer to Denver County.
[8] The hours apply to recipients who are not attending school or who have children age 6 or older. Recipients who are attending school or have children under 6 years old are required to work 20 hours.
[9] There is no limit on education hours for recipients who applied before January 1, 2000, and who have not yet received 22 months of benefits.
[10] Recipients in the Transitional Work Program must develop an individualized transitional work plan with their case manager and comply with the activities requirements and deadlines established in the plan.
[11] These hours apply to recipients with children age 6 or older. Recipients with children under 6 years old must spend all required hours in non-education-related activities.
[12] On-the-job training and work supplementation require a full-time (32- to 40-hour) commitment.
[13] When the agency determines it possible, the recipient must participate for a minimum of 40 hours a week. Recipients with children under 6 years old are only required to work 20 hours.
[14] Recipients with children under the age of 12 weeks are only required to participate in life skills training.
[15] Participation must be either equivalent to the level of commitment required for full-time employment or deemed significant enough to move the recipient toward full-time employment.
[16] Vocational education may be used to satisfy all 30 hours of the work requirement.
[17] These hours apply to recipients with children age 6 or older. The number of hours that may be spent in education and training is not capped for parents of children under 6 years old.
[18] The state requires recipients to work 40 hours, but recipients caring for a child age 6 or older are not sanctioned if working at least 30 hours. Recipients caring for a child under 6 years old must work at least 20 hours.
[19] Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities. See appendix 1 for a description of components.
[20] This requirement applies to parents whose youngest child is mandatory school age or older. If the youngest child is between age 2 and mandatory full-time school age, 20 hours a week are required. (Parents with children less than 2 years old are placed in the exempt component and do not have work requirements.)
[21] The hours apply to recipients with children age 6 or older. Recipients with children under 6 years old are required to work 21 hours.
[22] Participants who participate in work activities for at least 20 hours a week are encouraged to participate in education and training activities.
[23] The hours apply to recipients with children age 6 or older. Recipients with children under 6 years old are required to work 27 hours.
[24] These hours apply to recipients with children age 6 or older. The number of hours that may be spent in education and training is capped at two hours for parents of children under 6 years old.

[25] Individuals may count vocational and postsecondary education as core activities for 12 months with no limit on the hours per week. After 12 months as a core activity, there is a 10 hour limit.
[26] Recipients with children under age 6 may not be required to work more than 24 hours a week.
[27] Education Works Program activities are focused on education and training; with program approval, however, participants may also participate in any other activity relevant to their education and pursuant to the New Mexico Works Cash Assistance Program.
[28] Recipients can be assigned to work activities for up to 40 hours a week, unless otherwise limited.
[29] The hours apply to recipients with children age 6 or older. Recipients with children under 6 years old are required to work 20 hours. Victims of domestic violence may participate at a reduced level. Qualified aliens with limited English proficiency may also participate at a reduced level for 60 days from date of entry into the United States.
[30] Recipients volunteer for the JOBS Plus program. This program provides on-the-job training while paying benefits as wages from a work-site assignment.
[31] Recipients may be required to begin with intensive employment services if deemed appropriate by the caseworker.
[32] Individuals with reading test scores below third grade level, or below sixth grade level if the individual has very limited or no prior work experience, may participate in educational activities with no limit on the number of hours for six months as part of an intensive work readiness program.
[33] Postsecondary education is an allowable activity for those who are not considered job ready.
[34] Recipients experiencing disabilities that prevent full-time participation but who are able to participate in limited work and training activities may participate in any cash assistance work program activities for which they qualify, although special accommodations may be needed. The participant's disability must prevent full participation in these cash assistance work activities for 90 days or longer (see appendix 1 for a description of components).
[35] These hours refer to recipients not employed full time. Recipients employed full time are required to work 30 hours.
[36] Recipients participating in unsubsidized jobs receive wages and are ineligible for a cash benefit.
[37] The state stresses that recipients are required to work 40 hours a week, but in cases where the recipient is unable to work the full 40 hours, caseworkers can scale back the number of hours to a minimum of 30 hours a week. For recipients with children under age 6, the minimum is 20 hours a week.

Table III.B.3 Sanction Policies for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2011

State	Initial Sanction: Reduction in benefit	Initial Sanction: Length of sanction (months)	Most Severe Sanction: Reduction in benefit	Most Severe Sanction: Length of sanction (months)
Alabama	50%[1]	Until compliance[1]	Entire benefit	12 months
Alaska	40% of the maximum payment	4 months+	Case is closed	Must reapply
Arizona	25%	1 month	Entire benefit	1 month+
Arkansas	Entire benefit[2]	1 month+	Case is closed[3]	Until in compliance for 2 weeks
California	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance
Colorado[4]	25%	1 month	Entire benefit	3 months+
Connecticut	25%	3 months	Case is closed	3 months and must reapply
Delaware				
All, except TWP	Case is closed	1 month+5	Case is closed	1 month+5
TWP	$50	Until compliance	Case is closed	Until compliance
D.C.	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance	Adult portion of benefit	6 months+
Florida	Entire benefit	10 days+	Entire benefit[6]	3 months+
Georgia	25%	3 months	Case is closed	12 months and must reapply
Hawaii	Entire benefit	Until compliance	Entire benefit	3 months+
Idaho	Entire benefit	1 month+	Entire benefit	Permanent
Illinois	50%[7]	Until compliance	Entire benefit	3 months+
Indiana	Case is closed	3 months+	Case is closed	Permanent
Iowa	Entire benefit	Must reapply	Entire benefit	6 months+8
Kansas	Entire benefit	Until compliance	Entire benefit	Until compliance
Kentucky	Pro rata portion of the benefit	Until compliance[9]	Entire benefit	Until compliance
Louisiana	Case is closed	1 month+	Case is closed	3 months+
Maine	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance	Adult portion of benefit	6 months+
Maryland	Entire benefit	Until compliance	Entire benefit	Until in compliance for 30 days
Massachusetts				
Exempt[10]	—	—	—	—
Nonexempt	None[11]	None[11]	Entire benefit	Until in compliance for 2 weeks
Michigan	Case is closed	3 months	Case is closed	12 months
Minnesota	10% of the transitional standard	1 month+	Case is closed	1 month+
Mississippi	Entire benefit	2 months+	Entire benefit	Permanent
Missouri	25%	Until in compliance for 2 weeks	25%	Until in compliance for 2 weeks
Montana	Adult portion of benefit	1 month	Case is closed	6 months
Nebraska	Entire benefit	1 month+	Entire benefit	12 months+

Table III.B.3 Sanction Policies for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2011

	Initial Sanction		Most Severe Sanction	
State	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)
Nevada	Entire benefit	3 months+	Entire benefit	3 months+
New Hampshire				
New Hampshire Employment Program	Adult portion of benefit[12]	1 payment period+	Case is closed[13]	Must reapply and be in compliance for 2 weeks
Family Assistance Program[10]	—	—	—	—
New Jersey	Adult portion of benefit	1 month	Case is closed	1 month and must reapply
New Mexico				
New Mexico Works Program	25% of the standard of need	Until compliance	Case is closed	6 months and must reapply
Education Works Program	None[14]	None[14]	Participation is terminated[15]	*
New York	Pro rata portion of the benefit	Until compliance	Pro rata portion of the benefit	6 months+
North Carolina	Case is closed	Must reapply[16]	Case is closed	Must reapply
North Dakota	Adult portion of benefit[17]	1 month+	Case is closed[18]	Until compliance
Ohio	Entire benefit	1 month	Entire benefit	6 months+
Oklahoma	Entire benefit	Until compliance	Entire benefit	Until compliance
Oregon	Adult portion of benefit	1 month+	Entire benefit	Until compliance, must reapply
Pennsylvania	Adult portion of benefit[19]	30 days+	Entire benefit[20]	Permanent
Rhode Island	Adult portion of benefit[21]	Until compliance	Case is closed	Must reapply
South Carolina				
All, except CARES	Case is closed	Until in compliance for 30 days	Case is closed	Until in compliance for 30 days
CARES[10]	—	—	—	—
South Dakota	None[11]	None[11]	Case is closed	1 month+ and must reapply
Tennessee	Entire benefit	Until compliance	Entire benefit	Until in compliance for 5 days
Texas	Entire benefit	1 month+	Case is closed	Must reapply and comply for 30 days
Utah	$100 [22]	1 month	Case is closed	2 months and must reapply[23]
Vermont	$75	Until in compliance for 2 weeks	$225	Until in compliance for 2 weeks
Virginia				
VIEW	Entire benefit	1 month+	Entire benefit	6 months+
All, except VIEW[10]	—	—	—	—
Washington	Adult portion of benefit or 40% (whichever is greater)	Until in compliance for 4 weeks[24]	Case is closed	Must reapply and be in compliance for 4 weeks[24]

Table III.B.3 Sanction Policies for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2011

State	Initial Sanction: Reduction in benefit	Initial Sanction: Length of sanction (months)	Most Severe Sanction: Reduction in benefit	Most Severe Sanction: Length of sanction (months)
West Virginia	33.3%	3 months	Entire benefit[25]	6 months[+]
Wisconsin				
W-2 Transition and Community Service Jobs	$5.15 times the hours of nonparticipation	Until compliance	Case is closed	Until compliance[26]
Unsubsidized employment[10]	—	—	—	—
Trial Jobs	Decrease in wages[27]	Until compliance	Case is closed	Until compliance[26]
Wyoming	Entire benefit	Until compliance	Entire benefit	Until compliance

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Note: "Adult portion of benefit" describes the portion of the benefit the sanctioned individual would have received. Because the table only represents sanctions for single-parent units, in all cases the sanctioned individual is an adult.

[+] The unit is sanctioned for the specified number of months or until the sanctioned individual complies with the activity requirements, whichever is longer.

* Data not obtained.

[1] This sanction applies to noncompliance that occurs during the first 24 months of assistance. For noncompliances that occur after the first 24 months, the entire unit is ineligible for benefits for one month.
[2] The benefit is suspended for the month. If the unit complies within two weeks, the suspended benefit is paid to the unit.
[3] If the case is closed, the unit may reapply for its full benefits, but the application will be pending until the unit has complied with requirements for two weeks.
[4] Counties have the option to determine the amount and duration of sanctions. These policies refer to Denver County.
[5] The unit is sanctioned for one month or until the sanctioned individual complies with the activity requirements for four consecutive weeks, whichever is longer.
[6] Cash assistance may still be provided to the children in the unit who are under age 16; these benefits are issued to a protective payee.
[7] If noncompliance continues after three months of reduced benefits, the entire unit is ineligible for benefits until compliance.
[8] The sanctioned parent must also sign a family investment agreement and complete 20 hours of eligible education or work activities to become eligible again. The sanction continues until the parent fully complies.
[9] A caseworker's judgment may be used to determine whether the unit must be in compliance for two weeks before regaining benefits.
[10] Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they have no sanctions. See appendix 1 for a description of components.
[11] The initial sanction does not reduce benefits. Recipients are given a written warning detailing the consequences of subsequent failures to comply.
[12] If the adult is compliant within two weeks, only the adult portion of the benefit is removed (this is referred to as the adjusted payment standard). If the adult is compliant within two to four weeks, the adjusted payment standard is reduced by one-third; if the adult is compliant within five to eight weeks, the adjusted payment standard is reduced by two-thirds. In addition, the case may also be closed if the adult is sanctioned for more than three months in any 12-month period (any portion of a month counts as one month).
[13] If a unit accrues three months of sanctions in any 12-month period, the case may be closed. Any portion of a month counts as one full month.
[14] The individual is placed on probationary status for the following school term to improve GPA or meet the educational institution's standards.
[15] The participant is placed on probation if he or she has not met program requirements. At the end of the probationary period, if standards have not been met or an overall GPA of 2.5 has not been achieved, the department may terminate an individual's participation in the Education Works Program.
[16] Individuals that reapply within the first 10 days following the termination month may be eligible for a streamlined application process.
[17] If noncompliance continues for more than a month, the case may be closed. The case can be closed for no more than 12 months.
[18] If the unit complies within one month of the sanction, the adult portion of the benefit is removed for one month and the case remains open.
[19] This sanction applies to noncompliances that occur during the first 24 months of assistance. For noncompliances that occur after the first 24 months, the entire unit is ineligible for benefits for 30 days or until compliance, whichever is longer.
[20] This sanction applies to noncompliances that occur after the first 24 months of assistance. For noncompliances that occur during the first 24 months of assistance, the needs of the sanctioned individual are permanently excluded for benefit computation.
[21] In a two-person unit, the adult portion is equal to the difference between the benefit a family of three would have received and the benefit the two-person family actually received. For all other family sizes, the adult portion is computed normally, using the difference between the family's current monthly benefit and the monthly benefit for a family size excluding the sanctioned adult.
[22] If noncompliance continues for more than one month, the case is closed.
[23] The unit must also complete a trial participation period before it is eligible to receive benefits again.

[24] The sanction remains in effect until the individual is compliant for four weeks; after four weeks of compliance, benefits are restored to their pre-sanction level. If after four months the individual is still in sanction, the case is closed. If the case is reopened, sanctions will continue where they left off.
[25] If a nonexempt member of the unit does not comply with work requirements after receiving assistance for 24 months, the case is closed.
[26] Wisconsin has four components (see appendix 1 for description of components). If a recipient refuses to participate in an activity, he or she is permanently ineligible for benefits in that component. The unit may receive benefits again if it becomes eligible for one of the other components. There is no permanent sanction for individuals in unsubsidized employment.
[27] If a recipient has an unplanned and/or unexcused absence, the Trial Jobs employer has the discretion to decrease the recipient's wages. If a Trial Jobs recipient completely refuses to participate in the component, he or she becomes ineligible for Trial Jobs for life.

IV. Ongoing Eligibility

The tables in this chapter of the *Databook* describe key aspects of the rules that affect recipients' ongoing eligibility as of July 2011. After a family applies for assistance and passes all eligibility tests, its members become recipients and a benefit is calculated. However, the recipient unit still faces eligibility requirements that affect its ability to continue receiving benefits. Most states impose income and asset tests on recipients, which generally differ from the initial eligibility tests for applicants. When the requirements differ, states typically allow recipients more generous eligibility thresholds.

Recipients' reproductive choices and the number of months they have received assistance may also affect eligibility and benefits. Some states impose family cap policies on recipients, which restrict benefits from increasing when a child is born to a family receiving assistance. Most states now impose time limits, which reduce or eliminate benefits to recipients based on their accumulated total months of benefit receipt.

The following three sections describe the eligibility requirements that affect the ongoing eligibility of recipients.

A. What eligibility tests must recipient families pass for continuing eligibility?

Like applicants, recipients must pass both nonfinancial and financial tests to remain eligible for assistance each month. The nonfinancial rules generally do not vary for applicants and recipients; however, for some rules, such as two-parent eligibility, they may. Unlike nonfinancial rules, the financial rules often differ for applicants and recipients. The following provides more information on those eligibility rules that tend to differ for applicants and recipients, including two-parent hours tests, treatment of child support income, asset tests, income eligibility tests, and maximum income for ongoing eligibility.

Two-parent eligibility for recipients: For states providing benefits to two-parent families, table IV.A.1 describes special eligibility rules imposed on two-parent recipients where neither parent is disabled (UP or unemployed-parent families, in the former AFDC program).[21] In addition to the standard eligibility tests that all recipient units must pass, some states impose "hours tests" on two-parent units. Under an hours test, the unit is not eligible if the principal wage earner is working more than a specified number of hours a month. States may apply this rule when determining the initial or continuing eligibility of two-parent families.

Related tables: See table I.B.2 for details on the hours test for applicants and table L2 for information on the rules for two-parent units from 1996 through 2011.

Treatment of child support income: Table IV.A.2 describes each state's treatment of child support income for recipients. TANF recipients are required to assign their child support income to the state. The state then decides what portion, if any, of the child support collected is returned to the family as unearned income and how much of that income counts as income for eligibility and benefit computation.[22] The amount of income transferred and disregarded may differ for eligibility calculations and benefit computation.

The first column of the table displays the amount of collected child support that is counted for recipients' eligibility determination. Typically, states count all child support collected or all but $50 of the amount when considering eligibility, even if the state does not transfer any support directly to the family. Those states that do not count child support for

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[21] North Dakota no longer provides TANF benefits to two-parent, nondisabled units. Also, in some states, benefits are provided to two-parent units under solely state-funded or separate state programs funded by state monies rather than the TANF grant. The table includes those states as providing benefits to two-parent families regardless of the funding source.

[22] States are required to pay a share (equal to the state's Medicaid match rate) of all child support collected on behalf of TANF recipients to the federal government. States may still provide all child support collected to the recipient; in that case, the state must use other funds to pay the federal share.

eligibility typically establish some method to ensure that families with high and continuing child support amounts do not remain on the rolls indefinitely.

The second column of the table shows what portion of the collected child support is transferred to the family as unearned income, while the third column indicates how much of that transferred amount is disregarded for benefit computation. The traditional $50 pass-through that states allowed under AFDC would be represented in this table with a “$50” coded in both the second and third columns; $50 is transferred to the unit as unearned income, and, of that amount, all $50 is disregarded for benefit computation.

Asset limits for recipients: Table IV.A.3 describes each state’s asset tests for recipients. States determine the maximum amount of assets—including vehicles and restricted assets—a family may hold and still remain eligible for benefits.

The first column of the table provides the limit on the value of unrestricted assets a family may hold and still be eligible for assistance. Unrestricted assets include the cash value of any asset the state counts toward the limit, regardless of the asset’s purpose. Limits may vary for determining initial eligibility versus continuing eligibility.

The second column describes whether some or all of the value of a vehicle or vehicles is excluded in determining the amount of a family’s assets for eligibility purposes. When a portion of the vehicle’s value is exempted, the value may be given in terms of equity or fair-market value. The fair-market value is the amount for which the vehicle could be sold, while the equity value is the fair-market value minus any amount still owed on the vehicle. When a family still owes money on a vehicle, the equity value will be less than the fair-market value, so this distinction is important when comparing vehicle exemption amounts across states.

The last three columns of the table describe whether the state excludes a portion of assets deposited into savings accounts when earmarked for specific purposes and whether the state (or other entity) deposits additional matching funds into these accounts. For instance, a unit may be allowed to save money toward educational expenses or the purchase of a home without that money counting toward its overall asset limit. Some, but not all, restricted accounts are federally defined individual development accounts (IDAs). In the table, accounts that states specify as IDAs are distinguished from other restricted accounts.

Restricted accounts may or may not include a match, under which a third party, generally the state, contributes additional funds to the amount the family has saved. The match rate is typically defined by the state.

Related tables: See tables L8 and L9 for information on asset rules in effect from 1996 through 2011. See table I.C.1 for the asset tests applied at application.

<u>Income eligibility tests for recipients:</u> Table IV.A.4 describes states' rules for the income eligibility tests that determine whether a recipient (whose income may have increased since initial eligibility) is eligible to continue receiving benefits. The table indicates which state income standard is used for each test. Even if a family passes all eligibility tests, it is possible in some states that the family will not qualify for a positive benefit under the state's benefit computation formula. In those cases, the family will not receive a benefit. In some cases, states have streamlined their eligibility policies and do not perform any income tests other than the implicit test imposed by benefit computation. In these states, the table indicates "no explicit tests." To determine the value of the particular standard for a family size of three, see table I.E.3.

Related tables: As mentioned above, table I.E.3 provides the eligibility standard(s) used to determine eligibility for a three-person family. Tables I.D.1, I.D.2, and IV.A.2 describe *policies concerning the deeming of income from grandparents and stepparents, and child support income that may be used in determining gross income for income eligibility tests. Table I.E.2 describes the earned income disregards that may be used for net income tests.*

In addition, the tables in sections I.B, I.D, I.E, and II are relevant to ongoing eligibility. In most states, recipients are required to pass both nonfinancial and financial tests to continue receiving benefits.

Maximum income for ongoing eligibility for a family of three: Table IV.A.5 synthesizes the various financial rules related to ongoing eligibility to provide information on the maximum amount of income a family of three can earn and still remain eligible for assistance in various months (2, 7, 13, and 25) of combining work and welfare. The maximum income for ongoing eligibility calculation incorporates information on the income eligibility rules for recipients, earned income disregards for eligibility and benefit computation, benefit computation policies, and the eligibility and payment standards. The calculation determines the maximum amount of earnings a recipient can have and still be technically eligible for assistance in each state. Technical eligibility does not mean the unit will necessarily receive a cash benefit—most states only distribute a cash benefit if it is over $10—but it will have passed all eligibility tests and be eligible for some positive amount.

The calculation assumes the assistance unit includes one parent and two children, has only earned income, has no child care expenses, contains no children subject to a family cap, has no special needs, pays for all shelter costs with no subsidies, and is subject to the benefit standard that applies to the majority of the state's caseload.

Related tables: Table I.E.4 provides information on the amount of earnings an applicant may have and become eligible for assistance. Table L3 provides this information for 1996 through 2011.

B. Are children eligible if born while the family receives benefits?

Benefits to recipients who give birth to a child while receiving aid may or may not be affected by the addition of the child to the assistance unit. Traditionally, when a child is born to a member of an assistance unit, the benefit increases to meet the needs of the new child; however, many states have changed this policy. Family cap policies, as most states refer to them, prevent or limit an increase in a family's benefit when another child is born. In these states, the benefit increase an assistance unit would otherwise receive for adding another member to the unit will be limited. Some states provide a percentage of the increase to the unit, while others provide no additional funds to the unit for the addition of a child.

Family caps: Table IV.B.1 describes states' family cap policies. The table first indicates whether the state imposes a family cap, then provides the number of months following the case opening after which a newborn child is excluded from the assistance unit. The table also describes the impact on the benefit when an additional child is born (whether there is no increase in benefit or some increase smaller than what would occur in the absence of a family cap). In some cases, the amount of cash paid directly to the family does not increase, but the increment that would have been paid in the absence of the policy is instead paid to a third party or provided in the form of a voucher. That information is noted in the table as "third-party payment" or "voucher" and is explained further in the footnotes. States with "disregard" displayed in the table increase the earned income disregards for families that have a capped child; again, more details are provided in the footnotes. The table also indicates how long a cap, once applied, endures. The table indicates “always capped” if a family is never able to regain benefits for a capped child, even after the case has been closed for a period. Otherwise, the table provides the number of months a family must remain off the rolls for the cap to be removed—that is, for the child to be included in the benefit computation should the family apply for assistance again. States conducting pilot projects that subject units to a family cap in a few counties, but not statewide, are footnoted.

Related tables: Table L10 indicates the presence of family cap policies in 1996 through 2011.

C. How long can a family receive benefits?

Since the passage of PRWORA, most states have limited the number of months an assistance unit may receive benefits. The type and length of these limits vary from state to state. States impose two basic types of limits on recipients: lifetime time limits, which eliminate part of or the entire benefit permanently, and other state time limits, which interrupt or limit benefits for a certain period but do not eliminate them permanently. Both types may terminate benefits to the entire unit or just the adults in the unit. In addition, some states impose only lifetime limits or only other state time limits, while some states impose a combination of the two types.

Not all assistance units are subject to time limits, however. States may continue to provide benefits to up to 20 percent of their caseload (referred to as the hardship exemption) beyond the federal 60-month time limit. The individuals receiving these exemptions (which stop the time limit clock for a month) or extensions (which add a month of assistance after reaching the time limit) are determined state by state and are eligible to receive federal TANF funds as long as the circumstances that caused their exemption or extension exist.

Lifetime time limit: Under TANF, the federal government imposed a maximum 60-month lifetime limit on receipt of TANF funds. Therefore, after 60 months of receiving federally funded TANF benefits, either consecutively or nonconsecutively, an assistance unit is generally no longer eligible for federal cash assistance.[23] Some states have adopted shorter lifetime limits, while others have chosen to fund recipients after the 60 months with state dollars. A few states have also chosen to terminate benefits only for the adults in the unit, in which case all children in the assistance unit remain eligible for benefits after the lifetime limit expires.

Table IV.C.1 describes states' lifetime time limit policies. The first column indicates the total months in which the state allows benefits, while the second and third columns identify whose benefits are terminated.

Other state time limits: States have developed several other time limits that interrupt or limit benefits. These limits are imposed instead of or in addition to the lifetime time limits, and they include periodic limits and benefit waiting periods. Under a periodic limit, a unit (or the head of the unit) may receive benefits for only a specified number of months in a given period. For example, a state may impose a 12-out-of-24-month periodic limit on the unit, in which the unit is eligible to receive only 12 months of benefits in any 24-month period. Under a benefit waiting period, a unit (or the head of the unit) is ineligible for benefits for a specified number of months after the unit has received benefits for another specified number of months. To use the 12 and 24 example again, a unit may receive 12 months of assistance and is then ineligible for 24 months. This means the unit may receive 12 months of benefits over any period, but after it receives its 12th month of assistance, it will be ineligible for benefits for the next 24 months.

[23] The TANF regulations indicate that the federal 60-month time limit does not count against child-only units (units that include no adults). However, a few states count months in which units are child-only because of the ineligibility of their parents based on immigrant status or illegal activity.

Both the periodic limit and the benefit waiting period limit may apply to the entire unit or just the adult head of the unit.

Table IV.C.2 describes other state time limit policies.[24] The first column describes the type of other time limit imposed, while the second and third columns identify whose benefits are terminated.

<u>Exemptions and extensions:</u> Exemption and extension policies are important for understanding time limits in the states. Exemptions and extensions could significantly increase the number of months beyond the state and/or federal time limit that an assistance unit may receive benefits, and, depending on the criteria, a substantial portion of the caseload could be exempted or extended. As used in the tables and WRD, exemptions are defined as policies that stop a recipient's time-limit "clock" before it reaches the 60-month limit and contrast with extensions, which only occur after the unit has reached its time limit.

Tables IV.C.3 and IV.C.4 describe time limit exemption and extension policies, respectively. The exemption and extension policies for both lifetime limits and other limits are displayed in the tables. If the policies do not apply to both types of limits, the policies for the lifetime limit are displayed in the tables and the policies for the other limit are footnoted.

[24] The table includes only those time limits that affect the majority of units. For a description of time limits affecting other groups, see the WRD.

Table IV.A.1 Eligibility Rules for Two-Parent, Nondisabled Recipient Units, July 2011

State	Limit on hours worked a month
Alabama	No limit
Alaska	No limit
Arizona	No limit
Arkansas	No limit
California	No limit
Colorado	No limit
Connecticut	No limit
Delaware	No limit
D.C.	No limit
Florida	No limit
Georgia	No limit
Hawaii	No limit
Idaho	No limit
Illinois	No limit
Indiana	No limit
Iowa	No limit
Kansas	No limit
Kentucky	No limit
Louisiana	No limit
Maine	130
Maryland	No limit
Massachusetts	No limit
Michigan	No limit
Minnesota	No limit
Mississippi	100
Missouri	No limit
Montana	No limit
Nebraska	No limit
Nevada	No limit
New Hampshire[1]	–
New Jersey	No limit
New Mexico	No limit
New York	No limit
North Carolina	No limit
North Dakota[1]	–
Ohio	No limit
Oklahoma	No limit
Oregon	No limit
Pennsylvania	No limit
Rhode Island	No limit
South Carolina	No limit
South Dakota	100
Tennessee	100
Texas	No limit
Utah	No limit
Vermont	No limit
Virginia	No limit
Washington	No limit

Table IV.A.1 Eligibility Rules for Two-Parent, Nondisabled Recipient Units, July 2011

State	Limit on hours worked a month
West Virginia	No limit
Wisconsin	No limit
Wyoming	No limit

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Note: In some states, benefits are provided to two-parent units under a state-funded program instead of through federal TANF. The table describes the treatment of two-parent units regardless of the funding source.

[1] The state does not provide benefits to two-parent, nondisabled units.

Table IV.A.2 Treatment of Child Support Income for Recipients, July 2011[1]

State	Amount of child support collection counted for recipients' eligibility determination[2]	Portion of Child Support Collection Transferred to the Family: Amount transferred	Portion of Child Support Collection Transferred to the Family: Amount of transfer disregarded for benefit computation
Alabama	No income eligibility tests	—	—
Alaska	All but $50	$50	$50
Arizona	None[3]	—[4]	—[4]
Arkansas	All	—	—
California	No income eligibility tests	$50 [4]	$50 [4]
Colorado	All	—	—
Connecticut	All but $50	$50	$50
Delaware	All but $50	$50 plus child support supplement[5]	All
D.C.	No income eligibility tests	$150	$150
Florida	All	—	—
Georgia	None[3]	Amount of unmet need[6]	All
Hawaii	All	State supplement[7]	All
Idaho	No income eligibility tests	—	—
Illinois	No income eligibility tests	$50	$50
Indiana	None[3]	—	—
Iowa	None[3]	—	—
Kansas	No income eligibility tests	—	—
Kentucky	All but $50	—	—
Louisiana	No income eligibility tests	—	—
Maine	All but $50	$50 plus amount of unmet need[8]	All
Maryland	No income eligibility tests	—	—
Massachusetts	All but $50	$50 [9]	$50 [9]
Michigan	No income eligibility tests	$50	$50
Minnesota	No income eligibility tests	All	$0
Mississippi	All	—	—
Missouri	All	—	—
Montana	None[3]	No transfer, up to $100 added to TANF payment[10]	—
Nebraska	No income eligibility tests	—	—
Nevada	All	—	—
New Hampshire	No income eligibility tests	—[11]	—[11]
New Jersey	No income eligibility tests	$100	$100
New Mexico	All but $100	$100	$100
New York	All but $100/$200 [12]	$100/$200 [12]	$100/$200 [12]
North Carolina	No income eligibility tests	—	—
North Dakota	No income eligibility tests	—	—
Ohio	No income eligibility tests	—	—
Oklahoma	All	—	—
Oregon	All but $50 [13]	$50 [13]	$50 [13]
Pennsylvania	All but $100/$200 [12]	$100/$200 [12]	$100/$200 [12]
Rhode Island	No income eligibility tests	$50	$50
South Carolina	All	Amount of unmet need[14]	All
South Dakota	No income eligibility tests	—	—
Tennessee	None[3]	Amount of unmet need[15]	All
Texas	All but $75	No transfer, up to $75 added to TANF payment[16]	—

Table IV.A.2 Treatment of Child Support Income for Recipients, July 2011[1]

State	Amount of child support collection counted for recipients' eligibility determination[2]	Portion of Child Support Collection Transferred to the Family: Amount transferred	Portion of Child Support Collection Transferred to the Family: Amount of transfer disregarded for benefit computation
Utah	All	—	—
Vermont	No income eligibility tests	All	$50
Virginia	All but $100	$100	$100
Washington	All	—	—
West Virginia	All but $100/$200 [12]	$100/$200 [12]	$100/$200 [12]
Wisconsin	None[3]	75% of child support payment	All
Wyoming	No income eligibility tests	—	—

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

[1] This table describes the treatment of child support collected by the state on behalf of a TANF recipient; it does not cover the treatment of child support received by the family directly from the absent parent. Child support collections may be counted as income for eligibility purposes regardless of whether they are transferred to the family, but child support retained by the state is never counted for benefit computation. Although many states have created unique child support policies, some states still provide families with the traditional $50 pass-through used under AFDC. The traditional pass-through is represented in this table with "All but $50" in the first column and "$50" in the second and third columns. Also, this table does not cover the transfer of child support payments in excess of current or total TANF benefits.
[2] Some states with values displayed in this column do not have income eligibility tests for recipients according to table IV.A.4. Table IV.A.4 does not display net income tests if the calculation of the test and the disregards allowed for the test do not differ from those used to calculate the benefit. However, for families with child support income, the net income eligibility test may differ from the benefit computation. For calculating eligibility when the family receives child support, the net income test for recipients is equivalent to the benefit calculation in the state (see tables II.A.1, II.A.2, and II.A.3).
[3] States that do not count any child support collections for calculating recipients' eligibility generally use other methods to ensure that families with high and continuing child support amounts do not remain on the rolls indefinitely.
[4] Any child support collected on behalf of a child subject to a family cap is transferred to the family and treated as exempt income.
[5] In addition to the $50 pass-through payment, Delaware provides a supplemental child support payment. This payment is calculated by subtracting a recipient's current disposable income from his or her disposable income as it would have been calculated in 1975.
[6] The amount of child support collected or the amount of unmet need, whichever is smaller, is transferred to the family as unearned income and disregarded for benefit determination. The unmet need, also called the gap payment, is calculated as (the standard of need for the unit's family size) minus (the family maximum for the unit's family size) minus (the unit's net income). For units affected by the family cap, the amount of unmet need is calculated using the standard of need for the family size that includes the capped child, but using the family maximum that excludes the capped child.
[7] The state supplement is equal to (the amount of child support received) times (1 minus Hawaii's Medicaid match rate). In 2011, the portion of child support passed through to each recipient was 41.53 percent.
[8] In addition to the $50 pass-through, the amount of unmet need, also known as the gap payment, is transferred to the family as unearned income and disregarded for benefit determination. The unmet need is calculated as (the standard of need for the unit's family size) minus (the maximum benefit for the unit's family size) minus (the unit's net income). After the pass-through, the state transfers child support in the amount of the unmet need for the family, up to the amount of child support collected.
[9] All child support collected on behalf of a child subject to the family cap is transferred to the family. For children subject to the family cap, the first $90 of unearned income, including child support, is disregarded for eligibility and benefit computation; the rest is counted.
[10] Montana adds any child support collected up to $100 to the TANF payment. This money is considered an addition to the TANF payment, not a pass-through of child support income, and is disregarded for eligibility purposes.
[11] Two-parent families are funded under a separate state program and are not required to assign child support to the state. The family keeps all child support, and it is counted as unearned income for eligibility and benefit computation.
[12] The total pass-through amount is up to $100 if there is one child in the family and up to $200 if there is more than one child in the family.
[13] The total pass-through amount is $50 per child up to $200.
[14] The gap payment equals 63.7 percent of the smaller of (retained child support for the month) or (the maximum amount that would not make the family ineligible for TANF if counted as income). The state defines retained child support as the amount equal to the smaller of (the current month's collection), (the basic TANF award for the month), or (the current monthly obligation excluding arrears).
[15] The amount of child support collected or the amount of unmet need, whichever is smaller, is transferred to the family as unearned income and disregarded for benefit determination. In Tennessee, the unmet need, also known as the gap payment, is calculated as (the consolidated need standard for the unit's family size) minus (the unit's TANF grant) minus (the unit's net income).
[16] Texas adds to the TANF payment the smaller of the court-ordered payment amount, the amount the Office of the Attorney General received during that month, or $75. This money is considered an addition to the TANF benefit, not a pass-through of child support income, and is disregarded for eligibility purposes.

Table IV.A.3 Asset Limits for Recipients, July 2011

State	Asset limit	Vehicle exemption	Restricted Asset Accounts: Amount	Description	Matching rate
Alabama	No limit[1]	All vehicles owned by household	—-	—-	—-
Alaska	$2,000/$3,000[2]	All vehicles owned by household[3]	—-	—-	—-
Arizona	$2,000	All vehicles owned by household	$9,000[4]	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	None
Arkansas	$3,000	One vehicle per household	—-	—-	—-
California	$2,000/$3,000[2]	$4,650[F]/One vehicle per licensed driver[5E]	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	None
Colorado	No Limit[1]	All vehicles owned by household	—-	—-	—-
Connecticut	$3,000	$9,500[6E]	No limit	Postsecondary education of a dependent child, IRAs, Keoghs, 401(k) plans	None
Delaware	$10,000	All vehicles owned by household	$5,000	Dependent care expenses, security deposit for an apartment or house, purchase or repair of a vehicle, educational expenses, business expenses or investments	None
D.C.	$2,000/$3,000[2]	All vehicles owned by household	$10,000	Opportunity accounts: Education or training, purchase of a primary residence, major repairs or improvements to a primary residence, start-up business costs, medical emergencies, retirement expenses, puchase of a federally qualified retirement account	2 to 1
Florida	$2,000	$8,500[E]	Varies[7]	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business; transportation	Up to $1,500 per year[8]
Georgia	$1,000	$1,500/$4,650[9E]	$5,000	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	*
Hawaii	$5,000	All vehicles owned by household	*	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business, certain educational accounts and retirement accounts	*
Idaho	$2,000	One vehicle per adult[10]	—-	—-	—-
Illinois	$2,000/$3,000/ +$50[11]	One vehicle per household[12]	No limit[13]	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business; purchase of a vehicle	2 to 1
Indiana	$1,500	$5,000[14E]	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	*

Table IV.A.3 Asset Limits for Recipients, July 2011

State	Asset limit	Vehicle exemption	Restricted Asset Accounts: Amount	Description	Matching rate
Iowa	$5,000	One vehicle per household[15]	All deposits and interest	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business, home improvement, medical emergencies	1 to 1[16]
Kansas	$2,000	All vehicles owned by household	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	None
Kentucky	$2,000[17]	All vehicles owned by household	$5,000	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	*
Louisiana	No limit[1]	All vehicles owned by household	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training; purchase of a first home; capitalization of a small business; payments for work-related clothing, tools, or equipment	None
Maine	$2,000	One vehicle per household	$10,000	Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business, repairs to a vehicle or home	2 to 1[18]
Maryland	No limit[1]	All vehicles owned by household	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	*
Massachusetts	$2,500	$5,000[E]/$10,000[19F]	---	---	---
Michigan	$3,000	All vehicles owned by household	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	*
Minnesota	$5,000	$15,000[20F]	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	3 to 1
Mississippi	$2,000[21]	All vehicles owned by household[22]	---	---	---
Missouri	$5,000	One vehicle per household[23]	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	None
Montana	$3,000	One vehicle per household[24]	---	---	---
Nebraska	$4,000/$6,000[25]	One vehicle per household[26]	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business, trust funds for children in the assistance unit	None
Nevada	$2,000	One vehicle per household	*[27]	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	*
New Hampshire	$2,000	One vehicle per licensed driver	$2,000	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	3 to 1
New Jersey	$2,000	All vehicles owned by household[28F]	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business; purchase of a vehicle	*

Table IV.A.3 Asset Limits for Recipients, July 2011

State	Asset limit	Vehicle exemption	Restricted Asset Accounts: Amount	Description	Matching rate
New Mexico	$3,500[29]	All vehicles owned by household[30]	No limit[31]	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business, home improvement	None
New York	$2,000/$3,000[2]	$4,650/$9,300[32F]	No limit[33]	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business; purchase of a vehicle	*
North Carolina	$3,000	All vehicles owned by household	No limit	---	---
North Dakota	$3,000/$6,000/ +$25[34]	One vehicle per household	---	---	---
Ohio	No limit[1]	All vehicles owned by household	$10,000	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	Up to 4 to 1
Oklahoma	$1,000	$5,000[E]	$4,000 [35]	IDA and SEED accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business[35]	None
Oregon					
All, except JOBS/JOBS Plus	$10,000[36]	$10,000[E]	---	---	---
JOBS/JOBS Plus	$10,000[36]	$10,000[E]	No limit	Education account	1 to hr. worked[37]
Pennsylvania	$1,000	One vehicle per household	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business; any other use as outlined in an approved plan	1 to 1[38]
Rhode Island	$1,000	One vehicle per adult[39]	---	---	---
South Carolina	$2,500	One vehicle per licensed driver [40]	$10,000	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	None
South Dakota	$2,000	One vehicle per household[41]	---	---	---
Tennessee	$2,000	$4,600[E]	$5,000	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business; transportation	Varies[42]
Texas	$1,000[43]	$4,650 of all vehicles owned by household[44F]	No limit[45]	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	1 to 1
Utah	$2,000	All vehicles owned by household	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	*
Vermont	$2,000[46]	One vehicle per adult	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	*
Virginia	No limit[1]	All vehicles owned by household	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	2 to 1

Table IV.A.3 Asset Limits for Recipients, July 2011

			Restricted Asset Accounts:		
State	Asset limit	Vehicle exemption	Amount	Description	Matching rate
Washington	$1,000[47]	$5,000[48E]	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	*
West Virginia	$2,000	One vehicle per household	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business, HUD Family Self-Sufficiency Escrow Accounts	*
Wisconsin	$2,500	$10,000[E]	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	Varies
Wyoming	$2,500	One vehicle per household[49]	—	—	—

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

[E] Equity value of the vehicle.
[F] Fair-market value of the vehicle.

[*] Data not obtained.

[1] The asset test has been eliminated.
[2] Units including an elderly person may exempt $3,000; all other units exempt $2,000.
[3] Vehicles are exempt if used for one of the following: (1) to meet the family's basic needs, such as getting food and medical care or other essentials; (2) to go to and from work, school, training, or work activity (such as job search or community service); (3) as the family's house; (4) to produce self-employment income; or (5) to transport a disabled family member, whether or not he or she is a part of the assistance unit. If the vehicle does not meet one of these requirements, the equity value of the vehicle is counted in the determination of resources.
[4] In addition, 50 percent of earned income that is deposited into an IDA is disregarded for eligibility and benefit computation. The monthly value of the disregard cannot exceed $100.
[5] Each vehicle must be evaluated for both its equity and fair-market values; the higher of the two counts against the family's asset limit. Before this calculation, all the following vehicles are completely excluded: (1) is necessary for long-distance travel essential for employment; (2) is necessary to transport a physically disabled household member; (3) would be exempt under previously stated exemptions, but the vehicle is not in use because of temporary unemployment; (4) used to carry fuel or water to the home and is the primary method of obtaining fuel or water; and (5) the equity value of the vehicle is $1,501 or less. To determine the countable fair-market value of each remaining vehicle, exclude $4,650 from the vehicle's fair-market value. To determine the countable equity value of each remaining vehicle, exclude one additional vehicle per adult and one additional vehicle per licensed child who uses the vehicle to travel to school, employment, or job search. The full equity value of each remaining vehicle is counted. For each vehicle not completely excluded, the higher of the fair-market value or the equity value counts against the family's asset limit.
[6] The unit may exempt $9,500 of the equity value of a vehicle or the entire value of one vehicle used to transport a handicapped person.
[7] Amount depends on the savings goal agreed upon by the participant and the regional work board.
[8] The match rate is determined case by case and cannot exceed $1,500 a year.
[9] If the vehicle is used for job search, or to travel to work or education and training, the unit may exclude $4,650 of the value. If the vehicle is not used for these purposes, $1,500 of the equity value may be excluded. If the vehicle is used more than 50 percent of the time to produce income or as a dwelling, it is totally excluded.
[10] Vehicle must be used primarily for transportation. In addition, the value of one specially equipped vehicle used to transport a disabled family member or necessary for household functions is not counted in determining resources. Also, vehicles with fair-market values under $1,500 are not counted.
[11] The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $2,000, two people receive $3,000, and three or more receive another $50 for each additional person.
[12] If a vehicle has special equipment for the disabled, the added value of the special equipment is exempt and does not increase the vehicle's value.
[13] Deposits must come from earned income, and all deposits must be matched by state or local government, or through contributions made by a nonprofit entity. All withdrawals from the IDA account must be in the form of vendor payments made on behalf of the client for one or more intended purposes of the IDA.
[14] The $5,000 limit can only be applied to one vehicle.
[15] Additionally, $4,658 of the equity value of a vehicle is exempt for each adult and working teenager whose resources must be considered in determining eligibility.
[16] The state matches $0.50 for every dollar of a recipient's assets; federal funds match another $0.50.
[17] Only liquid resources are considered for eligibility determinations. Liquid resources include cash, checking and savings accounts, CDs, stocks and bonds, and money market accounts.
[18] Community agencies will contribute matching funds up to $2,000 a year.

[19] Massachusetts compares the value of the vehicle to two standards: $10,000 of the fair-market value and $5,000 of the equity value. If the value of the vehicle exceeds either limit, the excess counts toward the asset limit. If the value of the vehicle exceeds both limits, only the excess of the greater amount counts toward the asset limit.

[20] The amount is the loan value of the vehicle with the highest loan value, which has not already been totally excluded under the following provisions: (1) exclude all motor vehicles essential to operating a self-employment business; (2) exclude any vehicle used as the unit's home; (3) exclude one vehicle per physically disabled person needed to transport the disabled unit member; (4) exclude the value of special equipment added to a vehicle for a handicapped member of the assistance unit; (5) exclude any vehicle used for certain long-distance traveling for the employment of a unit member; and (6) exclude any vehicle if at least 50 percent of its use is to produce income. $7,500 of the loan value of additional vehicles is also exempt. Minnesota uses the loan value of the vehicle as listed in the current NADA Used Car Guide, Midwest edition, instead of the fair-market value. The loan value is generally slightly less than the estimated fair-market value.

[21] When a TANF recipient marries while receiving assistance, the resources of the new spouse are disregarded for six months.

[22] Recreational vehicles are not exempt. Additionally, industrial vehicles—heavy haulers, pulpwood trucks, etc.—are exempt as long as they are used for income-producing purposes over 50 percent of the time, or as long as they annually produce income consistent with their fair-market value. Determination of whether to count a vehicle is made case by case.

[23] $1,500 of the equity value of the unit's second vehicle is exempt.

[24] All vehicles whose primary use is to produce income or that are used as a home are also exempt.

[25] The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $4,000, two or more people receive $6,000.

[26] The entire vehicle is exempt only if used for employment, training, or medical transportation. If a unit has more than one vehicle that meets the exemption criteria, only the vehicle with the greatest equity value will be exempt.

[27] Individuals can only deposit earned income into the IDA; the amount of earned income will be considered an earned income disregard in determining eligibility and benefit amounts.

[28] Recreational vehicles are not exempt.

[29] The total limit is $3,500, but only $1,500 can be in liquid resources and $2,000 can be in nonliquid resources. Liquid resources include the (convertible) cash value of life insurance policies, cash, stocks, bonds, negotiable notes, purchase contracts, and other similar assets. Nonliquid resources include nonexempt vehicles, equipment, tools, livestock (except nonsalable domestic pets), one-time sale asset conversion, and lump sum payments.

[30] The entire vehicle is exempt only if used for transportation to work, work activities, or daily living requirements. If the vehicle is not used for these purposes, the entire equity value of the vehicle is subject to the asset test.

[31] New Mexico does not limit the amount of money a unit may save for postsecondary education or business capitalization, but the unit may only save $1,500 toward the purchase of a new home.

[32] If the vehicle is needed to seek or retain employment, $9,300 of the vehicle is exempt. Otherwise, $4,650 of the full fair-market value is exempt.

[33] In addition to the IDA account, recipients may exempt up to $4,650 for the purchase of a first or replacement vehicle that will be used to seek, obtain, or maintain employment. The funds must be kept in a separate bank account from the IDA savings.

[34] The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $3,000, two people receive $6,000, and another $25 is allowed for each additional person thereafter.

[35] Although the asset limit is $4,000, the unit may only save $2,000 in an IDA and $2,000 in the Savings for Education, Entrepreneurship, and Downpayment (SEED) accounts, which are savings accounts for individuals age 13 through 18 dedicated for purposes such as postsecondary education or training expenses, purchase of a first home, or capitalization of a small business.

[36] The limit is reduced to $2,500 if the recipient does not cooperate with his or her case plan.

[37] The participant's employer contributes one dollar for every hour the participant works.

[38] The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development contributes matching funds up to $1,000 a year. Non-IDA postsecondary education savings accounts are not subject to a match rate.

[39] Exemptions for adult drivers cannot exceed two vehicles per household. Additionally, the entire value of a vehicle used primarily to provide transportation for a disabled family member is exempt.

[40] Vehicles owned by or used to transport disabled individuals or essential to self-employment are also excluded.

[41] In addition to one primary vehicle, an assistance unit may totally exclude a vehicle used to transport water or fuel to the home when it is not piped in or to transport a disabled member or SSI recipient in the household. The unit may also exclude $4,650 of the fair-market value of a vehicle used to transport members of the unit for education or employment.

[42] Local banks, churches, or IDA nonprofit sponsors contribute matching funds from rates of 1 to 1, up to 9 to 1.

[43] When a TANF recipient marries while receiving assistance, the liquid resources of the new spouse are excluded for six months beginning the month after the date of the marriage. To receive the disregard, the resources must result from the new spouse's earnings, and total gross income must not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

[44] All licensed vehicles used for income-producing purposes or for transporting a disabled household member are exempt.

[45] Only deposits from earnings or EITCs are disregarded. Any withdrawals from an IDA account made for non-allowable purposes are counted as resources.

[46] In addition to the $2,000 asset limit, assets accumulated from earnings, interest earned on those assets, and nonliquid assets purchased with savings from earnings and other excluded income or resources are excluded as resources.

[47] $3,000 of a savings account or certificate of deposit may be excluded. The entire amount in an IDA may also be excluded.

[48] The entire equity value of a vehicle used to transport a disabled household member is also exempt.

[49] This exemption applies to a single-parent unit. Married couples can exempt two vehicles.

Table IV.A.4 Income Eligibility Tests for Recipients, July 2011

State	Type of test	Income must be less than
Alabama	No explicit tests	---
Alaska	Gross income	185% of need standard
	Net income	100% of need standard
Arizona	Gross income	185% of need standard
	Net income	100% of need standard
Arkansas	Net income	100% of income eligibility standard
California	No explicit tests	---
Colorado	Gross income	100% of need standard[1]
Connecticut	Gross earnings	100% of federal poverty level
	Unearned income	100% of need standard and 100% of payment standard
Delaware	Gross income	185% of standard of need
	Net income	100% of standard of need
D.C.	No explicit tests	---
Florida	Gross income	185% of federal poverty level
Georgia	Gross income	185% of standard of need
Hawaii	Gross income	185% of standard of need
	Net income	100% of standard of assistance
Idaho	No explicit tests	---
Illinois	No explicit tests	---
Indiana	Net income	100% of federal poverty level
Iowa	Gross income	185% of need standard
Kansas	No explicit tests	---
Kentucky	Gross income	185% of standard of need[2]
Louisiana	No explicit tests	---
Maine	Gross income	100% of gross income test
Maryland	No explicit tests	---
Massachusetts	Gross income	185% of need standard and payment standard
Michigan	No explicit tests	---
Minnesota	No explicit tests	---
Mississippi	Gross income	185% of need standard and payment standard[2]
Missouri	Gross income	185% of need standard
Montana	Gross income	185% of net monthly income standard
	Net income	100% of benefit standard
Nebraska	No explicit tests	---
Nevada	Gross income	130% of federal poverty level[2]
New Hampshire	No explicit tests	---
New Jersey[3]	No explicit tests	---
New Mexico	Gross income	85% of federal poverty level
New York	Gross income	185% of need standard and 100% of federal poverty level
North Carolina	No explicit tests	---
North Dakota	No explicit tests	---
Ohio	No explicit tests	---
Oklahoma	Gross income	185% of need standard
Oregon		
All, except JOBS Plus	Gross income	100% of countable income limit
JOBS Plus	Gross income	100% of Food Stamp countable income limit
Pennsylvania	No explicit tests	---
Rhode Island	No explicit tests	---

Table IV.A.4 Income Eligibility Tests for Recipients, July 2011

State	Type of test	Income must be less than
South Carolina	Gross income	185% of need standard
South Dakota	No explicit tests	—-
Tennessee[4]	Gross income	185% of consolidated need standard
Texas	Net income	100% of recognizable needs
Utah	Gross income	185% of adjusted standard needs budget
	Net income	100% of adjusted standard needs budget
Vermont	No explicit tests	—-
Virginia		
VIEW[5]	Gross earnings	100% of federal poverty level
	Unearned income	100% of standard of assistance
All, except VIEW	Gross income	185% of standard of need
Washington	Gross earnings	100% of maximum gross earned income limit
West Virginia	Gross income	100% of standard of need
Wisconsin	Gross income	115% of federal poverty level
Wyoming	No explicit tests	—-

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Notes: "No explicit tests" indicates either that the state imposes no income tests on recipients or that the state imposes an income test but the calculation of the test and disregards allowed for it do not differ from those used to calculate the benefit.

See table II.A.2 for information on benefit computation policies.

See table I.E.3 for information on eligibility standards.

[1] The gross income test does not apply to earnings for recipients who are receiving the 66.7 percent benefit computation disregard.
[2] The gross income test does not apply to earnings for recipients who are receiving the 100 percent benefit computation disregard.
[3] In households where the natural or adoptive parent is married to a non-needy stepparent, the gross household income may not exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty level.
[4] When a caretaker marries while receiving assistance, the unit may choose to exclude the new spouse from the unit for three months. During this time, the spouse's income is not considered in determining the unit's eligibility. After the three months, the new spouse must be included in the unit, and his or her income and resources must be considered in determining eligibility.
[5] For two-parent units to be eligible, their gross earned income must be below 150 percent of the federal poverty level and their unearned income must be below 100 percent of the standard of assistance.

Table IV.A.5 Maximum Income for Ongoing Eligibility for a Family of Three, July 2011[1]

State	Maximum Earnings a Recipient Can Retain and Still Remain Eligible for Assistance in Month:			
	2	7	13	25
Alabama	No maximum	No maximum	$268	$268
Alaska	$2,335	$2,335	$2,101	$1,979
Arizona	$585	$585	$585	$585
Arkansas	$697	$697	$697	$697
California				
Nonexempt	$1,387	$1,387	$1,387	$1,387
Exempt	$1,539	$1,539	$1,539	$1,539
Colorado	$1,387	$1,387	$421	$421
Connecticut	$1,545	$1,545	$1,545	$1,545
Delaware	$1,827	$1,263	$1,233	$1,233
D.C.	$1,444	$1,444	$1,444	$1,444
Florida	$805	$805	$805	$805
Georgia	$756	$544	$514	$514
Hawaii	$2,365	$1,940	$1,940	$1,441
Idaho	$648	$648	$648	$648
Illinois	$1,727	$1,727	$1,727	$1,727
Indiana	$1,151	$1,151	$1,151	$1,151
Iowa	$1,267	$1,267	$1,267	$1,267
Kansas	$1,162	$1,162	$1,162	$1,162
Kentucky	No maximum	$645	$645	$615
Louisiana	$1,259	$359	$359	$359
Maine	$1,023	$1,023	$1,023	$1,023
Maryland	$956	$956	$956	$956
Massachusetts				
Exempt	$1,069	$1,069	$1,069	$1,069
Nonexempt	$1,143	$1,143	$1,143	$1,143
Michigan	$814	$814	$814	$814
Minnesota[2]	$1,755	$1,755	$1,755	$1,755
Mississippi	No maximum	$458	$458	$458
Missouri	$1,145	$1,145	$381	$381
Montana	$753	$753	$753	$753
Nebraska	$886	$886	$886	$886
Nevada	No maximum	$1,531	$478	$478
New Hampshire	$1,348	$1,348	$1,348	$1,348
New Jersey	$1,695	$1,695	$847	$847
New Mexico	$883	$883	$883	$883
New York	$1,458	$1,458	$1,458	$1,458
North Carolina	No maximum	$681	$681	$681
North Dakota	$1,306	$1,005	$871	$653
Ohio	$1,115	$1,115	$1,115	$1,115
Oklahoma	$824	$824	$824	$824
Oregon	$616	$616	$616	$616
Pennsylvania	$805	$805	$805	$805
Rhode Island	$1,277	$1,277	$1,277	$1,277
South Carolina	$1,412	$863	$863	$863
South Dakota	$782	$782	$782	$782
Tennessee	$1,315	$1,315	$1,315	$1,315
Texas	$1,708	$308	$308	$308 [3]

Table IV.A.5 Maximum Income for Ongoing Eligibility for a Family of Three, July 2011[1]

	Maximum Earnings a Recipient Can Retain and Still Remain Eligible for Assistance in Month:			
State	2	7	13	25
Utah	$1,046	$1,046	$1,046	$1,046
Vermont	$1,053	$1,053	$1,053	$1,053
Virginia				
VIEW	$1,544	$1,544	$1,544	$1,544
All, except VIEW	$540	$540	$540	$540
Washington	$954	$954	$954	$954
West Virginia	$565	$565	$565	$565
Wisconsin	—[4]	—[4]	—[4]	—[4]
Wyoming	$776	$776	$776	$776

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Note: Initial eligibility is calculated assuming that the unit is employed at application, has only earned income, has no child care expenses, contains one adult and no children subject to a family cap, has no special needs, pays for shelter, and lives in the most populated area of the state.

[1] The values in this table represent the maximum amount of earnings a recipient in various months of combining work and TANF can retain and still be technically eligible for assistance in each state. Technical eligibility does not mean that the unit will necessarily receive a cash benefit, but it will have passed all the eligibility tests and is eligible for some positive amount. Most states only distribute a cash benefit equaling $10 or more.

[2] This table captures the maximum earnings a recipient may have in the months following his or her completion of the mandatory four-month diversion program. During the diversion program, different earned income disregards and benefit computation rules apply.

[3] Based on the assumption made for these calculations, the recipient is not receiving the state's 90 percent disregard. However, under different assumptions, the recipient may receive the 90 percent disregard in the 25th month of combining work and welfare.

[4] Units with earnings at application will not receive a cash benefit, except for some Community Service Job participants who may qualify for a prorated cash benefit. Applicants may earn up to $1,776 and still be eligible for nonfinancial assistance.

Table IV.B.1 Family Cap Policies, July 2011

State	Special treatment of additional children	Special treatment if child born more than X months after case opening	Increase in cash benefit for an additional child (and special provisions)	Special treatment discontinued if case closed X months[1]
Alabama	No	—	—	—
Alaska	No	—	—	—
Arizona	Yes	10 [2]	None (disregard)[3]	Always capped
Arkansas	Yes	1	None	6
California	Yes	10 [4]	None	24
Colorado	No	—	—	—
Connecticut	Yes	10	$50	Always capped
Delaware	Yes[5]	10	None	Always capped
D.C.	No	—	—	—
Florida	Yes	10	Half of normal increase for adding first child; none for additional children	Always capped
Georgia	Yes	10	Varies[6]	Always capped
Hawaii	No	—	—	—
Idaho	No[7]	—	—	—
Illinois	No	—	—	—
Indiana	Yes	10	None	Always capped
Iowa	No	—	—	—
Kansas	No	—	—	—
Kentucky	No	—	—	—
Louisiana	No	—	—	—
Maine	No	—	—	—
Maryland	No	—	—	—
Massachusetts	Yes	10	None (disregard)[8]	Always capped
Michigan	No	—	—	—
Minnesota	Yes	10	None[9]	10
Mississippi	Yes	10	None	Always capped
Missouri	No	—	—	—
Montana	No	—	—	—
Nebraska	No	—	—	—
Nevada	No	—	—	—
New Hampshire	No	—	—	—
New Jersey	Yes	10	None (earner exemption)[10]	12 [11]
New Mexico	No	—	—	—
New York	No	—	—	—
North Carolina	Yes	10	None	Always capped
North Dakota	Yes	8	None	12
Ohio	No	—	—	—
Oklahoma	No	—	—	—
Oregon	No	—	—	—
Pennsylvania	No	—	—	—
Rhode Island	No	—	—	—
South Carolina	Yes[12]	10	None (voucher)[13]	Always capped
South Dakota	No	—	—	—
Tennessee	Yes	10	None	1 [14]
Texas	No	—	—	—

Table IV.B.1 Family Cap Policies, July 2011

State	Special treatment of additional children	Special treatment if child born more than X months after case opening	Increase in cash benefit for an additional child (and special provisions)	Special treatment discontinued if case closed X months[1]
Utah	No	—	—	—
Vermont	No	—	—	—
Virginia	Yes	10	None	Always capped
Washington	No	—	—	—
West Virginia	No	—	—	—
Wisconsin	No[15]	—	—	—
Wyoming	No	—	—	—

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Note: Some units may be exempt from the family cap policies. See the WRD for more details on exemption policies.

[1] This column describes the number of months a unit must remain off assistance to regain eligibility for a previously capped child. Some states permanently exclude capped children even if the unit cycles on and off assistance, while other states may include previously capped children in benefit and eligibility calculations if the unit has not received assistance for a specified period.
[2] The 10-month grace period applies only to the first child born after November 1, 1995. All subsequent children born to the family are capped unless they were conceived during a 12-month or longer period of nonreceipt.
[3] Units subjected to the family cap receive an additional earned income disregard equal to the lost benefit amount. This additional disregard is allowed for each month the member is excluded due to a cap.
[4] The family cap provision does not apply to units that did not receive notification of the rule at least 10 months before the birth of the child or units that leave assistance for at least two consecutive months during the 10-month period leading up to the birth.
[5] In addition to the family cap policy, any child born after December 31, 1998, to an unmarried minor parent is ineligible for cash assistance, regardless of whether the minor was receiving aid at the time of the birth. If the minor received benefits within 10 months of the child's birth, the child will always be capped. If the minor did not receive benefits within 10 months of the child's birth, the child will be eligible for assistance once the minor turns 18. Units in which the child is not permanently capped may receive noncash assistance services in the form of vouchers upon request, but they will not be automatically given each month. Receipt is based on need, and the total monthly value of the vouchers is capped at $69.
[6] The additional child increases the standard of need but not the family maximum. If the family has no income, the cash benefit will not increase. However, if the family has income, the benefit may increase but cannot increase higher than the maximum payment for the family size excluding the capped child.
[7] Idaho provides a flat maximum benefit, regardless of family size. However, the Work Incentive Payment increases with family size, so the benefit for a unit with income may increase with an additional child, but never beyond the maximum benefit level.
[8] Units subject to the family cap receive an additional earned income disregard equal to the first $90 of income received by or on behalf of a capped child in any month.
[9] The family cap applies only to the cash assistance portion of the benefit the additional child would receive. The child will still be eligible for the food portion of the benefit.
[10] Units in which at least one adult member of the unit is working (any number of hours) are not subject to the family cap.
[11] After case closure, if the recipient is employed for three months and loses the job by no fault of his or her own and then reapplies for assistance, the previously capped child is included in the unit. These units, however, do not receive a new 10-month grace period for any subsequent pregnancies.
[12] The unit is not eligible for assistance if the only child in the unit is the capped child.
[13] Benefits are available in the form of vouchers up to the amount of increase in cash benefits the unit would have received for the child.
[14] The family cap continues until the case is closed. If the case is reopened, the cap is discontinued unless the case was closed for failure to cooperate with child support requirements, failure to fulfill requirements included in the contract, or if at the time of case closure the unit was sanctioned for noncompliance with these requirements, even if noncompliance was not the reason for the closure.
[15] The state provides a flat benefit, regardless of family size.

Table IV.C.1 State Lifetime Time Limit Policies, July 2011

State	Lifetime limit	Whose Benefits Are Terminated: Entire unit	Adult only
Alabama	60 months	X	—
Alaska	60 months	X[1]	—
Arizona	36 months	X	—
Arkansas	24 months	X	—
California	48 months[2]	—	X
Colorado	60 months	X	—
Connecticut	21 months[3]	X	—
Delaware			
All, except TWP	36 months[4]	X	—
TWP	—	—	—
D.C.	60 months[5]	X	—
Florida	48 months	X	—
Georgia	48 months	X	—
Hawaii	60 months	X	—
Idaho	24 months	X	—
Illinois	60 months	X[1]	—
Indiana	24 months	—	X
	60 months	X	—
Iowa	60 months[6]	X	—
Kansas	60 months	X	—
Kentucky	60 months	X	—
Louisiana	60 months	X	—
Maine	—[7]	—	—
Maryland	60 months	X	—
Massachusetts	—	—	—
Michigan	48 months	X	—
Minnesota	60 months	X	—
Mississippi	60 months	X	—
Missouri	60 months	X	—
Montana	60 months	X	—
Nebraska			
Time-limited assistance	60 months	X	—
Non-time-limited assistance	—	—	—
Nevada	60 months	X	—
New Hampshire			
Employment Program	60 months	X	—
Family Assistance Program	—	—	—
New Jersey	60 months	X	—
New Mexico	60 months	X	—
New York	—[8]	—	—
North Carolina	60 months[9]	X	—
North Dakota	60 months	—	X
Ohio	60 months[10]	X	—
Oklahoma	60 months	X	—
Oregon	60 months[11]	—	X
Pennsylvania	60 months	X	—
Rhode Island	48 months	X	—
South Carolina			
All, except CARES	60 months	X	—
CARES	—	—	—

Table IV.C.1 State Lifetime Time Limit Policies, July 2011

State	Lifetime limit	Whose Benefits Are Terminated: Entire unit	Whose Benefits Are Terminated: Adult only
South Dakota	60 months	X	—
Tennessee	60 months	X	—
Texas	60 months	X	—
Utah	36 months	X	—
Vermont	—[12]	—	—
Virginia	60 months	X	—
Washington	—[13]	—	—
West Virginia	60 months	X	—
Wisconsin	60 months	X	—
Wyoming	60 months	X	—

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

[1] If the adult who has reached the 60-month lifetime limit is not the parent of any child in the assistance unit, only the adult is ineligible for benefits. Children who do not live with a parent can therefore continue to receive assistance after their caretaker reaches the 60-month limit.
[2] California’s TANF funding began December 1996, but recipients’ benefit months did not begin to count against units’ 60-month limit until January 1998. Using state funds, California will extend recipients’ benefits beyond 60 months if the unit received assistance between December 1996 and January 1998. The length of the extension equals the number of months the unit received benefits during this period.
[3] Recipients may apply for extensions after 21 months of benefits, but they may not receive more than 60 total months of assistance. See table IV.C.4 for more information on extensions.
[4] The 36-month time limit applies to assistance units that apply for benefits on or after January 1, 2000. Units that received benefits before this date are eligible for 48 months of assistance.
[5] After 60 months, the unit remains eligible if the net income falls below the reduced payment level. Benefits are reduced to 80 percent of the payment level for the unit size.
[6] In addition to the 60-month lifetime limit, units must establish a time frame, with a specific ending date, during which the recipient expects to become self-sufficient (i.e., when income is above eligibility limits).
[7] Units in compliance with TANF program rules may continue to receive benefits beyond 60 months. If members of the unit have been sanctioned three or more times during their 60 months of assistance, the adult’s needs are not considered for benefit computation for an amount of time equal to the length of the adult’s last sanction period.
[8] After 60 months, the unit is still eligible to receive noncash assistance through New York’s Safety Net Assistance program.
[9] In certain circumstances, a child may be able to continue receiving benefits after 60 months. Because the time limit follows the adult, a child may enter a new household and become eligible in a new assistance unit.
[10] After receiving 36 months of assistance, the case is closed; however, it is possible to receive 24 additional months of benefits if the unit has not received benefits for at least 24 months and can demonstrate good cause for reapplying.
[11] Oregon’s 60-month lifetime limit retroactively affects recipients; all months of benefit receipt since July 2003 are counted against a unit’s 60-month limit.
[12] Recipients who reach the 60-month federal time limit are placed in a solely state-funded program.
[13] Units in compliance with TANF program rules may continue to receive benefits beyond 60 months.

Table IV.C.2 Other State Time Limit Policies, July 2011

State	Number of months eligible	Whose Benefits Are Terminated: Entire unit	Whose Benefits Are Terminated: Adult only
Alabama	—	—	—
Alaska	—	—	—
Arizona	—[1]	—	—
Arkansas	—	—	—
California	—	—	—
Colorado	—	—	—
Connecticut	—	—	—
Delaware	—	—	—
D.C.	—	—	—
Florida	—	—	—
Georgia	—	—	—
Hawaii	—	—	—
Idaho	—	—	—
Illinois	—	—	—
Indiana	—	—	—
Iowa	—	—	—
Kansas	—	—	—
Kentucky	—	—	—
Louisiana	24 of 60 months	X	—
Maine	—	—	—
Maryland	—	—	—
Massachusetts			
Exempt	—	—	—
Nonexempt	24 of 60 months	X	—
Michigan	—	—	—
Minnesota	—	—	—
Mississippi	—	—	—
Missouri	—	—	—
Montana	—	—	—
Nebraska	—	—	—
Nevada	24 months; followed by 12 months of ineligibility	X	—
New Hampshire	—	—	—
New Jersey	—	—	—
New Mexico	—	—	—
New York	—	—	—
North Carolina	24 months; followed by 36 months of ineligibility	X	—
North Dakota	—	—	—
Ohio	36 months; followed by 24 months of ineligibility[2]	X	—
Oklahoma	—	—	—
Oregon	—	—	—
Pennsylvania	—	—	—
Rhode Island	24 of 60 months	X	—
South Carolina			
All, except CARES	24 of 120 months	X	—
CARES	—	—	—
South Dakota	—	—	—

Table IV.C.2 Other State Time Limit Policies, July 2011

State	Number of months eligible	Whose Benefits Are Terminated: Entire unit	Adult only
Tennessee	—-	—-	—-
Texas	12, 24, or 36 months; followed by 60 months of ineligibility[3]	—-	X
Utah	—-[4]	—-	—-
Vermont	—-	—-	—-
Virginia			
VIEW	24 months; followed by 24 months of ineligibility[5]	X	—-
All, except VIEW	—-	—-	—-
Washington	—-	—-	—-
West Virginia	—-	—-	—-
Wisconsin	—-	—-	—-
Wyoming	—-	—-	—-

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

[1] Two-parent families in which neither parent is disabled are eligible for only six months of assistance in any 12-month period.
[2] To receive benefits after the 24-month period of ineligibility, the family must demonstrate good cause for reapplying. Good cause may include loss of employment, inability to find employment, divorce, domestic violence, or other reasons determined by the caseworker.
[3] The 12-month limit applies to nonexempt recipients who (1) did not complete the 11th grade and have 18 months or more of recent work experience or (2) have either a high school diploma or GED, a certificate from postsecondary school, or a certificate or degree from vocational or technical school and any work experience. The 24-month limit applies to nonexempt recipients who (1) did not complete the 11th grade and have between 6 and 17 months of recent work experience or (2) completed the 11th grade but not the 12th grade or have a GED, and have completed 17 or fewer months of work experience. The 36-month limit applies to nonexempt recipients who (1) have less than six months of recent work experience and (2) did not complete the 11th grade.
[4] Two-parent families in which the principal wage earner is unemployed are eligible for only seven months of assistance in any 13-month period.
[5] After receiving 24 months of assistance, the unit may receive up to 12 months of transitional benefits. The 24 months of ineligibility begins with the month in which the case was closed or the month in which transitional benefits were terminated, whichever is later.

Table IV.C.3 State Time Limit Exemption Policies, July 2011

State	Unit Exempt for Months in Which the Head Was: Working (min. weekly hrs.) or had earned income (min. dollars)	Cooperating but unable to find employment	Ill or incapacitated	Caring for an ill or incapacitated person	Caring for child under age (months)	Pregnant (month or later)	Minor parent	Age (or older) (years)	Victim of domestic violence	Other
Alabama	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	—-
Alaska	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	—-
Arizona	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Receiving less than a $100 benefit Receiving benefits before 10/01/02[1] Months in which the full amount of assistance is reimbursed by child support
Arkansas	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	3 [2]	7	No	60	Yes	Receiving assistance in another state[3] Not receiving support services Not required to participate in activities
California	No	No	Yes	Yes	24 [4]	No[5]	Yes[6]	60	Yes	Sanctioned for noncompliance[7] Months in which the full amount of assistance is reimbursed by child support Months in which an individual is a caretaker of a dependent child of the court, a kinship care program child, or a child at risk of placement in foster care Not receiving support services Receiving less than a $10 benefit
Colorado	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	—-
Connecticut	No	No	Yes	Yes	12 [8]	1 [9]	Yes[10]	60	No	An unemployable adult[11]
Delaware	No	No	Yes[12]	Yes[12]	No	No	No	No	Yes	Nonparent caretaker relative receiving benefits[12] Pending SSI/ SSDI application[12]
D.C.[13]	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	—-
Florida	No	No	No	Yes	3	No	Yes	No	No	Not job-ready Not receiving support services Receiving less than a $10 benefit

Table IV.C.3 State Time Limit Exemption Policies, July 2011

State	Unit Exempt for Months in Which the Head Was: Working (min. weekly hrs.) or had earned income (min. dollars)	Cooperating but unable to find employment	Ill or incapacitated	Caring for an ill or incapacitated person	Caring for child under age (months)	Pregnant (month or later)	Minor parent	Age (or older) (years)	Victim of domestic violence	Other
Georgia	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	—
Hawaii	No	No	Yes	Yes	6	No	No	65	Yes[14]	—
Idaho	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Sanctioned for noncompliance
Illinois	30 hrs.[15]	No	No	Yes[16]	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	In a postsecondary education program[17]
Indiana	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	—
Iowa	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	—
Kansas	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	—
Kentucky	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes[18]	No	No	—
Louisiana	No[19]	No	No[20]	No	No	No[21]	No	No	No	—[22]
Maine[13]	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	In the second year of a postsecondary education program Living with a second parent or caretaker receiving SSI benefits
Maryland	Any earned income	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Nonparent caretaker relative receiving benefits
Massachusetts										
Exempt[23]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nonexempt	No	No	—[24]	—[24]	—[24]	—[24]	—[24]	—[24]	Yes	Sanctioned for noncompliance[25] Not required to participate in activities
Michigan	Any earned income[26]	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Unemployed because of high local unemployment Not required to participate in activities
Minnesota	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes[27]	60	Yes[28]	Choosing to opt out of receiving the cash portion of the grant or receiving only the food portion of the grant Sanctioned for noncompliance[29]
Mississippi	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	—

Table IV.C.3 State Time Limit Exemption Policies, July 2011

State	Working (min. weekly hrs.) or had earned income (min. dollars)	Cooperating but unable to find employment	Ill or incapacitated	Caring for an ill or incapacitated person	Caring for child under age (months)	Pregnant (month or later)	Minor parent	Age (or older) (years)	Victim of domestic violence	Other
	Unit Exempt for Months in Which the Head Was:									
Missouri	No	No	Yes	Yes[30]	No	No	Yes[31]	60	No	Sanctioned for noncompliance[32] Participating in work supplementation program
Montana	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes[33]	No	No	Receiving benefits under a waiver Sanctioned for noncompliance[25]
Nebraska										
Time-limited assistance	No	No	—[24]	—[24]	—[24]	—[24]	No	—[24]	—[24]	Sanctioned for noncompliance
Non-time-limited assistance[24]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nevada	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	—
New Hampshire										
NH Employment Program	No	No	—[24]	—[24]	No	No	No	—[24]	Yes	—
Family Assistance Program[23]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Jersey	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	60	Yes	Not job-ready Sanctioned for noncompliance
New Mexico	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	In the Education Works Program (a postsecondary education program)
New York[13]	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	—
North Carolina	No	No	No[20]	No[20]	No[34]	No	Yes	No[35]	No[20]	—[36]
North Dakota	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	—
Ohio	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Receiving support services when at least one assistance group member is employed Receiving no cash benefit Receiving assistance in another state[37]

Table IV.C.3 State Time Limit Exemption Policies, July 2011

State	Unit Exempt for Months in Which the Head Was: Working (min. weekly hrs.) or had earned income (min. dollars)	Cooperating but unable to find employment	Ill or incapacitated	Caring for an ill or incapacitated person	Caring for child under age (months)	Pregnant (month or later)	Minor parent	Age (or older) (years)	Victim of domestic violence	Other
Oklahoma	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	—
Oregon	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	In the JOBS Plus program In drug treatment Not job-ready Receiving benefits before 7/1/03 Deprived of needed medical care Enrolled in a degree program
Pennsylvania	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes[38]	Receiving no cash benefit Sanctioned for noncompliance Receiving assistance in another state Nonparent caretaker relative receiving benefits
Rhode Island	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Children living with caretaker not included in the assistance unit
South Carolina										
All, except CARES	No	No	—[24]	No[20]	No	No	No[19]	No	No[19]	—[39]
CARES[23]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Dakota	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	—
Tennessee	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Receiving no cash benefit
Texas	No[40]	No	No[20]	No[20]	No	No	No	No	No	Sanctioned for noncompliance —[41]
Utah	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	—
Vermont[13]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Virginia	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No[20]	Receiving no cash benefit Nonparent caretaker removed from the grant because of noncompliance with VIEW —[42]
Washington[13]	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Receiving no cash benefit[43]

Table IV.C.3 State Time Limit Exemption Policies, July 2011

	Unit Exempt for Months in Which the Head Was:									
State	Working (min. weekly hrs.) or had earned income (min. dollars)	Cooperating but unable to find employment	Ill or incapacitated	Caring for an ill or incapacitated person	Caring for child under age (months)	Pregnant (month or later)	Minor parent	Age (or older) (years)	Victim of domestic violence	Other
West Virginia	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	—
Wisconsin	No	No	No	No	3	No	No	No	No	—
Wyoming	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes[44]	No	No	In a postsecondary education program[45]

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Notes: Exemption policies apply to months in which the state does not count a month of assistance toward the state's time limit (or "stops the clock"). These policies are potential exemptions and may not be granted to all that are eligible. In most states, caseworkers have discretion in applying the exemptions.

If a state has multiple time limits (for example, a periodic limit and a lifetime limit) and applies the exemption policies differently to the time limits, the exemptions in the table apply to the lifetime limit, and the exemptions for the periodic limit are footnoted.

The federal government requires that states disregard months during which an adult lived on a Native American reservation or in an Alaskan Native village with an adult unemployment rate of at least 50 percent. Additionally, because time-limit calculations apply only to families that include adults (or minor heads of household), time limits do not apply to child-only units or to any month in which an adult received assistance as a dependent child.

Many states exempt months in which a unit receives diversion payments. These policies are captured in table I.A.1.

1 Any months of assistance received in Arizona or any other state before October 2002 do not count toward the time limit.
2 The exemption applies to parents who have child care. If no child care is available, parents caring for children under 12 months old are exempt.
3 If the adult received more than 36 months of payments in another state, all payments received in the other state count toward the time limit. If the adult received less than 36 months of assistance, none of the payments count toward the time limit.
4 An adult with one child between the age of 12 and 23 months is exempt from the time limit. An adult with two or more children under age 6 is also exempt.
5 Women are exempt only when the pregnancy impairs their ability to work.
6 Minor parents are exempt in months in which they are eligible for, participating in, or exempt from the Cal-Learn program.
7 Any month in which the adult is removed from the grant as a result of sanctions does not count toward the time limit.
8 The exemption does not apply to children subject to a family cap.
9 Women who are pregnant or have just given birth are exempt if a physician certifies the woman's inability to work. In addition, a woman whose pregnancy ended within six weeks is exempt.
10 All minor parents are exempt (whether they head the unit or not), provided the minor parent is in high school or earning his or her GED.
11 To be unemployable, an adult must (1) be age 40 or older, (2) be unemployed, (3) be fully cooperating with program requirements, (4) have not completed 6th grade, and (5) have not been employed more than six months in the past five years.
12 Individuals meeting this criteria will be placed in the non-time-limited children's program.
13 This state continues to fund families beyond 60 months of benefit receipt. However, the state may exempt certain months in calculating the number of federally funded months of assistance.
14 To be exempt, the individual must be unemployed or employed less than 20 hours a week, have had a relationship to the perpetrator of the violence, and have taken action as a result of the domestic violence (such as getting a court order protecting the individual from the perpetrator or living in a domestic violence shelter within the past 12 months).
15 The head of a one-parent unit must work 30 hours a week, while both parents in a two-parent unit must work a combined total of 35 hours a week to receive the exemption.
16 The ill or incapacitated person must be a related child under age 18, a spouse, or a child approved for a waiver under the home and community-based care program.
17 To be exempt, the caretaker relative must attend the postsecondary education program full time and retain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5.
18 To be exempt, the minor parent must live in an adult-supervised setting and not be considered a head of household.

[19] Months in which an individual is eligible for the state's $900 earned income deduction (the deduction is allowed for up to six months) are exempt from the periodic time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[20] This group is exempt from the state time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[21] Women in their last three months of pregnancy and first month after the birth of the child are exempt from the periodic time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[22] Months in which the individual received assistance in another state are exempt from the periodic time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[23] Recipients in this component are exempt from time limits. The criteria for inclusion in this component may include some of the exemptions listed in this table; see appendix 1 for more information on the composition of the component.
[24] Individuals with this characteristic are placed in an alternative component that is exempt from time limits. See appendix 1 for more information on components.
[25] This exemption applies only to months in which sanctions reduce the amount of the benefit to $0.
[26] To be exempt, an individual must be employed and cooperating with the requirements of his or her individual contract.
[27] To be exempt, minor parents must be living in a supervised setting and complying with a social service plan or, if they are 18 or 19 years old, must be complying with education requirements.
[28] To be exempt, the family must be complying with a safety plan.
[29] This exemption applies to months in which the caretaker is disqualified from assistance because of an intentional program violation. The exemption applies only to violations that occurred after October 1, 2007.
[30] To meet this exemption, there must be no other satisfactory alternative plan or care available.
[31] The minor parent is exempt if he or she is attending school and entered in the JOBS system in education related to employment or vocational education and training.
[32] This exemption applies to months in which an individual is sanctioned for certain reasons before 1998.
[33] To be exempt, the minor parent must be complying with activities requirements.
[34] Single parents caring for a child under 12 months old are exempt from the benefit waiting period time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[35] Individuals age 65 and older are exempt from the benefit waiting period time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[36] Months in which the family does not have access to support services, receives assistance from another state, or is not required to participate in activities are exempt from the benefit waiting period time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[37] This exemption applies only to months of assistance received in another state during which that state had a waiver of time limits in effect.
[38] A victim of domestic violence is exempt for an initial six months. An additional six-month period may be granted if a domestic violence counselor verifies the need.
[39] Months in which the unit received benefits in another state, did not receive support services, or received a benefit less than $10 are exempt from the periodic time limit but not the lifetime limit. Months in which a child is being cared for by a nonparent caretaker relative and the alternative placement is foster care are also exempt from the periodic, but not lifetime, limit.
[40] Individuals earning up to $168 a month may be exempt from the benefit waiting period time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[41] Individuals who are unemployed because of high local unemployment may be exempt as long as they contact an average of 40 employers a month (job search). This exemption applies only to the benefit waiting period time limit.
[42] Individuals not receiving support services may be exempt from the benefit waiting period time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[43] This exemption applies to recipients in the Community Jobs program and earning income that exceeds the benefit amount, causing the grant to be suspended.
[44] Up to one year of assistance will count against minor parents who received assistance before reaching their 18th birthday. All months beyond 12 will not count toward the lifetime limit.
[45] This exemption applies to individuals who participate in Wyoming's State Adult Student Financial Aid (SASFA) program, meet the attendance requirements of their educational institution, and receive a passing grade (no incompletes or Fs) in all classes each semester.

Table IV.C.4 State Time Limit Extension Policies, July 2011

State	Working (min. weekly hrs.) or had earned income (min. dollars)	Cooperating but unable to find employment	Ill or incapacitated	Caring for an ill or incapacitated person	Caring for child under age (months)	Pregnant (month or later)	Age (or older) (years)	Victim of domestic violence	Other
	Assistance Extended to Unit for Months in Which the Head Is:								
Alabama	No	Yes[1]	Yes	Yes	No	No	60	Yes	In drug, alcohol, or mental health treatment
									Unemployed because of high local unemployment[2]
									Unemployed because of significant personal barrier[3]
Alaska	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Suffering from a hardship[4]
Arizona	No	No	Yes	Yes[5]	No	No	60 [6]	Yes	Suffering from a hardship[7]
Arkansas	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	3 [8]	7	60	Yes	In an education or training program[9]
									Not receiving support services
									Not required to participate in activities
									Likely to neglect his/her children as a result of loss of benefit
California	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	60	Yes	Months in which the full amount of assistance is reimbursed by child support
									Sanctioned for noncompliance[10]
									Months in which individual is unable to maintain employment or participate in activity requirements
									Months in which an individual is a caretaker of a dependent child of the court, a kinship care program child, or a child at risk of placement in foster care
									Months in which an individual is counted as unaided[11]
Colorado	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Unemployed because of high local unemployment
									Suffering from a hardship[7]
									Family instability[12]
									Involved in the judicial system (or if any family member is involved)
Connecticut[13]	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	—
Delaware[14]	No	Yes [15]	No	No	No	No	No	No	Not receiving support services[16]

Table IV.C.4 State Time Limit Extension Policies, July 2011

State	Working (min. weekly hrs.) or had earned income (min. dollars)	Cooperating but unable to find employment	Ill or incapacitated	Caring for an ill or incapacitated person	Caring for child under age (months)	Pregnant (month or later)	Age (or older) (years)	Victim of domestic violence	Other
	Assistance Extended to Unit for Months in Which the Head Is:								
D.C.	30 hrs.	Yes	Yes	Yes	12	4	60	Yes	Not required to participate in activities In substance abuse or mental health treatment
Florida	No	Yes	Yes	No	3 [17]	No	No	Yes	Not job-ready Not receiving support services Unemployed because of high local unemployment Likely to place children in foster care or emergency shelter because of loss of benefit Pending SSI/SSDI application
Georgia	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Unemployed because of high local unemployment
Hawaii	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	—
Idaho	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	—
Illinois	No	No	Yes[18]	Yes[19]	No	No	No	Yes[18]	In treatment program for barriers to work[20] In an approved education or training program[8]
Indiana	No[21]	No[22]	No[22]	No	No	No	No	No[22]	—[23]
Iowa	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	In drug treatment Not job-ready Not receiving support services Suffering from a hardship[24]
Kansas	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Participating in family services, which prevents full-time employment Financially eligible for benefits and cooperating with program requirements in the 60th month

Table IV.C.4 State Time Limit Extension Policies, July 2011

State	Assistance Extended to Unit for Months in Which the Head Is: Working (min. weekly hrs.) or had earned income (min. dollars)	Cooperating but unable to find employment	Ill or incapacitated	Caring for an ill or incapacitated person	Caring for child under age (months)	Pregnant (month or later)	Age (or older) (years)	Victim of domestic violence	Other
Kentucky	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	In a unit in which a member lost his/her job within 30 days of reaching the 60-month time limit Unemployed because of high local unemployment[25] Unit head is a nonparent caretaker relative and is likely to place child(ren) in foster care if benefits are terminated
Louisiana	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	In drug treatment Not job-ready Not receiving support services Experiencing a temporary family crisis[26] Unemployed because of high local unemployment Unemployed through no fault of their own
Maine[27]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maryland	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Not receiving support services Suffering from a hardship
Massachusetts									
Exempt[28]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nonexempt	35 hrs.	Yes	—[29]	—[29]	—[29]	—[29]	—[29]	No	Participating in an approved education or training program Child care is unavailable Appropriate job opportunities not locally available
Michigan	No	Yes[30]	No	No	No	No	No	No	—

Table IV.C.4 State Time Limit Extension Policies, July 2011

State	Working (min. weekly hrs.) or had earned income (min. dollars)	Cooperating but unable to find employment	Ill or incapacitated	Caring for an ill or incapacitated person	Caring for child under age (months)	Pregnant (month or later)	Age (or older) (years)	Victim of domestic violence	Other
	Assistance Extended to Unit for Months in Which the Head Is:								
Minnesota	30 hrs.[31]	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes[32]	Not job-ready Hard to employ because of mental illness, mental retardation, learning disabilities, or low IQ Not required to participate in activities Receiving only the food portion of the grant
Mississippi	No	No	Yes	Yes[33]	No	No	60 [34]	No	Not receiving support services Unemployed because of high local unemployment
Missouri	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	In drug or mental health treatment Experiencing a family crisis[35] Participating in children's services
Montana	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	—
Nebraska									
Time-limited assistance	No	No	—[29]	—[29]	—[29]	—[29]	—[29]	—[29]	—
Non-time-limited assistance[28]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nevada	No	No	Yes	Yes	12 [36]	No	60	Yes	In drug, alcohol or mental health treatment A minor parent[37] Participating in a program likely to lead to self-sufficiency[38] Suffering from a hardship
New Hampshire									
NH Employment Program	30 hrs.[39]	Yes[40]	Yes[41]	Yes[41]	No	No	—[29]	Yes	Suffering from a hardship[42] Unemployed because of high local unemployment
Family Assistance Program[28]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Jersey	40 hrs.	Yes	Yes	No	3	1	No	Yes	Suffering from a hardship[43]
New Mexico	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	60	Yes[44]	Pending SSI/SSDI application

Table IV.C.4 State Time Limit Extension Policies, July 2011

State	Working (min. weekly hrs.) or had earned income (min. dollars)	Cooperating but unable to find employment	Ill or incapacitated	Caring for an ill or incapacitated person	Caring for child under age (months)	Pregnant (month or later)	Age (or older) (years)	Victim of domestic violence	Other
	Assistance Extended to Unit for Months in Which the Head Is:								
New York[45]	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes[46]	In drug treatment Not job-ready
North Carolina	No	No[47]	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Suffering from a hardship[48] Not job-ready Unemployed because of high local unemployment —[49]
North Dakota	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	65	Yes	Unemployed because of high local unemployment
Ohio	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes[50]	Likely to undergo hardship if benefits are terminated
Oklahoma	30 hrs.	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	In drug treatment Underemployed for an extended period because of documented barriers Mentally ill and receiving treatment In a training or education program in the 60th month that could be completed within 12 months Pending SSI/SSDI application
Oregon	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	—
Pennsylvania	30 hrs.[51]	Yes[52]	Yes	Yes	12 [53]	No	No	Yes	—
Rhode Island	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Months in which the unit is homeless
South Carolina									
All, except CARES	30 hrs.[50]	No[54]	—[29]	—[29]	No[54]	No[55]	No	Yes[50]	In drug treatment Family has an open case with Child Protective Services Months in which the family received benefits in another state
CARES[28]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table IV.C.4 State Time Limit Extension Policies, July 2011

State	Assistance Extended to Unit for Months in Which the Head Is: Working (min. weekly hrs.) or had earned income (min. dollars)	Cooperating but unable to find employment	Ill or incapacitated	Caring for an ill or incapacitated person	Caring for child under age (months)	Pregnant (month or later)	Age (or older) (years)	Victim of domestic violence	Other
South Dakota	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Unable to work because of low intellectual function Unable to work because of a family safety issue[56]
Tennessee	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	65	Yes	In drug treatment Caretaker experiencing a significant life crisis[57] In a unit that reaches the lifetime limit before 7/1/08 [58]
Texas[59]	Earnings up to $168	Yes[60]	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes[50]	Unemployed because of high local unemployment[61] Not receiving support services[62]
Utah[63]	20 hrs.[64]	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Suffering from a hardship A minor parent
Vermont[65]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Virginia	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	—[66]
Washington[67]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Virginia[63]	No	No	Yes	Yes	6	7 [68]	No	Yes	In a training or educational program in the 55th month and making satisfactory progress toward graduation Not receiving support services[69]
Wisconsin	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Significant barriers to employment[70] Unemployed because of high local unemployment
Wyoming	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	In a postsecondary education program[71]

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Notes: Extension policies apply to months in which the state provides additional benefits to families after they have reached their time limit. These policies are potential extensions and may not be granted to all that are eligible. In most states, caseworkers have discretion in applying the extensions.

If a state has multiple time limits (for example, a periodic limit and a lifetime limit) and applies the extension policies differently to the time limits, the extensions in the table apply to the lifetime limit and the extensions for the periodic limit are footnoted.

The federal government requires that states disregard months during which an adult lived on a Native American reservation or in an Alaskan Native village with an adult unemployment rate of at least 50 percent. Additionally, because time-limit calculations apply only to families that include adults (or minor heads of household), time limits do not apply to child-only units or to any month in which an adult received assistance as a dependent child.

[1] To receive an extension, the individual must have received at least 12 of the last 24 months of assistance under a basic hardship, be compliant with JOBS, not have been disqualified for noncompliance, and be certified as not currently employable by a JOBS caseworker.
[2] To receive an extension, the individual must live in a SNAP ABAWD waiver county, be compliant with JOBS, not have been disqualified for noncompliance, and be currently unemployed.
[3] To receive an extension, the individual must be engaged in activities to overcome his or her personal barriers. Examples of barriers may include, but are not limited to, the inability to speak English, needing extensive dental work, or having a learning disability, such as attention deficit disorder.
[4] Benefits are extended if the family experiences circumstances outside its control that prevent the caretaker from participating in work activities or becoming self-sufficient, and the loss of benefits would result in conditions that threaten the health and safety of the family.
[5] This extension is limited to single-parent units where the caretaker provides care for a disabled child. The unit must receive respite care for less than 20 hours a week, and the disabled child may not attend school more than 20 hours a week.
[6] This extension is limited to cases in which the unit head is a nonparent-specified relative and is included in the unit.
[7] The extension is provided to families that have inadequate or unavailable transportation, child care, or housing.
[8] Three months applies to parents who have child care. If no child care is available, parents caring for children less than 12 months old receive the extension.
[9] The individual must be within six months of completing his or her education or training program.
[10] Any month in which the adult is removed from the grant as a result of sanctions does not count toward the time limit.
[11] To be eligible for this extension, the individual must be excluded from the assistance unit for reasons other than exceeding the time limit.
[12] Family instability may be caused by a caretaker’s inability to maintain stable employment or his or her inability to care for the children in his or her own home or in the home of a relative.
[13] Recipients may receive only two extensions unless they meet specific criteria (see WRD for information on extension criteria). If recipients are sanctioned during the extension period, they are ineligible to receive benefits again. Units may receive only 60 total months of benefits, including extensions.
[14] Extensions will not be granted if the caretaker adult received and rejected offers of employment, quit a job without good cause, was fired for cause, or did not comply with the contract. Units that reapply after their time limit may receive assistance if circumstances exist for an extension to be granted.
[15] Recipient must be unable to find employment that provides income at least equal to the payment standard after deduction of work expenses, earned income disregards, and child care expenses, and which provides wages at least equal to the minimum wage. The extension is limited to a total of 12 cumulative months.
[16] Support services include, but are not limited to, domestic violence counseling, substance abuse treatment, family planning, and employment training.
[17] Three months applies to parents who have child care. If no child care is available, single parents caring for children less than 6 years old receive an extension.
[18] The extension is granted if the condition prevents the individual from working full time.
[19] The ill or incapacitated person must be a related child under age 18, a spouse, or a child approved for a waiver under the home and community-based care program.
[20] The extension is granted if the treatment prevents the individual from working at least 30 hours a week. Treatment programs for barriers to work include mental health and substance abuse treatment, homelessness, domestic violence, child protective services, and vocational rehabilitation.
[21] An individual may earn one month for every six months he or she works in an unsubsidized job. This extension applies to the benefit reduction limit but not the lifetime limit.
[22] Individuals meeting these criteria may receive an extension to the state time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[23] Individuals may receive an extension for months in which supportive services are not available. This extension applies to the benefit reduction limit but not the lifetime limit.
[24] Benefits will be extended if the individual suffers from a hardship that keeps him or her from becoming self-sufficient. Examples of hardships may include, but are not limited to, the following (some of which are included above): domestic violence, physical or mental health problems, substance abuse problems, the inability to find or keep a job, lack of suitable child care, difficult housing situations, or caring for a child with special needs.
[25] To receive this extension, recipients must participate in activities requirements for 30 hours a week.
[26] A temporary family crisis may include death of a family member, eviction, serious illness, or an accident.
[27] Maine continues to fund assistance to units that have reached the 60-month federal time limit and are in compliance with program requirements. Any individuals who have been sanctioned three or more times while receiving assistance must serve a penalty period equal to the length of their last sanction. Recipients who have experienced domestic violence, or failed to comply because of illness or incapacity in the family or other good cause, are not subject to a penalty period.
[28] Recipients in this component are exempt from time limits. The criteria for inclusion in this component may include some exemptions listed in this table. See appendix 1 for more information on the composition of the component.
[29] Individuals with this characteristic are placed in the alternative component, which is exempt from time limits. See appendix 1 for more information on components.
[30] Recipients are eligible for up to 12 months of extensions if the individual (1) is meeting all requirements in his or her family self-sufficiency plan; (2) has not received more than two employment-related penalties since April 1, 2007; (3) has not received an employment-related penalty in the preceding 12 months; and (4) employment barriers or labor market conditions prevent employment placement.

[31] The 30 hours a week applies to one-parent families. Two-parent families must participate in activities for 55 hours a week. For one-parent families, 25 of the 30 hours must be in employment; for two-parent families, 45 of the 55 hours must be in employment. Participants must be in compliance in the 60th month as well as for 10 of the last 12 months preceding the 61st month to be eligible for the extension. Individuals with a verified medical condition are eligible for this extension provided they work the number of hours specified by their health care provider and follow the provider's treatment recommendations.
[32] To receive the extension, the family must be complying with a safety plan.
[33] This extension is limited to parents caring for an incapacitated child or adult in the household.
[34] Units with an elderly caretaker may have their benefits extended beyond 60 months by converting the case to child only.
[35] A family crisis may include, but is not limited to, a home destroyed by fire, a temporary disability of the payee, an accidental injury of family member, a job loss due to a poor economy, or being a victim of a crime.
[36] Months in which the parent was exempt from activities requirements because he or she was caring for a young child are deducted from the 12-month extension period. For example, if the unit head was previously exempted from activities requirements for three months and then reaches the 60-month time limit, he or she may receive only an additional nine-month extension, provided one of his or her children is under 12 months old.
[37] To receive the extension, the minor parent must be in compliance with high school attendance and living arrangement requirements.
[38] To receive the extension, the individual must be participating in a program that the caseworker determines likely to result in self-sufficiency.
[39] The extension is available only to assistance groups whose cases were closed because of time limits and who are reapplying for assistance.
[40] This extension cannot be used for units that are reapplying for an extension after the case has been closed.
[41] Some recipients with this characteristic may be determined unable to work and are moved into the alternative component, which is exempt from time limits. Recipients with this characteristic who are determined to have a temporary condition remain in the time-limited component but may receive an extension.
[42] Hardships may include lack of adequate child care, loss of employment, life-threatening circumstance or emergency situation, medical condition, medical condition of another household member, learning disability, participation in a substance abuse or mental health program, and family/domestic violence. In addition, families reapplying after case closure because of the 60-month time limit may receive an extension for working 30 or more hours a week or, on a case-by-case basis, if they do not fall into one of the hardship criteria listed above.
[43] Benefits are extended to families if termination would subject the family to extreme hardship. Extreme hardship is defined as one of the following (some of these are included above): periods of temporary incapacity resulting in work deferrals of more than 12 consecutive months that did not allow the recipient sufficient time to gain self-sufficiency; the existence of a current temporary deferral, such as for incapacity due to pregnancy or the need to care for a child under 12 weeks old; the existence of a current temporary deferral because of such circumstances as a lack of transportation or available child care to support work; if participant has been fully compliant with program requirements with no more than one sanction in the previous 12 months and he or she is still unable to obtain sufficient employment; or a domestic violence situation renders a recipient temporarily incapable of sustaining the family without continued support.
[44] In addition to victims of domestic violence, individuals considered battered or subjected to extreme cruelty receive an extension. Battery and extreme cruelty occur when an individual has been physically attacked, sexually abused, raped, threatened with physical or sexual abuse, exposed to mental abuse, or deprived of medical care.
[45] New York continues to provide noncash assistance to all units that have reached the 60-month federal time limit. These extensions apply to the 60-month limit for receiving regular cash assistance.
[46] To receive the extension, the individual must be unable to work because of an illness or incapacity resulting from domestic violence that is expected to last at least three months or because he or she is needed in the home to care for a child disabled as a result of domestic violence.
[47] Individuals who are substantially complying with their mutual responsibility agreement and are unable to obtain or maintain employment that provides a basic subsistence (defined as less than the state's maximum Work First payment minus 27.5 percent from each worker's income) receive an extension from the benefit waiting period time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[48] A family may receive a hardship extension if a unit member (some of these are included above) has been battered or abused, has suffered a severe illness, has an inhibiting education level, has severe unemployment, lacks child care, is participating in substance abuse treatment, has an inhibiting criminal record, is homeless or has substandard housing, has one or more children in the home receiving child welfare services, had inadequate access to employment services during the 60 months, lacks transportation, or has any other situation that makes employment unattainable. These apply to the lifetime time limit but not the benefit waiting period.
[49] Participants in postsecondary education programs may receive an extension to the benefit waiting period time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[50] The extension applies to the lifetime limit but not the state time limit.
[51] Two-parent families must work 55 hours a week to receive this extension. An individual may also receive this extension if he or she is working 20 hours a week and participating in approved work or training activities for at least 10 hours a week.
[52] To receive this extension, an individual must have completed the eight-week job search and, in the first 12 months of assistance, begun an approved employment and training program for 30 hours a week or a full-time postsecondary educational activity.
[53] Recipients caring for children under 6 years old may also receive an extension if an alternative child care arrangement is unavailable.
[54] Individuals caring for children under 1 year old or cooperating but unable to find employment may receive an extension to the periodic time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[55] A pregnant woman, who has not been participating in the work program because she is in the seventh month of her pregnancy, may receive an extension to the periodic limit but not the lifetime limit. The woman must begin participating in the work program to receive the extension.
[56] Examples of family safety issues include homelessness or domestic violence.
[57] A significant life crisis may include eviction from the home, natural disaster, family crisis, or complications for pregnancy or birth.
[58] Caretakers who reach the 60-month time limit before July 1, 2008, are eligible for a six-month extension of benefits.

[59] To qualify for any extension, a caretaker must have fewer than 12 months of activities or child support sanctions since November 1, 1996.
[60] To be eligible for an extension, the recipient must have been unable to obtain sufficient employment during the last 12 consecutive months before the end of the 60-month limit and may not have had more than one sanction since November 1, 1996. The inability to obtain sufficient employment cannot be the result of voluntarily quitting a job. This applies to the lifetime limit but not the benefit waiting period.
[61] This extension can continue as long as the recipient contacts an average of 40 employers a month. This applies to both the benefit waiting period time limit and the lifetime limit.
[62] To be eligible for this extension, the recipient must reside in a county in which he or she receives minimum or mid-level services during the 60th month (or at any time during the 11 countable months immediately preceding the 60th month) of benefit receipt.
[63] For two-parent households, both parents must be eligible to receive an extension for the unit to qualify for continued financial assistance. If either parent does not qualify for an extension, the household is not eligible.
[64] An extension is granted if the following two conditions are met: (1) during the previous month, the parent was employed for no less than 20 hours a week; and (2) the parent is expected to be employed for no less than 20 hours a week in the month for which financial assistance is being authorized.
[65] Recipients who reach the 60-month federal time limit are placed in a solely state-funded program.
[66] The following groups may receive an extension from the benefit waiting period time limit but not the lifetime limit: (1) individuals suffering from a hardship; (2) individuals unemployed because of high local unemployment; and (3) individuals enrolled in employment-related education or training programs, if the program is expected to conclude within 12 months.
[67] After 60 months of assistance, households exempt from work requirements or experiencing documented hardship may continue to receive benefits at the same level that they received under TANF. Households not meeting this criteria must participate full time (32 to 40 hours a week) in work-related activities, which may include a combination of working, job search, or preparing for work, to continue receiving assistance.
[68] Single, pregnant women (including emancipated minor parents under 18 years old) who will be in their third trimester or have a child under the age of 6 months during their 60th month of assistance may receive an extension until their child is 6 months old. If the pregnancy does not end in a live birth, the extension continues for two months following the end of the pregnancy.
[69] This extension is provided to families who have inadequate or unavailable child care.
[70] Significant barriers include, but are not limited to, low achievement ability, learning disability, severe emotional problems, or family problems, which include legal problems, family crises, homelessness, domestic abuse, or children’s school or medical activities that affect a member of the W-2 group.
[71] To receive the extension, the individual must be within one year of completing the degree.

Policies across Time, 1996–2011

This chapter of the *Databook* includes longitudinal tables for selected areas of policy from 1996, 2001, 2006, and 2011 (as of July of each year).[25] Although not every policy from the previous sections has a companion table here, data for every year from 1996 through 2011 for each policy can be found in the WRD.

To help users more easily identify changes in policies across time, the changes from one year to the next have been bolded in all the longitudinal tables. Because the tables do not represent every year, the changes may have occurred in a year before the bolded year. Information on when specific changes occurred is available in the WRD.

The following discussion provides more information on the policies included in this section and the specific policies discussed in the tables.

<u>Formal diversion:</u> Table L1 indicates which states have a formal diversion program that diverts eligible applicants or recipients from ongoing TANF receipt by providing a one-time cash payment directly to the family or to a vendor for expenses incurred by the family. Other strategies that states may use to divert applicants from ongoing receipt of cash benefits (such as requiring an applicant to participate in job search or resource and referral services) are not identified as diversion programs in the table.

States did not have the option to divert units under AFDC. However, a few states experimented with diversion through waivers. Generally, diversion programs began as pilot projects in a few counties and, after TANF, were expanded statewide.[26]

<u>Two-parent eligibility:</u> Table L2 describes states' deviation from the prior federal AFDC rules for two-parent, nondisabled units over time. The key AFDC policies were the 100-hour rule for both applicants and recipients, a six-out-of-13-quarter work history test, and a 30-day waiting

[25] All years of data are available through the online WRD database or through previous years of the *Welfare Rules Databooks*. The *Databooks* for 1999–2011 are available on the WRD web site.
[26] Years in which the state implemented a diversion program as a pilot project in only a few counties are footnoted.

period. “Standard AFDC” describes the states that impose the AFDC rules. “Modified” describes the states that no longer impose all the former AFDC requirements on units but still impose some additional requirements. The specific combination of modified rules is footnoted. States that no longer impose any special requirements on two-parent units are denoted by “None.”

Many states began modifying or removing special requirements for two-parent units under waivers. This process continued under TANF, which does not require states to impose any special requirements on two-parent units.

Initial eligibility at application: Table L3 calculates the amount of earned income a three-person unit can receive and still be technically eligible for assistance. Technically eligible means the unit is eligible for assistance but may not actually receive a cash benefit. Most states will not pay out a benefit for less than a specified amount (usually $10), but as long as the unit’s potential benefit is positive, it is technically eligible. The calculations in this table are based on the states’ income eligibility tests, earned income disregards, benefit computation, and eligibility and payment standards.

Earned income disregards for benefit computation: Table L4 describes the earned income disregards allowed in determining net income used for benefit computation. The disregards in this table apply to recipients.[27]

Earned income disregards for benefit computation under AFDC were a standard $120 and 33.3 percent for the first four months, $120 for the next eight months, and $90 thereafter. Through waivers, many states began changing their disregard policies, which often allowed units to keep more of their income and remain eligible for aid. This broadening of disregards continued under TANF, which allows states to determine their own disregard policies.

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[27] If units in the first month of receipt (applicants) receive different disregards, they are footnoted. This table does not include disregards related to child care or any other special disregards for units affected by family caps or time limits.

Maximum monthly benefit for a family of three with no income: Table L5 indicates the benefit that a family of three will receive if it has no income. The benefits are calculated assuming the assistance unit includes one parent and two children, contains no children subject to a family cap, has no special needs, pays for all shelter costs with no subsidies, and is subject to the benefit standard that applies to the majority of the state's caseload.

Maximum benefits have always varied across states. Benefit computation formulas and payment standards were two policies that states were able to determine under AFDC. The wide variation in states' benefits still exists under TANF, but benefits have changed relatively infrequently across time.

Work-related exemption when caring for a child under X months: Table L6 indicates what age a child must be under for the unit head to be exempt from work-related requirements. The unit head is assumed to be a single parent age 20 or older with a high school diploma or GED.

Under AFDC, parents were exempt from the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training (JOBS) program if they had children less than 36 months old.[28] Under waivers, many states began reducing the age of the child exemption. Then, with the passage of TANF, the federal government reduced the maximum age for the exemption to 12 months for the state's participation rate calculation. States can exempt units with children younger or older than 12 months, but units with children over 12 months old will be included in their work participation rate denominator. States with waivers also can continue their previous exemption policy under TANF until the waivers expire.

[28] States had the option to require JOBS participation of parents with children as young as 12 months old.

Most severe sanction policy for noncompliance with work requirements for single-parent adults: Table L7 describes the most severe sanction policy for noncompliance with work requirements.

Under AFDC, the worst-case sanction for not complying with work requirements was the removal of the adult for benefit computation purposes. The unit was sanctioned for six months or until compliance. By 1996, a few states had begun to impose more severe sanctions on noncompliant units. These policies continued and expanded under TANF. The federal government requires that all states sanction individuals for not complying with work requirements, but states are allowed to determine the severity of the sanction.

Asset tests: Tables L8 and L9 describe the asset limits and vehicle exemptions for recipients, respectively. If the tests differ for applicants, they are footnoted.

States have liberalized asset tests over the past several years. Under AFDC rules, the federal government set the maximum amount of assets a unit could retain and still remain eligible at $1,000 of countable assets, with an exclusion of $1,500 of the equity value of a vehicle. During the early 1990s, states began experimenting with higher asset limits and vehicle exemptions through waivers. Under TANF, states determine the maximum allowable level of assets.

Family caps: Table L10 indicates which states have implemented family cap policies. States did not have the option to cap additional children under AFDC. However, a few states experimented with family caps through waivers.[29] TANF neither requires nor prohibits family cap policies.

[29] Years in which the state imposed a family cap as a pilot project in only a few counties are footnoted.

Table L1 Formal Diversion Payments, 1996–2011 (July)

State	1996	2001	2006	2011
Alabama	No	No	No	No
Alaska	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Arizona	No	**Yes**	**Yes[1]**	**Yes[2]**
Arkansas	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
California[3]	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Colorado[4]	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Delaware	No	**Yes[5]**	Yes[5]	Yes[5]
D.C.	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Florida	No	**Yes[6]**	Yes[6]	Yes[6]
Georgia	No	No	**Yes[7]**	**No**
Hawaii	No	No	**Yes[8]**	**No**
Idaho	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Illinois	No	**Yes[9]**	Yes[9]	Yes[9]
Indiana	No	No	No	No
Iowa	No	**No[10]**	**Yes[11]**	**No**
Kansas	No	No	No	No
Kentucky	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Louisiana	No	No	**No[12]**	No[12]
Maine	No	**Yes[13]**	Yes[13]	Yes[13]
Maryland	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Massachusetts	No	No	No	No
Michigan	No	No	No	**Yes[14]**
Minnesota	No	**Yes[15]**	**Yes[16]**	Yes[16]
Mississippi	No	No	No	No
Missouri	No	No	No	No
Montana	No[17]	**No**	No	No
Nebraska	No	No	No	No
Nevada	No	No	No	No
New Hampshire	No	No	No	No
New Jersey	No	**Yes[18]**	Yes[18]	Yes[18]
New Mexico	No	**Yes[19]**	Yes[19]	**Yes[20]**
New York	No	**Yes[21]**	Yes[21]	Yes[21]
North Carolina	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Dakota	No	No	No	**Yes[22]**
Ohio	No	No	No	No
Oklahoma	No	**Yes[19]**	Yes[19]	**No[23]**
Oregon	No	No	No	No
Pennsylvania	No	No	**Yes**	**Yes[24]**
Rhode Island	No	No	**Yes[25]**	**No**
South Carolina	No	No	No	No
South Dakota	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Tennessee	No	No	No	**Yes[26]**
Texas	No	**Yes[27]**	Yes[27]	Yes[27]
Utah	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vermont	No	No	No	**Yes[28]**
Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Washington	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
West Virginia	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Wisconsin	No	**Yes[29]**	Yes[29]	Yes[29]
Wyoming	No	No	No	No
Total States with Any Diversion	**3**	**27**	**32**	**31**

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

[1] Eligibility for diversion assistance includes obtaining employment or an offer of employment. In select local offices participating in a pilot program, individuals must be referred to a jobs program assessment for job search assistance before approval for diversion assistance.
[2] To be eligible, applicants must be employed full time, have an offer of full-time employment, or be likely to gain full-time employment based on education, skills, and work history. Applicants must also have a short-term verified financial need that is a barrier to achieving self-sufficiency, such as needing car repairs, child care, work clothes, overdue housing expenses, or transportation assistance.
[3] Counties have the option to vary their diversion programs. These policies refer to Los Angeles County.
[4] Counties have the option to vary their diversion programs. These policies refer to Denver County.
[5] The state's diversion program is related to retaining or obtaining employment and is only for parents living with natural or adopted children.
[6] Florida has three separate diversion programs. Up-front diversion is for individuals needing assistance because of unexpected circumstances or emergency situations. Relocation assistance is available for individuals who reside in an area with limited employment opportunities and experience one of the following: geographic isolation, formidable transportation barriers, isolation from extended family, or domestic violence that threatens the ability of a parent to maintain self-sufficiency. Early exit diversion is available to TANF recipients if they meet the following criteria: are employed and receiving earnings, are able to verify their earnings, will remain employed for at least six months, have received cash assistance for at least six consecutive months since October 1996, and are eligible for at least one more month of TANF.
[7] To receive diversion assistance, a participant must either have a full-time job, be on unpaid leave because of temporary illness (under four months) and meet the gross income test, or he or she must be employed, eligible for less than the maximum amount of cash assistance, and decline the assistance.
[8] To be eligible for diversion assistance, a household must include at least one work-eligible individual as defined by the state, include one adult who has a work history of at least six months in the 36 months before the month of request for diversion assistance, and must be eligible for cash assistance in the month the diversion assistance was issued.
[9] An applicant who has found a job that will make him or her ineligible for cash assistance or who wants to accept the job and withdraw his or her application for assistance is eligible for a one-time payment to begin or maintain employment.
[10] Diversion offered through a limited pilot program.
[11] To receive diversion assistance, applicants must either be in danger of losing employment or have evidence of barriers to accepting a verified offer of employment. Also, countable income must be at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
[12] Although it still exists in the law, Louisiana's diversion program has not received funding since September 2002. According to the legislation authorizing the program, a recipient can receive a cash payment worth up to four months of TANF benefits and is subsequently ineligible for TANF for four months without a penalty after receiving diversion. An individual can receive diversion payments twice in a lifetime, but no more than once every 12 months.
[13] To be eligible, applicants must be employed or looking for employment.
[14] To receive diversion assistance, applicants must meet cash assistance eligibility criteria in the application month or the following month, except participation in required work activities. The program targets families who are normally self-sufficient, have not received cash or diversion assistance payments from any state in the past 12 months, expect to need assistance only for a short time, and are able to return to self-sufficiency without further assistance. Decisions about diversion eligibility criteria are made case by case.
[15] To be eligible for the diversion program, the assistance unit must meet all the following criteria: (1) at least one family member has lived in Minnesota for at least 30 days; (2) the caregiver has lost a job, is unable to obtain a job, or has a temporary loss of income, and this loss of income is not a result of refusing suitable employment without good cause; (3) the family is at risk of MFIP eligibility if assistance is not provided; and (4) the family is not eligible for emergency assistance.
[16] Minnesota's Diversionary Work Program (DWP) is mandatory for most TANF applicants. DWP consists of four months of intensive employment services, focused on helping the participant obtain an unsubsidized job before entering welfare.
[17] Montana conducted a pilot project in eight counties that provided diversion assistance to its clients.
[18] New Jersey's diversion program, the EEI, is mandatory for applicants who have a work history that equals or exceeds four months of full-time employment in the past 12 months, appear to meet TANF eligibility requirements, are not in immediate need, and do not meet criteria for a deferral from work requirements. Participants receive a one-time, lump-sum payment and are required to pursue an intensive job search for 15 to 30 days while their application is processed. If participants obtain employment and withdraw their application, they are eligible to receive a second lump-sum payment to assist in the transition to employment. If no employment is secured, the applicant is referred back to the WFNJ/TANF agency for cash assistance.
[19] The diversion payment is only available to assist applicants in keeping a job or accepting a bona fide offer of employment.
[20] The diversion payment is only available to assist applicants in keeping a job, accepting a bona fide offer of employment, or remedying an emergency situation or an unexpected short-term need.
[21] New York has three types of diversion payments: diversion payments (for crisis items such as moving expenses, storage fees, or household structural or equipment repairs), diversion transportation payments (for employment-related transportation expenses), and diversion rental payments (for rental housing).
[22] Eligible individuals include cash assistance applicants or reapplicants who meet eligibility criteria for cash assistance but are deemed unable to meet the work requirements.
[23] Oklahoma's diversion program operates only when funding is available; the program has not received funding since June 2011. According to the legislation authorizing the program, recipients can receive a vendor payment worth up to three months of TANF benefits and are subsequently ineligible for TANF for 12 months without a penalty. The diversion payment is available only to help individuals keep a job or accept a bona fide offer of employment, and individuals can receive only one payment in a lifetime.
[24] In addition to a traditional diversion program, Pennsylvania operates a mandatory non-assistance diversion program for job-ready applicants.
[25] To be eligible, the applicant must not have received assistance payments during the 12 months before the date of application, and the adult in the unit must not have terminated employment within 60 days of application for benefits.
[26] To be eligible, the applicant must have an identifiable one-time financial need, have been a resident of Tennessee for six months, have not received cash assistance in any state in the past two years, have never received a diversion payment in any state, have no identifiable barriers to employment, have a high school diploma or GED, and either be currently employed or have been steadily employed in six of the last 12 months, with at least three being consecutive. In two-parent units, both parents must meet the eligibility criteria to qualify for a diversion payment.
[27] To qualify for the state's diversion program, the assistance unit must meet one of the crisis criteria, including (1) the caretaker or second parent lost employment in the process month, application month, or two months before application; (2) a dependent child experienced a loss of financial support from the legal parent or stepparent within the past 12 months as a result of death, divorce, separation, abandonment, or termination of child support, and the caretaker was employed within 12 months of the application or process month; (3) the caretaker or second parent graduated

from a university, college, junior college, or technical training school within 12 months of the application or process month and was underemployed or unemployed; or (4) the caretaker and/or second parent is currently employed but still meets TANF requirements and is facing the loss or potential loss of transportation and/or shelter or has a medical emergency temporarily preventing him/her from continuing to work. If the unit has an open TANF activity requirement sanction and fails to demonstrate cooperation within the allowed time or is not eligible for a TANF grant of at least $10, the unit is ineligible for diversion assistance.

[28] To be eligible for diversion assistance, an applicant family must meet cash assistance financial eligibility and diversion eligibility criteria and, if it has no members who are mandatory applicants, must choose to participate in the diversion program. Families who meet the following criteria are mandatory applicants: (1) at least one member of the family is work eligible; (2) work-eligible individuals in the family are neither disregarded from nor meeting their cash assistance work requirement; (3) no work-eligible individual in the family has received a diversion assistance payment in the 12 months before the application month; and (4) at least one work-eligible adult is part of a two-parent family, has recent and stable employment with earnings of at least 150 percent of the federal poverty level, or has a marketable college degree or vocational education certificate.

[29] The diversion payment is considered a loan to assist with expenses related to obtaining or maintaining employment, and it must be repaid. Repayments are expected within 12 months but may be extended to 24 months. The loan may be paid back in cash or through a combination of cash and volunteer community service (valued at the higher of the state or federal minimum wage).

Table L2 Types of Special Restrictions on Two-Parent, Nondisabled Units' Eligibility, 1996-2011 (July)[1]

State	1996	2001	2006	2011
Alabama	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Alaska	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Arizona	Modified[2]	Modified[2]	**None**	None
Arkansas	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
California	Modified[3]	**Modified[4]**	Modified[4]	Modified[4]
Colorado	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Connecticut	None	None	None	None
Delaware	None	None	None	None
D.C.	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	**None**
Florida	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Georgia	Standard AFDC	**Modified[5]**	Modified[5]	Modified[5]
Hawaii	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Idaho	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Illinois	None	None	None	None
Indiana	Modified[3]	Modified[3]	Modified[3]	**None**
Iowa	Modified[6]	**None**	None	None
Kansas	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Kentucky	Standard AFDC	**Modified[7]**	Modified[7]	Modified[7]
Louisiana	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Maine	Standard AFDC	**Modified[8]**	Modified[8]	Modified[8]
Maryland	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Massachusetts	Modified[9]	**None**	None	None
Michigan	None	None	None	None
Minnesota	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Mississippi	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC
Missouri	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Montana	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Nebraska	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Nevada	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
New Hampshire	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	**Not eligible[10]**
New Jersey	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
New Mexico	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
New York	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
North Carolina	None	None	None	None
North Dakota	Standard AFDC	**Not eligible[10]**	Not eligible[10]	Not eligible[10]
Ohio	None	None	None	None
Oklahoma	Standard AFDC	**Modified[9]**	Modified[9]	Modified[9]
Oregon	None	None	None	None
Pennsylvania	Standard AFDC	**Modified[2]**	**None**	None
Rhode Island	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
South Carolina	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
South Dakota	Standard AFDC	**Modified[11]**	Modified[11]	Modified[11]
Tennessee	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC
Texas	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Utah	Modified[6]	**None**	None	None
Vermont	None	None	None	None

Table L2 Types of Special Restrictions on Two-Parent, Nondisabled Units' Eligibility, 1996-2011 (July)[1]

State	1996	2001	2006	2011
Virginia	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Washington	Modified[3]	**None**	None	None
West Virginia	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Wisconsin	Modified[3]	**None**	None	None
Wyoming	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Note: Standard AFDC rules for two-parent units include the following: (1) a 100-hour limit on work for both applicants and recipients, (2) applicants must have worked in at least six of the last 13 calendar quarters before application, and (3) applicants must have been unemployed for a minimum of 30 days before application.

[1] The special restrictions considered in this table include limits on work hours for applicants and recipients, work history requirements, and waiting period restrictions. The combination of restrictions does not, however, include any variation in state programs from special time limits that apply only to two-parent units.
[2] Modified rules for two-parent units: six of the last 13 quarters work history.
[3] Modified rules for two-parent units: 100-hour work limit for applicants only, six of the last 13 quarters work history, and 30-day waiting period.
[4] Modified rules for two-parent units: applicants must have been employed less than 100 hours during the four weeks before the date of application.
[5] Modified rules for two-parent units: must be connected to the workforce, which includes one of the following: (1) currently working at least 20 hours a week, (2) receiving unemployment compensation, (3) unemployed or working less than 20 hours a week and has earned at least $500 within the six months before application, (4) receiving retirement benefits, or (5) received disability benefits based on 100 percent disability in any of the last six months.
[6] Modified rules for two-parent units: 30-day waiting period.
[7] Modified rules for two-parent units: 100-hour work limit for applicants, applicant must have earned at least $1,000 during the 24-month period before the month of application, and 30-day waiting period. Two semesters of full-time attendance in a postsecondary institution may be substituted for $500 of the $1,000.
[8] Modified rules for two-parent units: 100-hour work limit for applicants, 130-hour work limit for recipients, six of the last 13 quarters work history, and 30-day waiting period.
[9] Modified rules for two-parent units: six of the last 13 quarters work history and 30-day waiting period.
[10] The state does not provide benefits to two-parent, nondisabled units.
[11] Modified rules for two-parent units: 100-hour work limit for applicants, 100-hour work limit for recipients, and applicants must have a combined (both parents) gross income over the past six months equal to at least $1,500. Parents must not have terminated employment, reduced hours worked, or refused a job offer within the previous six months (without good cause).

Table L3 Maximum Income for Initial Eligibility for a Family of Three, 1996-2011 (July)[1]

State	1996	2001	2006	2011
Alabama	$366	**$205**	**$269**	$269
Alaska	$1,118	**$1,246**	**$1,401**	**$1,554**
Arizona	$639	**$586**	$586	**$585**
Arkansas	$426	**$279**	$279	$279
California	$820	**$906**	**$981**	**$1,224**
Colorado	$511	$511	$511	**$421**
Connecticut	$835	$835	$835	**$880**
Delaware	$428	$428	$428	**$428**
D.C.	$742	**$539**	**$567**	**$588**
Florida	$574	**$393**	$393	$393
Georgia	$514	$514	$514	$514
Hawaii	$1,187	**$1,641** [2]	$1,641 [2]	**$1,740** [3]
Idaho	$1,081	**$637**	**$646**	**$648**
Illinois	$467	$467	**$486**	**$772**
Indiana	$378	$378	$378	$378
Iowa	$1,061	$1,061	$1,061	$1,061
Kansas	$519	$519	$519	$519
Kentucky	$616	**$909**	$909	**$908**
Louisiana	$405	**$359**	$359	$359
Maine	$643	**$1,023**	$1,023	$1,023
Maryland	$607	**$549**	**$613**	**$718**
Massachusetts				
Exempt	$669	**$723**	$723	$723
Nonexempt	$655	**$708**	$708	$708
Michigan	$774	$774	**$811**	**$815**
Minnesota	$621	**$991**	**$1,076**	**$1,224**
Mississippi	$457	**$458**	$458	$458
Missouri	$557	**$558**	**$557**	$557
Montana	$631	**$859**	**$700**	**$753**
Nebraska	$454	**$693**	**$802**	**$886**
Nevada	$642	**$1,098**	**$1,230**	**$1,448**
New Hampshire	$943	**$750**	**$781**	**$844**
New Jersey	$783	**$636**	**$636**	$636
New Mexico	$479	**$1036** [4]	**$1,056** [4]	**$883**
New York	$667	**$667**	**$781**	**$878**
North Carolina	$936	**$750**	**$681**	$681
North Dakota	$521	**$1,252**	$1,252	**$1,169**
Ohio	$631	**$980**	$980	**$773**
Oklahoma	$580	**$704**	$704	**$824**
Oregon	$550	**$616**	$616	$616
Pennsylvania	$677	**$677**	**$493**	**$677**
Rhode Island	$644	**$1,278**	$1,278	**$1,277**
South Carolina	$614	$578	**$670**	**$1,412**
South Dakota	$597	**$626**	**$724**	**$782**
Tennessee	$767	**$979**	**$1,112**	**$1,315**
Texas	$400	**$401**	$401	$401
Utah	$525	**$573**	$573	**$668**
Vermont	$945	**$988**	**$1,003**	**$1,053**

Table L3 Maximum Income for Initial Eligibility for a Family of Three, 1996-2011 (July)[1]

State	1996	2001	2006	2011
Virginia	$291	**$320**	$320	**$540**
Washington	$937	**$1,090**	$1,090	**$954**
West Virginia	$498	**$991**	**$565**	$565
Wisconsin	$895	**—[5]**	**—[6]**	**—[7]**
Wyoming	$680	**$540**	$540	**$776**
Mean[8]	**$655**	**$721**	**$734**	**$800**
Median[8]	**$621**	**$667**	**$670**	**$763**

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Note: Initial eligibility is calculated assuming that the unit is employed at application, has only earned income, has no child care expenses, contains one adult and no children subject to a family cap, has no special needs, pays for shelter, and lives in the most populated area of the state.

[1] The values in this table represent the maximum amount of earnings an applicant can have and still be technically eligible for assistance in each state. Technical eligibility does not mean that the unit will necessarily receive a cash benefit, but it will have passed all the eligibility tests and is eligible for some positive amount. Most states only distribute a cash benefit equaling $10 or more.
[2] Applies to units that have received assistance for no more than two months in a lifetime. For units applying for their third and subsequent months of benefits, the eligibility threshold for a family of three is $1,362.
[3] Applies to units that have received assistance for no more than two months in a lifetime. For units applying for their third and subsequent months of benefits, the eligibility threshold for a family of three is $1,441.
[4] For purposes of the state's earned income disregard, the adult head is assumed to be working 40 hours a week.
[5] Units with full-time employment (generally greater than 30 hours a week) will not receive a cash benefit in Wisconsin. There are provisions to provide prorated benefits to Community Service Jobs participants who are also employed part time at an unsubsidized job. These eligibility determinations are made case by case. Recipients may earn up to $1,356, however, and still be eligible for nonfinancial assistance.
[6] Units with full-time employment (generally greater than 30 hours a week) will not receive a cash benefit in Wisconsin. There are provisions to provide prorated benefits to Community Service Jobs participants who are also employed part time at an unsubsidized job. These eligibility determinations are made case by case. Recipients may earn up to $1,590, however, and still be eligible for nonfinancial assistance.
[7] Units with full-time employment (generally greater than 30 hours a week) will not receive a cash benefit in Wisconsin. There are provisions to provide prorated benefits to Community Service Jobs participants who are also employed part time at an unsubsidized job. These eligibility determinations are made case by case. Recipients may earn up to $1,776, however, and still be eligible for nonfinancial assistance.
[8] The calculations include only one value per state (the policy affecting the largest share of the caseload), and the eligibility threshold for Wisconsin is included in the calculation.

Table L4 Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, 1996-2011 (July)

State	1996	2001	2006	2011
Alabama	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**100% first 3 months, 20% thereafter**	**100% first 6 months, 20% thereafter[1]**	**100% first 12 months, 20% thereafter[1]**
Alaska	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$150 and 33% of remainder first 12 months, $150 and 25% of remainder months 13–24, $150 and 20% of remainder months 25–36, $150 and 15% of remainder months 37–48, $150 and 10% of remainder months 49–60, $150 thereafter**	$150 and 33% of remainder first 12 months, $150 and 25% of remainder months 13–24, $150 and 20% of remainder months 25–36, $150 and 15% of remainder months 37–48, $150 and 10% of remainder months 49–60, $150 thereafter	$150 and 33% of remainder first 12 months, $150 and 25% of remainder months 13–24, $150 and 20% of remainder months 25–36, $150 and 15% of remainder months 37–48, $150 and 10% of remainder months 49–60, $150 thereafter
Arizona	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter			
All, except JOBSTART	—	**$90 and 30% of remainder**	$90 and 30% of remainder	$90 and 30% of remainder
JOBSTART	—	**100% of subsidized wages[2]**	100% of subsidized wages[2]	100% of subsidized wages[2]
Arkansas	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**No disregards–flat grant amount**	No disregards–flat grant amount	No disregards–flat grant amount
California	$120 and 33.3% of remainder	**$225 and 50% of remainder**	$225 and 50% of remainder	**$112 and 50% of remainder**
Colorado	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**66.7% first 12 months, $120 and 33.3% of remainder next 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter**	66.7% first 12 months, $120 and 33.3% of remainder next 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter
Connecticut	100% up to the federal poverty level	100% of the federal poverty level	100% of the federal poverty level	100% up to the federal poverty level
Delaware	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter
D.C.	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$160 and 66.7% of remainder**	$160 and 66.7% of remainder	$160 and 66.7% of remainder
Florida	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$200 and 50% of remainder**	$200 and 50% of remainder	$200 and 50% of remainder
Georgia	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter

Table L4 Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, 1996-2011 (July)

State	1996	2001	2006	2011
Hawaii	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**20%, $200, and 36% of remainder**	20%, $200, and 36% of remainder	20%, $200, and 36% of remainder
Idaho	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**40%**	40%	40%
Illinois	66.7%	66.7%	66.7%	**75%**
Indiana	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**No disregards–flat grant amount**	**75%**	75%
Iowa	20% and 50% of remainder	20% and 50% of remainder	20% and 50% of remainder	**20% and 58% of remainder**
Kansas	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$90 and 40% of remainder**	$90 and 40% of remainder	**$90 and 60% of remainder**
Kentucky	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**100% first 2 months,[3] $120 and 33.3% of remainder next 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter**	100% first 2 months,[3] $120 and 33.3% of remainder next 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	100% first 2 months,[3] $120 and 33.3% of remainder next 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter
Louisiana	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$1,020 first 6 months,[4] $120 thereafter**	$1,020 first 6 months,[4] $120 thereafter	$1,020 first 6 months,[4] $120 thereafter
Maine	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$108 and 50% of remainder**	$108 and 50% of remainder	$108 and 50% of remainder
Maryland	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**35%**	**40%**	40%
Massachusetts				
Exempt	$120 and 33.3% of remainder	$120 and 33.3% of remainder	$120 and 33.3% of remainder	$120 and 33.3% of remainder
Nonexempt	$120 and 50% of remainder	$120 and 50% of remainder	$120 and 50% of remainder	$120 and 50% of remainder
Michigan	$200 and 20% of remainder	$200 and 20% of remainder	$200 and 20% of remainder	$200 and 20% of remainder
Minnesota	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**38%**	**37%**	37%
Mississippi	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**100% first 6 months, $90 thereafter[5]**	100% first 6 months, $90 thereafter[5]	100% first 6 months, $90 thereafter[5]

Table L4 Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, 1996-2011 (July)

State	1996	2001	2006	2011
Missouri	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**66.7% and $90 of remainder first 12 months, $90 thereafter[6]**	66.7% and $90 of remainder first 12 months, $90 thereafter[6]	66.7% and $90 of remainder first 12 months, $90 thereafter[6]
Montana	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$200 and 25% of remainder**	$200 and 25% of remainder	$200 and 25% of remainder
Nebraska	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**20%**	20%	20%
Nevada	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**100% first 3 months, 50% months 4–12, $90 or 20% (whichever is greater) thereafter**	100% first 3 months, 50% months 4–12, $90 or 20% (whichever is greater) thereafter	**100% first 3 months, 85% months 4–6, 75% months 7–9, 65% months 10–12, $90 or 20% (whichever is greater) thereafter**
New Hampshire	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**50%**	50%	50%
New Jersey	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**100% first month, 50% thereafter[7]**	100% first month, 50% thereafter[7]	**100% first month, 75% next 6 months, 50% thereafter[8]**
New Mexico	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**All earnings in excess of 34 hours a week, $150, and 50% of remainder first 24 months; $150 and 50% of remainder thereafter[9]**	**All earnings in excess of 34 hours a week, $125, and 50% of remainder first 24 months; $125 and 50% of remainder thereafter[9]**	**$125 and 50% of remainder[10]**
New York	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$90 and 47% of remainder**	$90 and 47% of remainder	**$90 and 48% of remainder**
North Carolina	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**100% first 3 months of employment,[11] 27.5% thereafter**	100% first 3 months of employment,[11] 27.5% thereafter	100% first 3 months of employment,[11] 27.5% thereafter
North Dakota	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$180 or 27% (whichever is greater) and 50% of remainder first 6 months, $180 or 27% (whichever is greater) and 35% of remainder months 7–9, $180 or 27% (whichever is greater) and 25% of remainder months 10–13, $180 or 27% (whichever is greater) thereafter[12]**	$180 or 27% (whichever is greater) and 50% of remainder first 6 months, $180 or 27% (whichever is greater) and 35% of remainder months 7–9, $180 or 27% (whichever is greater) and 25% of remainder months 10–13, $180 or 27% (whichever is greater) thereafter[12]	$180 or 27% (whichever is greater) and 50% of remainder first 6 months, $180 or 27% (whichever is greater) and 35% of remainder months 7–9, $180 or 27% (whichever is greater) and 25% of remainder months 10–13, $180 or 27% (whichever is greater) thereafter[12]
Ohio	$250 and 50% of remainder first 12 months, $90 thereafter	**$250 and 50% of remainder**	$250 and 50% of remainder	$250 and 50% of remainder

Table L4 Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, 1996–2011 (July)

State	1996	2001	2006	2011
Oklahoma	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$120 and 50% of remainder**	$120 and 50% of remainder	**$240 and 50% of remainder**[13]
Oregon	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**50%**	50%	50%
Pennsylvania	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**50%**	50%	50%
Rhode Island	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$170 and 50% of remainder**	$170 and 50% of remainder	$170 and 50% of remainder
South Carolina	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**50% first 4 months, $100 thereafter**	50% first 4 months, $100 thereafter	**50% first 4 months,[14] $100 thereafter**
South Dakota	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$90 and 20% of remainder**	$90 and 20% of remainder	$90 and 20% of remainder
Tennessee	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$150** [15]	$150 [15]	**$250** [16]
Texas	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$120 and 90% of remainder (up to $1,400) for 4 of 12 months, $120 thereafter**[17]	**$120 and 90% of remainder (up to $1,400) for 4 of 12 months, $120 thereafter**[18]	$120 and 90% of remainder (up to $1,400) for 4 out of 12 months, $120 thereafter[18]
Utah	$100 and 50% of remainder	$100 and 50% of remainder	$100 and 50% of remainder	$100 and 50% of remainder
Vermont	$150 and 25% of remainder	$150 and 25% of remainder	$150 and 25% of remainder	**$200 and 25% of remainder**[19]
Virginia	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$134** [20] **and 20% of remainder**	**$142** [21] **and 20% of remainder**
Washington	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**50%**	50%	50%
West Virginia	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**60%**	**40%**	40%
Wisconsin	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**No disregards–flat grant amount**	No disregards–flat grant amount	No disregards–flat grant amount

Table L4 Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, 1996–2011 (July)

State	1996	2001	2006	2011
Wyoming	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$200** [22]	$200 [22]	$200 [22]

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Notes: Only earned income disregards are described in the table. Child care disregards and other special disregards, such as deductions for units subject to a time limit or a family cap, are not included.

The table describes benefit computation disregards for recipients. If disregards differ for applicants, they are footnoted.

[1] The earned income disregard cannot be applied to the earnings of an individual receiving assistance beyond the 60th month under an exemption or extension.
[2] In addition to the 100 percent disregard of all subsidized JOBSTART wages, recipients can disregard the standard $90 and 30 percent of the remainder for any non-JOBSTART earned income.
[3] Recipients are eligible for the one-time 100 percent disregard if they become newly employed or report increased wages acquired after approval.
[4] The six months in which the extra $900 is disregarded need not be consecutive, but the recipient may use this extra disregard in no more than six months over the course of his or her lifetime.
[5] Recipients are eligible for the one-time 100 percent disregard if they find employment of 35 hours a week within the first 30 days of their initial approval for TANF. If work is not found within 30 days, the recipient is ineligible to ever receive the disregard again. An additional 100 percent disregard is available to units for three months when the unit's case is subject to closure because of increased earnings and the individual is employed for at least 25 hours a week at the federal minimum wage or higher. The recipient may not have already received the six-month disregard, unless there has been at least a 12-month break in receipt of TANF benefits. The three-month disregard may be received more than once during the 60-month TANF benefit period provided the family does not receive TANF benefits for at least 12 consecutive months before reapplying for assistance. Two-parent units may disregard 100 percent of earnings for the first six months, $120 and 33.3 percent in the next 12 months, and $90 thereafter. If a recipient marries for the first time, his or her new spouse may receive a one-time 100 percent disregard for six consecutive months.
[6] This policy applies only to recipients who become employed while receiving TANF. Applicants and recipients who gained employment before receiving TANF are allowed to disregard $120 and 33.3 percent of remainder for the first four months, $120 for the next eight months, and $90 thereafter.
[7] The 100 percent disregard is applicable only once every 12 months, even if employment is lost and then regained. In the first month of benefit computation, applicants may disregard 50 percent of earnings only.
[8] These disregards apply to individuals working 20 or more hours a week. Individuals employed fewer than 20 hours a week may disregard 100 percent in the first month of employment and 50 percent thereafter. However, if an individual's hours increase to 20 hours during the first six months, he or she may disregard 75 percent for the remainder of the six-month period. The 100 percent disregard is applicable only once every 12 months, even if employment is lost and then regained.
[9] Two-parent units may disregard all earnings in excess of 35 hours a week for one parent and 24 hours a week for the other parent, $225, and 50 percent in the first 24 months. Thereafter, they may disregard $225 and 50 percent of the remainder. The disregard for earnings in excess of the participation requirement applies only to recipients for the first 24 months of benefit receipt, for both single- and two-parent units.
[10] Two-parent units may disregard $225 and 50 percent of the remainder.
[11] The 100 percent disregard is available only once in a lifetime and may be received only if the recipient is newly employed for more than 20 hours a week at a job that is expected to be permanent.
[12] If a parent marries while receiving assistance, the income of his or her new spouse is disregarded for the first six months. The disregard for the new spouse applies only if his or her needs were not previously included in the unit.
[13] These disregards apply to individuals working full time, defined as 20 hours a week for recipients caring for a child under age 6 and 30 hours a week for all other recipients. Individuals working less than full time may disregard $120 and 50 percent of the remainder.
[14] The 50 percent disregard is available only once in a lifetime and may only be applied to consecutive months.
[15] If a parent marries while receiving assistance, and the new spouse's gross income (minus any court-ordered child support) is less than 185 percent of the consolidated need standard for the entire assistance unit including the spouse, the unit may choose to include the new spouse in the unit. If the spouse is included, all his or her income is excluded for eligibility purposes and benefit computation. If he or she is not in the unit, all the spouse's income and resources are excluded for eligibility and benefit computation.
[16] If a parent marries while receiving assistance, the unit may choose to exclude the new spouse from the unit for three months. At the end of the three months, the new spouse becomes a mandatory member of the assistance unit, and his or her income is counted in benefit computation calculations.
[17] Once the recipient has received four months (they need not be consecutive) of the 90 percent disregard, he or she is not eligible to receive the disregard again until the TANF case has been denied and remains denied for one full month, and 12 calendar months have passed since the denial. The 12-month ineligibility period begins with the first full month of denial after the client used the fourth month of the 90 percent disregard.
[18] Once the recipient has received four months (they need not be consecutive) of the 90 percent disregard, he or she is not eligible to receive the disregard again until the TANF case has been denied and remains denied for one full month, and 12 calendar months have passed since the denial. The 12-month ineligibility period begins with the first full month of denial after the client used the fourth month

of the 90 percent disregard. The earnings of a TANF recipient's new spouse are disregarded for six months if the total gross income of the budget group does not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

[19] These disregards apply to recipients with income from unsubsidized employment or a combination of subsidized and unsubsidized employment. For recipients with earnings from subsidized employment only, the disregard is $90.

[20] The disregard varies by family size; for one to four family members, the disregard is $134. For five members, the disregard is $157; and for six or more family members, the disregard is $179.

[21] The disregard varies by family size; for one to three family members, the disregard is $142. For four members, the disregard is $153; for five members, the disregard is $179; and for six or more family members, the disregard is $205.

[22] Married couples with a child in common may disregard $400.

Table L5 Maximum Monthly Benefit for a Family of Three with No Income, 1996-2011 (July)

State	1996	2001	2006	2011
Alabama	$164	$164	**$215**	$215
Alaska	$923	$923	$923	$923
Arizona	$347	$347	$347	**$278**
Arkansas	$204	$204	$204	$204
California	$596			
Nonexempt	—	**$645**	**$704**	**$638**
Exempt	—	**$720**	**$786**	**$714**
Colorado	$356	$356	$356	**$462**
Connecticut	$543	$543	$543	**$576**
Delaware	$338	$338	$338	$338
D.C.	$415	**$379**	**$407**	**$428**
Florida	$303	$303	$303	$303
Georgia	$280	$280	$280	$280
Hawaii	$712	**$570** [1]	$570 [1]	**$610** [2]
Idaho	$317	**$293**	**$309**	$309
Illinois	$377	$377	**$396**	**$432**
Indiana	$288	$288	$288	$288
Iowa	$426	$426	$426	$426
Kansas	$429	$429	$429	$429
Kentucky	$262	$262	$262	$262
Louisiana	$190	**$240**	$240	$240
Maine	$418	**$461**	**$485**	$485
Maryland	$373	**$439**	**$490**	**$574**
Massachusetts				
Exempt	$579	**$633**	$633	$633
Nonexempt	$565	**$618**	$618	$618
Michigan	$459	**$459** [3]	**$489** [3]	**$492**
Minnesota	$532	$532	$532	$532
Mississippi	$120	**$170**	$170	$170
Missouri	$292	$292	$292	$292
Montana	$425	**$494**	**$442**	**$504**
Nebraska	$364	$364	$364	$364
Nevada	$348	$348	$348	**$383**
New Hampshire	$550	**$600**	**$625**	**$675**
New Jersey	$424	$424	$424	$424
New Mexico	$389	**$389**	$389	**$313**
New York	$577	$577	**$691**	**$788**
North Carolina	$272	$272	$272	$272
North Dakota	$431	**$477**	$477	**$427**
Ohio	$341	**$373**	**$410**	**$434**
Oklahoma	$307	**$292**	$292	$292
Oregon	$460	**$503**	**$514**	**$549**
Pennsylvania	$403	$403	$403	$403
Rhode Island	$554	$554	$554	$554
South Carolina	$200	**$203**	**$240**	**$216**
South Dakota	$430	$430	**$508**	**$555**
Tennessee	$185	**$185** [4]	$185 [4]	$185 [4]

Table L5 Maximum Monthly Benefit for a Family of Three with No Income, 1996-2011 (July)

State	1996	2001	2006	2011
Texas	$188	**$201**	**$223**	**$260**
Utah	$426	**$474**	$474	**$498**
Vermont	$597	**$629**	**$640**	$640
Virginia	$291	**$320**	$320	$320
Washington	$546	$546	$546	**$478**
West Virginia	$253	**$453**	**$340**	$340
Wisconsin	$518			
W-2 Transition	—	**$628**	$628	$628
Community Service Jobs	—	**$673**	$673	$673
Trial Jobs/Unsubsidezed Employment	—	—[5]	—[5]	—[5]
Wyoming	$360	**$340**	$340	**$577**
Mean[6]	**$394**	**$409**	**$417**	**$436**
Median[6]	**$377**	**$389**	**$396**	**$429**

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Note: Maximum benefits are calculated assuming that the unit contains one adult and two children not subject to a family cap, has no special needs, pays for shelter, and lives in the most populated area of the state.

[1] Applies to units that have received assistance for two or more months in a lifetime. For units applying for their first or second months of benefits, the maximum monthly benefit for a family of three is $712.
[2] Applies to units that have received assistance for two or more months in a lifetime. For units applying for their first or second months of benefits, the maximum monthly benefit for a family of three is $763.
[3] Applies to units that have at least one employable adult. For units where all adults either receive SSI or are exempt from work requirements for reasons other than caring for a child under 3 months old, the maximum monthly benefit for a family of three is $477.
[4] For units where the caretaker is over 60, disabled, caring full time for a disabled family member, or excluded from the assistance unit, the maximum monthly benefit for a family of three is $232.
[5] The benefits in these components are based on the wages earned by individual recipients.
[6] The calculations include only one value per state (the policy affecting the largest percentage of the caseload).

Table L6 Work-Related Exemption When Caring for a Child under X Months, 1996–2011 (July)

State	1996	2001	2006	2011
Alabama	12	**3**	3	3
Alaska	36	**12 [1]**	**12 [2]**	12 [2]
Arizona	24	**No exemption**	No exemption	No exemption
Arkansas	No exemption	**3 [3]**	3 [3]	3 [3]
California	36 [4]	**12 [5]**	12 [5]	**24 [6]**
Colorado	12	**No exemption[7]**	No exemption[7]	No exemption[7]
Connecticut	12 [8]	12 [8]	12 [8]	12 [8]
Delaware	13 weeks	13 weeks	13 weeks	**12 [1]**
D.C.	36	**12**	12	12
Florida	36	**3 [9]**	3 [9]	3 [9]
Georgia	36	**12 [10]**	**12 [11]**	12 [11]
Hawaii	36	**6**	6	**6 [1]**
Idaho	36	**No exemption**	No exemption	No exemption
Illinois	36 [12]	**12 [12]**	**12 [9]**	12 [9]
Indiana	36 [8]	**36**	**12**	**3**
Iowa	3	**No Exemption[13]**	No exemption[13]	No exemption[13]
Kansas	36	**12**	**12 [14]**	**6 [14]**
Kentucky	36	**12 [1]**	12 [1]	12 [1]
Louisiana	12	**12 [1]**	**No exemption**	No exemption
Maine	36	**12 [1]**	12 [1]	12 [1]
Maryland	36	**12 [15]**	12 [15]	**12 [16]**
Massachusetts				
Exempt[17]	—	—	—	—
Nonexempt	No exemption[18]	No exemption[18]	No exemption[18]	No exemption[18]
Michigan	No exemption	**3**	**3 [19]**	3 [19]
Minnesota	36	**12**	**3 [20]**	**12 [20]**
Mississippi	36	**12 [1]**	12 [1]	12 [1]
Missouri	36	**12**	12	12
Montana	12	**No exemption**	No exemption	**No exemption[21]**
Nebraska	12			
Time-limited assistance	—	**3**	**No exemption[22]**	**No exemption[23]**
Non-time-limited assistance[17]	—	**—[24]**	—[24]	—[25]
Nevada	36	**12 [26]**	12 [26]	12 [26]
New Hampshire				
New Hampshire Employment Program	—	**24 [27]**	24 [27]	**12 [28]**
Family Assistance Program[17]	—	—	—	—
New Jersey	24 [9]	**3 [29]**	3 [29]	3 [29]
New Mexico	36	**12 [1]**	12 [1]	12 [1]
New York	36	**3 [30]**	3 [30]	3 [30]
North Carolina	60 [31]	**12 [1]**	12 [1]	12 [1]

Table L6 Work-Related Exemption When Caring for a Child under X Months, 1996–2011 (July)

State	1996	2001	2006	2011
North Dakota	24	**4**	4	**2**
Ohio	12	12	12	12
Oklahoma	12	**3 [1]**	3 [1]	**4 [1]**
Oregon	3 [31]	**3**	3	**24**
Pennsylvania	36	**12 [1]**	12 [1]	12 [1]
Rhode Island	36	**12**	12	12
South Carolina	36	**12 [32]**		
All, except STAR	—	—	**No exemption[33]**	—
STAR[17]	—	—	—	—
All, except CARES	—	—	—	**No exemption[33]**
CARES[17]	—	—	—	—
South Dakota	12	**3**	3	3
Tennessee	12	**4**	12	12
Texas	36	**24**	**12**	12
Utah	No exemption	No exemption	No exemption	No exemption
Vermont	18 [34]	24 [35]	**24 [35]**	24 [35]
Virginia	36			
VIEW	—	**18 [36]**	18 [36]	**12** [36]
All, except VIEW[17]	—	—	—	—
Washington	36	**4 [1]**	4 [1]	**12 [1]**
West Virginia	36	**12 [37]**	**12 [38]**	**12 [39]**
Wisconsin	12	**3**	3	**12**
Wyoming	12	**3 [1]**	3 [1]	3 [1]

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Note: This table refers to single-parent unit heads over 21 years old.

[1] The exemption is limited to 12 cumulative months in the recipient's lifetime.
[2] The exemption is limited to 12 cumulative months in the recipient's lifetime. While the caretaker is exempt, he or she may be required to participate in self-sufficiency activities.
[3] A parent loses this exemption after retaining it for 12 cumulative months. Months in which the parent is exempt because child care is unavailable for a child less than 12 months old also count toward the 12-month lifetime limit.
[4] This exemption is limited to one child during a period of continuous TANF eligibility, where continuous is defined as receiving welfare without a break of at least six consecutive months.
[5] The recipient may receive this exemption only once, but he or she may also receive a limited exemption for a second or subsequent child under 6 months old.
[6] Recipients caring for two or more children under 6 years old are also exempt. The recipient may receive this exemption only once, but he or she may also receive a limited exemption for a second or subsequent child under 6 months old. Statewide exemption.
[7] A recipient caring for a child under the age of 6 may not be sanctioned if the individual has a demonstrated inability to obtain child care.
[8] The exemption applies only if the child is not subject to a family cap.
[9] Recipients may be required to attend classes or other activities.
[10] The exemption is limited to once in the recipient's lifetime.
[11] Single custodial parents can have one three-month exemption per child up to a cumulative total of 12 months.
[12] This exemption does not apply to units in which the youngest related child is age 13 or older.
[13] Although recipients are not exempt, they may be absent from work without sanction if they have a newborn child. Absence from activities is determined using the standards of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993. The maximum time available for one parent is 12 workweeks during any 12-month period and for two parents is the aggregate of 12 workweeks of leave for both parents.
[14] The exemption cannot be claimed by any adult in the unit when at least one adult has reached the 48th month of cash assistance.
[15] This is a one-time exemption for the first child only. A single parent caring for a child under the age of 6 who is unable to obtain child care may be exempt.

[16] The exemption is limited to 12 cumulative months in the recipient's lifetime. A single parent caring for a child under the age of 6 who is unable to obtain child care may be exempt.
[17] Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from activities requirements. See appendix 1 for more information on the composition of the component.
[18] Individuals caring for a child under 2 years old are placed in an alternative component. See appendix 1 for more information on components.
[19] Women are exempt from activities requirements for three months after giving birth when the newborn is in the home or for postpartum recovery when the newborn is not in the home.
[20] The exemption applies only once in a lifetime.
[21] Although it is technically not an exemption, individuals caring for a newborn child may count this activity toward participation requirements for two full months following the child's birth. The lifetime limit for this activity is 12 months.
[22] Recipients caring for children under 6 months old are placed in an alternative component. See appendix 1 for more information on components.
[23] Recipients caring for children under 12 weeks old are placed in an alternative component. See appendix 1 for more information on components.
[24] Although recipients caring for children between 3 and 6 months old are in the non-time-limited assistance component, they are expected to participate in limited work activities. Recipients caring for a child less than 3 months old are exempt. See appendix 1 for more information on components.
[25] Recipients caring for a child less than 3 months old are exempt and are non-time-limited for the period they qualify for this exemption. This exemption can be extended if a written statement from the attending physician states that the parent requires additional postpartum recovery time, or special medical conditions of the child require the presence of at least one parent or needy caretaker relative, guardian, or conservator. See appendix 1 for more information on components.
[26] There is an allowed exemption of three months per child. There is a 12-month cumulative limit.
[27] Recipients who have received 39 or more months of assistance will not receive a child care exemption. Recipients who conceive a child while on assistance are exempt only until the child is 12 months old.
[28] The exemption is limited to 12 cumulative months in the recipient's lifetime. If the recipient has received the 12-month exemption and has an additional child, the unit must participate in NHEP until the child is 12 weeks old. Recipients who have received TANF assistance for 39 or more months are not eligible for this exemption.
[29] The exemption may be extended if a physician certifies it is medically necessary for the parent or child.
[30] The exemption may last for no more than 12 months in a recipient's lifetime, and it may not last for more than three months for any one child unless the social services official determines to extend the exemption for up to the total 12 months.
[31] The exemption does not apply to parents who are working more than 30 hours a week. These parents are automatically enrolled into the Work First component and are subject to activities requirements.
[32] The exemption does not apply to individuals under the age of 25 without high school diplomas or GEDs.
[33] A parent personally providing care for his or her child under age 1 will be expected to participate in the work program but cannot be sanctioned for failure to do so.
[34] The parent is exempt from working but must participate in the Reach Up program.
[35] Work requirements may be modified or deferred for recipients caring for a child under 24 months old. The work requirement cannot be deferred for more than 24 months during a lifetime. However, recipients who have exhausted the 24-month exemption and are caring for a child under 13 weeks old may receive a work exemption.
[36] The exemption is limited to 12 cumulative months in the recipient's lifetime. The caretaker can be exempt for a maximum of 6 additional weeks if he or she has another child after the limit expires. Recipients caring for a child subject to a family cap are only exempt while the child is under 6 weeks old.
[37] The exemption applies only to the birth of a first child. The recipient is exempted for only six months after the birth of any additional child (the six months include any time the recipient chooses to be exempt during pregnancy).
[38] The exemption is limited to six months for each child and may be taken at any time while the child is less than 12 months old.
[39] The state does not consider these groups technically exempt, but they may meet the state's criteria for good cause for noncompliance or deferral. This is a one-time exemption and may be taken any time while the child is under 12 months. In addition, all mothers are eligible for a 12-week postpartum exemption following the birth of any additional child.

Table L7 Most Severe Sanction Policy for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Adults, 1996-2011 (July)

	1996		2001		2006		2011	
State	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)
Alabama	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Entire benefit**	**6 months**	Entire benefit	6 months	**Entire benefit**	**12 months**
Alaska	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Adult portion of benefit[1]**	**12 months[+]**	**Case is closed**	**Must reapply**	Case is closed	Must reapply
Arizona			**Entire benefit**	**1 month[+]**	Entire benefit	1 month[+]	Entire benefit	1 month[+]
All, except JOBSTART	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-
JOBSTART	50%[2]	1 month[+]	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-
Arkansas	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**25%**	**Until Compliance**	**Case is closed[3]**	**Until in compliance for 2 weeks**	**Case is closed[4]**	**Until in compliance for 2 weeks**
California	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Adult portion of benefit**	**Until compliance**
Colorado[5]	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Entire benefit**	**3 months[+]**	Entire benefit	3 months[+]	Entire benefit	3 months[+]
Connecticut	Case is closed	3 months and must reapply	Entire benefit	3 months and must reapply	Entire benefit	3 months and must reapply	**Case is closed**	**3 months and must reapply**
Delaware	Entire benefit	Permanent	Entire benefit	Permanent	Entire benefit	Permanent		
All, except TWP	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-	**Case is closed**	**1 month[+6]**
TWP	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-	**Case is closed**	**Until compliance**
D.C.	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	Adult portion of beneft	6 months[+]	Adult portion of beneft	6 months[+]	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]
Florida	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Entire benefit[7]**	**3 months[+]**	Entire benefit[7]	3 months[+]	Entire benefit[7]	3 months[+]
Georgia	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Case is closed**	**Permanent**	**Case is closed**	**12 months and must reapply**	Case is closed	12 months and must reapply
Hawaii	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Entire benefit**	**3 months[+]**	Entire benefit	3 months[+]	Entire benefit	3 months[+]
Idaho	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Entire benefit**	**Permanent**	Entire benefit	Permanent	Entire benefit	Permanent
Illinois	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Entire benefit**	**3 months[+]**	Entire benefit	3 months[+]	Entire benefit	3 months[+]

Table L7 Most Severe Sanction Policy for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Adults, 1996-2011 (July)

State	1996 Reduction in benefit	1996 Length of sanction (months)	2001 Reduction in benefit	2001 Length of sanction (months)	2006 Reduction in benefit	2006 Length of sanction (months)	2011 Reduction in benefit	2011 Length of sanction (months)
Indiana			**Adult portion of benefit**	**36 months[+]**	**Case is closed**	**Until Compliance**	Case is closed	Until compliance
Nonplacement track	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	—	—	—	—	—	—
Placement track	Adult portion of benefit	36 months[+]	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iowa	Entire benefit	6 months	**Entire benefit**	**6 months[+8]**	Entire benefit	6 months[+8]	Entire benefit	6 months[+8]
Kansas	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Entire benefit**	**2 months[+]**	Entire benefit	2 months[+]	**Entire benefit**	**Until compliance**
Kentucky	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Entire benefit**	**Until compliance**	Entire benefit	Until Compliance	Entire benefit	Until compliance
Louisiana	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Case is closed**	**Until compliance**	**Case is closed**	**3 months[+]**	Case is closed	3 months[+]
Maine	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]
Maryland	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Entire benefit**	**Until in compliance for 30 days**	Entire benefit	Until in compliance for 30 days	Entire benefit	Until in compliance for 30 days
Massachusetts								
Exempt[9]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nonexempt	Entire benefit	Until in compliance for 2 weeks	Entire benefit	Until in compliance for 2 weeks	Entire benefit	Until in compliance for 2 weeks	Entire benefit	Until in compliance for 2 weeks
Michigan	Entire benefit	Until compliance	**Entire benefit**	**1 months[+]**	**Case is closed**	**1 month[+]**	**Case is closed**	**12 months**
Minnesota	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Vender payment and 30%[10]**	**1 months[+]**	**Case is closed**	**1 month[+]**	Case is closed	1 month[+]
Mississippi	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Entire benefit**	**Permanent**	Entire benefit	Permanent	Entire benefit	Permanent
Missouri	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**25%**	**3 months[+]**	25%	3 months[+]	**25%**	**Until in compliance for 2 weeks**

Table L7 Most Severe Sanction Policy for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Adults, 1996-2011 (July)

State	1996		2001		2006		2011	
	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)
Montana	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Case is closed[11]**	**12 months**	**Case is closed**	**1 month**	**Case is closed**	**6 months**
Nebraska	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]			**Entire benefit**	**12 months**	**Entire benefit**	**12 months[+]**
Time-limited assistance	—	—	**Entire benefit**	**12 months or the remainder of 48 months (whichever is shorter)**	—	—	—	—
Non-time-limited assistance[9]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nevada	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Entire benefit**	**Permanent**	**Entire benefit**	**Until Compliance**	**Entire benefit**	**3 months[+]**
New Hampshire	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]						
New Hampshire Employment Program	—	—	**66% of adjusted Payment Standard[12]**	**1 payment period[+]**	**66% of adjusted Payment Standard[13]**	**1 payment period[+]**	**Case is closed[14]**	**Must reapply and be in compliance for 2 weeks**
Family Assistance Program[9]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Jersey	Adult portion of benefit	90 days[+]	**Case is closed[15]**	**Must reapply**	Case is closed[15]	Must reapply	**Case is closed**	**1 month and must reapply**
New Mexico	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Case is closed**	**6 months[+]**			—	—
New Mexico Works Program	—	—	—	—	**Case is closed**	**6 months, must reapply**	Case is closed	6 months, must reapply
Education Works Program	—	—	—	—	**Participation is terminated[16]**	*****	Participation is terminated[16]	*
New York	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Pro rata portion of the benefit**	**6 months[+]**	Pro rata portion of the benefit	6 months[+]	Pro rata portion of the benefit	6 months[+]

Table L7 Most Severe Sanction Policy for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Adults, 1996-2011 (July)

	1996		2001		2006		2011	
State	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)
North Carolina			**Case is closed[17]**	**Must reapply**	Case is closed[17]	Must reapply	Case is closed[17]	Must reapply
Work First Active	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pre-Work First and Work First Preparatory[9]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Dakota	Adult portion of benefit	3 months[+]	**Entire benefit[18]**	**3 months[+]**	**Case is closed[19]**	**Until Compliance**	Case is closed[19]	Until compliance
Ohio	Entire benefit	6 months[+]	Entire benefit	6 months[+]	Entire benefit	6 months[+]	Entire benefit	6 months[+]
Oklahoma	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Entire benefit**	**Until compliance**	Entire benefit	Until compliance	Entire benefit	Until compliance
Oregon	Entire benefit	Until compliance	Entire benefit	Until compliance, must reapply	Entire benefit	Until compliance, must reapply	Entire benefit	Until compliance, must reapply
Pennsylvania	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Entire benefit[20]**	**Permanent**	Entire benefit[20]	Permanent	Entire benefit[20]	Permanent
Rhode Island	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**140% of adult portion of benefit[21]**	**Until in compliance for 2 weeks**	**Case is closed**	**Must reapply**	Case is closed	Must reapply
South Carolina	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Case is closed**	**Must reapply and comply for 30 days**				
All, except STAR	—	—	—	—	**Case is closed**	**Must reapply and comply for 30 days**	—	—
STAR (A)	—	—	—	—	**Adult portion of benefit**	**Until compliance**	—	—
STAR (B and C)[9]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All, except CARES	—	—	—	—	—	—	**Case is closed**	**Until in compliance for 30 days**
CARES[9]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Dakota	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Case is closed**	**1 month[+] and must reapply**	Case is closed	1 month[+] and must reapply	Case is closed	1 month[+] and must reapply

Table L7 Most Severe Sanction Policy for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Adults, 1996-2011 (July)

State	1996 Reduction in benefit	1996 Length of sanction (months)	2001 Reduction in benefit	2001 Length of sanction (months)	2006 Reduction in benefit	2006 Length of sanction (months)	2011 Reduction in benefit	2011 Length of sanction (months)
Tennessee	Adult portion of benefit	6 months+	**Entire benefit**	**3 months+**	Entire benefit	3 months+	**Entire benefit**	**Until in compliance for 5 days**
Texas	Adult portion of benefit	6 months+	Adult portion of benefit	6 months+	**Case is closed**	**Must reapply and comply for 30 days**	Case is closed	Must reapply and comply for 30 days
Utah	Entire benefit[22]	Until compliance	Entire benefit[22]	Until compliance	**Case is closed**	**2 months and must reapply[23]**	Case is closed	2 months and must reapply[23]
Vermont	Adult portion of benefit	6 months+	**$225**	**Until in compliance for 2 weeks**	$225	Until in compliance for 2 weeks	$225	Until in compliance for 2 weeks
Virginia	Entire benefit	6 months+						
VIEW	—-	—-	**Entire benefit**	**6 months+**	Entire benefit	6 months+	Enitre benefit	6 months+
All, except VIEW[9]	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-
Washington	Adult portion of benefit	6 months+	**Adult portion of benefit or 40% (whichever is greater)**	**Until in compliance for 2 weeks[24]**	**Adult portion of benefit or 40% (whichever is greater)**	**Until in compliance for 4 weeks[25]**	**Case is closed**	**Must reapply and be in compliance for 4 weeks[26]**
West Virginia	Adult portion of benefit	6 months+	**Entire benefit**	**6 months+**	Entire benefit	6 months+	**Entire benefit[27]**	**6 months+**
Wisconsin	Entire benefit	Until compliance						
W-2 Transition and Community Service Jobs	—-	—-	**Entire benefit**	**Permanent[28]**	Entire benefit	Permanent[28]	Entire benefit	Permanent[28]
Unsubsidized employment[9]	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-
Trial Jobs	—-	—-	**Entire earnings**	**Permanent[28]**	Entire earnings	Permanent[28]	Entire earnings	Permanent[28]
Wyoming	Adult portion of benefit	6 months+	**Entire benefit**	**Until compliance**	Entire benefit	Until compliance	Enitre benefit	Until compliance

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Note: "Adult portion of benefit" describes the portion of the benefit the sanctioned individual would have received. Because the table only represents sanctions for single-parent adults, in all cases the sanctioned individual is an adult.

+ The unit is sanctioned for the specified number of months or until the sanctioned individual complies with the activity requirements, whichever is longer.

[*] Data not obtained

[1] The adult portion of the benefit is calculated by subtracting the child-only need standard for a one-person household from the adult-included need standard for a two-person household.
[2] The participant is removed from the JOBSTART program but is eligible to participate in the non-JOBSTART component.
[3] For the seventh and subsequent months of noncompliance, the caseworker has discretion to either reduce the unit's benefits by 50 percent or close the case. If the case is closed, the unit may reapply for its full benefits, but the application will be pending until the unit has complied with requirements for two weeks.
[4] If the case is closed, the unit may reapply for its full benefits, but the application will be pending until the unit has complied with requirements for two weeks.
[5] Counties have the option to determine the amount and duration of sanctions. These policies refer to Denver County.
[6] The unit is sanctioned for one month or until the sanctioned individual complies with the activity requirements for four consecutive weeks, whichever is longer.
[7] Assistance may still be provided to children under age 16 in the unit; these benefits are issued to a protective payee.
[8] The sanctioned parent must also sign a family investment agreement and complete 20 hours of eligible education or work activities to become eligible again. The sanction continues until the parent fully complies.
[9] Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they are not subject to sanctions (see appendix 1 for a description of components).
[10] The shelter costs are paid directly to the vendor; any remaining amount of benefit is reduced by 30 percent of the transitional standard. Vendor payments continue for six months after the month in which the parent complies.
[11] When a recipient fails to comply for the fourth or subsequent time, the needs of the individual are removed and the benefit is paid to a protective payee. The individual is sanctioned for 12 months. If a new contract has not been negotiated by one month after the end of the sanction period, the case is closed for noncompliance. The unit may reapply for benefits after a one-month period of ineligibility.
[12] The adjusted payment standard refers to the new benefit amount once the adult portion is removed.
[13] The adjusted payment standard refers to the new benefit amount once the adult portion is removed. Additionally, the recipient must participate in an assessment of barriers to participation. If barriers are found, the recipient's training and support program is revised accordingly. If no barriers are found, financial assistance is terminated for the entire unit.
[14] If a unit accrues three months of sanctions in any 12-month period, the case may be closed. Any portion of a month counts as one full month.
[15] This sanction applies to noncompliance that continues for three or more months. If the adult is noncompliant for less than three months, the pro rata share is removed, but the case remains open.
[16] The program participant is placed on probation if he or she has not met program requirements. At the end of the probationary period, if standards have not been met or an overall GPA of 2.5 has not been achieved, the department may take action to terminate an individual's participation in the Education Works Program.
[17] This sanction applies to noncompliance that continues for three or more months. If the adult is noncompliant for less than three months, the entire benefit is removed, but the case remains open.
[18] If the adult is noncompliant for less than four months, only the adult portion of the benefit is removed. If noncompliance continues after four months of reduced benefits, the entire unit is ineligible for benefits.
[19] If the adult is noncompliant for one month or less, only the adult portion of the benefit is removed. If noncompliance continues after one month of reduced benefits, the case is closed. The case can be closed for no longer than 12 months.
[20] This sanction applies to noncompliances that occur after the first 24 months of assistance. For noncompliances that occur within the first 24 months of assistance, the needs of the sanctioned individual are permanently excluded for benefit calculation.
[21] If the individual is noncompliant for one to six months, 110 percent of the parent's benefits is reduced from the unit's benefit. For 7 to 12 months of noncompliance, 120 percent of the parent's benefits is reduced from the unit's benefit. Months 13–18, 130 percent reduction. Months 19–24, 140 percent reduction. Following 24 months of noncompliance, the reduction is decreased to 100 percent of the parent's benefit, but the entire remaining benefit must be made to a protective payee. The individual is sanctioned until he or she is in compliance for two weeks.
[22] The entire unit is ineligible if the adult is in noncompliance for two or more months. If the adult is noncompliant for less than two months, only $100 of the benefit is removed.
[23] The unit must also complete a trial participation period before it is eligible to receive benefits again.
[24] The sanction remains in effect until the individual is compliant for two weeks; after two weeks of compliance, benefits are restored to their pre-sanction level, and the individual is paid retroactively for the two weeks of compliance.
[25] The sanction remains in effect until the individual is compliant for four weeks; after four weeks of compliance, benefits are restored to their pre-sanction level.
[26] The sanction remains in effect until the individual is compliant for four weeks; after four weeks of compliance, benefits are restored to their pre-sanction level. If after four months the individual is still in sanction, the case is closed. If the case is reopened sanctions will continue where they left off.
[27] If a nonexempt member of the unit does not comply with work requirements after receiving assistance for 24 months, the case is closed.
[28] Wisconsin has four components (see appendix 1 for descriptions). If a recipient refuses to participate in an activity, he or she is permanently ineligible for benefits in that component. The unit may receive benefits again if it becomes eligible for one of the other components. There is no permanent sanction for individuals in unsubsidized employment.

Table L8 Asset Limits for Recipients, 1996–2011 (July)

State	1996	2001	2006	2011
Alabama	$1,000	**$2,000/$3,000[1]**	$2,000/$3,000[1]	**No limit[2]**
Alaska	$1,000	$1,000	**$2,000/$3,000[1]**	$2,000/$3,000[1]
Arizona	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	$2,000
Arkansas	$1,000	**$3,000**	$3,000	$3,000
California	$2,000[3]	**$2,000/$3,000[1]**	$2,000/$3,000[1]	$2,000/$3,000[1]
Colorado	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	**No Limit[2]**
Connecticut	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000
Delaware	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	**$10,000**
D.C.	$1,000	**$2,000/$3,000[4]**	$2,000/$3,000[4]	$2,000/$3,000[4]
Florida	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	$2,000
Georgia	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
Hawaii	$1,000	**$5,000**	$5,000	$5,000
Idaho	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	$2,000
Illinois	$1,000	**$2,000/$3,000/+$50[5]**	$2,000/$3,000/+$50[5]	$2,000/$3,000/+$50[5]
Indiana	$1,000	**$1,500[3]**	$1,500[3]	$1,500[3]
Iowa	$5,000[6]	$5,000[6]	$5,000[6]	$5,000[6]
Kansas	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	$2,000
Kentucky	$1,000	**$2,000[7]**	$2,000[7]	$2,000[7]
Louisiana	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	**No limit[2]**
Maine	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	$2,000
Maryland	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	**No limit[2]**
Massachusetts	$2,500	$2,500	$2,500	$2,500
Michigan	$1,000	**$3,000**	$3,000	$3,000
Minnesota	$1,000	**$5,000[6]**	$5,000[6]	$5,000[6]
Mississippi	$1,000	**$2,000[8]**	$2,000[8]	**$2,000[9]**
Missouri	$5,000[2]	$5,000[3]	$5,000[3]	$5,000[3]
Montana	$1,000	**$3,000**	$3,000	$3,000
Nebraska	$1,000	**$4,000/$6,000[10]**	$4,000/$6,000[10]	$4,000/$6,000[10]
Nevada	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	$2,000
New Hampshire	$1,000	**$2,000[3]**	$2,000[3]	$2,000[3]
New Jersey	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	$2,000
New Mexico	$1,000	**$3,500[11]**	$3,500[11]	$3,500[11]
New York	$1,000	**$2,000/$3,000[1]**	$2,000/$3,000[1]	$2,000/$3,000[1]
North Carolina	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000
North Dakota	$1,000	**$3,000/$6,000/+$25[12]**	$3,000/$6,000/+$25[12]	$3,000/$6,000/+$25[12]
Ohio	$1,000	**No limit[2]**	No limit[2]	No limit[2]
Oklahoma	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
Oregon	$10,000[13]	$10,000[13]	$10,000[13]	$10,000[13]
Pennsylvania	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
Rhode Island	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
South Carolina	$1,000	**$2,500**	$2,500	$2,500
South Dakota	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	$2,000
Tennessee	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	$2,000
Texas	$1,000	**$2,000/$3,000[4]**	**$1,000[14]**	$1,000[14]
Utah	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000
Vermont	$1,000[15]	$1,000[15]	$1,000[15]	**$2,000[16]**
Virginia	$1,000	$1,000	**No limit[2]**	No limit[2]

Table L8 Asset Limits for Recipients, 1996–2011 (July)

State	1996	2001	2006	2011
Washington	$1,000	**$1,000**[17]	$1,000[17]	$1,000[17]
West Virginia	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	$2,000
Wisconsin	$1,000	**$2,500**	$2,500	$2,500
Wyoming	$1,000	**$2,500**	$2,500	$2,500

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Note: This table describes the asset limits for recipients. If the exemptions differ for applicants, they are footnoted.

[1] Units including an elderly person may exempt $3,000; all other units exempt $2,000.
[2] The asset test has been eliminated.
[3] The asset limit for applicants is $1,000.
[4] Households including an elderly or disabled person may be exempt $3,000, regardless of whether that person is in the assistance unit. All other units exempt $2,000.
[5] The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $2,000, two people receive $3,000, and three or more receive $3,000 plus $50 for each additional person.
[6] The asset limit for applicants is $2,000.
[7] Only liquid resources are considered for eligibility determinations. Liquid resources include cash, checking and savings accounts, CDs, stocks and bonds, and money market accounts.
[8] When a TANF recipient marries for the first time while receiving assistance, the resources of the new spouse are disregarded for six consecutive months. This is a one-time, lifetime disregard.
[9] If the unit is considered broad-based categorically eligible, it is not subject to asset limits. In addition, when a TANF recipient marries for the first time while receiving assistance, the resources of the new spouse are disregarded for six consecutive months. This is a one-time, lifetime disregard.
[10] The asset limit is based on unit size: the limit for one person is $4,000, and the limit for two or more people is $6,000.
[11] The total limit is $3,500, but only $1,500 of that amount can be in liquid resources, and only $2,000 can be in nonliquid resources. Liquid resources include the (convertible) cash value of life insurance policies, cash, stocks, bonds, negotiable notes, purchase contracts, and other similar assets. Nonliquid resources include nonexempt vehicles, equipment, tools, livestock (except nonsalable domestic pets), one-time sale asset conversion, and lump-sum payments.
[12] The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $3,000, two people receive $6,000, and another $25 is allowed for each additional person thereafter.
[13] The limit is reduced to $2,500 if the recipient does not cooperate with his or her case plan. The asset limit for applicants first applying for TANF is $2,500. If the applicant makes it through the first stage of application, he or she must participate in the assessment program, in which he or she is assessed and given a case plan to follow. If the applicant does not follow the case plan, he or she maintains the $2,500 asset limit as long as he or she is in the assessment program. If the applicant complies with the case plan, he or she is allowed a $10,000 asset limit.
[14] When a TANF recipient marries while receiving assistance, the liquid resources of the new spouse are excluded for six months beginning the month after the date of the marriage. To receive the disregard, the resources must result from the new spouse’s earnings and total gross income must not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
[15] In addition to the $1,000 asset limit, assets accumulated from earnings, interest earned on those assets, and nonliquid assets purchased with savings from earnings and other excluded income or resources are excluded as a resource.
[16] In addition to the $2,000 asset limit, assets accumulated from earnings, interest earned on those assets, and nonliquid assets purchased with savings from earnings and other excluded income or resources are excluded as a resource.
[17] $3,000 in a savings account or certificates of deposit may also be excluded.

Table L9 Vehicle Exemptions for Recipients, 1996–2011 (July)

State	1996	2001	2006	2011
Alabama	$1,500[E]	**All vehicles owned by household**	All vehicles owned by household	All vehicles owned by household
Alaska	$1,500[E]	**All vehicles owned by household[1]**	All vehicles owned by household[1]	All vehicles owned by household[1]
Arizona	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per household**	**All vehicles owned by household[2]**	**All vehicles owned by household**
Arkansas	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per household**	One vehicle per household	One vehicle per household
California	$4,500[3E]	**$4,650[E]**	**$4,650[F]/One vehicle per licensed driver[4E]**	$4,650[F]/One vehicle per licensed driver[4E]
Colorado	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per household**	One vehicle per household	**All vehicles owned by household**
Connecticut	$9,500[E]	**$9,500[5E]**	$9,500[5E]	$9,500[5E]
Delaware	$4,650[E]	$4,650[E]	$4,650[E]	**All vehicles owned by household**
D.C.	$1,500[E]	**All vehicles owned by household**	All vehicles owned by household	All vehicles owned by household
Florida	$1,500[E]	**$8,500[E]**	$8,500[E]	$8,500[E]
Georgia	$1,500[E]	**$1,500/$4,650[6E]**	$1,500/$4,650[6E]	$1,500/$4,650[6E]
Hawaii	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per household**	**All vehicles owned by household**	All vehicles owned by household
Idaho	$1,500[E]	**$4,650[7F]**	**$4,650[8F]**	**One vehicle per adult[9]**
Illinois	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per household[10]**	One vehicle per household[10]	One vehicle per household[10]
Indiana	$1,000[11E]	**$5,000[11E]**	$5,000[11E]	$5,000[11E]
Iowa	$3,889[E] per vehicle for each adult and working teenager	**$4,042[E] per vehicle for each adult and working teenager**	**One vehicle per household[12]**	**One vehicle per household[13]**
Kansas	$1,500[E]	**All vehicles owned by household[14]**	All vehicles owned by household[14]	All vehicles owned by household[14]
Kentucky	$1,500[E]	**All vehicles owned by household**	All vehicles owned by household	All vehicles owned by household
Louisiana	$1,500[E]	**All vehicles owned by household[2]**	**All vehicles owned by household**	All vehicles owned by household
Maine	One vehicle per household	One vehicle per household	One vehicle per household	One vehicle per household
Maryland	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per household**	**All vehicles owned by household**	All vehicles owned by household
Massachusetts	$5,000[F]	**$5,000/$10,000[15F]**	$5,000/$10,000[15F]	$5,000/$10,000[15F]
Michigan	One vehicle per household[16]	**All vehicles owned by household**	All vehicles owned by household	All vehicles owned by household
Minnesota	$1,500[E]	**$7,500[17F]**	$7,500[17F]	**$15,000[18F]**
Mississippi	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per household[19]**	**All vehicles owned by household[20]**	All vehicles owned by household[20]
Missouri	One vehicle per household[21]	One vehicle per household[21]	One vehicle per household[21]	One vehicle per household[21]
Montana	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per household[22]**	One vehicle per household[22]	One vehicle per household[22]
Nebraska	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per household[23]**	One vehicle per household[23]	One vehicle per household[23]
Nevada	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per household**	One vehicle per household	One vehicle per household
New Hampshire	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per licensed driver**	One vehicle per licensed driver	One vehicle per licensed driver

Table L9 Vehicle Exemptions for Recipients, 1996–2011 (July)

State	1996	2001	2006	2011
New Jersey	$1,500[E]	**$9,500[24F]**	$9,500[24F]	**All vehicles owned by household[2F]**
New Mexico	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per household[25]**	**All vehicles owned by household[26]**	All vehicles owned by household[26]
New York	$1,500[E]	**$4,650/$9,300[27F]**	$4,650/$9,300[27F]	$4,650/$9,300[27F]
North Carolina	$5,000[F]	**One vehicle per adult**	One vehicle per adult	**All vehicles owned by household**
North Dakota	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per household**	One vehicle per household	One vehicle per household
Ohio	$4,600[F]	**All vehicles owned by household**	All vehicles owned by household	All vehicles owned by household
Oklahoma	$1,500[E]	**$5,000[E]**	$5,000[E]	$5,000[E]
Oregon	$10,000[E]	$10,000[E]	$10,000[E]	$10,000[E]
Pennsylvania	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per household**	One vehicle per household	One vehicle per household
Rhode Island	$1,500[E]	**$1,500[E]/$4,650[28F]**	**One vehicle per adult[29]**	One vehicle per adult[29]
South Carolina	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per licensed driver[30]**	One vehicle per licensed driver[30]	One vehicle per licensed driver[30]
South Dakota	$1,500 [31E]	**One vehicle per household[32]**	One vehicle per household[32]	One vehicle per household[32]
Tennessee	$1,500[E]	**$4,600[E]**	$4,600[E]	$4,600[E]
Texas	$1,500[E]	**$4,650[F] per vehicle owned by household[33]**	**$4,650[F] per vehicle owned by household[34]**	$4,650[F] of all vehicles owned by household[34]
Utah	$8,000[35E]	$8,000[35E]	$8,000[35E]	**All vehicles owned by household**
Vermont	One vehicle per household	**One vehicle per adult**	One vehicle per adult	One vehicle per adult
Virginia			**All vehicles owned by household**	All vehicles owned by household
VIEW	$1,500/$7,500[36F/E]	$1,500/$7,500[36F/E]	—	—
All, except VIEW	$1,500[E]	$1,500[E]	—	—
Washington	$1,500[E]	**$5,000[35E]**	$5,000[35E]	$5,000[35E]
West Virginia	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per household**	One vehicle per household	One vehicle per household
Wisconsin	$2,500[E]	**$10,000[E]**	$10,000[E]	$10,000[E]
Wyoming	$1,500[E]	**$12,000[37F]**	**$15,000[37F]**	**One vehicle per household[38]**

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

[E] Equity value of the vehicle.
[F] Fair-market value of the vehicle.

Note: This table describes the vehicle exemptions for recipients. If the exemptions differ for applicants, they are footnoted.

[1] Vehicles are exempt if used for one of the following: (1) to meet the family's basic needs, such as getting food and medical care or other essentials; (2) to go to and from work, school, training, or work activity (such as job search or community service); (3) as the family's house; (4) to produce self-employment income; or (5) to transport a disabled family member, whether or not he or she is a part of the assistance unit. If the vehicle does not meet one of these requirements, the equity value of the vehicle is counted in the determination of resources.
[2] Recreational vehicles are not exempt.
[3] Applicants may exempt only $1,500 of the equity value of a vehicle.
[4] Each vehicle must be evaluated for both its equity and fair-market values; the higher of the two values counts against the family's asset limit. Before this calculation, all the following vehicles are completely excluded: (1) used primarily for income-producing purposes, (2) produces annual income consistent with its fair-market value, (3) is necessary for long-distance travel that is essential for employment, (4) used as the family's residence, (5) is necessary to transport a physically disabled household member, (6) would be exempt under previously stated exemptions but the vehicle is not in use because of temporary unemployment, (7) used to carry fuel or water to the home and is the primary method of obtaining fuel or water, and (8) the equity value of the vehicle is $1,501 or less. To determine the countable fair-market value of each

remaining vehicle, exclude $4,650 from the vehicle's fair-market value. To determine the countable equity value of each remaining vehicle, exclude one additional vehicle per adult and one additional vehicle per licensed child who uses the vehicle to travel to school, employment, or job search. The full equity value of each remaining vehicle is counted. For each vehicle not completely excluded, the higher of the fair-market value or the equity value counts against the family's asset limit.

[5] The unit may exempt $9,500 of the equity value of any vehicle or the entire value of one vehicle used to transport a handicapped person.

[6] If the vehicle is used to look for work, or to travel to work or education and training, the unit may exclude $4,650 of the value. If the vehicle is not used for these purposes, $1,500 of the equity value can be excluded. If the vehicle is used more than 50 percent of the time to produce income or as a dwelling, it is entirely excluded.

[7] The value of one specially equipped vehicle used to transport a disabled family member is also exempt.

[8] The value of one specially equipped vehicle used to transport a disabled family member and vehicles with a fair-market value of under $1,500 are exempt.

[9] Vehicle must be used primarily for transportation. In addition, the value of one specially equipped vehicle used to transport a disabled family member or necessary for household functions is not counted in determining resources. Also, vehicles with a fair-market value under $1,500 are not counted.

[10] When there is more than one vehicle, the equity value of the vehicle of greater value is exempt. If a vehicle has special equipment for the disabled, the added value of the special equipment is exempt and does not increase the vehicle's value.

[11] The asset limit can only be applied to the value of one vehicle.

[12] Additionally, $4,435 of the equity value of a vehicle is exempt for each adult and working teenager whose resources must be considered in determining eligibility.

[13] Additionally, $4,658 of the equity value of a vehicle is exempt for each adult and working teenager whose resources must be considered in determining eligibility.

[14] Campers and trailers are also considered excludable vehicles.

[15] The state compares the value of the vehicle to two standards: $10,000 of the fair-market value and $5,000 of the equity value. If the value of the vehicle exceeds either limit, the excess counts toward the asset limit; if the value of the vehicle exceeds both limits, only the excess of the greater amount counts toward the asset limit.

[16] The value of any additional vehicle necessary for employment is also exempt.

[17] Minnesota uses the loan value of the vehicle as listed in the current NADA Used Car Guide, Midwest edition, instead of the fair-market value. The loan value is generally slightly less than the estimated fair-market value.

[18] For the applicants, Minnesota exempts $15,000 of the loan value of a vehicle. For the recipients, all the following vehicles are completely excluded first: (1) used for a self-employment business, (2) used for certain long-distance traveling for the employment, (3) used at least 50 percent of the time for income-producing purposes, (4) used as a home, and (5) one vehicle per physically disabled person used to transport him or her. Additionally, if a vehicle has special equipment for the disabled, the added value of the special equipment is exempt. $15,000 of the loan value of an additional vehicle is also exempt. Minnesota uses the loan value of the vehicle as listed in the current NADA Used Car Guide, Midwest edition, instead of the fair-market value. The loan value is generally slightly less than the estimated fair-market value.

[19] $4,650 of the fair-market value of the unit's second vehicle is exempt.

[20] Recreational vehicles are not exempt. Additionally, industrial vehicles—heavy haulers, pulpwood trucks, etc.—are exempt as long as they are used for income-producing purposes over 50 percent of the time, or as long as they annually produce income consistent with their fair-market value. Determination of whether to count a vehicle is made case by case.

[21] $1,500 of the equity value of the unit's second vehicle is exempt.

[22] All vehicles whose primary use is to produce income or that are used as a home are also exempt.

[23] The entire vehicle is exempt only if used for employment, training, or medical transportation; any motor vehicle used as a home is also exempt. If a unit has more than one vehicle, the vehicle with the greatest equity will be excluded. The equity value of any other vehicles will be counted in the resource limit.

[24] Units with two adults or one adult and a minor child at least 17 years old may exempt up to $4,650 of the fair-market value of a second vehicle if it is essential for work, training, or transporting a handicapped individual.

[25] When public transportation is available, the value of the first vehicle is exempt. When public transportation is not available, the value of one vehicle per participant involved in work activity is exempt.

[26] The entire vehicle is exempt only if used for transportation to work, work activities, or daily living requirements.

[27] If the vehicle is needed to seek or retain employment, $9,300 of the vehicle's fair-market value is exempt. Otherwise, up to $4,650 may be exempt.

[28] A unit may choose to exempt $4,650 of the fair-market value of each vehicle or $1,500 of the equity value of each vehicle. In addition, the value of vehicles used primarily for income-producing purposes is excluded (such as delivery trucks or taxi cabs). Vehicles used to get to and from work are not considered income-producing vehicles.

[29] Exemptions for adult drivers cannot exceed two vehicles per household. Additionally, the entire value of a vehicle used primarily for income-producing purposes, used as a family home, or used to provide transportation for a disabled family member is exempt.

[30] Vehicles owned by or used to transport disabled individuals, vehicles essential to self-employment, income-producing vehicles, and vehicles used as a home are also exempt.

[31] A vehicle owned by a child at least 14 years old is exempt if the child is at least a part-time student and a part-time worker, a portion of the payment for the car comes from the child's income, and the car's trade-in value does not exceed $2,500.

[32] In addition to one primary vehicle, an assistance unit may totally exclude a vehicle used to transport water or fuel to the home when it is not piped in, a vehicle used to transport a disabled member or SSI recipient in household, or a vehicle used in producing income or as a home. An assistance unit may also exclude $4,650 of the fair-market value of a vehicle used to transport members of the unit for education or employment.

[33] All licensed vehicles used for income-producing purposes are exempt.

[34] All licensed vehicles used for income-producing purposes or for transporting a disabled household member are exempt.

[35] The entire equity value of a vehicle used to transport a disabled household member is also exempt.

[36] If the fair-market value of the vehicle is greater than $7,500, any equity value greater than $1,500 is counted in the resource limit.

[37] The exemption applies to one vehicle for a single-parent unit. A married couple may split the exemption between two cars.

[38] This exemption applies to a single-parent unit. Two vehicles are exempt for a married couple.

Table L10 Family Cap Policies, 1996-2011 (July)

State	1996	2001	2006	2011
Alabama	No	No	No	No
Alaska	No	No	No	No
Arizona	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arkansas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
California	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Colorado	No	No	No	No
Connecticut	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Delaware	Yes	**Yes[1]**	Yes[1]	Yes[1]
D.C.	No	No	No	No
Florida	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Georgia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hawaii	No	No	No	No
Idaho	No	**No[2]**	No[2]	No[2]
Illinois	Yes	Yes	**No[3]**	**No**
Indiana	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Iowa	No	No	No	No
Kansas	No	No	No	No
Kentucky	No	No	No	No
Louisiana	No	No	No	No
Maine	No	No	No	No
Maryland	Yes	Yes	**No[4]**	**No**
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michigan	No	No	No	No
Minnesota	No	No	**Yes**	Yes
Mississippi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Missouri	No	No	No	No
Montana	No	No	No	No
Nebraska	No[5]	**Yes**	Yes	**No**
Nevada	No	No	No	No
New Hampshire	No	No	No	No
New Jersey	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Mexico	No	No	No	No
New York	No	No	No	No
North Carolina	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Dakota	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Ohio	No	No	No	No
Oklahoma	No	**Yes**	Yes	**No**
Oregon	No	No	No	No
Pennsylvania	No	No	No	No
Rhode Island	No	No	No	No
South Carolina	No	**Yes**	**Yes[6]**	Yes[6]
South Dakota	No	No	No	No
Tennessee	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Texas	No	No	No	No
Utah	No	No	No	No
Vermont	No	No	No	No
Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Washington	No	No	No	No
West Virginia	No	No	No	No
Wisconsin	Yes	**No[7]**	No[7]	No[7]
Wyoming	No	**Yes[8]**	Yes[8]	**No**
Total States with Any Cap	**14**	**21**	**20**	**17**

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

[1] In addition to the family cap policy, any child born after December 31, 1998, to an unmarried minor parent is ineligible for cash assistance, regardless of whether the minor was receiving aid at the time of the birth.
[2] Idaho provides a flat maximum benefit, regardless of family size. However, the Work Incentive Payment increases with family size, so the benefit for a unit with income may increase with an additional child, but never beyond the maximum benefit level.
[3] Illinois no longer has a family cap, but it applied a cap to children born more than 10 months after case opening between January 1, 1996, and January 1, 2004. Children who were capped during this period continue to be capped. The cap may be removed for these children if the unit does not receive benefits for a minimum of nine months and has not previously experienced an increase in the payment standard as the result of a birth while receiving TANF.
[4] Although the family cap still exists in state law, all local offices have implemented waivers to discontinue the family cap policy. In addition, formerly capped children are no longer subject to the cap.
[5] Nebraska conducted a demonstration project in five counties that subjects units to a family cap.
[6] The unit is not eligible for assistance if the only child in the unit is the capped child.
[7] Wisconsin provides a flat benefit, regardless of family size.
[8] Wyoming does not allow any individual—including parents, adult relatives, or older children—to be added to the unit's payment 10 months after the initial qualification for assistance. A new individual's income and resources will be counted for eligibility and benefit determination.

Appendix 1: Component Descriptions

The WRD and this book define a state's TANF program as having a component when the state divides its entire caseload into mutually exclusive groups that are treated differently across more than one policy area. These groups are usually defined by more than one characteristic. Not every state uses components. For those that do, the following table describes how recipients are divided among the components, how long recipients can remain in the various components, and any interaction between the components.

Appendix 1: Component Description

State	Name	Duration	Description	Maximum time in component[1]	Interaction
Arizona	All, except JOBSTART	11/95–present	Nonexempt recipients.	No limit	The goal of JOBSTART is to place recipients in jobs that lead to unsubsidized employment. Those who do not reach unsubsidized employment after six months may receive benefits under the "All, except JOBSTART" component.
	JOBSTART	11/95–present	Participants are randomly selected nonexempt recipients who have completed high school/GED and are not enrolled in postsecondary education. The state subsidizes employers to hire JOBSTART participants full time.	After six months, there may also be a three-month extension for participants in high-unemployment areas.	
California	Nonexempt	7/97–present	Nonexempt recipients.	No limit	Recipients change components only when something happens to change their exemption status.
	Exempt	7/97–present	Recipients who (1) are a parent/relative, an aided parent of an unaided child, a pregnant woman, or an adult in a refugee cash assistance unit; and (2) receive SSI, in-home support services, state disability insurance, or temporary worker's compensation.	Until recipients no longer meet the exemption criteria	

Appendix 1: Component Description

State	Name	Duration	Description	Maximum time in component[1]	Interaction
Delaware	All, except TWP	9/09–present	Those who are not disabled and therefore do not qualify for the Transitional Work Program.	No limit, unless recipient becomes disabled	Disabled participants in the non-time-limited TANF program are assessed for participation in TWP, and those who can work with accommodation or have temporary disabilities are placed in TWP. When a temporarily disabled TWP participant is determined to be rehabilitated, the participant is referred to the time-limited Employment and Training program (All, except TWP).
	Transitional Work Program (TWP)	9/09–present	The Transitional Work Program serves disabled caretakers and parents in TANF who are unable to fully participate in required work activities. Through TWP, each client develops an individualized plan that suits his or her needs and capabilities. Through the plan, clients can work to gain employment, enter training, or be accepted to a program better suited to meet their long-term needs, such as SSI.	Until recipient is no longer disabled. Inclusion of persons with temporary disability can last up to six months without medical documentation.	
Indiana	Nonplacement track	5/95–3/97	Recipients who are not job-ready or are exempt from work requirements.	No limit	If a placement track recipient reaches the 24-month time limit and has served the 36 months of ineligibility, he or she may be placed in the nonplacement track. Placement track recipients may be moved to the nonplacement track if they are determined unable to work under existing circumstances.
	Placement track	5/95–3/97	Job-ready recipients.	24 months	

Appendix 1: Component Description

State	Name	Duration	Description	Maximum time in component[1]	Interaction
Massachusetts	Exempt[2]	11/95–present	Recipient must meet one of the following exemptions: child-only unit; receiving SSI; disabled; caring for a disabled child, spouse, child's other parent, recipient's parent(s), or grandparent(s); pregnant woman whose child is expected to be born within 120 days; child under the age of 2 who is either in the assistance unit or would be in the assistance unit except that the child receives SSI, state, and/or federal foster care maintenance payment(s), or state and/or federal adoption assistance; a child under 3 months old living in the home and not included in the assistance unit; teen parent under age 20 meeting living arrangements and attending school; or recipient age 60 or older. This component is exempt from the reduced need and payment standards, time limits, and work requirements.	Until recipients no longer meet the exemption criteria	Recipients change components only when something happens to change their exemption status.
	Nonexempt	11/95–present	Nonexempt recipients.	No limit	
Nebraska	Time-limited assistance	11/95–present	Units in which the adult member(s) are able to work.	60 months	Recipients change components only when something happens to change their ability to work or to change their exempt status.
	Non-time-limited assistance	11/95–present	Units where the adult member(s) are mentally, emotionally, or physically unable to work. Includes recipients who are one of the following: (1) ill or incapacitated; (2) caring for an ill or incapacitated household member; (3) age 65 or older; (4) pregnant women in the month before the month of their due dates; (5) caring for a child under 12 weeks old; (6) single custodial parents unable to find child care for a child under the age of 5; (7) victims of domestic violence.	Six months; the exemption must be reassessed at least every six months or sooner depending on the service plan, and if necessary, may be extended beyond six months.	

Appendix 1: Component Description

State	Name	Duration	Description	Maximum time in component[1]	Interaction
New Hampshire	New Hampshire Employment Program (NHEP)	3/97–present	Units in which the adult member(s) are able to work.	No limit[3]	Recipients change components only when something happens to change their ability to work.
	Family Assistance Program (FAP)	3/97–present	FAP provides financial assistance to units with dependent children who are cared for by a parent or relative who is unable to work due to a physical or mental disability, or are cared for by a relative other than a parent who is not receiving assistance. The program also includes individuals age 60 and older.	Until recipients no longer meet the criteria	
New Mexico	New Mexico Works (NMW)	10/00–present	NMW provides financial assistance for families with dependent children.	60 months	During the initial application or recertification process, the family assistance analyst will screen an applicant for eligibility for EWP. Recipients who are actively participating in NMW and who meet the requirements for EWP shall be given first opportunity to switch programs.
	Education Works Program (EWP)	10/00–present	EWP is a state-funded postsecondary educational program offered as an alternative to NMW. The eligibility criteria for EWP and NMW are the same except for the following: applicants for EWP must be in good standing with the NMW program (meaning the applicant has no activities, child support, or reporting sanctions), the applicant must provide proof of enrollment in a two- or four-year postsecondary education program, and the applicant must apply for all financial aid available.	24 months	

Appendix 1: Component Description					
State	Name	Duration	Description	Maximum time in component[1]	Interaction
North Carolina	Work First Active	7/96–11/99	Counties are responsible for assigning individuals to components. Most individuals who are not exempt from activities requirements are assigned to Work First Active. This component specifically includes the following people: (1) individuals who have been sanctioned for noncooperation with child support; (2) at least one parent in all Unemployed Parent families; (3) Work First Active participants who have transferred from another county; (4) individuals whose families have been granted extensions for Work First Assistance; (5) caretakers who are employed at least 30 hours a week regardless of the age of the youngest child; and (6) caretakers whose youngest child is age 5 or older.	24 months	Recipients are generally placed in Work First Active, unless they are exempt or waiting for an activity assignment. Once the unit becomes nonexempt or is assigned to an activity, it moves to Work First Active.
	Work First Preparatory	7/96–11/99	Individuals subject to activities requirements and waiting to begin active participation.	Based on county resources, assignment to Work First Preparatory should be for a limited time	
	Pre-Work First	7/96–11/99	Individuals exempt from activities requirements (whether temporarily or permanently).	Until recipients no longer meet the exemption criteria	
Oregon	All, except JOBS Plus	1/96–present	Recipients not participating in the JOBS Plus program.	Until case closure	*
	JOBS Plus	1/96–present	Recipients volunteer for the JOBS Plus program, which provides on-the-job training while paying recipients benefits as wages from a work-site assignment.	Until case closure	
	JOBS	1/96–present	Recipients participating in all other allowable activities.	Until case closure	

Appendix 1: Component Description

State	Name	Duration	Description	Maximum time in component[1]	Interaction
South Carolina	All, except STAR	10/03–01/08	TANF recipients with no health barriers to participation in work activities.	No limit	Recipients change components only when something happens to change their ability to work.
	STAR (A)	10/03–01/08	STAR is a state-funded program that serves TANF-eligible individuals who face health-related barriers to participation in work activities. Category (A) includes recipients who experience a disability severe enough to prevent full-time participation in the work program but not to the extent that all work and training activities are prevented. It also includes two-parent families where only one parent is severely disabled or caring for a disabled family member. This component is exempt from time limits.	Until recipients no longer meet the exemption criteria	
	STAR (B)	10/03–01/08	Recipients who experience a permanent or total disability severe enough to prevent most full- or part-time employment or training activities. This component is exempt from work requirements and time limits.	Until recipients no longer meet the exemption criteria	
	STAR (C)	10/03–01/08	Recipients who are responsible for the care of a disabled family member, precluding full-time participation in the work program for 30 days or more. This component is exempt from work requirements and time limits.	Until recipients no longer meet the exemption criteria	

Appendix 1: Component Description

State	Name	Duration	Description	Maximum time in component[1]	Interaction
South Carolina	All, except CARES and Two-Parent Program	02/08–present	Recipients who do not meet the eligibility criteria of the Two-Parent Program and CARES components.	No limit	*
	CARES (1)	02/08–present	CARES is a state-funded program that serves TANF-eligible individuals who face health-related problems expected to last 90 days or more that prevent them from participating in work activities. The incapacity may be physical or mental, and it must be verified by a physician or other health professional. Track (1) includes recipients who experience a disability severe enough to prevent full-time participation in the work program but not to the extent that all work and training activities are prevented.	Until recipients no longer meet the criteria	
	CARES (2)	02/08–present	Recipients who experience a permanent or total disability severe enough to prevent most full- or part-time employment or training activities and expected to last more than 90 days.	Until recipients no longer meet the criteria	
Virginia	Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare Program (VIEW)	7/95–present	All nonexempt recipients that are required to participate in work-related activities.	24 months	Recipients change components only when something happens to change their ability to work.
	All, except VIEW	7/95–present	Recipients exempt from VIEW. Recipients are placed in this component as a result of being exempt from work requirements.	No limit	

Appendix 1: Component Description

State	Name	Duration	Description	Maximum time in component[1]	Interaction
Wisconsin	W-2 Transitions	3/97–present	Individuals who have been determined not ready for unsubsidized employment and unable to participate in other employment positions for reasons such as incapacitation or the need to remain in the home to care for another family member who is incapacitated or disabled.	No limit[4]	Recipients should always be placed at the highest level of employment participation possible. Therefore, recipients move between components as appropriate.
	Community Service Jobs (CSJ)	3/97–present	Individuals who are not ready for immediate regular employment, particularly where attempts to place a participant in an unsubsidized job or Trial Job have failed.	No limit[4]	
	Trial Jobs	3/97–present	Individuals who are job-ready but unable to obtain an unsubsidized job.	No limit[4]	
	Unsubsidized Employment (UE)	1/98–present	Individuals who are employed at the time of application or who have a strong employment history and skills. Includes individuals who are capable of obtaining employment, are currently in an unsubsidized job, or were previously assigned to a subsidized employment position. These recipients are not subject to either federal or W-2 time limits. Individuals in this component do not receive cash benefits, but some case management services are available.	No limit	

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE.

Note: Only those states that have clearly delineated components are included in this table.

Where “no limit” is listed for “maximum time in component,” it is assumed that units in this component are bound by state time limits. See tables IV.C.1 and IV.C.2 for information on the maximum amount of time recipients are allowed to receive assistance in the state.

* Data not obtained.

[1] For more information on work exemptions and time limit exemptions, see tables III.B.1, IV.C.3, and IV.C.4. Or for more detail, see the Welfare Rules Database.
[2] In Massachusetts, the exempt component makes up the majority of the caseload.
[3] Participants may request a six-month extension of eligibility based on hardship. There is no limit on the number of extensions for which a NHEP group may qualify.
[4] From March 1997 until October 2009, participants were limited to 24 months in a component.

About the Authors

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