

XII. SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF STATE PROGRAMS

Each State must submit a “State plan” to the Secretary that outlines how it intends to conduct a program in all political subdivisions of the State (not necessarily in a uniform manner) that provides cash aid to needy families with (or expecting) children and provides parents with job preparation, work, and support services. States may determine what benefit levels to set and what categories of families are eligible. States have the flexibility to design and operate a program that best matches their residents’ needs and helps families gain and maintain self-sufficiency.

The information in the tables in this chapter was based on State Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) plans and amendments and has been reviewed by each State. The information reflects each State’s program as of June 2003.

In this chapter, program features are organized into some common themes: (1) basic work program; (2) encouraging personal responsibility; (3) time limiting assistance; and (4) other key policies.

Basic Work Program

Form of Administration

The chart below (Table 12:1) outlines how each State administers its TANF program.

| Table 12:1 | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|--------------------|
| State TANF Implementation | | | | |
| State | Effective Date Of Plan as of June 2003 | Form of Administration | State or County Discretion | |
| | | | Eligibility and Benefits | Available Services |
| Alabama | October 1, 2002 | State Supervised/ County Administered | State | State |
| Alaska | January 1, 2002 | State | State | State |
| Arizona | October 1, 2002 | State | State | State |
| Arkansas | December 28, 2001 | State | State | State |
| California | October 1, 2002 | State Supervised/ County Administered | State | State |
| Colorado | January 1, 2003 | State Supervised/ County Administered | County | County |

Table 12:1
State TANF Implementation

| State | Effective Date Of Plan as of June 2003 | Form of Administration | State or County Discretion | |
|----------------------|--|--|----------------------------|--------------------|
| | | | Eligibility and Benefits | Available Services |
| Connecticut | October 1, 2002 | State | State | State |
| Delaware | October 1, 2002 | State | State | State |
| District of Columbia | October 1, 2002 | State | State | State |
| Florida | October 1, 2002 | State | State | State |
| Georgia | October 1, 2002 | State | State | County |
| Guam | October 1, 2002 | Territory | Territory | Territory |
| Hawaii | October 1, 2002 | State | State | State |
| Idaho | November 1, 2002 | State | State | State |
| Illinois | October 1, 2001 | State | State | State |
| Indiana | October 1, 2002 | State | State | State |
| Iowa | October 1, 2001 | State | State | County |
| Kansas | January 1, 2002 | State | State | County |
| Kentucky | October 1, 2002 | State | State | State |
| Louisiana | January 1, 2002 | State | State | State |
| Maine | October 1, 2002 | State | State | State |
| Maryland | October 1, 2002 | State Supervised/ County Administered | State | County |
| Massachusetts | October 1, 2001 | State | State | State |
| Michigan | October 1, 2003 | State | State | State |
| Minnesota | October 1, 2002 | State Supervised/ County Administered | County | State or County |
| Mississippi | October 1, 2002 | State | State | State |
| Missouri | October 1, 2001 | State | State | State |
| Montana | October 1, 2002 | State Supervised/ County Administered | State | State |
| Nebraska | October 1, 2001 | State | State | State |
| Nevada | November 1, 2002 | State | State | State |
| New Hampshire | October 1, 2002 | State | State | State |
| New Jersey | October 1, 2002 | State Supervised/ County Administered | State | State |
| New Mexico | January 1, 2003 | State | State | State |
| New York | November 1, 2002 | State Supervised/ County Administered | State | County |
| North Carolina | October 1, 2002 | County | County ¹ | County |
| North Dakota | October 1, 2001 | State Supervised/ County Administered | State | State |
| Ohio | October 1, 2002 | State Supervised/ County Administered | State | County |
| Oklahoma | October 1, 2002 | State | State | State |
| Oregon | October 1, 2002 | State | State | County |
| Pennsylvania | October 1, 2002 | State | State | State |
| Puerto Rico | October 1, 2002 | Territory | Territory | Territory |
| Rhode Island | October 1, 2002 | State | State | State |
| South Carolina | October 1, 2002 | State | County | State |
| South Dakota | October 1, 2002 | State | State | State |

Table 12:1

State TANF Implementation

| State | Effective Date Of Plan as of June 2003 | Form of Administration | State or County Discretion | |
|----------------|--|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| | | | Eligibility and Benefits | Available Services |
| Tennessee | October 1, 2002 | State | State | State |
| Texas | October 1, 2001 | State | State | County |
| Utah | October 1, 2002 | State | State | State |
| Vermont | October 1, 2001 | State | State | State |
| Virginia | October 1, 2002 | County | State | State |
| Virgin Islands | October 1, 2002 | Territory | Territory | Territory |
| Washington | October 1, 2002 | State | State | State |
| West Virginia | January 1, 2003 | State | State | State |
| Wisconsin | October 1, 2001 | County | State | County ² |
| Wyoming | October 1, 2002 | State | State | State |

[1] In certain areas.

[2] Except for Milwaukee where the State provides direct contract approval for all TANF service provision.

Benefit Levels

States are free to set the benefit levels that apply under their TANF programs. Since July 1995, 23 States (including Tennessee) have increased maximum grant amounts, 20 of which were increased between 2000 and 2003. Three States reduced their maximum grants amounts (see Table 12:2).

| State | Jul-95 | Mar-98 | Mar-99 | Jan-00 | Jun-01 | Jun-02 | Jun-03 | June 2003/ July 1995 ² |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Alabama | \$164 | \$164 | \$164 | \$164 | \$164 | \$164 | \$215 | 1.31 |
| Alaska | \$923 | \$923 | \$923 | \$923 | \$923 | \$923 | \$923 | 1 |
| Arizona | \$347 | \$347 | \$347 | \$347 | \$347 | \$347 | \$347 | 1 |
| Arkansas | \$204 | \$204 | \$204 | \$204 | \$204 | \$204 | \$204 | 1 |
| California ³ | \$607 | \$565/ \$538 | \$611/ \$582 | \$626/ \$596 | \$645/ \$614 | \$679/ \$647 | \$679/ \$647 | 1.12/ 1.07 |
| Colorado | \$356 | \$356 | \$356 | \$356 | \$356 | \$356 | \$356 | 1 |
| Connecticut | \$543 | \$543 | \$543 | \$543 | \$543 | \$543 | \$543 | 1 |
| Delaware | \$338 | \$338 | \$338 | \$338 | \$338 | \$338 | \$338 | 1 |
| District of Columbia | \$420 | \$379 | \$379 | \$379 | \$379 | \$379 | \$379 | 0.9 |
| Florida | \$303 | \$303 | \$303 | \$303 | \$303 | \$303 | \$303 | 1 |
| Georgia | \$280 | \$280 | \$280 | \$280 | \$280 | \$280 | \$280 | 1 |
| Hawaii ⁴ | \$712 | \$712/ \$570 | \$712/ \$570 | \$712/ \$570 | \$712/ \$570 | \$712/ \$570 | \$712/ \$570 | 1.00/ 0.80 |
| Idaho | \$317 | \$276 | \$276 | \$293 | \$293 | \$293 | \$309 | 0.97 |
| Illinois | \$377 | \$377 | \$377 | \$377 | \$377 | \$377 | \$396 | 1.05 |
| Indiana | \$288 | \$288 | \$288 | \$288 | \$288 | \$288 | \$288 | 1 |
| Iowa | \$426 | \$426 | \$426 | \$426 | \$426 | \$426 | \$426 | 1 |
| Kansas | \$403 | \$403 | \$403 | \$403 | \$403 | \$403 | \$403 | 1 |
| Kentucky | \$228 | \$262 | \$262 | \$262 | \$262 | \$262 | \$262 | 1.15 |
| Louisiana | \$190 | \$190 | \$190 | \$190 | \$240 | \$240 | \$240 | 1.26 |
| Maine | \$418 | \$418 | \$439 | \$461 | \$461 | \$485 | \$485 | 1.16 |
| Maryland | \$373 | \$388 | \$399 | \$417 | \$439 | \$472 | \$473 | 1.27 |
| Massachusetts ⁵ | \$579/ \$539 | \$579/ \$539 | \$579/ \$539 | \$579/ \$539 | \$633/ \$593 | \$633/ \$593 | \$633/ \$593 | 1.09/ 1.10 |
| Michigan | \$459 | \$459 | \$459 | \$459 | \$459 | \$459 | \$459 | 1 |
| Minnesota | \$532 | \$532 | \$532 | \$532 | \$532 | \$532 | \$532 | 1 |
| Mississippi | \$120 | \$120 | \$120 | \$170 | \$170 | \$170 | \$170 | 1.42 |
| Missouri | \$292 | \$292 | \$292 | \$292 | \$292 | \$292 | \$292 | 1 |
| Montana | \$401 | \$450 | \$461 | \$469 | \$494 | \$494 | \$507 | 1.26 |
| Nebraska | \$364 | \$364 | \$364 | \$364 | \$364 | \$364 | \$364 | 1 |
| Nevada ⁶ | \$348 | \$348 | \$348 | \$348 | \$348 | \$348 | \$348 | 1 |
| New Hampshire ⁷ | \$550 | \$550 | \$550 | \$575 | \$600 | \$600 | \$625 | 1.09 |
| New Jersey | \$424 | \$424 | \$424 | \$424 | \$424 | \$424 | \$424 | 1 |
| New Mexico ⁸ | \$304 | \$389 | \$389 | \$389 | \$389 | \$389 | \$389 | 1.28 |
| New York ⁹ | \$577 | \$577 | \$577 | \$577 | \$577 | \$577 | \$577 | 1 |

Table 12:2

Benefit Levels for a Family of Three (1 adult, 2 children) with No Income¹
July 1995-June 2003

| State | Jul-95 | Mar-98 | Mar-99 | Jan-00 | Jun-01 | Jun-02 | Jun-03 | June 2003/ July 1995 ² |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| North Carolina | \$272 | \$272 | \$272 | \$272 | \$272 | \$272 | \$272 | 1 |
| North Dakota | \$431 | \$457 | \$457 | \$457 | \$457 | \$457 | \$477 | 1.11 |
| Ohio | \$341 | \$341 | \$362 | \$373 | \$373 | \$373 | \$373 | 1.09 |
| Oklahoma | \$307 | \$292 | \$292 | \$292 | \$292 | \$292 | \$292 | 0.95 |
| Oregon | \$460 | \$460 | \$460 | \$460 | \$460 | \$460 | \$460 | 1 |
| Pennsylvania | \$403 | \$403 | \$403 | \$403 | \$403 | \$403 | \$403 | 1 |
| Rhode Island | \$554 | \$554 | \$554 | \$554 | \$554 | \$554 | \$554 | 1 |
| South Carolina | \$200 | \$200 | \$201 | \$203 | \$203 | \$204 | \$204 | 1.02 |
| South Dakota | \$430 | \$430 | \$430 | \$430 | \$430 | \$469 | \$483 | 1.12 |
| Tennessee ¹⁰ | \$185 | \$185 | \$185 | \$232/ \$185 | \$232/ \$185 | \$232/ \$185 | \$232/ \$185 | 1.25/ 1 |
| Texas | \$188 | \$188 | \$188 | \$201 | \$201 | \$208 | \$213 | 1.13 |
| Utah | \$426 | \$426 | \$451 | \$451 | \$451 | \$474 | \$474 | 1.11 |
| Vermont | \$616 | \$611 | \$617 | \$622 | \$629 | \$638 | \$639 | 1.04 |
| Virginia | \$291 | \$291 | \$291 | \$291 | \$320 | \$320 | \$320 | 1.1 |
| Washington | \$546 | \$546 | \$546 | \$546 | \$546 | \$546 | \$546 | 1 |
| West Virginia | \$253 | \$253 | \$278 | \$328 | \$453 | \$453 | \$453 | 1.79 |
| Wisconsin ¹¹ | \$518 | \$673 | \$673 | \$673 | \$673 | \$673 | \$673 | 1.3 |
| Wyoming | \$340 | \$340 | \$340 | \$340 | \$340 | \$340 | \$340 | 1 |

[1] In some States, benefits vary by regions. Benefits are shown for the region with the largest TANF caseload.

[2] This column presents the ratio between the two benefit levels. The Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Urban Consumers increased 20.5 percent over this time period. Thus, a State's benefit levels kept up with inflation only if the number in this column is 1.20 or higher.

[3] California has a multi-tiered benefit system for exempt and non-exempt recipients and for urban and rural areas. Entries with two figures are for non-exempt recipients in urban and rural areas.

[4] In December 1996, Hawaii implemented a policy that provides the higher benefit amount to all families for two months and to exempt families (e.g. child-only cases) on an ongoing basis. Non-exempt families face a lower benefit amount after two months on assistance.

[5] Massachusetts provides the lower amount to those with a rent allowance and the higher amount to those without.

[6] Effective July 1, 2001, Nevada implemented a policy change that pays \$187 more for non-needy caretaker (NNCT) cases. A family of three for a NNCT case gets \$535.

[7] New Hampshire provides \$625 to unsubsidized housing residents and \$600 subsidized housing residents.

[8] New Mexico provided a \$100 housing subsidy for TANF recipients beginning April 1, 1998. The receipt of the housing subsidy was based on whether the TANF family received any type of government-subsidized housing. This subsidy was eliminated on June 1, 2001.

[9] New York has a benefit of \$703 in Suffolk County.

[10] As of July 1, 1999, Tennessee provides \$232 for time-exempt cases and \$185 for time-limited cases.

[11] Wisconsin has a benefit of \$628 for a family in its transition program (primarily adults with disabilities).

Time Frame for Work

Under TANF, parents or caretakers must engage in work (as defined by the State) when determined ready or no later than 24 months, whichever is earlier (see Table 12:3).

States have the option to exempt single parents with children up to one year of age from work requirements and to disregard them from the calculation of the work participation rates for a cumulative lifetime total of 12 months. States have the flexibility to provide exemptions to other families. However, all other families with an adult or minor head of household are included in the State's participation rate calculations. States that received waivers prior to enactment of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) may continue exemption policies approved under those waivers for the duration of the waiver period. Such States are indicated with an asterisk in Table 12:3.

| State | Number of Months before Required to Work | Caring for a Young Child ¹ (Age of Child for Exemption) |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| Alabama | Immediate | 3 months |
| Alaska | 24 | 1 year |
| Arizona | Immediate | 1 year |
| Arkansas | Immediate | 3 months |
| California | Immediate | 12 weeks to 1 year ² |
| Colorado | 24 months or when determined work ready, whichever comes first. | No automatic exemption ³ |
| Connecticut | Immediate | 1 year |
| Delaware | Immediate | 13 weeks |
| District of Columbia | Immediate | 1 year |
| Florida | Immediate | 3 months |
| Georgia | 24 | 1 year |
| Guam | 24 | 1 year |
| Hawaii* | 24 | 6 months |
| Idaho | Immediate | 12 weeks |
| Illinois | Immediate | 1 year |
| Indiana | Immediate | 1 year |
| Iowa | Immediate | No automatic exemption |
| Kansas* | 24 months or when determined work ready, whichever comes first. | 1 year |
| Kentucky | 24 | 1 year |
| Louisiana | 24 | 1 year |
| Maine | Immediate | 1 year |
| Maryland | Immediate | 1 year |
| Massachusetts* | 2 | 6 years |
| Michigan | Immediate | 3 months |
| Minnesota | Immediate | 1 year |
| Mississippi | Immediate | 1 year |
| Missouri | 24 | 1 year ⁴ |
| Montana* | Immediate | No automatic exemption |
| Nebraska ⁵ | Immediate | 12 weeks |

Table 12:3

Work Requirements

| State | Number of Months before Required to Work | Caring for a Young Child ¹ (Age of Child for Exemption) |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Nevada | Immediate | 1 year |
| New Hampshire | Immediate | 2 years ⁶ |
| New Jersey | Immediate | 12 weeks |
| New Mexico | 3 | 1 year |
| New York | Immediate | 3 months ⁷ |
| North Carolina | 3 | 1 year |
| North Dakota | Immediate | 4 months |
| Ohio [*] | Immediate | N/A ⁸ |
| Oklahoma | Immediate | 3 months |
| Oregon ⁵ | Immediate | 3 months ⁹ |
| Pennsylvania | Immediate | 1 year ¹⁰ |
| Puerto Rico | No later than 24 months | 12 months |
| Rhode Island | 24 months | 1 year |
| South Carolina [*] | Immediate | 1 year |
| South Dakota | Immediate | 12 weeks |
| Tennessee [*] | Immediate | 4 months |
| Texas | Immediate | 1 year |
| Utah | Immediate | No automatic exemption |
| Vermont | No later than 18 months | 24 months ¹¹ |
| Virginia ⁵ | 3 | 18 months |
| Virgin Islands | 24 months | 6 months |
| Washington | Immediate | 3 months |
| West Virginia | Immediate | 1 year |
| Wisconsin | Immediate | 12 weeks |
| Wyoming | Immediate | 3 months |

[*] State has a work requirement waiver.

[1] A sanction cannot be imposed on a single custodial parent caring for a child who has not attained 6 years of age if child care is unavailable.

[2] California counties have discretion to set the age of the exemption for caring for a young child, between the ages of 12 weeks and 1 year on a case-by-case basis.

[3] Colorado allows this to be determined by county discretion.

[4] In Missouri, the child must be under 12 months of age, but there is no limit on the length of the exemption if more than one birth is involved. After 12 months, the cash grant is paid out of Maintenance of Effort.

[5] State work requirement waiver expired June 30, 2003.

[6] In New Hampshire, the age is 1 year if a child is conceived while on assistance.

[7] New York counties have discretion to increase the age of the exemption for caring for a young child up to 1 year.

[8] Ohio counties have discretion to provide exemptions from work requirements.

[9] Oregon's exemption is for a parent caring for a child for 90 days after giving birth.

[10] Pennsylvania only allows this exemption once in a parent's lifetime.

[11] Within 2 months of reaching the time limit, Vermont only exempts from work requirements families with a child under age 6 months and families where needed support services are unavailable.

States Claiming Continuing Waiver Inconsistencies with Respect to Work Requirements

A State may have received a waiver to modify its work requirements under the former Aid to Families with Dependent Children program (AFDC) program. To the extent that the Federal TANF work requirements are inconsistent with the State's waiver work requirements, the State may be allowed to follow its approved waiver policy rather than the Federal TANF policy, until expiration of the waiver. The TANF final rules required States to file a certification with HHS by October 1, 1999, if they intended to follow inconsistent waiver policies (see Table 12:4).

| Table 12:4 | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|---|
| Work-Related Waivers | | |
| State | Waiver Duration | Waiver Content |
| Connecticut | September 30, 2001 | JOBS, Job Search, Education, All Hours |
| Delaware | September 30, 2002 | Sanctions, Work Participation Rate (Exemption) and (Hours--subset of Cases), Job Search, Education, All Hours |
| Hawaii | September 30, 2004 | Work Participation Rate (Exemption) and (Hours--subset of Cases), JOBS, Additional Job Search, Education, All Hours |
| Indiana | March 31, 2002 | JOBS, Job Search, Education, All Hours |
| Kansas | September 30, 2003 | Job Search |
| Massachusetts | September 30, 2005 | Sanctions, Work Participation Rate (Exemption) and (Hours), JOBS, Job Search, Education, All Hours |
| Minnesota | September 30, 2002 | JOBS, Job Search, Education, All Hours of work are approved; education are counted |
| Montana | December 31, 2003 | Sanctions (subset of cases, JOBS, Job Search, Education, All Hours (subset of cases) |
| Nebraska | June 30, 2003 | Work Participation Rate (Exemption), Job Search, Education, All Hours |
| New Hampshire | March 31, 2002 | JOBS, Additional Job Search, Education, All Hours |
| Ohio | December 31, 2003 | Sanctions and Work Participation Rate (Exemption)--All Waiver Conditions Limited to Pregnant and Parenting Teens |
| Oregon | June 30, 2003 | Work Participation Rate (Exemption) and (Hours), JOBS, Additional Job Search, Education, All Hours |
| South Carolina | September 30, 2003 | Work Participation Rate (Exemption), JOBS, Additional Job Search, Education, All Hours |
| Tennessee | June 30, 2007 | Work Participation Rate (Exemption) and (Hours--subset of cases), Additional Job Search, Education, All Hours |
| Texas | March 31, 2002 | Additional Job Search, Education, All Hours |
| Virginia | June 30, 2003 | Work Participation Rate (Exemption) and (Hours—subset of cases), JOBS, Job Search, Education, All-Hours |

Treatment of Earnings

PRWORA does not specify how States should treat earnings in determining families' eligibility for TANF assistance. Thus, States have the flexibility to establish the income eligibility rules that best meet their residents' needs. However, as a means to help families transition from welfare to work and to help make work pay, all States (except Wisconsin) disregard a portion of a family's earned income when determining benefit levels, and most States also disregard a portion of earned income in determining eligibility (see Table 12:5).

| Table 12:5 Treatment of Earnings | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| State | Portion of Applicant's Earnings That Is Disregarded in Eligibility Determination | Portion of Recipient's Earnings That Is Disregarded in Benefit Determination |
| Alabama | 20% | 100% for 3 months 20% in subsequent months |
| Alaska ¹ | \$90 | \$150 and 33% of the remainder for 12 months \$150 and 25% of the remainder for 12 months \$150 and 20% of the remainder for 12 months \$150 and 15% of the remainder for 12 months \$150 and 10% of the remainder for 12 months |
| Arizona | \$90 and 30% of the remainder | \$90 and 30% of the remainder |
| Arkansas | 20% | 20% and 60% of the remainder |
| California | \$90 | \$225 and 50% of the remainder |
| Colorado | \$90 | 66.7% for 12 months \$120 + 33.3% for four months \$120 for eight additional months \$90 in subsequent months |
| Connecticut | \$90 | 100% until earnings exceed Federal poverty level |
| Delaware | \$90 | \$120 and 33.3% of the remainder for 4 months \$120 for the next 8 months \$90 in subsequent months |
| District of Columbia | \$160 | \$160 and 66.7% of the remainder |
| Florida | \$90 | \$200 and 50% of the remainder |
| Georgia | \$90 | \$120 and 33.3% of the remainder for 4 months \$120 for the next 8 months \$90 in subsequent months |
| Guam | \$90+\$30 and 1/3 for 4 months; \$90+\$30 for eight months; \$90 only after 12 months | \$90+\$30 and 1/3 for 4 months; \$90+\$30 for eight months; \$90 only after 12 months |
| Hawaii | 20% | 20%, then \$200, then 36% of the remainder |
| Idaho | 40% | 40% |
| Illinois | \$90 | 67% |
| Indiana | \$90 | 75% |
| Iowa | 20% | 20% and 50% of the remainder |
| Kansas | \$90 | \$90 and 40% of the remainder |

Table 12:5

Treatment of Earnings

| State | Portion of Applicant's Earnings That Is Disregarded in Eligibility Determination | Portion of Recipient's Earnings That Is Disregarded in Benefit Determination |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Kentucky | \$90 | 100% for 2 months, (one time only) \$120 and 33.3% of the remainder for 4 months \$120 for the next 8 months \$90 in subsequent months |
| Louisiana | \$120 | \$120 plus \$900 for 6 months \$120 in subsequent months |
| Maine | \$108 and 50% of the remainder | \$108 and 50% of the remainder |
| Maryland | 20% | 40% |
| Massachusetts | \$90 | \$120 and 50% of remainder for non-exempt, \$120 and 33.3% of remainder for exempt |
| Michigan | \$200 and 20% of the remainder | \$200 and 20% of the remainder |
| Minnesota | 18% | 38% |
| Mississippi | \$90 | 100% for 3 or 6 months for some families ² \$90 in other months |
| Missouri | \$90 | \$90, plus 33.3% of remainder if employed when approved for assistance 67% and \$90 of the remainder for 12 months \$90 in subsequent months |
| Montana | \$200 and 25% of remainder | \$200 and 25% of remainder |
| Nebraska | 20% | 20% |
| Nevada | \$90 or 20%, whichever is greater | 100% for 3 months ³ 50% for the next 9 months ³ Greater of \$90 or 20% in subsequent months |
| New Hampshire | 20% | 50% |
| New Jersey | None | 100% for the first month of employment 50% in subsequent months |
| New Mexico ⁴ | \$125 and 50% of the remainder for single parent household \$225/each parent and 50% of the remainder for two parent household | \$125 and 50% of the remainder for single parent households \$225/each parent and 50% of the remainder for two parent households |
| New York | \$90 | \$90 and 51% of the remainder |
| North Carolina | 27.5% | 100% for 3 months 27.5% in subsequent months |
| North Dakota | Greater of \$180 or 27%, and 50% of the "employment incentive limit" for 6 months ⁵ Greater of \$180 or 27%, and 35% of the "employment incentive limit" for 3 months Greater of \$180 or 27%, and 25% of the "employment incentive limit" for 4 months Greater of \$180 or 27% in subsequent months | Greater of \$180 or 27%, and 50% of the "employment incentive limit" for 6 months ⁵ Greater of \$180 or 27%, and 35% of the "employment incentive limit" for 3 months Greater of \$180 or 27%, and 25% of the "employment incentive limit" for 4 months Greater of \$180 or 27% in subsequent months |
| Ohio ⁶ | \$250 & 50% | \$250 and 50% of the remainder |
| Oklahoma | \$120 and 50% of the remainder | \$120 and 50% of the remainder |
| Oregon | 50% | 50% |
| Pennsylvania | \$90/50% ⁷ | 50% |
| Puerto Rico | \$30+1/3 and \$30 disregard are applied to determine payment | \$30+1/3 and \$30 disregard are applied to determine payment |

Table 12:5

Treatment of Earnings

| State | Portion of Applicant's Earnings That Is Disregarded in Eligibility Determination | Portion of Recipient's Earnings That Is Disregarded in Benefit Determination |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Rhode Island | \$170 and 50% of the remainder | \$170 and 50% of the remainder |
| South Carolina | 50% | 50% for 4 months \$100 in subsequent months |
| South Dakota | \$90 and 20% of the remainder | \$90 and 20% of the remainder |
| Tennessee | \$150 | \$150 |
| Texas | \$120 and 33.3% of the remainder | \$120 and 90% of the remainder for 4 months ⁸ \$120 in subsequent months |
| Utah | \$100 | \$100 and 50% of the remainder |
| Vermont | \$90 | \$150 and 25% of the remainder |
| Virginia ⁹ | \$90 | \$120 and 33.3% of the remainder for 4 months ¹⁰ \$120 for the next 8 months \$90 in subsequent months |
| Virgin Islands | 185% State Standard of Need | 185% State Standard of Need |
| Washington | 50% | 50% |
| West Virginia | 40% | 40% |
| Wisconsin | None | None |
| Wyoming | \$200 | \$200 |

[1] In Alaska, eligibility determination is used for applicants and new assistance unit members who have not received TANF in one of four previous months. Benefit determination is used for recipients who have received TANF in one of four previous months.

[2] The 100% disregard in Mississippi is available only if families obtain full-time employment within 30 days of initial TANF receipt or within 30 days following the start of participation in work activities.

[3] In Nevada, stepparents whose income is deemed are not eligible for the 100% and 50% earned income disregards, but are allowed the \$90/20% standard work expense.

[4] New Mexico has a deduction for excess hours of work for the first 24 months of TANF cash assistance. This deduction excludes all the earned income in excess of the required number of hours in calculating benefit amount.

[5] The maximum "Employment incentive limit" in North Dakota is \$184.

[6] In Ohio, if the applicant did not receive TANF in the last four months, there is a gross income test. The gross income maximum for a family of three persons is \$630.

[7] In Pennsylvania, an applicant who has not received TANF in 1 of the 4 prior calendar months must pass an eligibility test before the 50% income disregard is allowed. The test allows for a \$90 income disregard from gross income. If the net income (after the \$90 disregard) is less than the standard of need for the budget group, the client passes the test and is entitled to receive a continuous 50% income disregard. An applicant who has received TANF in 1 of the 4 calendar months prior to application is eligible to receive a continuous 50% income disregard.

[8] Texas has a \$1,400 cap on the earned income that can be subject to the 90 percent disregard in the first four months.

[9] Participants in Virginia VIEW can earn up to the poverty level and still receive TANF. Two-parent families that participate in VIEW can earn up to 150% of the poverty limit and still receive TANF.

[10] The benefit rules for participants in Virginia's welfare program (i.e. those subject to the State time limit) allow families to continue receiving benefits until countable earned income (after the work expense deduction and earned income disregard) reaches the Federal poverty line. This is done through "fill-the-gap" budgeting and not through an earned income disregard.

Resource Limits

PRWORA does not specify the total resource or the vehicle asset levels that States are to use to determine eligibility for families. States have the flexibility to set the resource level to determine eligibility that best meets the needs of their residents (see Table 12:6).

| Table 12:6 | | |
|----------------------|---|--|
| Resource Limits | | |
| State | Asset Level | Primary Vehicle Asset Level ¹ |
| Alabama | \$2,000; \$3,000 if assistance unit contains a member age 60 or over. | Value excluded |
| Alaska | \$2,000; \$3,000 if household includes someone over age 60. | Value excluded |
| Arizona | \$2,000 | Value excluded |
| Arkansas | \$3,000 | Value excluded |
| California | \$2,000; \$3,000 if household includes someone over age 60. | Fair market value up to \$4,650 |
| Colorado | \$2,000 | Value excluded |
| Connecticut | \$3,000 | Equity value up to \$9,500 |
| Delaware | \$1,000 | Equity value up to \$4,650 |
| District of Columbia | \$2,000; \$3,000 if household includes someone over age 60. | Value excluded |
| Florida | \$2,000 | All cars cannot exceed a combined value of \$8,500, plus any vehicle needed to transport disabled family member. |
| Georgia | \$1,000 | Equity value up to \$4,650 |
| Guam | \$2,000 | 1 vehicle value excluded per adult, up to 2 vehicles |
| Hawaii | \$5,000 | Value excluded |
| Idaho | \$2,000 | Fair market value up to \$4,650 |
| Illinois | 1 person: \$2,000 2 person: \$3,000 | Value excluded |
| Indiana | Applicant: \$1,000 Recipient: \$1,500 | Equity value up to \$5,000 |
| Iowa | Applicant: \$2,000 Recipient: \$5,000 | Value up to \$4,042 excluded |
| Kansas | \$2,000 | Value excluded |
| Kentucky | \$2,000 | Value excluded |
| Louisiana | \$2,000 | Value excluded |
| Maine | \$2,000 | Value excluded |
| Maryland | \$2,000 | As of 10/1/01 Maryland excludes all vehicles for TCA family members |
| Massachusetts | \$2,500 | Fair market value up to \$10,000, plus equity up to \$5,000 |
| Michigan | \$3,000 | Value excluded |
| Minnesota | Applicant: \$2,000 Recipient: \$5,000 | Loan value up to \$7,500 only for one individual vehicle |
| Mississippi | \$2,000 | Value excluded |
| Missouri | Applicant: \$1,000 Recipient: \$5,000 | Value excluded |
| Montana | \$3,000 | Vehicle with highest equity value excluded |

Table 12:6
Resource Limits

| State | Asset Level | Primary Vehicle Asset Level ¹ |
|----------------|---|---|
| Nebraska | 1 person: \$4,000 | Value excluded |
| | 2 or more: \$6,000 | |
| Nevada | \$2,000 | Value excluded |
| New Hampshire | Applicant: \$1,000 | Value excluded |
| | Recipient: \$2,000 | |
| New Jersey | \$2,000 | Value up to \$9,500 |
| New Mexico | \$1,500 in liquid resources and \$2,000 in non-liquid resources | The value of vehicles used for transportation of benefit group members to or from work or work activities, for daily living activities, or for transportation of goods or services shall not be considered in the determination of resources. |
| New York | \$2,000 | Equity value up to \$4,650, or \$9,300 if working |
| North Carolina | \$3,000 | Value excluded |
| North Dakota | 1 person: \$3,000, 2 persons: \$6,000 | Value excluded |
| | 2 or more: \$8,000 | |
| Ohio | No limit. | Value excluded |
| Oklahoma | \$1,000 | Equity value up to \$5,000 |
| Oregon | Progressing in IRP: \$10,000 | Value up to \$10,000 |
| | All others: \$2,500 | |
| Pennsylvania | \$1,000 | Value excluded |
| Puerto Rico | \$2,000 | Value up to \$4,000 |
| Rhode Island | \$1,000 | Value Excluded |
| South Carolina | \$2,500 | Value excluded |
| South Dakota | \$2,000 | Value excluded |
| Tennessee | \$2,000 | Equity value up to \$4,600 |
| Texas | \$2,000 or \$3,000 if a family member is elderly or disabled. | Fair market value up to \$4,650 ² |
| Utah | \$2,000 | Equity value up to \$8,000 |
| Vermont | \$1,000 | 1 vehicle per adult up to two vehicles |
| Virginia | \$1,000 | Fair market value up to \$7,500 |
| Virgin Islands | \$1,000 | \$1,500 |
| Washington | Applicant: \$1,000 | Value up to \$5,000 |
| | Recipient: \$4,000 | |
| West Virginia | \$2,000 | Value excluded |
| Wisconsin | \$2,500 | Equity value up to \$10,000 |
| Wyoming | \$2,500 | Value up to \$12,000 |

[1] Several States disregard automobiles if they are used to transport disabled family members or are used for work and training.

[2] Texas also exempts income-producing vehicles.

Encouraging Personal Responsibility

Individual Development Accounts

The TANF statute specifically authorizes States to fund Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) established by TANF-eligible individuals. IDAs are restricted savings accounts that allow individuals to accumulate savings that can be used for postsecondary educational expenses, first home purchase, or business capitalization. The IDA program in the TANF statute allows individuals to contribute to an IDA such amounts as are derived only from earned income (while other IDAs might allow contributions to come from any source of income). Funds in a TANF IDA (including earned interest) are disregarded in determining eligibility and benefits in any program that uses financial considerations in such determinations.

Because of the funding flexibility under TANF, States can also use Federal TANF or State MOE funds to fund IDAs established under another authority. The following data are not limited to IDAs authorized under the specific provision in the TANF statute (see Table 12:7).

| Table 12:7 Individual Development Accounts | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---|
| State | Individual Development Accounts (Limit) | Family's IDA Contribution is Matched (Match Rate) | Post-Secondary Education | First Home Purchase | Business Capitalization | Medical Expense | Other |
| Alabama | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Alaska | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Arizona | YES \$9,000 | NO | YES | YES | YES | NO | YES ¹ |
| Arkansas | YES \$2,000 per person up to \$4,000 maximum | YES (3:1) | YES | YES | YES | NO | YES ² |
| California | County Option | County Option | County Option | County Option | County Option | County Option | County Option |
| Colorado | YES (no limit) | YES (County Option) | YES | YES | YES | NO | NO |
| Connecticut | YES (no limit) | NO | YES | NO | NO | NO | NO |
| Delaware | YES \$5,000 | NO | YES | YES | YES | NO | YES, on a case by case basis ³ |
| District of Columbia | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

Table 12:7

Individual Development Accounts

| State | Individual Development Accounts (Limit) | Family's IDA Contribution is Matched (Match Rate) | Post-Secondary Education | First Home Purchase | Business Capitalization | Medical Expense | Other |
|---------------|---|---|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Florida | YES | YES (1:1) | YES | YES | YES | NO | (Limit: \$1,000 per year; \$3,000 lifetime) |
| Georgia | YES \$5,000 | NO | YES | YES | YES | NO | NO |
| Guam | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Hawaii | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Idaho | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Illinois | YES Max matched \$1,000 | YES (1:1) | YES | YES | YES | NO | YES ^{1,2} |
| Indiana | YES (no limit) | YES (3:1 up to \$300/year) | YES | YES | YES | NO | YES ¹ |
| Iowa | YES \$50,000 | YES 15-25% | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES ^{1,4} |
| Kansas | YES (no Limit) | NO | YES | YES | YES | NO | YES ⁵ |
| Kentucky | NO \$5,000 | NO | YES | YES | YES | NO | YES ⁶ |
| Louisiana | YES \$6,000 | NO | YES | YES | YES | NO | YES ¹ |
| Maine | YES \$10,000 plus interest | YES (varies) | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES ^{2,4,7} |
| Maryland | YES ⁸ | NO | YES | YES | YES | NO | NO |
| Massachusetts | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Michigan | YES \$1,000 | YES (up to 3:1 depending on purpose) | YES | YES | YES | NO | NO |
| Minnesota | NO \$3,000 | YES (3:1) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Mississippi | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Missouri | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Montana | YES (no limit) | YES (2:1 up to \$4,000) | YES | YES | YES | NO | NO |
| Nebraska | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Nevada | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES | NO | NO |

Table 12:7

Individual Development Accounts

| State | Individual Development Accounts (Limit) | Family's IDA Contribution is Matched (Match Rate) | Post-Secondary Education | First Home Purchase | Business Capitalization | Medical Expense | Other |
|----------------|--|---|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| New Hampshire | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES | NO | NO |
| New Jersey | YES ⁹ | YES (1:1) | YES | YES | YES | NO | NO |
| New Mexico | YES \$1,500 | NO | NO | YES | YES | NO | YES ¹⁰ |
| New York | YES (no limit) | YES | YES | YES | YES | NO | NO |
| North Carolina | YES \$2,000 | YES (1:1 up to \$2,000) | YES | YES | YES | NO | NO |
| North Dakota | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Ohio | NO | County Discretion (up to 2:1) | YES | YES | YES | NO | NO |
| Oklahoma | YES \$2,000 | YES ¹¹ | YES | YES | YES | NO | NO |
| Oregon | YES (no limit) | YES (\$1.00 per hour worked) | YES | NO | NO | NO | NO |
| Pennsylvania | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Puerto Rico | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Rhode Island | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| South Carolina | YES \$10,000 | NO | YES | YES | YES | NO | YES ¹ |
| South Dakota | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Tennessee | YES \$5,000 | NO | YES | YES | YES | NO | YES ³ |
| Texas | YES | YES ¹² | YES | YES | YES | NO | NO |
| Utah | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Vermont | YES (\$500) ¹³ | YES | YES | YES | YES | NO | NO |
| Virginia | YES \$5,000 | NO | YES | YES | YES | NO | YES ^{1,10} |
| Virgin Islands | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Washington | YES Client \$2,000, contractor \$4,000--max \$6,000 | YES (2:1 up to \$4,000) | YES | YES | YES | NO | NO |
| West Virginia | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

Table 12:7

Individual Development Accounts

| State | Individual Development Accounts (Limit) | Family's IDA Contribution is Matched (Match Rate) | Post-Secondary Education | First Home Purchase | Business Capitalization | Medical Expense | Other |
|-----------|---|---|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Wisconsin | YES (county option) | NO | NO | NO | NO | NO | NO |
| Wyoming | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

[1] States allow individuals to use funds for training program expenses.

[2] States allow funds to be spent to purchase or repair an automobile.

[3] Approved reasons include funds to be used for self-sufficiency purposes.

[4] Funds can be used for work-related vehicle/transportation costs.

[5] Kansas allows Assistance Technology Savings.

[6] Kentucky allows funds to be used for emergency repairs to home.

[7] Maine allows spending for certain emergency expenses.

[8] Maryland has created IDAs in four counties.

[9] New Jersey allows contributions up to \$1,500 per year for 3 years.

[10] New Mexico and Virginia allow funds to be used for the education expenses of dependents.

[11] Oklahoma varies contribution based on income. For current recipients or people who have been recipients at some time since October 1, 1996: For persons with income in the preceding year that is less than or equal to 100% of the Federal Poverty Level there is a \$1.00 match from TANF funds not to exceed a \$500 match per year for a period of up to 4 years. For persons with income that is more than 100% of the Federal Poverty Level and less than 150% of the Federal Poverty Level, then the match is 75 cents for each \$1.00. For persons with income more than 150% of the Federal Poverty Level and less than or equal to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level the match is 50 cents for each \$1.00

[12] Texas allows an IDA entity to use TANF funds to match up to \$2,000 per year, per account, of earned income (excluding any portion of and Earned Income Tax Credit refund) deposited in an individual development account.

[13] Vermont allows savings of \$500 for an individual for a calendar year and \$1,000 for a family. The lifetime limit maximum is \$2,000 for an individual and \$4,000 for a family.

Initial Sanctions for Not Complying with Work Requirements

If an individual in a family receiving assistance refuses to engage in required work, a State has the option to either reduce or terminate the amount of assistance payable to the family, subject to good cause (see Table 12:8). (For subsequent sanctions, many progress to full-family sanctions).

| Table 12:8 | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---|
| Initial Sanctions for Noncompliance with Work Requirements | | |
| State | First: Partial or Full Sanction | First: Minimum Length of Sanction |
| Alabama ¹ | Partial/Full (varies) | 1 month |
| Alaska | Full | 1 month |
| Arizona | Partial | 1 month |
| Arkansas | Partial | Until compliance |
| California | Partial | Until compliance |
| Colorado | Partial | 1-3 months (county option) |
| Connecticut | Partial | 3 months |
| Delaware | Partial | Until compliance or 2 months; then increments to next sanction level. |
| District of Columbia | Partial | 1 month |
| Florida | Full | Until compliance |
| Georgia | Partial | Up to 3 months |
| Guam | Full | 3 months |
| Hawaii | Full | Until compliance |
| Idaho | Full | 1 month |
| Illinois | Full | Until compliance |
| Indiana | Partial | 2 months |
| Iowa | Full | Until compliance |
| Kansas | Full | Until compliance |
| Kentucky | Partial | Until compliance |
| Louisiana | Partial | 3 months |
| Maine | Partial | Until compliance |
| Maryland | Full | Until compliance |
| Massachusetts | Partial | Until compliance |
| Michigan | Full | 1 month |
| Minnesota | Partial | 1 month |
| Mississippi | Full | 2 months |
| Missouri | Partial | Until compliance |
| Montana | Partial | 1 month |
| Nebraska | Full | 1 month |
| Nevada | Full | Until compliance |
| New Hampshire | Partial | 1/2 month |
| New Jersey | Partial | 1 month |
| New Mexico | Partial | 1 month |
| New York | Partial | Until compliance |
| North Carolina | Partial | 3 months |
| North Dakota | Partial | 1 month |
| Ohio | Full | 1 month |

Table 12:8

Initial Sanctions for Noncompliance with Work Requirements

| State | First: Partial or Full Sanction | First: Minimum Length of Sanction |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Oklahoma | Full | Until compliance |
| Oregon | Partial | Until compliance |
| Pennsylvania | Partial/Full (varies) ² | 30 days |
| Puerto Rico | Partial | Equivalent of the period that participant refuses to comply |
| Rhode Island | Partial | Until compliance |
| South Carolina | Full | 1 month |
| South Dakota | Partial | 1 month |
| Tennessee | Full | Until compliance |
| Texas | Partial | 1 month |
| Utah | Partial/Full | Until compliance |
| Vermont | Partial | Until compliance |
| Virginia | Full | 1 month |
| Virgin Islands | Partial | Until compliance |
| Washington | Partial | Until compliance |
| West Virginia | Partial | 3 months |
| Wisconsin ³ | Partial | Until compliance |
| Wyoming | Full | 1 month |

[1] In Alabama, recipients receive a partial sanction (25% reduction for 3 months) if they have been on assistance less than 24 months. They receive a full sanction (1 month) if they voluntarily quit their job or if they have been on assistance for 24 months or more.

[2] In Pennsylvania, recipients receive a partial sanction if they have been on assistance up to 24 months. They receive a full family sanction if they have been on assistance more than 24 months.

[3] In Wisconsin, a sanction could be whole or partial. The cash benefit is based on the number of hours worked in the previous month.

Applicant Cash Diversion Programs

The majority of States (28) now offer applicant diversion to families as an alternative to ongoing TANF assistance. Generally, this support comes in the form of benefit payments designed to provide short-term financial aid to meet critical needs in order to secure or retain employment.

Typically, States provide several months of benefits in one lump sum. A few States provide a flat amount. By accepting the diversion payment, the family generally agrees not to re-apply for cash assistance for a specified period of time, e.g., receipt of a diversion payment equal to three months of benefits results in family agreeing to not re-apply for benefits for three months. A number of diversion programs provide applicant job search (12 States), other services, and/or referral to alternative assistance programs (10 States). (Table 12:9 highlights what cash diversion programs the States are providing).

| State | Cash Diversion Program | Benefit Equivalent (in months) | Cash Limit | Referral to Job Search or Job Placement | Referral to Alternative Programs for Services or In-Kind Assistance |
|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Alabama | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Alaska | YES | 3 | N/A | NO | NO |
| Arizona | YES | 3 | N/A | YES | YES |
| Arkansas | YES | 3 | N/A | NO | NO |
| California | YES | County Option | County Option | County Option | County Option |
| Colorado | YES | County Option | County Option | County Option | County Option |
| Connecticut | YES | 3 | N/A | NO | NO |
| Delaware | YES | N/A | \$1,500 | NO | NO |
| District of Columbia | YES | 3 | N/A | NO ¹ | NO |
| Florida | YES ² | N/A | \$1,000 | YES | YES |
| Georgia | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Guam | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Hawaii | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Idaho | YES | 3 | \$879 | YES | YES |
| Illinois | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Indiana | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Iowa | YES | County Option | County Option | NO | YES |
| Kansas | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Kentucky | YES | N/A | \$1,300 | YES | YES |
| Louisiana | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Maine | YES | 3 | N/A | NO | NO |
| Maryland | YES | County Option (up to 12) | N/A | YES | NO |
| Massachusetts | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Michigan | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Minnesota | YES | Up to 4 | Up to maximum MFIP Standard | NO | NO |
| Mississippi | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Missouri | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

Table 12:9

Applicant Cash Diversion Programs

| State | Cash Diversion Program | Benefit Equivalent (in months) | Cash Limit | Referral to Job Search or Job Placement | Referral to Alternative Programs for Services or In-Kind Assistance |
|----------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Montana | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Nebraska | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Nevada | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| New Hampshire | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| New Jersey | YES | 1 | \$750 | YES | YES |
| New Mexico | YES | N/A | \$1,500 | NO | YES |
| New York | NO ³ | N/A | N/A | NO | NO |
| North Carolina | YES | 3 | N/A | YES | YES |
| North Dakota | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Ohio | YES | County Determined | County Determined | County Determined | County Determined |
| Oklahoma | YES | 3 | N/A | NO | NO |
| Oregon | YES | N/A | None | YES | YES |
| Pennsylvania | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Puerto Rico | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Rhode Island | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| South Carolina | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| South Dakota | YES | 2 | N/A | NO | YES |
| Tennessee | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Texas | YES | N/A | \$1,000 | YES | YES |
| Utah | YES | 3 | Limited to what the family would be eligible for a 3-month grant period. Amount varies as to family composition. | NO | NO |
| Vermont | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Virginia | YES | 4 | \$1,164 | NO | NO |
| Virgin Islands | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Washington | YES | N/A | \$1,500 | NO | NO |
| West Virginia | YES | 3 | N/A | NO | NO |
| Wisconsin | YES | N/A | \$1,600 | YES | YES |
| Wyoming | NO | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

[1] The District of Columbia requires employment or a job offer for diversion and therefore does not offer job referral services as part of its diversion program.

[2] Florida has three diversion programs: Up Front Cash Diversion for applicants (with a cash limit of \$1,000), Relocation Assistance (with no statutory cash limit), and Cash Assistance Severance Program for recipients who are employed and wish to terminate assistance (with a cash limit of \$1,000).

[3] New York makes diversion payments under its emergency programs, however, it does not have a specific "diversion program."

Time Limiting Assistance

States generally may not use Federal funds to provide assistance to a family that includes an adult head of household or a spouse of the head of household who has received assistance for 60 months (whether or not consecutive). However, States may extend federally-funded assistance beyond 60 months to 20 percent of the caseload, without penalty, based on hardship or domestic violence. States also have the option to set lower time limits on the receipt of TANF benefits.

State policies related to time limiting assistance to a family vary greatly. In a few cases, States had received waivers under Section 1115 of the Act to implement time limits before PRWORA. These States have the authority to continue their waiver policies for the duration of their waivers. Furthermore, the flexibility available in the use of State funds allows each State to structure its time limit policies in a variety of ways. For example, a State may use segregated or separate State-only funds to provide assistance to families that it wishes to exempt from the time limit or to families that have reached the 60-month Federal time limit, in excess of the 20 percent cap (see Table 12:10).

| State | Lifetime Limit (months) ² | Benefits Continue to Children after Lifetime Limit | Intermittent Time Limit (months) ³ | Benefits Continue to Children after Intermittent Limit | Date First Families Reach Any Time Limit ⁴ |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| Alabama | 60 | NO | NO | N/A | December 1, 2001 |
| Alaska | 60 | NO | NO | N/A | July 1, 2002 |
| Arizona | 60 | NO | NO | N/A | November 1, 1997 |
| Arkansas | 24 | NO | NO | N/A | July 1, 2000 |
| California | 60 | YES | NO | N/A | January 1, 2003 |
| Colorado | 60 | NO | NO | N/A | July 1, 2002 October 2001 |
| Connecticut | 21 | NO | NO | N/A | November 1, 1997 |
| Delaware ⁵ | 48 | NO | NO | N/A | October 1, 1999 |
| | 36 | NO | NO | N/A | |
| | (applicants as of 01/01/2000) | | | | |
| District of Columbia | 60 | YES | NO | N/A | March 1, 2002 |
| Florida | 48 | NO | 24 months in 60 months or 36 months in 72 months | NO | October 1998 except in waiver areas February 1996 |
| Georgia | 48 | NO | NO | N/A | January 1, 2001 |
| Guam | 60 | NO | NO | N/A | July 1, 2002 |
| Hawaii | 60 | NO | NO | N/A | December 1, 2001 |
| Idaho | 24 | NO | NO | N/A | July 1, 1999 |
| Illinois | 60 | NO | NO | N/A | July 1, 2002 |
| Indiana | 24 | YES | NO | N/A | July 1, 1997 |
| Iowa | 60 | NO | NO | N/A | January 1, 2002 |

Table 12:10

State Time Limits ¹

| State | Lifetime Limit (months) ² | Benefits Continue to Children after Lifetime Limit | Intermittent Time Limit (months) ³ | Benefits Continue to Children after Intermittent Limit | Date First Families Reach Any Time Limit ⁴ |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| Kansas | 60 | NO | NO | N/A | October 1, 2001 |
| Kentucky | 60 | NO | NO | N/A | November 1, 2001 |
| Louisiana | 60 | NO | 24 months in 60 months | NO | January 1, 1999 |
| Maine | 60 | YES | NO | N/A | November 1, 2001 |
| Maryland | 60 | YES (children and adults) | NO | N/A | January 1, 2002 |
| Massachusetts | NO | N/A | 24 months in 60 months | NO | December 1, 1998 |
| Michigan | NO | N/A | NO | N/A | October 1, 2001 |
| Minnesota | 60 | NO | NO | N/A | July 1, 2002 |
| Mississippi | 60 | NO | NO | N/A | October 1, 2001 |
| Missouri | 60 | NO | NO | N/A | July 1, 2002 |
| Montana | 60 | NO | NO | N/A | February 1, 2002 |
| Nebraska ⁶ | 60 | NO | 24 months in 48 months | NO | December 1, 1998 |
| Nevada | 60 | NO | 24 months followed by 12 months of ineligibility | NO | January 1, 2000 |
| New Hampshire | 60 | NO | NO | N/A | October 1, 2001 |
| New Jersey | 60 | NO | NO | N/A | February 1, 2002 |
| New Mexico | 60 | NO | NO | N/A | July 1, 2002 |
| New York | NO | N/A | NO | N/A | December 1, 2001 |
| North Carolina | 60 | NO | 24 months followed by 36 months of ineligibility | NO | August 1, 1998 |
| North Dakota | 60 | NO | NO | N/A | July 1, 2002 |
| Ohio | 60 | NO ⁷ | 36 month State limit followed by a 24 month waiting period, after which the family may be eligible for up to 24 additional months (not exceeding Federal 60-month limit) by county based on "good cause." | NO ⁷ | October 1, 2000 |
| Oklahoma | 60 | NO | NO | N/A | October 1, 2001 |
| Oregon | NO | N/A | 24 months in 84 months | NO | July 1, 1998 |
| Pennsylvania | 60 | YES | NO | N/A | March 3, 2002 |
| Puerto Rico | 60 | NO | NO | N/A | June 30, 2002 |
| Rhode Island | 60 | YES | NO | N/A | May 1, 2002 |
| South Carolina | 60 | NO | 24 months in 120 months | NO | October 1, 1998 |
| South Dakota | 60 | NO | NO | N/A | December 1, 2001 |
| Tennessee | 60 | NO | 18 months followed by 3 months of ineligibility | NO | April 1, 1998 |
| Texas | 60 | NO | 12, 24, or 36 months followed by 60 months of State ineligibility | YES | June 1, 1997 |
| Utah | 36 | NO | NO | N/A | January 1, 2000 |
| Vermont | NO | N/A | NO | N/A | September 20, 2002 |

| State | Lifetime Limit (months) ² | Benefits Continue to Children after Lifetime Limit | Intermittent Time Limit (months) ³ | Benefits Continue to Children after Intermittent Limit | Date First Families Reach Any Time Limit ⁴ |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| Virginia | 60 | NO | 24 months followed by 24 months ineligibility | NO | July 1, 1997 |
| Virgin Islands | 60 | YES | NO | N/A | June 30, 2002 |
| Washington | 60 | NO | NO | N/A | August 1, 2002 |
| West Virginia | 60 | NO | NO | N/A | January 1, 2002 |
| Wisconsin | 60 ⁸ | NO | NO | N/A | October 1, 2001 |
| Wyoming | 60 | NO | NO | N/A | January 1, 1999 |

[1] This table addresses time limits that terminate or reduce assistance to a family based on the receipt of assistance for a period of time. Policies under which receipt of assistance for a certain period of time trigger work requirements are not considered time limits on receipt of assistance here.

[2] Lifetime time limits permanently reduce or terminate assistance.

[3] Intermittent time limits terminate or reduce assistance for a period of time after which assistance can again be provided.

[4] A few States had approved waivers to implement time limits prior to PRWORA. In those cases, the families began accruing months on the time clock based on the waiver rather than the implementation of the TANF program.

[5] Families with unemployable adults and families with caretakers under 19 years of age are placed in a non-time limited Children's Program.

[6] State is operating under 1115 waiver authority. For employable adults, assistance is limited to 24 months in 48 months with a lifetime limit of 60 months. Families for whom self-sufficiency is determined to not be possible are eligible for the non-time limited program.

[7] Unless a "child-only" case because the child is residing with a specified relative other than a parent.

[8] Some families may lose benefits prior to reaching the 60-month limit if participating in a particular component.

Waiver Inconsistencies Related to Work Participation and/or Time Limit Assistance Requirements of TANF

Ten States claimed waiver inconsistencies for waivers that extended beyond FY 2002. The waivers for five of these States (KS, NE, OR, SC, and VA) expired in FY 2003. Waivers for three States (MT, OH, and HI) expired in FY 2004, Massachusetts' waivers are scheduled to expire September 30, 2005, and Tennessee's waivers will expire June 30, 2007.

Table 12:11 summarizes the waiver inconsistency claims by States.

| Table 12:11 Federal Time Limit Waivers | | | |
|---|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| State | Work Participation | Time-Limited Assistance | Authority Expires ¹ |
| Hawaii | X | X | 9/30/04 |
| Kansas | X | | 9/30/03 |
| Massachusetts | X | | 9/30/05 |
| Montana | X | | 12/31/03 |
| Nebraska | X | X | 6/30/03 |
| Ohio | X | X ² | 12/31/03 |
| Oregon | X | X | 6/30/03 |
| South Carolina | X | X | 9/30/03 |
| Tennessee | X | X | 6/30/07 |
| Virginia | X | X | 6/30/03 |

[1] States may choose to discontinue or modify inconsistent policies begun under waivers at any time. After this date, they must operate their TANF program in full compliance with requirements of sections 407 and 408(a)(7) of the Social Security Act.

[2] Ohio delayed counting months toward the Federal time limit until October 1, 1997.

Other Key Policies

Child Support Enforcement

Title III of PRWORA establishes stricter child support enforcement policies. States must operate a child support enforcement program meeting general requirements in order to be eligible for TANF. Recipients must assign rights to child support and cooperate with paternity establishment efforts. States have the option to either deny cash assistance or reduce assistance by at least 25 percent to those individuals who fail to cooperate with paternity establishment or with obtaining child support.

Adoption of Family Violence Option

Each State has the option to certify in its State plan that it has established and is enforcing standards and procedures to: (1) screen and identify individuals with a history of domestic violence (while maintaining their confidentiality); (2) refer such individuals for counseling and supportive services; and (3) waive program requirements, as appropriate, based on safety and fairness concerns. This provision is commonly referred to as the Family Violence Option (see Table 12:12).

| State | Federal Certification ¹ or State Program ² |
|----------------------|--|
| Alabama | Federal |
| Alaska | Federal |
| Arizona | Federal |
| Arkansas | Federal |
| California | Federal |
| Colorado | Federal |
| Connecticut | State |
| Delaware | Federal |
| District of Columbia | Federal |
| Florida | Federal |
| Georgia | Federal |
| Guam | Territory |
| Hawaii | Federal |
| Idaho | State |
| Illinois | Federal |
| Indiana | State |
| Iowa | Federal |
| Kansas | Federal |
| Kentucky | Federal |
| Louisiana | Federal |

Table 12:12
Domestic Violence Provisions

| State | Federal Certification ¹ or State Program ² |
|----------------|--|
| Maine | State |
| Maryland | Federal |
| Massachusetts | Federal |
| Michigan | State |
| Minnesota | Federal |
| Mississippi | State |
| Missouri | Federal |
| Montana | Federal |
| Nebraska | Federal |
| Nevada | Federal |
| New Hampshire | Federal |
| New Jersey | Federal |
| New Mexico | Federal |
| New York | Federal |
| North Carolina | Federal |
| North Dakota | Federal |
| Ohio | State |
| Oklahoma | State |
| Oregon | Federal |
| Pennsylvania | Federal |
| Puerto Rico | Federal |
| Rhode Island | Federal |
| South Carolina | Federal |
| South Dakota | State |
| Tennessee | Federal |
| Texas | Federal |
| Utah | Federal |
| Vermont | Federal |
| Virginia | State |
| Virgin Islands | Territory |
| Washington | Federal |
| West Virginia | Federal |
| Wisconsin | State |
| Wyoming | Federal |

[1] State submitted a signed certification that it has established and is enforcing standards and procedures to screen and identify individuals with a history of domestic violence, refer such individuals to counseling and supportive services, and waive program requirements based on safety and fairness concerns (commonly called the Family Violence Option, or the Wellstone Murray Amendment).

[2] State is addressing the issue of domestic violence under its TANF program, but did not submit the specified certification.

Family Cap

States have the flexibility under TANF not to increase cash assistance after the birth of an additional child to a family already receiving TANF benefits. This is referred to as the family cap. PRWORA did not include a specific family cap provision, but 23 States had such a provision as of June 2003 (see Table 12:13).

| Table 12:13 Family Cap Provisions | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| State | Description | Other Provisions/Services Provided |
| Arizona | There is no increase in cash assistance for the birth of additional children after the family begins receiving cash assistance. There are exceptions for: births resulting from cases of sexual assault or incest; firstborn children of minors who are included in an assistance unit; children born within 10 months of the date of application; and children born at least 10 months after a family has not received cash assistance for one full year due to voluntary withdrawal or ineligibility. | Earned income disregard to make up difference in benefits. Information and referral to family planning. |
| Arkansas | No additional cash benefits for birth of a child after approval, no exceptions. | Information and referral to family planning. |
| California | Under the States "Maximum Family Grant" (MFG) policy, no increase in the Maximum Aid Payment for any child born to a family that has received TANF for 10 continuous months prior to the birth of a child. Continuous receipt of TANF is defined as receiving aid without a two consecutive month break in aid. | Child Support received will be paid to the assistance unit and will not be counted as income. Information and referral to family planning. |
| Connecticut | The benefit increase will be one-half of the average increase for an additional child. There are exceptions for births: to first-time minor parents; because of rape or incest; to a child who does not reside with his or her parent if the parent did not receive TANF assistance in either the 9th or 10th calendar month before the birth of the child; or in the case of premature births (as verified by a physician) when the mother was not on assistance during the month of conception. | No work exemption for parent of excluded child. |
| Delaware | No additional cash benefits with birth of a child, except because of rape or incest. | Information and referral to family planning. Fill-the-gap benefit calculations for cases with earnings/child support. |

Table 12:13

Family Cap Provisions

| State | Description | Other Provisions/Services Provided |
|---------------|---|--|
| Florida | For the first such child (including all children in the case of a multiple birth), provide an increase in the cash benefits equal to 50 percent of the maximum allowable increment; and for a second or subsequent child, provide no increase in the cash benefits received by the unit. | The additional child will be included in the Need Standard. Information and referral to family planning services. |
| Georgia | No additional cash benefits with birth of a child, except births to first-time minor parents or because of rape or incest. | Information and referral to family planning. Fill-the-gap benefit calculations for cases with earnings. |
| Idaho | No additional cash benefits with birth of child. TANF grant is the same amount for families of all sizes. | Increase in family size will increase the earned income disregard. |
| Illinois | No additional cash benefits with birth of a child. There are exceptions for births: to first-time minor parents; because of rape or incest; to a child who does not reside with his or her parent; or to a child that was conceived in a month the family was not receiving TANF and had not received TANF for a period of at least 3 consecutive months. | Earned income disregard to make up difference in benefits. Information and referral to family planning. |
| Indiana | No additional cash benefits with birth of a child, except births to first-time minor parents or because of rape or incest. No additional TANF benefits with birth of child. | Information and referral to family planning. Parent of excluded child may be granted a work exemption for 12 weeks. |
| Maryland | Maryland has a 2-year waiver to its Child Specific Benefit beginning October 1, 2002. Will pay direct benefit to family during this period. Provides an opportunity to conduct study on impact of family cap. | A child subject to provisions of this regulation is treated as an assistance unit member for all other purposes, including but not limited to Medical Assistance, child care services, and Food Stamps. This regulation does not apply if the birth of a dependant child is the result of rape or incest, the first born child of a minor in the unit, another caretaker relative has obtained legal guardianship of the child, or the child is placed in the home of a caretaker relative by the local department of social services. |
| Massachusetts | No additional cash benefits with birth of a child, except births to first-time minor parents or because of rape or incest or other extraordinary circumstances. Extends coverage to children conceived within 12 months after family leaves the rolls. | Information and referral to family planning. Expanded earnings/child care disregard. Parent of excluded child may be granted a work exemption for 12 weeks. |

Table 12:13

Family Cap Provisions

| State | Description | Other Provisions/Services Provided |
|----------------|--|--|
| Mississippi | No additional cash benefits with birth of a child. | Income received on behalf of the child, including child support received will be paid to the assistance unit and will not be counted as income. The additional child will not be included in the Need Standard for purposes of determining TANF eligibility. |
| Nebraska | No additional cash benefits with birth of a child if born more than 10 months after the date of application, except births to first-time minor parents or because of rape or incest. | Information and referral to family planning. |
| New Jersey | No additional cash benefits with birth of a child, except births to first-time minor parents and cases which: have left the rolls, remained employed at least 90 days, and terminated employment for good cause; or remained off the rolls for at least 12 consecutive months for any reason. | Children subject to family cap are eligible for all other services except cash assistance. |
| North Carolina | No additional cash benefits with birth of a child as a result of a child born to the family 10 or more months after the family begins to receive TANF, except: births to first time minor parents; because of rape or incest; to a child that was conceived in a month the assistance unit (i.e., the entire family) was not receiving TANF; to a child when parental custody has been legally transferred; or to a child who is no longer able to live with his or her parents. | |
| North Dakota | No additional cash benefits with birth of a child. | Child support collections pass through for benefit of child. |
| Oklahoma | No additional cash benefits with birth of a child. | If a child is born to a recipient 10 months from date of application for assistance, the amount that would be added to the benefit for the child is paid in the form of vouchers until the child reaches the age of 36 months. |
| South Carolina | No additional cash benefits with birth of a child. | Benefits provided in the form of vouchers or commodities for a child born subject to the benefit limitation up to the amount of the increase in cash benefits that the family would have received for the child in the absence of the family cap. The vouchers may be used to pay for goods and services, as determined by the State, to support the needs of the child and permit the custodial parent to participate in education, training and employment-related activities. |

Table 12:13

Family Cap Provisions

| State | Description | Other Provisions/Services Provided |
|-----------|---|--|
| Tennessee | No additional cash benefit will be issued due to the birth of a child when the birth occurs more than 10 calendar months after the date of application for TANF. A caretaker must provide a physician's Statement to overcome the presumption that a child born more than 10 months after application was conceived prior to such date. Does not apply to the first-born child of a minor or children born as the result of rape or incest. | Information and referral to family planning. The additional child will be included in the need standard and the income of the child, including child support, will be applied against the need standard and the fill-the-gap budgeting method in determining the TANF payment amount for the family. |
| Virginia | No additional cash benefits with birth of a child, except births to first-time minor parents or because of rape or incest. The family cap does not apply to children born within 10 months of beginning to receive assistance. | Pass-through all child support received for family affected. Information and referral to family planning. Parent of excluded child may be granted a work exemption for 6 weeks. |
| Wisconsin | No additional cash benefits with birth of a child. TANF grant is the same amount for families with the same work status regardless of family size. | Information and referral to family planning. Family planning information provided at application and with benefit checks. |
| Wyoming | No additional cash benefits with birth of a child. | |

