Discussion Papers

The Welfare Rules Databook: State Policies as of July 2001

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Assessing the New Federalism

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Assessing the New Federalism is a multiyear Urban Institute project designed to analyze the devolution of responsibility for social programs from the federal government to the states, focusing primarily on health care, income security, employment and training programs, and social services. Researchers monitor program changes and fiscal developments. Olivia Golden is the project director. In collaboration with Child Trends, the project studies changes in family well-being. The project aims to provide timely, nonpartisan information to inform public debate and to help state and local decisionmakers carry out their new responsibilities more effectively.

Key components of the project include a household survey and studies of policies in 13 states, available at the Urban Institute's web site, http://www.urban.org. This paper is one in a series of discussion papers analyzing information from these and other sources.

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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 2001, as well as longitudinal tables describing selected state policies from 1996 through 2001. 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; Benefits; Requirements; Ongoing Eligibility; and Policies across Time, 1996–2001. Each chapter begins with an overview of the policies, followed by details relating to specific tables.

The *Databook* provides a summary of 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. 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, sophisticated 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 2001. 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 (DHHS/ACF) is currently funding 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 at the federal level. 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 the DHHS/ACF, and in annual reports issued by DHHS/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.

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, generally, they offer insufficient information to completely understand the details of eligibility, benefit computation, and client requirements. Further, although the states are expected to notify the federal government if any of their choices change after the submission of a Plan, they are not required to do so.

The WRD was developed to provide a source of 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 submission of those Plans. The WRD focuses on cash assistance policies and some closely tied transitional benefits. Its main focus is on federally funded policies; however, some information on policies provided under state-separate funding is included when the state considers those benefits part of the same basic program and therefore includes them 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 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 detailed information on a range of policy topics. These topics are currently organized into 29 categories that together describe most of the significant dimensions of state policies. While the categories may be ordered in a variety of ways, it is useful to consider the rules in the sequence in which individuals seeking and receiving assistance will likely encounter them. The 29 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

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[1]

II. Benefits

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

Benefit Computation[2]

[1] The information in the Dollar Amounts category is also relevant to other categories, including Deemed Income, Income Eligibility Tests, and Benefit Computation.
[2] 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 benefit determination.

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[3]

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 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.

V. **Transition to Self-Support**

A. **What happens after cash assistance ends?**

Transitional Benefits

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.[4] The

[3] The child support requirements for which a recipient may be sanctioned are included in the Child Support category listed under section I.D.
[4] Due to the difficulty of obtaining caseworker manuals during the transition from AFDC to TANF, the 1996 data in

Urban Institute has a subscription with each state 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 all the 2001 data. Many states reviewed all the data for their state, while others focused only on the key policies in the *Databook*. The 45 states that reviewed all the 2001 data and/or the *Databook* tables are:

Alaska	Indiana	Montana	Rhode Island
Arizona	Iowa	Nebraska	South Carolina
Arkansas	Kentucky	New Hampshire	South Dakota
California	Louisiana	New Jersey	Tennessee
Connecticut	Maine	New Mexico	Texas
Delaware	Maryland	New York	Utah
D.C.	Massachusetts	North Carolina	Vermont
Florida	Michigan	North Dakota	Virginia
Georgia	Minnesota	Oklahoma	Washington
Hawaii	Mississippi	Oregon	West Virginia
Idaho	Missouri	Pennsylvania	Wisconsin
Illinois			

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.

A similar verification process was performed in the previous two years for the 1999 and 2000 data. In those rounds of verification, 44 states reviewed the complete 1999 data and/or the 1999 tables, and 46 states reviewed the complete 2000 data and/or the 2000 tables. Portions of the 1996–98 information in the WRD have been verified against selected secondary sources, but have not been fully reviewed by state TANF staff, due to 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 policies vary 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.[5]
- for every year, state, and category of rules contains 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* address the issue of how rules may be implemented in practice. As noted above, the WRD is based on caseworker manuals and/or regulations, which typically do not include information on the likelihood of various outcomes occurring. For instance, if a particular type of recipient may be assigned to one

[5]The states that allow counties to vary policies (that are included in this book) are California, Colorado, and Ohio. The largest counties in each state are Los Angeles County in California, Denver County in Colorado, and Cuyahoga County in Ohio.

of a number of different types of work activities, the manuals do not typically address the issue of which type is the most likely assignment. Thus, for certain types of 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 generally does not specifically identify whether those policies are imposed due to federal or state requirements. Thus, this book does not provide an exhaustive description of 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 time limit policies without discussing the federal government's 60-month limit. However, in most instances 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 2001. The first four chapters of the *Databook* provide information as of July 2001 across four broad policy areas: initial eligibility, benefits, requirements, and ongoing eligibility. For selected policies, longitudinal tables include data from 1996 through 2001.

The data for the tables are extracted from the WRD and only represent 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/or different subsets of the caseload.

For more information about which WRD variables are required for each table, see the WRD web site. The web site includes a link to the "Creation of Databook Variables" document. This document lists the WRD variables used for each *Databook* table and provides some information on how to construct the *Databook* variables from the WRD.

Structure of the Tables

Each table follows the same general structure and was created using the same set of general 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 2001. Units comprising 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—termed "components" in the WRD—are usually defined by more than one characteristic, such as "units with children under 13 years old who are 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 vs. one-parent units or applicants vs. recipients) or geographic areas (demonstration projects in a few counties vs. the rest of the state). In some, but not all, tables these types of policies are footnoted. Although the tables do not capture all of the variation in policies across regions and types of units, the WRD does contain this information. In addition, states that allow counties to vary policy are footnoted. The footnote indicates the name of the county (the largest in the state) to which the policy applies.

Each 2001 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 and 2000 books.

Policies as of July 2001

Initial Eligibility

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 2001. 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 energy on decreasing their 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. By July 2001, over half of all states had created a formal diversion program. Under formal diversion programs, families may choose to receive a lump sum cash payment to deal with immediate needs instead of receiving a monthly TANF benefit. Generally, the benefits are provided to families to alleviate short-term problems that interfere with either keeping or finding employment. Families that accept diversion payments are typically barred from applying for monthly TANF benefits for some period of time.

About a third of the states have instituted a job search at application policy, which encourages applicants to find work. These policies require applicants to search for a job either before or while their application is processed. To be eligible for aid, they must prove that they have searched for a job at a set number of businesses. States hope that applicants who may not have previously pursued employment as aggressively as required by the state will find a job and no longer need 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 one-time 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 the 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 are generally the same for families that apply for diversion and those that apply for monthly assistance.

Table I.A.1 describes whether states provide 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 demonstration 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 the years 1996 through 2001.

Mandatory job search at application: Table I.A.2 indicates which states require applicants to search for a job prior to application as a condition of eligibility. Presently, 16 states require an applicant to seek employment either before or while their application is processed. The job search requirements vary by state, but in all cases if the applicant does not comply with the requirement, the family is not eligible for assistance.

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 may be 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 members of the family 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 others still 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.

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

Two-parent eligibility for applicants: 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).[6] The three types of tests that are sometimes imposed include limits on hours of work, work history tests, and waiting periods. 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.

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.[7] 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.

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[6] North Dakota no longer provides TANF benefits to two-parent, nondisabled units. Also, note that in some states, benefits are provided to two-parent units under a "Separate State Program" 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.

[7] 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.

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 the years 1996 through 2001.

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 her or his 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.[8]

Related tables: See Table I.D.2 for the rules related to the treatment of the income from the parents of a minor parent who is heading her own assistance unit.

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 spouse and who have no biological children of their own in the assistance unit. State rules for stepparents not meeting those criteria may vary and are discussed in the WRD.

Related tables: See Table I.D.3 for the rules related to the treatment of the 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. The PRWORA legislation created the "qualified alien" distinction, which more narrowly defined the group of noncitizens potentially eligible for

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[8] 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.

most federally funded TANF assistance.[9] With the exception of a few exempted groups, the federal law further limited qualified aliens' access to assistance based on their date of entry into the country.[10] 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.[11] (If the alien 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 status becomes qualified). After the five-year bar, qualified aliens are again potentially eligible for federally funded TANF assistance. Although federal law determines which aliens are potentially eligible for benefits and during which time periods, states have some flexibility. States have the option to provide or deny assistance to certain qualified aliens who the federal government has indicated are potentially eligible for benefits.[12] States also have the option of providing state-funded assistance to certain aliens that federal law provides are not eligible for federally funded assistance—such as qualified aliens during the five-year bar or certain unqualified aliens.

[9] 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 prior to April 1, 1980.
[10] 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 in active duty along with their spouses and unmarried dependent children, Cuban/Haitian entrants, and certain Amerasians.
[11] The five-year bar only applies 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 became 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/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 Fed. Reg. 61415 (November 17, 1997).
[12] States must provide benefits to veterans or individuals in 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 even if they accumulate 40 quarters, however.

States have made three types of decisions about the eligibility of aliens: (1) Will some of or all the qualified aliens that arrived prior to PRWORA be eligible for benefits?; (2) Will some of or all the post-PRWORA aliens during the five year bar be eligible for benefits?; and (3) Will some of or all the post-PRWORA aliens after the five-year bar be eligible for benefits? As of 2000, all states considered pre-PRWORA qualified aliens eligible for TANF benefits. There is considerable variation in states' decisions concerning post-PRWORA aliens, however. Tables I.B.5 and I.B.6 describe the variation in state policies concerning the post-PRWORA aliens.[13]

Table I.B.5 shows the extent to which 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 only particular groups of post-PRWORA aliens.

Table I.B.6 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, aliens with deportation withheld, aliens paroled in the country for at least one year, and battered aliens. Note that even if a state doesn't 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 the noncitizen rules discussed here apply to individuals, not 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

[13] 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 rules for eligibility of 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.

members is available to the eligible individuals in the unit. The WRD also provides information on income deemed from an alien's sponsor.

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. Almost all states restrict the amount of assets a family may hold and still be eligible for assistance; however, these amounts vary greatly by state. The amounts also vary by the 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 of or all the value of a vehicle is excluded in determining the amount of a family's assets for purposes of eligibility. When a portion of the vehicle's value is exempted, that 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 much less than the fair market value, so this distinction is important when comparing vehicle exemption amounts across states.

Related tables: Note that 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.2. Also, Tables L8 and L9 provide information on asset limits for recipients and the vehicle exemption for recipients in the years 1996 through 2001, respectively.

D. How is income counted in determining eligibility?

Once the family has passed the state's asset tests, its available income is computed for eligibility purposes. States have discretion to determine 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 of the assistance unit's members 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; however, this book only addresses unearned income in the form of child support payments. For more details on the treatment of other types of 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 the income from certain individuals who have an obligation to support a member of the assistance unit but are not themselves part of the 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 non-applicant'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 that 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 child support income: Table I.D.1 describes each state's treatment of child support income. 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 either a "pass-through" or as unearned income.[14] Under a pass-through, the TANF benefit is computed without counting any child support as income; then, a portion of the collected child support income is added to the benefit. Alternatively, the state may give the family some of or all the child support collected, but treat it as unearned income for eligibility and benefit computation purposes. Some states that transfer the child support to the family as unearned income also disregard a portion of the amount transferred, so the entire amount does not count against the unit for eligibility purposes.

The first column of the table indicates the amount of the state's pass-through. The second and third columns describe the amount transferred to the family as unearned income and the portion of that amount disregarded for eligibility purposes, respectively. Generally, if the state has a pass-through it will not also treat income as unearned, and vice versa. However, some states provide recipients with a pass-through and then count any remaining child support in excess of the family's monthly benefit as unearned income for eligibility and benefit computation. The state may or may not disregard a portion of this amount.

[14] 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 of the child support collected to the recipient; however, in that case, the state must use other funds to pay the federal share.

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 in determining eligibility and benefits. Typically, income is deemed from the minor's parents only if the minor is living in the home with her parents; however, in one state—New Jersey—the income is deemed even if the minor is not living with her parents.

Generally, states allow the grandparents an initial disregard(s), similar to the earned income disregards available to applicants. In addition, the grandparents may subtract from their income a second disregard equal to the amount of their basic needs and the needs of their dependents. The remaining income after these disregards is deemed available to the minor unit as unearned income and is counted for eligibility and benefit computation purposes.

Table I.D.2 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 this refers to 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 Tables I.E.3 (Eligibility Standards) and II.A.3 (Benefit 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 those 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 an initial disregard(s), similar to the earned income disregards available to applicants. In addition, the stepparent may also subtract from his or her income a second disregard equal to the amount of his or her basic needs and the needs of his or her dependents. The remaining income after these disregards is deemed available to the stepparent's spouse and the spouse's dependents as unearned income and is counted for eligibility purposes. Table I.D.3 describes these policies.

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 now impose just one income test on applicants; however, others use a combination of tests, which may include a gross income test, gross earnings test, unearned income test, and/or a net income test. There are other types of tests, but these are the most common. A gross income test compares all the unit's total income, earned and unearned, to a standard (determined by the state). 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; however, 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 for the initial eligibility threshold at application. Note that the first three tables must be used together to fully understand the income eligibility tests in each state.

Income eligibility tests for applicants: Table I.E.1 describes states' income eligibility tests for determining whether an applicant is eligible to begin receiving benefits. The table indicates which state income threshold is used for each test. To determine the value of the particular threshold for a three-person family, see Table I.E.3, discussed below. For states that impose a net income test, most will disregard a portion of the unit's earned income before comparing the income to the threshold. These amounts are captured in Table I.E.2.

Note that this table describes the income tests that are imposed in addition to the implicit income test imposed by the benefit computation procedure. 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 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 the benefit computation procedure. 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, I.D.2, and I.D.3 describe policies *concerning child support income and the deeming of income from grandparents and stepparents that may be used in determining gross income for purposes of 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 amount of 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 the years 1996 through 2001.*

Earned income disregards for income eligibility: Table I.E.2 describes the earned income disregards applied to applicants' and recipients' income in determining net income for purposes of the income eligibility tests. Additional disregards for child care expenses paid by a family and/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.

The body of the table focuses on the earned income disregards used to establish net income for purposes of an applicant's initial eligibility determination. 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.

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 earned income disregards to the applicant's earnings. In other words, all of a family's earnings are typically included in the income amount. In those cases, "No Disregards Allowed" appears in the table.

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

The table 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, due to 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 their eligibility standard.

Some types of details concerning eligibility standards are not included in the table. In some states, different sets of dollar amounts are used in different regions of the state; in those cases, the table includes the amounts that are 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 the table assume no special needs. Also, a few states vary standards for one-parent versus two-parent families; 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.

Related tables: Note that these standards, by themselves, are not necessarily comparable across states, since the income tests might be quite different. To determine how the standards are used in practice, see Tables I.E.1 and IV.A.3.

<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 in order to provide information on the maximum amount of income a family of three can earn and still be eligible for assistance. The

initial eligibility 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 that the unit will necessarily receive a cash benefit, but they will have passed all the eligibility tests and are eligible for some positive amount. Most states only distribute a cash benefit if it is over $10.

The calculation assumes that the assistance unit includes one parent and two children, has only earned income, has no child care expenses, contains no children covered by 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 initial eligibility threshold for the years 1996 through 2001.

Table I.A.1 Formal Diversion Payments, July 2001

State	Diversion Program	Maximum Diversion Payment[1]	Form of Payment	How Often Can Recipient Receive Maximum Payment	Period of TANF Ineligibility Without Penalty after Payment	Payment Counts Toward the Time Limit
Alabama	No	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-
Alaska	Yes	2 Months	Vendor or Cash Payment	Once Every 12 Months	3 Months[2]	No
Arizona	Yes	3 Months	Cash Payment	Once Every 12 Months	3 Months[3]	No
Arkansas	Yes	3 Months	Cash Loan[4]	Once in a Lifetime	100 Days	No[4]
California[5]	Yes	Varies[6]	Cash Payment or Services[7]	As Often As Needed, Up to $4,000 (Annual) and $10,000 (Lifetime)	No Limit[8]	Varies[8]
Colorado[9]	Yes	$1,000[10]	Vendor or Cash Payment	Twice in a Lifetime	Determined by Caseworker and Client	No[11]
Connecticut	Yes	3 Months	Cash Payment	Three Times in a Lifetime, but No More Than Once Every 12 Months	3 Months	Yes
Delaware	Yes[12]	$1,500	Vendor Payment	Once Every 12 Months	Varies[13]	No
D.C.	Yes	3 Months	Vendor or Cash Payment	Once Every 12 Months	Diversion Payment Divided by the Maximum Monthly Benefit the Unit Could Receive	No
Florida	Yes[14]	Varies[14]	Cash Payment	Varies[14]	Varies[14]	Varies[14]
Georgia	No	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-
Hawaii	No	—-	—-	—-	—-	
Idaho	Yes	3 Months	Cash Payment	Once in a Lifetime	Twice the Number of Months Included in the Payment	Yes
Illinois	No	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-
Indiana	No	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-
Iowa	No[15]	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-
Kansas	No	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-
Kentucky	Yes	$1,500	Vendor or Cash Payment	Once Every 12 Months	12 Months	No
Louisiana	No	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-
Maine	Yes[16]	3 Months	Vendor Payment	Once in a Lifetime	No Limit[17]	No
Maryland	Yes	3 Months	Cash Payment	As Often As Needed	The Number of Months Included in the Payment	No
Massachusetts	No	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-
Michigan	No	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-
Minnesota	Yes[18]	4 Months	Vendor or Cash Payment	Once Every 12 Months	The Diversion Payment Divided by the Transitional Standard Times 30	No
Mississippi	No	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-
Missouri	No	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-
Montana	No	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-

Table I.A.1 Formal Diversion Payments, July 2001						
State	Diversion Program	Maximum Diversion Payment[1]	Form of Payment	How Often Can Recipient Receive Maximum Payment	Period of TANF Ineligibility Without Penalty after Payment	Payment Counts Toward the Time Limit
Nebraska	No	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-
Nevada	No	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-
New Hampshire	No	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-
New Jersey	Yes[19]	$1,550[20]	Cash Payment	Once Every 3 Years	No Limit[21]	No
New Mexico	Yes[22]	$1,500	Cash Payment	Twice in a Lifetime	12 Months[23]	No
New York	Yes[24]	Varies[25]	Vendor or Cash Payment[25]	Once in a Lifetime	*	*
North Carolina	Yes	3 Months	Cash Payment	Once Every 12 Months	No Limit	No
North Dakota	No	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-
Ohio[26]	Yes	$1,000	Cash Payment	Once Every 12 Months[27]	*	No
Oklahoma	Yes[28]	3 Months	Cash Payment	Once in a Lifetime	12 Months	No
Oregon	No	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-
Pennsylvania	No	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-
Rhode Island	No	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-
South Carolina	No	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-
South Dakota	Yes	2 Months	Vendor or Cash Payment	No Limit[29]	3 Months[3]	No
Tennessee	No	—-	—-	—-	—-	
Texas	Yes[30]	$1,000	Cash Payment	Once Every 12 Months	12 Months	No
Utah	Yes	3 Months	Cash Payment	No Limit	3 Months[3]	Yes
Vermont	No	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-
Virginia	Yes	4 Months	Vendor or Cash Payment	Once Every 60 Months	Diversion Payment Divided by the Daily Benefit the Unit Would Receive	No
Washington	Yes	$1,500	Cash Payment	Once Every 12 Months	12 Months[31]	No
West Virginia	Yes	4 Months	Cash Payment	Once in a Lifetime	4 Months	No[32]
Wisconsin	Yes[33]	$1,600	Cash Loan	No Limit[34]	No Limit	No
Wyoming	No	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-

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

* 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 they were receiving monthly TANF benefits (represented in the table by a number of months of benefits the family could potentially receive). Note that 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 states' maximum benefits.
[2] The entire payment is prorated over three months and counted as income if the unit applies for benefits within three months of receiving a payment.
[3] If the unit applies for benefits during the three-month ineligibility period, the unit must repay the diversion payment. The payment will be prorated over a three-month period and the amount of the repayment will be deducted from the unit's monthly assistance payment.
[4] 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; however, if all or a portion of the amount has not been repaid, the months will count.
[5] Counties have the option to vary their diversion programs. These policies refer to Los Angeles County.
[6] The standard maximum diversion cash payment amount is the greater of three months or $2,000; however, for cases of 'compelling need' the greater of six months or $4,000 is granted.
[7] Diversion services may be made in the form of cash, vendor, or noncash services. Diversion has been used to provide payments and services for child and dependent care, clothing, housing deposit, medical expenses, work supports pending receipt of employment income, tools or other items for employment, transportation or repairing an automobile, and utility bills.
[8] If the unit applies for monthly TANF benefits after the diversion period (diversion amount divided by monthly benefit) 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 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 60-month time limit is calculated by dividing the total diversion payment by the maximum aid payment (MAP) for the apparently

eligible AU at the time the diversion payment was made. The month(s) resulting from the calculation less any partial month, is (are) counted toward the 60-month time limit.

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

[10] If assistance greater than $1,000 is requested it must be approved by a designated staffing team. If an individual is seeking employment and training services through the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development, there will be no limit to the amount of money issued.

[11] If the payment is intended to cover greater than 120 days worth of need, the additional time counts towards the time limit.

[12] The state's diversion program is related to retaining or obtaining employment and is only for parents living with natural or adopted children.

[13] 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.

[14] 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 Relocation Assistance, up to the amount needed to relocate, or a one-time $1,000 payment of Cash Severance Diversion. 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 due 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 receives a TANF payment as well. 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.

[15] Iowa is conducting a demonstration project that provides diversion assistance to its clients.

[16] Diversion payments are only provided to caretaker relatives or parents who are employed or looking for work.

[17] 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.

[18] 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 due to refusing suitable employment without good cause; (3) the family is at risk of MFIP eligibility if DA is not provided; and (4) the family is not in a period of eligibility for Emergency Assistance.

[19] Applicants for WFNJ/TANF must participate in New Jersey's diversion program, Early Employment Initiative, if they: (1) have a work history that equals or exceeds four months of full-time employment in the last 12 months; (2) have at least one child; (3) appear to meet TANF eligibility requirements; (4) are not in immediate need; and (5) 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 WFNJ/TANF application is being 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.

[20] The amount of the diversion payment is relative to the number of persons in the unit. $1,550 is the maximum amount and is received by a unit of eight or more. The maximum diversion payment for a family of three is $750.

[21] 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 the 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.

[22] The diversion payment is only available to assist applicants in keeping a job or accepting a bona fide offer of employment.

[23] Units may apply for assistance during the 12-month period, but the benefits will be prorated to account for the diversion payment. Units receiving a diversion payment in another state may not receive a diversion payment or monthly benefits in New Mexico for 12 months or the length of the period of ineligibility in the other state, whichever is shorter.

[24] New York has three types of diversion payments available: 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).

[25] The type and amount of the payment is determined on a case-by-case basis and is dependent upon the needs of the applicant.

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

[27] The unit may receive up to the maximum amount over a 12-month period. The maximum is $400 for contingent need that threatens the unit's safety or health and $700 to prevent the unit from entering TANF or to help the unit retain employment. The combined total maximum cannot be over $1,000.

[28] Individuals must be employed or have a bona fide offer of employment to qualify for diversion assistance.

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

[30] To qualify for the state's diversion program, the assistance unit must meet one of the "Crisis Criteria": (1) the caretaker or second parent loss of employment in the process month, application month, or two months prior to application; (2) a single parent must have experienced a loss of financial support from a spouse within the last 12 months due to death, divorce, separation, or abandonment and have been employed within 12 months prior to the application or process month; (3) the caretaker or second parent has graduated from a university, college, junior college, or technical training school within 12 months prior to the application or process month and is underemployed or unemployed; or (4) the caretaker and/or second parent is employed but faces the loss or potential loss of transportation and/or shelter or faces a medical emergency temporarily preventing them from continuing to work.

[31] 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 five percent each month until the loan is repaid.

[32] For units that received diversion assistance before July 2000, three months are counted toward the lifetime limit.
[33] 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).[34] The caseworker may issue loans for between $25 and $1,600. In a 12-month period, a unit may not receive more than $1,600 in loans or have an outstanding loan balance of more than $1,600.

Table I.A.2 Mandatory Job Search at Application, July 2001

State	Job Search Required
Alabama	Yes
Alaska	No
Arizona	No
Arkansas	Yes[1]
California	No
Colorado	No
Connecticut	No
Delaware	No
D.C.	Yes
Florida	No
Georgia	Yes
Hawaii	No
Idaho	Yes
Illinois	No
Indiana	Yes
Iowa	No
Kansas	Yes
Kentucky	No
Louisiana	No
Maine	No
Maryland	Yes
Massachusetts	No
Michigan	No
Minnesota	No
Mississippi	No
Missouri	Yes[2]
Montana	No
Nebraska	No
Nevada	Yes
New Hampshire	No
New Jersey	Yes[3]
New Mexico	No
New York	No
North Carolina	Yes
North Dakota	Yes
Ohio	Yes
Oklahoma	No
Oregon	No[4]
Pennsylvania	No
Rhode Island	No
South Carolina	Yes
South Dakota	No
Tennessee	No
Texas	No
Utah	No
Vermont	Yes
Virginia	No
Washington	No
West Virginia	No
Wisconsin	Yes
Wyoming	No
Total States with Requirements:	**17**

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

Note: Many states requiring job search at application exempt certain individuals from that requirement. See the WRD for more information about these exemptions.

[1] If transportation and/or child care are not available at application, the job search requirement will be delayed until after the TEA application is approved and supportive services can be provided.
[2] Two-parent households that have been assessed as job-ready are required to participate in job search while their application is pending. If child care is necessary, one parent has the option to participate in a search to find child care.
[3] Job search is a mandatory part of the state's diversion program. Applicants will automatically be placed in the Early Employment Initiative (diversion) program if they (1) have a work history that equals or exceeds four months of full-time employment in the last 12 months, (2) have at least one child, (3) appear to meet TANF eligibility requirements, (4) are not in immediate need, and (5) do not meet criteria for a deferral from work requirements. Once in the program, participants will receive an activity payment and will be required to search for a job during the TANF application process. If they are not successful in securing employment, they will be eligible for TANF benefits.
[4] Job search is not an eligibility requirement but many applicants will be assigned to job search and a will receive labor market test (a labor market test consists of a structured and assisted job search designed to assess the applicant's employability).

Table I.B.1 Eligibility of Pregnant Women with No Other Children, July 2001

State	Eligible for Cash Benefits	Eligible in What Month of Pregnancy
Alabama	No	—
Alaska	Yes	7
Arizona	Yes	6
Arkansas	No	—
California	Yes	5 [1]
Colorado	Yes	6
Connecticut	Yes[2]	1
Delaware	Yes[3]	9 [4]
D.C.	Yes	6
Florida	Yes	9 [5]
Georgia	No	—
Hawaii	Yes	9
Idaho	Yes	7 [6]
Illinois	Yes[7]	1
Indiana	No	—
Iowa	No	—
Kansas	Yes[8]	1
Kentucky	No	—
Louisiana	Yes[9]	6
Maine	Yes	7
Maryland	Yes	1
Massachusetts	Yes	6
Michigan	Yes[10]	1
Minnesota	Yes [11]	1
Mississippi	No	—
Missouri	No	—
Montana	Yes	6
Nebraska	Yes[10]	6
Nevada	Yes	6
New Hampshire	No	—
New Jersey	No	—
New Mexico	Yes[12]	7
New York	Yes[13]	1
North Carolina	No	—-
North Dakota	Yes	6
Ohio	Yes	6
Oklahoma	No	—
Oregon	Yes	Month Before the Due Date[14]
Pennsylvania	Yes	From Month of Medical Verification
Rhode Island	Yes[10]	7
South Carolina	No	—
South Dakota	No	—
Tennessee	Yes	6
Texas	No	—
Utah	Yes	6
Vermont	Yes	9 [15]
Virginia	No	—
Washington	Yes	1
West Virginia	No	—
Wisconsin	No[16]	—
Wyoming	No	—-
Total States Providing Benefits:	**32**	—

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

[1] A pregnant teen who has not graduated from high school is eligible from the date the pregnancy is verified.
[2] A pregnant woman must meet the eligibility requirements as if her child were already born and living with her.
[3] A pregnant woman's financial eligibility in the month that her child is due is determined by comparing her gross income to 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. This is 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 is considered in determining the amount of the grant.
[4] A pregnant woman is eligible on the first day of the month in which her child is expected.
[5] 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.
[6] A pregnant woman is eligible only if she is in her last trimester and is unable to work due to medical reasons.
[7] A pregnant woman and her spouse, if living with her, are eligible for assistance.
[8] A pregnant woman, her unborn child, and the father of the unborn child are eligible for assistance.
[9] A pregnant woman is eligible for assistance only if the child would be eligible for assistance if born. The father of the unborn child or the spouse of the pregnant woman, if living with her, is also eligible.
[10] A pregnant woman and her unborn child are eligible for assistance.
[11] A pregnant woman and her spouse are eligible for assistance.
[12] The needs, income, and resources of the otherwise eligible father of the unborn child(ren) are considered in determining eligibility and payment if the father lives in the home.
[13] A pregnant woman and the father of the child are eligible for assistance.
[14] A pregnant woman who is at risk of or has a safety concern due to domestic violence may be eligible for benefits earlier.
[15] A pregnant woman may be eligible in the seventh month if she is documented as having a high-risk pregnancy.
[16] A pregnant woman is not eligible for benefits but can obtain employment training, job search assistance, and case management services. 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,[1] July 2001

State	Limit on Hours	Other Rules for Applicants	
		Work History[2]	Waiting Period
Alabama	No Limit	No	0
Alaska	No Limit	No	0
Arizona	No Limit	6 Out of 13 Quarters	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.	100	6 Out of 13 Quarters	30 Days
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	100	6 Out of 13 Quarters	30 Days
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 Out of 13 Quarters	30 Days
Maryland	No Limit	No	0
Massachusetts	No Limit	No	0
Michigan	No Limit	No	0
Minnesota	No Limit	No	0
Mississippi	100	6 Out 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	100	6 Out of 13 Quarters	30 Days
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 Out of 13 Quarters	30 Days
Oregon	No Limit	No	0
Pennsylvania	No Limit	6 Out of 13 Quarters	0
Rhode Island	No Limit	No	0
South Carolina	No Limit	No	0
South Dakota	100	Special Requirement[7]	0
Tennessee	100	6 Out 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,[1] July 2001

State	Limit on Hours	Other Rules for Applicants	
		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 DHHS/ACF.

Note: In some states, benefits are provided to two-parent units under a state-funded program instead of through federal TANF. This table includes 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. Traditionally, states imposed rules on two-parent families work effort. These rules include limits on hours of work, work history tests, and waiting periods.

[2] Applicants have to demonstrate previous attachment to the workforce; under AFDC, applicants were required to work at least six out 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: (1) the applicant received unemployment compensation (UC) benefits within 12 months of the date of application or (2) the applicant would have been eligible for UC benefits within 12 months of the date of application 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 prior to 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 per week, (2) receiving Unemployment Compensation, (3) unemployed or working less than 20 hours per week and has earned $500 within the six months prior to application, (4) receiving retirement benefits, 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-month period before the month of application.

[6] North Dakota 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 2001

State	Can Head Unit	Living Arrangement Restriction[1]
Alabama	Yes	Yes
Alaska	Yes	Yes
Arizona	Yes	Yes[2]
Arkansas	Yes	Yes
California	Yes	Yes[2]
Colorado	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	Yes	Yes
Delaware	No	Yes
D.C.	Yes	Yes
Florida	Yes	Yes
Georgia	Yes	Yes
Hawaii	Yes	No
Idaho	No	Yes[2]
Illinois	Yes	Yes
Indiana	Yes	Yes[3]
Iowa	Yes	Yes
Kansas	No	Yes
Kentucky	Yes	Yes
Louisiana	No[4]	Yes
Maine	Yes	Yes
Maryland	No	Yes
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes
Michigan	No	Yes
Minnesota	Yes	Yes
Mississippi	Yes	Yes
Missouri	Yes	Yes
Montana	No[5]	Yes[3]
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[2]
Ohio	*	Yes
Oklahoma	Yes	Yes
Oregon	Yes	Yes
Pennsylvania	Yes	Yes
Rhode Island	Yes	Yes[3]
South Carolina	Yes	Yes
South Dakota	Yes	Yes
Tennessee	Yes	Yes
Texas	Yes	Yes
Utah	Yes	Yes
Vermont	Yes	Yes
Virginia	Yes	Yes
Washington	Yes	Yes
West Virginia	No	Yes

Table I.B.3 Special Rules Imposed on Minor Parent Eligibility, July 2001

State	Can Head Unit	Living Arrangement Restriction[1]
Wisconsin	No	Yes
Wyoming	Yes	Yes
Total States Imposing Special Rules	41	49

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

* Data not obtained.
[1] This variable indicates whether the state requires minor parents 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] Minor parents having a marital status of married, separated, divorced, or widowed are not subject to the residency requirement.
[3] Minor parents under 18 years old are not subject to the requirement if they are married.
[4] Minor, unmarried parents can head a unit if they are not living with a parent, legal guardian, qualified relative, or in a maternity home.
[5] A minor parent can head his or her own unit if he or she has been emancipated by court action or marriage.
[6] To receive assistance, the minor parent must be at least 16 years of age.

Table I.B.4 Stepparent Eligibility, July 2001	
State	Inclusion in the Assistance Unit
Alabama	Mandatory
Alaska	Prohibited[1]
Arizona	Prohibited
Arkansas	Mandatory
California	Optional
Colorado	*
Connecticut	Prohibited
Delaware	Optional
D.C.	Prohibited
Florida	Prohibited
Georgia	Prohibited
Hawaii	Optional
Idaho	Prohibited
Illinois	Optional
Indiana	Optional
Iowa	Optional
Kansas	Mandatory
Kentucky	Prohibited
Louisiana	Mandatory
Maine	Optional
Maryland	Prohibited
Massachusetts	Prohibited
Michigan	Mandatory
Minnesota	Mandatory
Mississippi	Prohibited
Missouri	Optional
Montana	Mandatory
Nebraska	Mandatory
Nevada	Optional
New Hampshire	Mandatory
New Jersey	Optional[2]
New Mexico	Mandatory
New York	Optional
North Carolina	Mandatory
North Dakota	Prohibited
Ohio	Prohibited
Oklahoma	Optional
Oregon	Mandatory
Pennsylvania	Optional
Rhode Island	Mandatory
South Carolina	Mandatory
South Dakota	Mandatory[3]
Tennessee	Optional
Texas	Optional
Utah	Mandatory
Vermont	Mandatory

Table I.B.4 Stepparent Eligibility, July 2001

State	Inclusion in the Assistance Unit
Virginia	Optional
Washington	Mandatory
West Virginia	Mandatory
Wisconsin	Mandatory[4]
Wyoming	Prohibited

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

Note: The table only describes units in which the stepparent has no child in common with the spouse (head of unit) or any dependents of his or her own living in the unit and the spouse is living in the home.

* Data not obtained.

[1] The stepparent may be included in the assistance unit if the natural parent is living in the home but is excluded from the unit (for example, if the natural parent is a recipient of SSI).

[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 regarding deeming, see Table I.D.3.

[3] An Indian stepparent in Indian country 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] The stepparent is included in the W-2 group for income purposes but cannot be the mandatory work program participant.

Table I.B.5 States Using State Funds to Help Noncitizens who Entered after Enactment and are Ineligible for Federal TANF Assistance, July 2001

State	All Qualified Noncitizens[1]	All Lawful Permanent Residents (But Not ALL Qualified Noncitizens)[2]	Other (Subsets of Qualified and/or Nonqualified Noncitizens)[3]
Alabama	—	—	—
Alaska	—	—	X[4]
Arizona		—	X[5]
Arkansas	—	—	—
California	X	—	X[6]
Colorado	—	—	X[4]
Connecticut	X[7]	—	X[8]
Delaware	—	—	X[9]
D.C.	—	—	—
Florida	—	—	—
Georgia	X	—	—
Hawaii	X	—	X[4]
Idaho	—	—	—
Illinois	—	—	X[10]
Indiana	—	—	—
Iowa	—	—	—
Kansas	—	—	—
Kentucky	—	—	—
Louisiana	—	—	—
Maine	X	—	—
Maryland	X	—	—
Massachusetts	X[11]	—	X[12]
Michigan	—	—	—
Minnesota	—	—	X[13]
Mississippi	—	—	—
Missouri	X	—	X[14]
Montana	—	—	—
Nebraska	X	—	—
Nevada	—	—	—
New Hampshire	—	—	X[4]
New Jersey	—	—	—
New Mexico	X	—	—
New York	X	—	—
North Carolina	—	—	—
North Dakota	—	—	X[4]
Ohio	—	—	—
Oklahoma	—	—	—
Oregon	X	—	X[15]
Pennsylvania	X	—	—
Rhode Island	X	—	X[16]
South Carolina	—	—	—
South Dakota	—	—	—
Tennessee	X	—	X[14]
Texas	—	—	—
Utah	X	—	—
Vermont	X	—	X[17]
Virginia	—	—	—
Washington	X	—	X[4]
West Virginia	—	—	X[9]
Wisconsin	X	—	—
Wyoming	—	X	X[18]

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

Notes: This table refers only to noncitizens who entered the United States on or after August 22, 1996, who are ineligible for federally funded TANF assistance due to the five-year bar or nonqualified status. Policies concerning noncitizens who entered the United States before August 22, 1996, are not captured in this table. The WRD provides more information on this group.

[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] Some 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.
[4] Some American Indians born in Canada.
[5] Parolees admitted for at least one year.
[6] All non-qualified aliens who are not one of the following: (1) non-immigrant aliens lawfully admitted for a temporary purpose or temporary residence, or (2) undocumented aliens.
[7] Noncitizens must have resided in the state for at least six months before being considered eligible for benefits. The residency requirement does not apply to battered noncitizens, people with mental retardation, or noncitizen groups exempted by federal law.
[8] Noncitizens with mental retardation, some American Indians born in Canada, and individuals permanently residing in the United States under color of law (PRUCOL) as defined by the state.
[9] Some battered immigrants who meet the qualified alien definition.
[10] Some American Indians born in Canada and some battered immigrants who meet the qualified alien definition.
[11] To be eligible for benefits, these non-citizens must be engaged in efforts to become U.S. citizens and must have resided in Massachusetts for at least six months.
[12] Individuals permanently residing in the United States under color of law (PRUCOL) as defined by the state. To be eligible for benefits, these noncitizens must be engaged in efforts to become U.S. citizens and must have resided in Massachusetts for at least six months.
[13] Individuals with Temporary Protective Status, and some legal immigrants 18-70 years old who have been in the state for four years and are participating in literacy or citizenship classes.
[14] Individuals permanently residing in the United States under color of law (PRUCOL) as defined by the state.
[15] Some American Indians born in Canada, individuals permanently residing in the United States under color of law (PRUCOL) as defined by the state, and some battered immigrants who meet the qualified alien definition.
[16] Nonqualified, noncitizens who meet all other eligibility requirements, were lawfully residing in the U.S. before August 22, 1996, and were residing in the state prior to July 1, 1997.
[17] All nonqualified, noncitizens who are legally in the country are eligible for assistance.
[18] Parolees and some battered immigrants who meet the qualified alien definition.

Table I.B.6 State Practices Regarding Eligibility of Nonexempt, Post-PRWORA, Qualified Aliens after Five Years, July 2001[1]					
State	Lawful Permanent Residents[2]	Asylees/Refugees[3]	Deportees[4]	Parolees[5]	Battered Noncitizens[6]
Alabama	All	None	None	None	None
Alaska	All	All	All	All	Some
Arizona	All	All[7]	All[7]	All[7]	All
Arkansas	None	None	None	None	None
California	All	All	All	All	All
Colorado	All	All[7]	All[7]	All	Some
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	*
Hawaii[8]	All	All	All	All	All
Idaho	None	None	None	None	All
Illinois	All	All	All	All	Some
Indiana	None	All	All	None	None
Iowa	All	All	All	All	All
Kansas	All	None	None	All	None
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	All	All	Some[9]
Nebraska	All	All	All	All	All
Nevada	All	None	None	All	None
New Hampshire	All	All	All	All	All
New Jersey	All	All	All	All	All
New Mexico	All	All	All	All	All
New York	All	All	All	All	Some
North Carolina	All	All	All	All	Some
North Dakota	All	All	All	All	None
Ohio	All	All	All	All	All
Oklahoma	All	All	All	All	None
Oregon	All	All	All	All	All
Pennsylvania	All	All	All	All	All
Rhode Island	All	All	All	All	All
South Carolina	All	All	None	All	None
South Dakota	All	All	All	All	All
Tennessee	All	All	All	All	None
Texas	None	None	None	None	Some
Utah	All	All	All	All	Some
Vermont	All	All	All	All	All
Virginia	All	All	All	None	All
Washington	All	All	All	All	All
West Virginia	All	All	All	All	Some
Wisconsin	All	All	All	All	All
Wyoming	All	None	None	All	All

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

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

This table refers only to noncitizens who entered the United States on or after August 22, 1996. Policies concerning noncitizens who entered the United States before August 22, 1996, are not captured in this table. The WRD provides more information on this group.

* Data not obtained.
[1] This table only identifies the eligibility for federally funded TANF assistance of certain groups of qualified aliens after the expiration of the five-year bar. Also, the table does not provide information on the eligibility of other nonqualified aliens that 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 due 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 one 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] Aliens with this immigrant status are only potentially eligible for assistance during their first seven years in the country following entry.
[8] Beginning in February 1997 all immigrant units are funded through a state program with the same eligibility rules as the state's PONO/TANF program. No immigrant units are eligible for federal TANF funding, however.
[9] Battered aliens who are the spouse or minor unmarried dependent child of a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident and do not live with the family member who battered them are eligible.

Table I.C.1 Asset Limits for Applicants, July 2001

State	Asset Limit	
Alabama	$2,000/3,000[1]	All Vehicles Owned by Household
Alaska	$1,000	One Vehicle per Household[2]
Arizona	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household
Arkansas	$3,000	One Vehicle per Household
California	$2,000/3,000[1]	$4,650[E]
Colorado	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household
Connecticut	$3,000	$9,500[3E]
Delaware	$1,000	$4,650[E]
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[4E]
Hawaii	$5,000	One Vehicle per Household
Idaho	$2,000	$4,650 [5F]
Illinois	$2,000/3,000/+50[6]	One Vehicle per Household
Indiana	$1,000	$5,000[E]
Iowa	$2,000	$4,042[E] per Vehicle for Each Adult and Working Teenager
Kansas	$2,000	All Vehicles Owned by Household
Kentucky	$2,000 [7]	All Vehicles Owned by Household
Louisiana	$2,000	All Vehicles Owned by Household[8]
Maine	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household
Maryland	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household
Massachusetts	$2,500	$10,000[F]/$5,000[9E]
Michigan	$3,000	One Vehicle per Household[10]
Minnesota	$2,000	$7,500[E]
Mississippi	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household[11]
Missouri	$1,000	One Vehicle per Household[12]
Montana	$3,000	One Vehicle per Household[13]
Nebraska	$4,000/6,000[14]	One Vehicle per Household[15]
Nevada	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household
New Hampshire	$1,000	One Vehicle per Licensed Driver
New Jersey	$2,000	$9,500 [16F]
New Mexico	$3,500 [17]	One Vehicle per Household[18]
New York	$2,000/3,000[1]	$4,650[19F]
North Carolina	$3,000	One Vehicle per Licensed Driver
North Dakota	$3,000/6,000/+25[20]	One Vehicle per Household
Ohio	No Limit[21]	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	$4,650[23E]
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	$2,000/3,000[1]	$4,650[F] per Vehicle Owned by Household[13]
Utah	$2,000	$8,000 [26E]
Vermont	$1,000	One Vehicle per Licensed Driver

Table I.C.1 Asset Limits for Applicants, July 2001		
State	Asset Limit	Vehicle Exemption
Virginia		
VIEW	$1,000	$7,500 [27F/E]
All, except VIEW	$1,000	$1,500[E]
Washington	$1,000	$5,000 [26E]
West Virginia	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household
Wisconsin	$2,500	$10,000[E]
Wyoming	$2,500	$12,000 [28F]

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

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

[1] Units including an elderly person may exempt $3,000; all other units exempt $2,000.
[2] Vehicles used as a home, to produce self-employment income, to transport a disabled family member, or to participate in an approved work activity are also exempt.
[3] 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.
[4] If the vehicle is used to look for work, 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 will 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.
[5] The value of one specially equipped vehicle used to transport a disabled family member is also exempt.
[6] The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $2,000, two people receive $3,000, and three or more people receive another $50 for every additional person.
[7] Only liquid resources will be considered for eligibility determinations. Liquid resources include: cash, checking and savings accounts, CDs, stocks and bonds, and money market accounts.
[8] Recreational vehicles are not exempt.
[9] 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 towards the asset limit; however, if the value of the vehicle exceeds both limits, only the excess of the greater amount counts toward the asset limit.
[10] The value of any additional vehicle necessary for employment is also exempt.
[11] $4,650 of the fair market value of the unit’s second vehicle is exempt.
[12] $1,500 of the equity value of the unit’s second vehicle is exempt.
[13] All income-producing vehicles are also exempt.
[14] The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $4,000, two or more people receive $6,000.
[15] The entire vehicle is exempt only if used for employment, training, or medical transportation; any motor vehicle used as a home is also exempt.
[16] Units with two adults may exempt up to $4,650 of the fair market value of a second vehicle if it is essential for work, training, or transportation of a handicapped individual.
[17] The total limit is $3,500; however, 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 a second vehicle, equipment, tools, livestock (with the exception of nonsalable domestic pets), one-time sale asset conversion, and lump sum payments.
[18] When public transportation is available, the value of one vehicle is exempt. When public transportation is not available, the value of one vehicle per participant involved in work activity is exempt.
[19] If the vehicle is needed to seek or retain employment, the exemption is $9,300.
[20] 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.
[21] Ohio has eliminated the asset test.
[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] A unit may exempt $4,650 of the equity value of a vehicle, or an entire vehicle of a special type and/or specially equipped to provide necessary transportation of a disable family member, regardless of the equity value.
[24] Vehicles owned by or used to transport disabled individuals, essential to self-employment, income-producing vehicles, and vehicles used as a home 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, a vehicle used to transport a disabled member or SSI recipient in household, 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.
[26] The entire equity value of a vehicle used to transport a disabled household member is also exempt.
[27] If the fair market value of the vehicle is greater than $7,500, the equity value greater than $1,500 is counted in the resource limit.
[28] The $12,000 exemption applies to one vehicle for a single-parent unit and to two vehicles for a married couple.

Table I.D.1 Treatment of Child Support Income, July 2001

State	Amount of Pass-Through[1]	Treated as Unearned Income[2]	
		Amount Transferred	Amount Disregarded
Alabama	—	$50	0
Alaska	$50	Amount in Excess of Benefit[3]	0
Arizona	—	—	—
Arkansas	—	Amount in Excess of Benefit[4]	0/All[4]
California	$50	Amount in Excess of Benefit[5]	0
Colorado	—	—	—
Connecticut	—	All	$100
Delaware	—	$50 Plus Child Support Supplement [6]	$50 [6]
D.C.	—	Amount in Excess of Benefit[7]	All[7]
Florida	—	Amount in Excess of Benefit[8]	0 [8]
Georgia	—	Amount of Unmet Need[9]	All[9]
Hawaii	—	—	—
Idaho	—	Amount in Excess of Benefit[10]	All
Illinois	$50	Amount in Excess of Benefit[3]	0.667 [11]
Indiana	—	—	—
Iowa	—	Amount in Excess of Benefit[12]	0
Kansas	—	—	—
Kentucky	—	Amount in Excess of Benefit[13]	$50/All[13]
Louisiana	—	—	—
Maine	$50	Amount of Unmet Need[14]	All/0[15]
Maryland	—	—	—
Massachusetts	$50	— [16]	— [17]
Michigan	$50	—	—
Minnesota	—	All	0
Mississippi	—	Amount in Excess of Benefit[18]	0
Missouri	—	—	—
Montana	—	—	—
Nebraska	—	Amount in Excess of Benefit[10]	0
Nevada	$75	Amount in Excess of Benefit[10]	0
New Hampshire	—	—	—
New Jersey	$50	—	—
New Mexico	$50	—	—
New York	$50	Amount in Excess of Benefit[3]	0
North Carolina	—	—	—
North Dakota	—	—	—
Ohio	—	—	—
Oklahoma	—	—	—
Oregon	—	—	—
Pennsylvania	$50	—	—
Rhode Island	$50	Amount in Excess of Benefit[3]	—
South Carolina	—	Gap Payment [19]	All
South Dakota	—	—	—
Tennessee	—	Amount of Unmet Need[9]	All[9]
Texas	—	Up to $50[20]	$50
Utah	—	—	—
Vermont	—	All	$50
Virginia	$50	—	—
Washington	—	—	—

Table I.D.1 Treatment of Child Support Income, July 2001

State	Amount of Pass-Through[1]	Treated as Unearned Income[2]	
		Amount Transferred	Amount Disregarded
West Virginia	$50 [21]	—-	—-
Wisconsin	All	—-	—-
Wyoming	—-	—-	—-

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

[1] Under a pass-through, the TANF benefit is computed without counting any child support as income; then, a portion of the collected child support income is added to the benefit. This column identifies what portion of the collected amount is passed through to the family.
[2] States that do not have pass-throughs may still give the family some or all of the child support collected by treating it as unearned income for eligibility and benefit computation purposes. Some states that transfer the child support to the family as unearned income also disregard a portion of the amount transferred, so the entire amount does not count against the family's eligibility. These columns identify how much child support is transferred to the family as unearned income and what portion of that amount is disregarded for eligibility and benefit computation purposes.
[3] Any child support collected in excess of the monthly benefit amount plus the $50 disregard is returned to the unit.
[4] Any child support collected in excess of the monthly benefit amount is returned to the unit. None of this support is disregarded for eligibility, but all of it is disregarded for benefit computation purposes.
[5] In addition, any child support collected on behalf of a child subject to the family cap is treated as exempt income.
[6] 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.
[7] Any child support collected in excess of the monthly benefit amount is returned to the family and is disregarded for eligibility and benefit determination. If child support in excess of the monthly benefit is transferred for more than two consecutive months, the TANF case is closed.
[8] Child support in excess of the monthly court-ordered obligation plus the monthly TANF payment is transferred to the recipient if the total amount of unreimbursed state support is $0. Any excess payment is treated as an asset in the month of receipt.
[9] The amount of child support collected or the amount of unmet need (also known as the gap payment), whichever is smaller, is transferred to the family as unearned income and disregarded for purposes of eligibility and benefit determination. The unmet need or gap is calculated by subtracting the maximum benefit a unit is able to receive from its Standard of Need; the unit's net income is then subtracted from this amount. The amount left is the amount of unmet need for that unit.
[10] Any child support collected in excess of the monthly benefit amount is returned to the family.
[11] Two-thirds of the amount transferred is disregarded for eligibility and benefit computation purposes if the unit head is working. If the head is not working, none of the benefit is disregarded.
[12] Any child support collected in excess of the total lifetime benefits paid is returned to the family.
[13] The state transfers no child support to recipients unless an amount of child support in excess of the monthly benefit is collected (which is uncommon). All but the first $50 of collected support is counted for on-going eligibility determination. If the recipient passes on-going eligibility, all child support is disregarded for benefit computation.
[14] In addition to the pass-through, the amount of unmet need (also known as the gap payment) is also transferred. The unmet need or gap is calculated by subtracting the unit's Maximum Benefit (the maximum benefit a unit is able to receive) from its Standard of Need; the unit's net income is then subtracted from this amount. The amount left is the amount of unmet need for that unit. After the pass-through, the state will transfer child support in the amount of unmet need for the family. Additionally, any child support collected in excess of the monthly benefit amount (meaning the monthly benefit plus the pass-through and the gap payment) is returned to the family.
[15] All transferred support (e.g., gap payment and amount in excess of the monthly benefit) is counted for purposes of eligibility but disregarded for benefit computation.
[16] All child support collected on behalf of a child subject to the family cap is transferred to the family.
[17] For children subject to a family cap, the first $90 of unearned income, including child support, is disregarded for purposes of eligibility and benefit computation; the rest is counted.
[18] Any child support collected in excess of the monthly benefit amount, including cash assistance and transportation payments, is returned to the unit.
[19] The gap payment is calculated by multiplying the current month's child support collection by (1 minus the unit's ratable reduction), or [child support*(1 - .363)].
[20] The state will add to the TANF payment the least of (1) the court-ordered payment amount, (2) the amount the Office of the Attorney General received during that month, or (3) $50. This additional money is considered an addition to the TANF benefit, not a pass-through of child support income. This money will be disregarded for eligibility purposes.
[21] All child support payments (including the $50 pass-through) are considered income when testing the unit's gross income against 100 percent of need during application.

Table I.D.2 Treatment of Grandparent Income,[1] July 2001			
State	Deeming	Earned Income Disregard	Other Income Disregard
Alabama	Yes	20%	100% of Countable Income Divided by the Number of Persons in the Household (Inside and Outside of the Unit That the Grandparent Is Responsible for) Times the Family Size[2]
Alaska	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for Family Size
Arizona	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for the Family Size
Arkansas	No	—-	—
California	Yes	$90 [3]	100% of Minimum Basic Standard of Adequate Care for the Family Size
Colorado	Yes	*	*
Connecticut	Yes	—	100% of the Federal Poverty Level for the Family Size
Delaware	Yes[4]	—	100% of the Federal Poverty Level for the Family Size[5]
D.C.	Yes	$90	100% of Standard of Assistance for the Family Size
Florida	Yes	$90	100% of Federal Poverty Level
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 Unit)
Illinois	Yes	$90	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 50% of the Remaining Earnings
Kansas	No[+]	—-	(Grandparent Is Always Included in Unit)
Kentucky	Yes	$90	100% of Standard of Need for the Family Size
Louisiana	No[+]	—-	(Grandparent Is Always Included in Unit)
Maine	Yes	$108, 50%	100% of Gross Income Test for the Family Size
Maryland	No[+]	—-	(Grandparent Is Always Included in Unit)
Massachusetts	Yes	—-	200% of the Federal Poverty Level for the Family Size
Michigan	No[+]	—-	(Grandparent Is Always Included in Unit)
Minnesota	Yes	18%	200% of the 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 the Federal Poverty Level for Dependent Children and 100% of Need Standard for the Family Size
Montana	No[+]	—-	(Grandparent Is Always Included in Unit)
Nebraska	Yes	—-	300% of the 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[6]	50%	—-
New Mexico	Yes	—-	130% of the 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 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	100% of Need Standard for the Family Size
Oregon	Yes	$90	100% of Adjustable Income/Payment Standard for the Family Size
Pennsylvania	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard 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

Table I.D.2 Treatment of Grandparent Income,[1] July 2001

State	Deeming	Earned Income Disregard	Other Income Disregard
Tennessee	Yes	$150	100% of Consolidated Need Standard for the Grandparent and All In-House Dependents
Texas	Yes	$120	100% of Budgetary Needs Standard for the Family Size
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 Unit)
Wisconsin	No[+]	—-	(Grandparent Is Always Included in Unit)
Wyoming	Yes	$200	100% of Maximum Benefit for the Family Size

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

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.

* Data not obtained.
[+] There is no deeming because the grandparent must be included in the unit in order for the minor to receive benefits. Therefore, all of the grandparent's income is included for eligibility purposes.
[1] The term "grandparent" in this table refers to the parent of a minor parent. This table describes whether a portion of the grandparent's (a parent of a minor parent'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. It 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 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 child'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 $225 and 50 percent of the remainder.
[4] Children born after December 31, 1998 to minors are not eligible for cash assistance. The minor may still be eligible for assistance as part of her parent's assistance unit. In these cases, there is no deeming. For minors with children born before December 31, 1998, their parents must apply on behalf of the minor parent and the minor parent's child. If the grandparent does not want to be included in the unit, the state does not include the grandparent's needs for eligibility or benefit computation; however, a deemed portion of their income (as specified above) is counted for eligibility and benefit computation. The grandparent must also act as the head of the unit and receive the payments for his or her child and grandchild.
[5] Recipient units may disregard 200 percent of the federal poverty level for the grandparents and dependents outside the unit.
[6] Income is deemed to minor parent units even if they are not living in the home with the grandparent. The rules for deeming are the same.

Table I.D.3 Treatment of Stepparent Income, July 2001

State	Deeming	Earned Income Disregard	Other Income Disregards
Alabama	No+	—-	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
Alaska	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for Family Size
Arizona	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for Family Size[1]
Arkansas	No+	—-	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
California	Yes	—-[2]	—-[2]
Colorado	Yes	66.7%	100% of Need Standard for Family Size
Connecticut	Yes	—-	100% of Federal Poverty Level
Delaware	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for Family Size
D.C.	No	—-	—-
Florida	Yes	$90	100% of Federal Poverty Level
Georgia	Yes	$90	100% of Standard of Need for Family Size
Hawaii	Yes	20%	100% of Standard of Need for Family Size
Idaho	Yes	—	50% of Stepparent's Earned and Unearned income
Illinois	Yes	$90	300% of Payment Standard for Family Size
Indiana	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for Family Size
Iowa	Yes	20%	100% of Need Standard for Family Size and 50% of Remaining Earnings[3]
Kansas	No+	—-	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
Kentucky	Yes	$90	100% of Standard of Need for Family Size
Louisiana	No+	—-	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
Maine	Yes	$108, 50%	100% of Gross Income Test for Family Size
Maryland	Yes[4]	20%	100% of Allowable Payment for Family Size[5]
Massachusetts	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard and Payment Standard for Family Size
Michigan	No+	—-	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
Minnesota	No+	—-	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
Mississippi	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard and Payment Standard for Family Size
Missouri	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for Family Size
Montana	No+	—-	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
Nebraska	No+	—-	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
Nevada	Yes	Greater of $90 or 20%	100% of Need Standard for Family Size
New Hampshire	No+	—-	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
New Jersey	Yes[6]	50%	100% of Maximum Benefit Payment Schedule for the Stepparent
New Mexico	No+	—-	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
New York	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for Family Size
North Carolina	No+	—-	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
North Dakota	Yes	Greater of $180 or 27%[7]	100% of Standard of Need for Family Size
Ohio	Yes	$90	100% of Allocation Allowance Standard for Family Size
Oklahoma	Yes	$120	100% of Need Standard for Family Size
Oregon	No+	—-	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
Pennsylvania	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for Family Size
Rhode Island	No+	—-	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
South Carolina	No+	—-	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
South Dakota	No+[8]	—-	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
Tennessee	Yes	$150	100% of Consolidated Need Standard for Family Size
Texas	Yes	$120	100% of Budgetary Needs Standard for Family Size
Utah	No+	—-	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
Vermont	No+	—-	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
Virginia	Yes	$90	100% of Standard of Need for Family Size[9]

Table I.D.3 Treatment of Stepparent Income, July 2001

State	Deeming	Earned Income Disregard	Other Income Disregards
Washington	No[+]	—	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
West Virginia	No[+]	—	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
Wisconsin	No[+]	—	(Stepparent 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 DHHS/ACF.

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.

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, all the stepparent's income is included for eligibility purposes.
[1] The stepparent's income is deemed only to the stepchild(ren) in the unit.
[2] Inclusion of the stepparent in the unit is optional. If the stepparent is included in the unit, then his or her countable income and his or her needs are counted for eligibility and benefit computation purposes. If the stepparent is not included in the unit, all of his or her countable income is still counted; however, his or her needs are not included for eligibility purposes or for benefit computation.
[3] Deduct all child support payments and payments made to dependents outside the household before applying the 50 percent disregard.
[4] 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 of the stepparent's income minus deductions is deemed to the unit.
[5] 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 per month) before applying this disregard.
[6] 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 Line, the assistance unit is eligible for benefits. (2) For determining benefits, all the income of the stepparent is excluded. However, the natural parent's earned income is reduced by the 50 percent 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.
[7] For the first six months of a new marriage, all stepparent income is disregarded, provided the parent was previously receiving benefits.
[8] An Indian stepparent in Indian country 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.
[9] The stepparent's income is deemed only to the spouse.

Table I.E.1 Income Eligibility Tests for Applicants, July 2001

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
	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	185% of Need Standard
	Net Income	100% of Need Standard
Connecticut		
Time-Limited Units	Net Income	100% of Need Standard
	Unearned Income	100% of Payment Standard
Time-Limited Exempt	Net Income	100% of Need Standard
Delaware	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard
	Net Income	100% of Maximum Benefit
D.C.	Net Income	100% 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 Need
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 Benefit Standard
Nebraska	No Explicit Tests	—
Nevada	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard
	Net Income	100% of Need Standard
New Hampshire	Net Income	100% of Payment Standard
New Jersey	Gross Income	150% of Maximum Benefit Payment Schedule
New Mexico	Gross Income	85% of Federal Poverty Level
	Net Income	100% of Need Standard

Table I.E.1 Income Eligibility Tests for Applicants, July 2001

State	Type of Test	Income Must be Less Than
New York	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard and 100% of 1996 Federal Poverty Level
	Net Income	100% of Need Standard
North Carolina	No Explicit Tests	—-
North Dakota	No Explicit Tests	—-
Ohio	Net Income	100% of Allocation Allowance Standard
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	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard
	Net Income	100% of Need Standard
Rhode Island	No Explicit Tests	—-
South Carolina	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard
	Net Income	100% of Need Standard
South Dakota	No Explicit Tests	—-
Tennessee	Gross Income	185% of Consolidated Need Standard
Texas	Net Income	100% of Budgetary Needs Standard[1]
	Net Income	100% of Recognizable Needs[2]
Utah	Gross Income	185% of Adjusted Standard Needs Budget
	Net Income	100% of Adjusted Standard Needs Budget
Vermont	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard
	Net Income	100% of Need Standard
Virginia		
VIEW[3]	Gross Earnings	100% of Federal Poverty Level
	Unearned Income	100% of Standard of Need
All, except VIEW	Gross Income	185% of Standard of Need
	Net Income	90% of Standard of Need
Washington	Gross Earnings	100% of Maximum 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 DHHS/ACF.

Note: "No Explicit Test" indicates that the state either imposes no income tests on applicants or does impose 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 I.E.3 for information on the value of the standards for a family of three.

[1] Apply only the $120 disregard for this test.
[2] Apply both the $120 disregard and the 33.3 percent disregard for this test.
[3] Two-parent units' gross earned income must be below 150 percent of the federal poverty level and their unearned income must be below 100 percent of Standard of Need.

Table I.E.2 Earned Income Disregards for Income Eligibility Purposes, July 2001

State	Earned Income Disregard
Alabama	20%
Alaska	$90 [1]
Arizona	
All, except JOBSTART	$90, 30% of Remainder
JOBSTART	100% of Subsidized Wages
Arkansas	20%[2]
California	$90
Colorado	$90
Connecticut	$90
Delaware	$90
D.C.	$160
Florida	$90 [3]
Georgia	$90
Hawaii	20%, $200, and 36% of Remainder
Idaho	No Explicit Net Income Test
Illinois	$90
Indiana	$90 [4]
Iowa	20%
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%
Mississippi	$90 [5]
Missouri	$90
Montana	No Explicit Net Income Test
Nebraska	No Explicit Net Income Test
Nevada	$90 or 20%, Whichever Is Greater
New Hampshire	20%
New Jersey	No Explicit Net Income Test
New Mexico	All Earnings in Excess of 34 Hours per Week, $125 and 50% of Remainder[6]
New York	$90
North Carolina	No Explicit Net Income Test
North Dakota	No Explicit Net Income Test
Ohio	No Disregards Allowed
Oklahoma	$120
Oregon	No Explicit Net Income Test
Pennsylvania	$90
Rhode Island	No Explicit Net Income Test
South Carolina	No Disregards Allowed
South Dakota	No Explicit Net Income Test
Tennessee	No Explicit Net Income Test
Texas	$120 and 33.3% of Remainder[7]
Utah	$100 [8]
Vermont	$90

Table I.E.2 Earned Income Disregards for Income Eligibility Purposes, July 2001	
State	Earned Income Disregard
Virginia	
VIEW	No Explicit Net Income Test
All, except VIEW	$90
Washington	No Explicit Net Income Test
West Virginia	No Explicit Net Income Test
Wisconsin	No Net Income Test
Wyoming	No Explicit Net Income Test

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

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 the state either imposes no net income test at application or does impose 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.

"No Disregards Allowed" indicates that the state does have a test for initial eligibility but does not allow units to disregard any income.

The table describes the disregards used for both applicant and recipient eligibility purposes; however, if different policies are applied to applicants and recipients, the policies in the table apply to applicants and the recipients' policies are footnoted.

[1] 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, 10 percent of remainder in months 49-60, and $150 thereafter. Recipients include any units that have received assistance in one of the previous four months.
[2] Recipients may disregard 20 percent and 60 percent of remainder.
[3] Applicant units receiving assistance in one of the last four months may disregard $200 and 50 percent.
[4] Recipients may disregard $120 and 33.3 percent of remainder for the first four months, $120 the next eight months, and $90 thereafter.
[5] Two-parent units may disregard $120 and 33.3 percent.
[6] 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 and $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 only applies to recipients for the first 24 months of benefit receipt, for both single- and two-parent units.
[7] Recipients may disregard $120 and 90 percent of remainder (up to $1,400) for four of twelve 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.
[8] Recipients may disregard $100 and 50 percent of remainder. However, to be eligible for the 50 percent disregard the unit must have received benefits in at least one of the previous four months.

Table I.E.3 Eligibility Standards, July 2001

State	State Name	Amount for Family of Three
Alabama	Payment Standard	$164
Alaska	Need Standard	$1,156
Arizona	Need Standard	$964
Arkansas	Income Eligibility Standard	$223
California	Minimum Basic Standard of Adequate Care	$816
Colorado	Need Standard	$421
Connecticut	Federal Poverty Level	$1,219
	Need Standard	$745
	Payment Standard	$543
Delaware	Need Standard	$885
	Maximum Benefit	$338
	Federal Poverty Level	$1,219
D.C.	Standard of Assistance	$712
	Payment Level	$379
Florida	Federal Poverty Level	$1,220
	Payment Standard	$303
Georgia	Standard of Need	$424
Hawaii	Standard of Need	$1,140
Idaho	—-	—-
Illinois	Payment Standard	$377
Indiana	Federal Poverty Level	$1,219
	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	$439
Massachusetts		
Exempt	Need Standard and Payment Standard	$633
	Federal Poverty Level	$1,219
Nonexempt	Need Standard and Payment Standard	$618
	Federal Poverty Level	$1,219
Michigan	—-	—-
Minnesota	Transitional Standard	$813
	Federal Poverty Level	$1,219
Mississippi	Need Standard and Payment Standard	$368
Missouri	Need Standard	$846
	Federal Poverty Level	$1,219
Montana	Benefit Standard	$494
Nebraska	Federal Poverty Level	$1,219
Nevada	Need Standard	$878
New Hampshire	Standard of Need	$2,307
	Payment Standard	$600
New Jersey	Maximum Benefit Payment Schedule	$424
New Mexico	Need Standard	$389
	Federal Poverty Level	$1,219
New York	Need Standard	$577
	1996 Federal Poverty Level	$1,082

Table I.E.3 Eligibility Standards, July 2001		
State	State Name	Amount for Family of Three
North Carolina	—-	—-
North Dakota	Standard of Need	$477
Ohio	Allocation Allowance Standard	$980
Oklahoma	Need Standard	$645
Oregon		
All, except JOBS Plus	Countable Income Limit	$616
	Adjusted Income/Payment Standard	$460
JOBS Plus	Food Stamp Countable Income Limit	$1,533
Pennsylvania	Need Standard	$587
Rhode Island	Cash Assistance Monthly Standard	$554
South Carolina	Need Standard	$578
South Dakota	Payment Standard	$430
Tennessee	Consolidated Need Standard	$830
Texas	Budgetary Needs Standard	$751
	Recognizable Needs	$188
Utah	Adjusted Standard Needs Budget	$568
Vermont	Need Standard	$1,211
Virginia	Federal Poverty Level	$1,219
	Standard of Need	$322
Washington	Maximum Earned Income Limit	$1,092
	Need Standard	$1,247
West Virginia	Standard of Need	$991
Wisconsin	Federal Poverty Level	$1,219
Wyoming	Maximum Benefit	$340

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

Notes: The amounts 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, 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,[1] July 2001

State	Maximum Earnings an Applicant Can Receive and Still Be Eligible for Assistance
Alabama	$205
Alaska	$1,246
Arizona	$586
Arkansas	$279
California	$906
Colorado	$511
Connecticut	$835
Delaware	$428
D.C.	$539
Florida	$393
Georgia	$514
Hawaii	$1,641 [2]
Idaho	$637
Illinois	$467
Indiana	$378
Iowa	$1,061
Kansas	$519
Kentucky	$909
Louisiana	$360
Maine	$1,023
Maryland	$549
Massachusetts	
Exempt	$723
Nonexempt	$708
Michigan	$774
Minnesota	$991
Mississippi	$458
Missouri	$558
Montana	$859
Nebraska	$693
Nevada	$1,098
New Hampshire	$750
New Jersey	$636
New Mexico	$1,036 [3]
New York	$667
North Carolina	$750
North Dakota	$1,252
Ohio	$980
Oklahoma	$704
Oregon	$616
Pennsylvania	$677
Rhode Island	$1,278
South Carolina	$578
South Dakota	$626
Tennessee	$979
Texas	$401
Utah	$573
Vermont	$988
Virginia	
VIEW	$1,219
All, except VIEW	$380
Washington	$1,090
West Virginia	$991

Table I.E.4 Maximum Income for Initial Eligibility for a Family of Three,[1] July 2001

State	Maximum Earnings an Applicant Can Receive and Still Be Eligible for Assistance
Wisconsin	—[4]
Wyoming	$540

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

Notes: 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.

All amounts are rounded up to the nearest dollar.

[1] The amounts 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. The amounts have been rounded to the nearest dollar, therefore, in some cases the family may be able to earn slightly less than the amount in the table and in other cases it may be able to earn slightly more. Note that most states only distribute a cash benefit if it is over $10.
[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] For purposes of the state's earned income disregard, the adult head is assumed to be working 40 hours a week.
[4] Units with full-time employment (generally greater than 30 hours a week) will not receive a cash benefit in the state. 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 on a case-by-case basis. Recipients may earn up to $1,356 and still be eligible for nonfinancial assistance, however.

Benefits

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 2001.

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, there are general rules that most states apply. All but three 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.[15] 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 have, however, 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 purposes of benefit computation. If a

[15] Three states—Arkansas, Indiana, 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 that the unit receives a set amount every month no matter what their countable income is (as long as the income does not exceed the state's income eligibility thresholds).

state does not apply any earned income disregards to compute net income for benefit computation (so all a family's earnings are included as income for benefit computation purposes), "No Disregards Allowed" appears in the table.

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 types of 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: Note that 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 purposes in years 1996 through 2001.

<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 the income standards 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 compute 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 I.D.3 include policies on treatment of unearned income (child support income and amounts deemed from *grandparent units and stepparent units). 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 the years 1996 through 2001.*

<u>Benefit standards:</u> As described earlier, most benefit computation procedures involve the use of 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 only.

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, due 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 types of 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 types of "special needs," such as a pregnancy; the amounts in the table assume no special needs. Also, a few states vary standards for one-parent versus two-parent families; 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.

Related tables: Note that these standards, by themselves, are not necessarily comparable across states, since the benefit computation procedures might be quite different. To determine how the standards are used in practice, see Table II.A.2. Also, Table II.A.4 provides the benefit paid to a three-person unit with no other income, and Table L5 provides that information for the years 1996 through 2001.

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. And in still other cases, it will be a percentage of the payment standard.

The calculation assumes that the assistance unit includes one parent and two children, contains no "capped" children, 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 the years 1996 through 2001.

Table II.A.1 Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, July 2001

State	Earned Income Disregards
Alabama	100% first 3 consecutive months, 20% thereafter
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, 10% of remainder in months 49-60, $150 thereafter[1]
Arizona	$90 and 30% of remainder
Arkansas	No disregards- flat grant amount
California	$225 dollars and 50% of remainder
Colorado	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 in next 8 months, $90 thereafter
Connecticut	100% of 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 36% of remainder
Idaho	40%
Illinois	66.7%
Indiana	No disregards- flat grant amount
Iowa	20% and 50% of remainder
Kansas	$90 and 40% of remainder
Kentucky	100% in first two months,[2] $120 and 33.3% of remainder in next 4 months, $120 in next 8 months, $90 thereafter
Louisiana	$1,020 for 6 months, $120 thereafter
Maine	$108 and 50% of remainder
Maryland	35%
Massachusetts	
Exempt	$120 and 33.3% of remainder
Nonexempt	$120 and 50% of remainder
Michigan	$200 and 20% of remainder
Minnesota	38%
Mississippi	100% in first 6 months, $90 thereafter[3]
Missouri	66.7% and $90 of remainder in first 12 months, $90 thereafter[4]
Montana	$200 and 25% of remainder
Nebraska	20%
Nevada	100% in first 3 months, 50% in months 4-12, $90 or 20%(whichever is greater) thereafter
New Hampshire	50%
New Jersey	100% in first month, 50% thereafter[5]
New Mexico	All earnings in excess of 34 hours per week, $125 and 50% of remainder in first 24 months, $125 and 50% of remainder thereafter[6]
New York	$90 and 47% of remainder
North Carolina	100% for first 3 months of employment,[7] 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, and $180 or 27% (whichever is greater) thereafter[8]
Ohio	$250 and 50% of remainder
Oklahoma	$120 and 50% of remainder
Oregon	50%
Pennsylvania	50%
Rhode Island	$170 and 50% of remainder
South Carolina	50% in first 4 months, $100 thereafter
South Dakota	$90 and 20% of remainder

Table II.A.1 Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, July 2001

State	Earned Income Disregards
Tennessee	$150
Texas	$120 and 90% of remainder (up to $1,400) for 4 out of 12 months, $120 thereafter[9]
Utah	$100 and 50% of remainder[10]
Vermont	$150 and 25% of remainder
Virginia	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 in next 8 months, $90 thereafter
Washington	50%
West Virginia	60%
Wisconsin	No disregards- flat grant amount
Wyoming	$200 [11]

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

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 family cap, 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 first-month benefit, they are footnoted.

When no duration is specified for the disregards, they remain for the entire period of receipt.

[1] This disregard is also applied to applicants that have received assistance in one of the previous four months.
[2] Recipients are eligible for the one-time 100 percent disregard if they become newly employed or report increased wages acquired after approval.
[3] Recipients are eligible for the one-time 100 percent disregard if they find employment of 35 hours a week within the first 30 days following 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 due to increased earnings and the individual is employed for at least 25 hours per 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 that 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. 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.
[4] These disregards only apply to recipients that 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 remainder for the first four months, $120 the next eight months, and $90 thereafter.
[5] The 100 percent disregard is only applicable once every 12 months, even if employment is lost and then regained. Also, applicants are not eligible for the 100 percent disregard in the first month of benefit computation; they may disregard 50 percent of earnings only.
[6] 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 and $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 only applies to recipients for the first 24 months of benefit receipt, for both single- and two-parent units.
[7] The 100 percent disregard is only available once in a lifetime and may be received only if the recipient is newly employed at a job that is expected to be permanent for more than 20 hours a week.
[8] If a household member receives the 50 percent disregard for four consecutive months, the remaining months of the 12 month disregard cycle continue regardless of employment status. If a household member receives the 50 percent disregard for less than four months, the 12 month cycle begins again at 50 percent upon re-employment. If a household member receives the 50 percent disregard and voluntarily terminates employment without good cause, the remaining months of the 12 month cycle continue as if the individual were employed.
[9] The four months need not be consecutive. Once the recipient has received four months of the 90 percent disregard, he or she is ineligible 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.
[10] To be eligible for the 50 percent disregards, the recipient must have received benefits in at least one of the previous four months.
[11] Married couples with a child in common may disregard $400.

Table II.A.2 Benefit Determination Policies, July 2001

State	Benefit Equals:
Alabama	Payment Standard minus net income
Alaska	Need Standard minus net income times 80.15% or Maximum Benefit[1]
Arizona	
All, except JOBSTART	Payment Benefit minus net income
JOBSTART	The cash value of the unit's food stamp 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
Colorado	Need Standard minus net income times 84.75%
Connecticut	
Time-Limited Units	Payment Standard minus net income
Time-Limited Exempt	Need Standard minus net income times 73%
Delaware	Smaller of Need Standard minus net income times 50% or Maximum Benefit
D.C.	Payment Level minus net income
Florida	Payment Standard minus net income
Georgia	Smaller of Standard of Need minus net income or Family Maximum
Hawaii	Standard of Assistance minus net income
Idaho	Smaller of Work Incentive Allowance minus net income or Maximum Benefit
Illinois	Payment Standard minus net income
Indiana	Maximum Payment (A flat grant amount)
Iowa	Payment Standard minus net income
Kansas	Budgetary Standards minus net income
Kentucky	Smaller of Standard of Need minus net income times 55% or Maximum Benefit
Louisiana	Flat Grant Amount minus net income
Maine	Smaller 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	Smaller of Family Wage Level minus net income or Transitional Standard[4]
Mississippi	Smaller of Need Standard and Payment Standard minus net income times 60% or Maximum Benefit
Missouri	Payment Standard minus net income
Montana	Benefit Standard minus net income
Nebraska	Smaller of Need Standard 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	Need Standard minus net income
New York	Need Standard minus net income
North Carolina	Need Standard minus net income times 50%
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; add the Cooperative Incentive Payment if in compliance[5]
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	Smaller of Need Standard minus net income or Maximum Benefit
South Dakota	Payment Standard minus net income
Tennessee	Smaller of Consolidated Need Standard minus net income or Maximum Benefit
Texas	Maximum Grant minus net income

Table II.A.2 Benefit Determination Policies, July 2001

State	Benefit Equals:
Utah	Maximum Financial Assistance Payment minus net income
Vermont	Payment Standard minus net income
Virginia	
VIEW	Smaller of the Federal Poverty Level minus net income or Payment Standard minus gross unearned income or Maximum Benefit[7]
All, except VIEW	Smaller of Payment Standard minus net income or Maximum Benefit
Washington	Payment Standard minus net income
West Virginia	Payment Standard minus net income[8]
Wisconsin	
W-2 Transition/Community Service Jobs	Benefit Amount (A flat grant amount)
Trial Jobs	Varies by hours worked[9]
Unsubsidized Employment	None[10]
Wyoming	Maximum Benefit minus net income

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

Notes: 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 the benefit months of 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 federal and state taxes, and FICA) is less than the cash value of the food stamp 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 their Food Stamp and TANF benefit.

[3] The benefit is equal to the Maximum Payment Level for the unit size if the unit's gross income is less than $446. However, if the gross income is greater than $446, the benefit will be reduced to 50 percent of the Maximum Payment Level. Arkansas refers to this policy as the Gross Income Trigger.

[4] The calculation only applies to recipients with only earned income. The calculation for recipients without earned income is the Transitional Standard minus net income. The calculation for recipients with earned and unearned income: 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 food stamp (FS) allotment. MFIP recipients' cash and FS grants are computed with the same calculation. A flat amount (based on family size) for the FS allotment is subtracted from the benefit amount, and any remaining amount is provided to the unit in cash. In order to calculate the TANF grant amount without FS, subtract the Food Portion of the MFIP standard from the benefit.

[5] If the benefit is positive and the unit is complying with all requirements, the Cooperative Incentive Payment is added to the benefit. (Most of the caseload receives the Incentive Payment.) However, if the unit isn't complying with requirements, the unit only receives the difference between the Adjusted Income/Payment Standard and net income.

[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 food stamp 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 times his or her available hours (all scheduled hours, regardless of whether the participant worked those hours), minus $90, $50 pass-through, $102 earned income credit refund, and any garnishment withheld. D equals the JOBS Plus participant's wage times hours actually worked, minus $90, $50 pass through, $102 earned income credit refund, and any garnishment withheld.

[7] The benefit for two-parent units equals the lesser of (150 percent of (the Federal Poverty Level minus net income)), or (Payment Standard minus gross unearned income) or Maximum Benefit.

[8] Units in which a man and a woman are legally married to each other are eligible for a marriage incentive that increases the benefit by $100.

[9] 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 per month.

[10] Units in the Unsubsidized Employment component receive wages from an unsubsidized job and are not eligible for a cash benefit; however, they may still receive support services if they are otherwise eligible.

Table II.A.3 Benefit Standards, July 2001

	Payment Standard		Statutory Maximum Benefit	
State	State Name	Amount for Family of Three	State Name	Amount for Family of Three
Alabama	Payment Standard	$164	—	—
Alaska	Need Standard	$1,156	Maximum Benefit	$923
Arizona				
All, except JOBSTART	Payment Benefit	$347	—	—
JOBSTART	Payment Benefit and Food Stamps[1]	—	—	—
Arkansas	Maximum Payment Level	$204	—	—
California				
Nonexempt	Maximum Aid Payment	$645	—	—
Exempt	Maximum Aid Payment	$720	—	—
Colorado	Need Standard	$421	—	—
Connecticut				
Time-Limited Units	Payment Standard	$543	—	—
Time-Limited Exempt	Need Standard	$745	—	—
Delaware	Need Standard	$885	Maximum Benefit	$338
D.C.	Payment Level	$379	—	—
Florida	Payment Standard	$303	—	—
Georgia	Standard of Need	$424	Family Maximum	$280
Hawaii	Standard of Assistance	$570 [2]	—	—
Idaho	Work Incentive Allowance	$382	Maximum Benefit	$293
Illinois	Payment Standard	$377	—	—
Indiana	Maximum Payment	$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	$596	Maximum Benefit	$461
Maryland	Allowable Payment	$439	—	—
Massachusetts				
Exempt	Need Standard and Payment Standard	$633	—	—
Nonexempt	Need Standard and Payment Standard	$618	—	—
Michigan	Payment Standard	$459	—	—
Minnesota	Transitional Standard	$813 (532)[3]	—	—
	Family Wage Level	$894	—	—
	Food Portion of MFIP	$281		
Mississippi	Need Standard and Payment Standard	$368	Maximum Benefit	$170
Missouri	Payment Standard	$292	—	—
Montana	Benefit Standard	$494	—	—
Nebraska	Need Standard	$555	Payment Maximum	$364
Nevada	Payment Allowance	$348	—	—
New Hampshire	Payment Standard	$600	—	—
New Jersey	Maximum Benefit Payment Schedule	$424	—	—
New Mexico	Need Standard	$389	—	—
New York	Need Standard	$577	—	—
North Carolina	Need Standard	$544	—	—
North Dakota	Standard of Need	$477	—	—
Ohio	Payment Standard	$373	—	—

Table II.A.3 Benefit Standards, July 2001

State	Payment Standard		Statutory Maximum Benefit	
State	State Name	Amount for Family of Three	State Name	Amount for Family of Three
Oklahoma	Payment Standard	$292	—-	—-
Oregon				
All, except JOBS Plus	Adjusted Income/Payment Standard	$460	—-	—-
	Cooperative Incentive Payment[4]	$43	—	—
JOBS Plus	Adjusted Income/Payment Standard Food Stamps[1]		—-	—-
Pennsylvania	Family Size Allowance	$403	—-	—-
Rhode Island	Cash Assistance Monthly Standard	$554	—-	—-
South Carolina	Need Standard	$578	Maximum Benefit	$203
South Dakota	Payment Standard	$430	—-	—-
Tennessee				
Time-Limited Units	Consolidated Need Standard	$830	Maximum Benefit	$185
Time-Limited Exempt Units	Consolidated Need Standard	$830	Maximum Benefit	$232
Texas	Maximum Grant	$201	—-	—-
Utah	Maximum Financial Assistance Payment	$474	—-	—-
Vermont	Payment Standard	$630	—-	—-
Virginia				
VIEW	Federal Poverty Level	$1,219	Maximum Benefit	$320
	Payment Standard	$320	—-	—-
All, except VIEW	Payment Standard	$320	Maximum Benefit	$320
Washington	Payment Standard	$546	—-	—-
West Virginia	Payment Standard	$453	—-	—-
Wisconsin			—-	—-
W-2 Transition	Benefit Amount	$628	—-	—-
Community Service Jobs	Benefit Amount	$673	—-	—-
Trial Jobs/Unsubsidized Employment	No Cash Benefit[5]	—-	—-	—-
Wyoming	Maximum Benefit	$340	—-	—-

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

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, the unit has no special needs, pays for shelter, and lives in the most populated area of the state.

[1] See the footnotes 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 the first and second months of benefits, the Standard of Assistance for a family of three is $712.
[3] Minnesota's Transitional Standard includes the food stamp allotment for each unit size. The food stamp and cash benefit are computed together for welfare recipients. The Food Stamp allotment is a flat benefit, based on family size, that 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] If the unit is complying with all requirements, it receives the Cooperative Incentive Payment (most of the caseload does); however, if the unit isn't complying with requirements, it receives only the Adjusted Income/Payment Standard.
[5] The benefit in this component is based on the wages earned by individual participants.

Table II.A.4 Maximum Monthly Benefit for a Family of Three with No Income, July 2001

State	Maximum Benefit
Alabama	$164
Alaska	$923
Arizona	$347
Arkansas	$204
California	
Nonexempt	$645
Exempt	$720
Colorado	$356
Connecticut	$543
Delaware	$338
D.C.	$379
Florida	$303
Georgia	$280
Hawaii	$570 [1]
Idaho	$293
Illinois	$377
Indiana	$288
Iowa	$426
Kansas	$429
Kentucky	$262
Louisiana	$240
Maine	$461
Maryland	$439
Massachusetts	
Exempt	$633
Nonexempt	$618
Michigan	$459
Minnesota	$532
Mississippi	$170
Missouri	$292
Montana	$494
Nebraska	$364
Nevada	$348
New Hampshire	$600
New Jersey	$424
New Mexico	$389
New York	$577
North Carolina	$272
North Dakota	$477
Ohio	$373
Oklahoma	$292
Oregon	$503
Pennsylvania	$403
Rhode Island	$554
South Carolina	$203
South Dakota	$430
Tennessee	
Time Limited Unit	$185
Time Limited Exempt Unit	$232
Texas	$201
Utah	$474

Table II.A.4 Maximum Monthly Benefit for a Family of Three with No Income, July 2001

State	Maximum Benefit
Vermont	$629
Virginia	$320
Washington	$546
West Virginia	$453
Wisconsin	
W-2 Transition	$628
Community Service Jobs	$673
Wyoming	$340

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

Note: Maximum benefits are calculated assuming that the unit contains one adult and two children who are 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 at least two months in a lifetime. For units receiving the first and second months of benefits, the Standard of Assistance for a family of three is $712.

Requirements

III. Requirements

The tables in this chapter of the *Databook* describe the requirements for individuals within an assistance unit as of July 2001. State may impose numerous requirements on a family for them 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 the individuals within the unit. These requirements vary considerably by state but can include requirements for dependent children, such as immunization and school attendance requirements, as well as requirements for the adult head of the household, such as work-related requirements.

The following two sections describe some requirements 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?

Many types of behavioral requirements (requirements that attempt to influence or alter one's actions) may be imposed 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 attain a minimum grade point average in school. Note that 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 only identifies requirements imposed on dependent children. The typical requirements sometimes 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 achieve at least a minimal grade point average. Note that 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 only apply to children.

- *Other health requirements:*

  Other types of 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 of the requirements listed above are imposed on dependent children in the assistance unit for either initial and/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. Note that 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;[16] and (2) ensure that every recipient is working (as defined by the state) as soon as the state determines they are 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 of time. 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 of the recipient. 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.

Work-related exemptions: States may, but are not required to, exempt certain types of 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 only category of recipient that may be removed from the denominator of the participation rate calculation is single parents of a child under 12 months of age; such parents may or may not be exempted from participation requirements.

Table III.B.1 describes each state's key rules for exempting the 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

[16] The work participation rate indicates what percentage of the state TANF caseload must be participating in work activities. The number of hours required to qualify for the rate and the percentage itself have both increased annually since 1996. According to ACF, as of 2001, 45 percent of the state's single-parent caseload was required to participate a minimum of 30 hours a week. Two-parent families were required to participate at a rate of 90 percent for a minimum of 35 hours a week.

person, is elderly, is in a specified month of pregnancy, or is caring for a child under a specified age. For other types of exemption criteria, see the WRD.

Related tables: Table L6 provides the exemption for a parent caring for a young child for the years 1996 through 2001.

Work-related activities: Work programs vary widely from state to state based on several factors including whom, how much, and what is required. Table III.B.2 provides a very 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 share of those hours can be spent in education and training programs. Note that not all types of 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 the ways that 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 list of potential activities but have very different policies in terms of how often different types of activities are assigned. Alternatively, one state might include a potential activity not listed in another state but in practice rarely assign any recipients to that activity. Another complexity is that one state may explicitly say 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 very likely assign individuals without a diploma to educational activities. Despite these limitations, the table provides a starting point for understanding the range of work-related requirements across the states.

Work-related sanctions: If adults required to participate in activities do not comply with requirements, the state has the option to 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 noncomplying individual from the unit for benefit computation purposes, a percent reduction in the entire unit's benefit, or a full benefit sanction.[17] States often increase the severity of the sanction based on the number of times and/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. For both 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 in between the initial and most severe sanctions.

Related tables: Table L7 describes the most severe sanction for the years 1996 through 2001.

[17] 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 2001

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

Table III.A.1 Behavioral Requirements, July 2001

State	School Requirements[1]	School Bonuses[2]	Immunization Requirements[3]	Health Screening Requirements[4]	Other Health Requirements[5]
Washington	No	No	No	No	No
West Virginia	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Wisconsin	Yes	No	No	No	No
Wyoming	Yes	No	No	No	No
States with Requirements:	**35**	**9**	**27**	**8**	**1**

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

[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 and/or as an item in a contract and a sanction results from noncompliance. These policies may require children to attend school, to achieve at least a minimal grade point average, and/or 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 and/or as an item in a contract and a sanction results from noncompliance.
[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 and/or as an item in a contract and a sanction results from noncompliance.
[5] Other health requirements include information on other health-related requirements such as early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment (EPSDT). A requirement is coded "Yes" only if the state explicitly mentions it as a requirement for cash assistance and/or as an item in a contract and a sanction results from noncompliance.
[6] School bonuses only apply to pregnant or parenting teens, ages 16 through 19, who maintain a "C" average in school or graduate from high school or its equivalent.
[7] School bonuses only apply to teen parents ages 16 through 19.
[8] 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 in order 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 receive a financial sanction.

Table III.B.1 Work-Related Activity Exemptions for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2001

State	Unit head exempt if: Working in unsubsidized job for (in hours):	Ill or incapacitated:	Caring for an ill or incapacitated person:	Age (or older) (in years):	In which month of pregnancy (or later):	Caring for child under age (in months):
Alabama	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	No Exemption	4	36
Alaska	No Exemption	Yes	Yes[1]	No Exemption	No Exemption	12 [2]
Arizona	40 [3]	No	No	No Exemption	No Exemption	No Exemption
Arkansas[4]	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	60	7	3
California[5]	No Exemption	Yes[6]	Yes	60 [6]	No Exemption[7]	12 [8]
Colorado[9]	No Exemption	No	No	No Exemption	No Exemption	12 [10]
Connecticut	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	60	No Exemption[11]	12 [12]
Delaware	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	No Exemption	No Exemption	13 Weeks
D.C.	30	Yes	Yes	60	6	12
Florida	No Exemption	No	Yes[13]	No Exemption	No Exemption	3 [14]
Georgia	No Exemption	No	No	No Exemption	No Exemption	12 [15]
Hawaii	No Exemption	Yes[16]	Yes	60	No Exemption	6
Idaho	No Exemption	No	No	No Exemption	No Exemption	No Exemption
Illinois[17]	No Exemption	No	No	60	No Exemption	12
Indiana	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	60	4	3
Iowa	No Exemption	Yes	No	No Exemption	No Exemption	No Exemption[18]
Kansas	No Exemption	No	Yes	60	No Exemption	12
Kentucky	No Exemption	Yes[19]	Yes[19]	60 [19]	No Exemption	12 [20]
Louisiana	No Exemption	No	No	No Exemption	No Exemption	12 [20]
Maine	No Exemption	No	Yes[21]	No Exemption	No Exemption	12 [20]
Maryland	30 [22]	Yes[23]	Yes	No Exemption	No Exemption	12 [24]
Massachusetts						
Exempt[25]	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nonexempt	20	No	No	No Exemption	No Exemption	No Exemption
Michigan	30 [22]	Yes	Yes	60	No Exemption	3
Minnesota	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	60	—[26]	12
Mississippi	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	60	7	12 [20]
Missouri	No Exemption	Yes	Yes[19]	60	7 [19]	12
Montana	No Exemption	No	No	No Exemption	No Exemption	No Exemption
Nebraska						
Time Limited Assistance	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	60	6	3
Non-Time Limited-Assistance[25]	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nevada	No Exemption	Yes[27]	Yes	60	1 [28]	12 [20]
New Hampshire						
New Hampshire Employment Program	No Exemption	Yes[29]	Yes	—[30]	4 [31]	24 [32]
Family Assistance Program[25]	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Jersey	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	60	7 [33]	3 [34]
New Mexico	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	60	7 [35]	12 [20]
New York	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	60	9	12 [36]
North Carolina	No Exemption	No	No	No Exemption	No Exemption	12 [20]
North Dakota	30	Yes	Yes	60	4	4

Table III.B.1 Work-Related Activity Exemptions for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2001

	Unit head exempt if:					
State	Working in unsubsidized job for (in hours):	Ill or incapacitated:	Caring for an ill or incapacitated person:	Age (or older) (in years):	In which month of pregnancy (or later):	Caring for child under age (in months):
Ohio	30	Yes	Yes	60	3	12
Oklahoma	No Exemption	No	No	No Exemption	No Exemption	3 [20]
Oregon	No Exemption	No	No	60	9	3
Pennsylvania	No Exemption	Yes	Yes[19]	No Exemption	No Exemption	12 [20]
Rhode Island	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	60	7	12
South Carolina	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	No Exemption	7	12 [37]
South Dakota	No Exemption	Yes[19]	Yes[19]	No Exemption	No Exemption	3
Tennessee	No Exemption	Yes	Yes[38]	60	No Exemption	4
Texas	30 [39]	Yes	Yes	60	3	24
Utah	No Exemption	No	No	No Exemption	No Exemption	No Exemption
Vermont	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	60	No Exemption	24 [40]
Virginia						
VIEW	No Exemption	Yes[41]	Yes	60	4	18 [42]
All except for VIEW[25]	—	—	—	—	—	—
Washington	No Exemption	No	No	No Exemption	No Exemption	4 [20]
West Virginia	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	60	7 [43]	12 [44]
Wisconsin	No Exemption	No	No [45]	No Exemption	No Exemption	3
Wyoming	No Exemption	No	No	65	No Exemption	3 [20]

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

[1] If the incapacitated person is an adult, the caretaker is only exempt if he or she is related to the person and providing 24 hour care.
[2] The caretaker loses this exemption after retaining it for 12 cumulative months.
[3] To be exempt, the job must pay at least the minimum wage and be expected to last at least 30 days.
[4] The parent may only receive exemptions for a total of 12 months in his or her lifetime. He or she may use any combination of exemptions in which he or she is eligible to accumulate these 12 months.
[5] Counties have the option to vary some activities exemptions. Statewide exemptions are noted; all other exemptions apply only to Los Angeles County.
[6] Statewide exemption.
[7] The woman is only exempt if the pregnancy is disabling and prohibits her from participating in work or training programs.
[8] The recipient may only receive this exemption one time; however, he or she may also receive a limited exemption for a second or subsequent child under six months old.
[9] Counties have the option to vary activities exemptions. These policies refer to Denver County.
[10] The exemption does not apply to recipients that have received benefits for 24 or more cumulative months.
[11] Although there is no exemption, a pregnant or postpartum recipient may be exempt if the physician indicates that she is unable to work.
[12] The exemption only applies if the child under 12 months old is not subject to a family cap.
[13] The exemption applies only if no alternative care is available.
[14] Recipients may be required to attend classes or other activities.
[15] The exemption is limited to once in the recipient's lifetime.
[16] To be exempt, the recipient must have had the condition for a minimum of 30 days.
[17] Units in which the youngest child is age 13 or older are exempt only if the recipient is ill or incapacitated or if they are caring for someone ill or incapacitated.
[18] If the participant has a newborn child, absence from activities is determined using the standards of the Family 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.
[19] The state does not consider these groups technically exempt; however, they may meet the state's criteria for good cause for noncompliance or deferral.
[20] The exemption is limited to 12 months in the recipient's lifetime.
[21] To be exempt, the head of household must be caring for a spouse who is receiving SSI.
[22] To be exempt, the job must pay the minimum wage or higher.
[23] The exemption is limited to 12 months unless the individual has applied for SSI and the application is approved, pending, or in appeal.
[24] This is a one-time exemption for the first child only.

[25] Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from activities requirements. The criteria for inclusion in this component may include some of the exemptions listed in this tables; see Appendix 1 for more information on the composition of the component.
[26] Pregnant women are exempt if the pregnancy has resulted in a professionally certified disability that prevents the woman from obtaining or retaining employment.
[27] The recipient is only exempt from job training requirements (on-the-job training, vocational training, CWEP, and any apprenticeship program).
[28] To be exempt, a physician must have determined that the recipient is unable to work, and then the woman is only exempt from job training requirements (on-the-job training, vocational training, CWEP, and any apprenticeship program).
[29] If a recipient is permanently unable to work, he or she is placed in the FAP component. People who are temporarily ill or incapacitated are exempt from NHEP until their illness or incapacity improves or passes.
[30] Recipients age 60 and older are placed in the FAP component.
[31] Recipients that have received 39 or more months of assistance will not receive an exemption for pregnancy.
[32] Recipients under the age of 18 with no high school diploma or its equivalent must participate in basic education activities when their child is 12 weeks old. Recipients age 18 through 20 with no high school diploma must participate in basic education activities when their child is six months old. Recipients that conceive a child while on assistance are exempt only until the child is 12 months old.
[33] Recipients in their fourth month of pregnancy may be exempt if a physician certifies that a medical reason exists.
[34] The exemption may be extended if a physician certifies it is medically necessary for the parent or child.
[35] The exemption can be extended for up to six weeks beyond the end of the pregnancy.
[36] 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.
[37] The exemption does not apply to individuals under the age of 25 with no high school diploma or GED.
[38] To qualify for the exemption, the caretaker must prove that he or she is needed in the home full-time to care for a related disabled child or adult relative who lives in the home.
[39] To be exempt, the recipient must be earning at least $700 a month.
[40] If the recipient cares for a child under 24 months old, work requirements may be modified or deferred. A participant's work requirement cannot be deferred for this reason for more than 24 months during a lifetime. If the participant has exhausted the 24 months of deferment and has a child is under 13 weeks old, then the caretaker is automatically exempt from all work requirements.
[41] To be exempt, the recipient must provide a physician's note certifying that he or she is incapacitated, the nature and scope of incapacity, and the abilities and limitations of the individual, as well as the duration of the incapacity. If the individual can participate in employment or training, but is limited in the types of activities that he or she may participate in, the individual must participate in work activities that are determined suitable. If a doctor determines that an individual is temporarily incapacitated, a caseworker must reevaluate the case after the prescribed duration of incapacitation or every 60 days, whichever comes first.
[42] Recipients caring for a child subject to a family cap are only exempt while the child is under six weeks old.
[43] The exemption applies only to a woman giving birth to a second or subsequent child. She can be exempt for a total of six months for this child and may include the last trimester of pregnancy. Fathers cannot claim this exemption during pregnancy but can claim a six-month exemption after the birth. For the first child, a recipient is only exempt due to pregnancy if there are complications with the pregnancy.
[44] 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).
[45] A recipient may be assigned as his or her participation requirement to care for an ill or incapacitated family member.

Table III.B.2 Work-Related Activity Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2001

State	Timing of Requirement in Relation to Benefit Receipt	Allowable Activities Listed	Minimum Hour Requirement	Share of Hours Allowed for Education and Training
Alabama	Immediately	All	32 [1]	7
Alaska	Immediately	All	30	—
Arizona	Immediately	Job-Related, E&T and CWEP	Case-by-Case Basis	—
Arkansas	Immediately	All	30	—
California	Immediately	All except Postsecondary Education[2]	32	—
Colorado[3]	*	All[2]	22	—
Connecticut	Immediately	All except Postsecondary Education	Case-by-Case Basis	—
Delaware	Immediately	Job-Related and CWEP[4]	Case-by-Case Basis [4]	—
D.C.	Immediately	All	30 [1]	10
Florida	Immediately	All	30 [5]	5
Georgia	Immediately	All	25 [6]	15
Hawaii	Immediately	All except Postsecondary Education	18	—
Idaho	Immediately	All except Postsecondary Education[7]	30	—
Illinois	After Assessment	All	30	—
Indiana	Immediately	All except Postsecondary Education	Case-by-Case Basis	—
Iowa	Immediately	All except Subsidized Employment	Full-Time Employment[8]	—
Kansas	Immediately	All except Postsecondary Education	30	10
Kentucky	Immediately	All	30	10
Louisiana	Immediately	All	30 [1]	10
Maine	Immediately	All	30 [1]	10
Maryland	24 Months	Job-Related and Employment	Depends on Activity	In Excess of 20 Hours
Massachusetts	60 Days	All	20 [9]	—
Michigan	Immediately	All[10]	30 [11]	10
Minnesota	Immediately	All	30 [1]	—
Mississippi	24 Months	All	30 [12]	5
Missouri	24 Months	All	30 [1]	—
Montana	Immediately	All	30	—
Nebraska	Immediately	All	30	—
Nevada	Immediately	All	30	5
New Hampshire	Immediately	All[2]	30 [1]	—
New Jersey	Immediately	All	35	—
New Mexico	3 Months after Approval	All	34 [13]	—
New York	30 Days after Orientation	High School Not Complete: E&T	Full-Time as Defined by School	—
	30 Days after Orientation	High School Complete: All	30 [1]	5
North Carolina	12 Weeks	All	30 [1]	10
North Dakota	Immediately	All	Case-by-Case Basis	—
Ohio	Immediately	All	20	—
Oklahoma	Immediately	All	30	—
Oregon	Immediately	All except Unsubsidized Employment[2]	Case-by-Case Basis	—
Pennsylvania	Immediately	All[2]	20	—
Rhode Island	At Application	All[2]	20	—
South Carolina	Immediately	All[2]	30 [1]	—

Table III.B.2 Work-Related Activity Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2001

State	Timing of Requirement in Relation to Benefit Receipt	Allowable Activities Listed	Minimum Hour Requirement	Share of Hours Allowed for Education and Training
South Dakota	Immediately	All	30 [1]	10
Tennessee	Immediately	All except Subsidized Employment	40	20
Texas	After Work Orientation	Job-Related, E&T, and CWEP	30	—
Utah	Immediately	All except Subsidized Employment	Case-by-Case Basis	—
Vermont	Immediately	All	30 [1]	—
Virginia	Immediately	All	30	—
Washington	Immediately	Job-Related and Employment	30	—
West Virginia	24 Months	All	30 [1]	10
Wisconsin				
W-2 Transition	After Assessment	All	40	12
Unsubsidized	After Assessment	Job-Related and Employment	40	—
Trial Jobs	After Assessment	Subsidized Employment	40	—
Community	After Assessment	Job-Related and E&T	40	10
Wyoming	Immediately	All	30 [14]	—

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

Notes: The table contains the activity requirements for single-parent recipients 21 years of age or older.

All possible activities include:
(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

* Data not obtained.
[1] The hours apply to recipients with children age six or older. Recipients with children under six years old are required to work 20 hours.
[2] According to the state manuals, recipients move from one set of activities to another after a set period of time. Generally, they begin with job-related activities and end with employment. See the WRD for details.
[3] Counties have the option to vary their activity requirements. These policies refer to Denver County.
[4] The hours requirement is 10 hours a week of job search plus hours equal to the benefit amount divided by the minimum wage. If working 20 hours or more a week in an unsubsidized job, no additional work requirements apply. For recipients that began receiving assistance before January 1, 2000, education and training is also an allowable activity, and the minimum hours requirement is 20 hours.
[5] On-the-job training and work supplementation require a full time (32 to 40 hour) commitment.
[6] When the agency determines it possible, the recipient must participate for a minimum of 40 hours a week.
[7] Recipients with children under the age of 12 weeks are only allowed to participate in life skills training.
[8] Participation must either be equivalent to the level of commitment required for full-time employment or deemed significant enough to move the recipient toward the level of full-time employment.
[9] The hours apply to recipients with children age six or older. Recipients with children under six years old generally have no work requirements.
[10] Recipients with children under six years old are not allowed to participate in E&T.
[11] The hours apply to recipients with children age six or older. Recipients with children under six years old are required to work 20 hours. On-the-job training requires a minimum of 35 hours a week.
[12] The hours apply to recipients with children age six or older. Recipients with children under six years old are required to work 20 hours. An individual must participate in educational programs (including vocational training) full-time as defined by the school, and in job search/job readiness (combined) for 40 hours a week.
[13] Recipients with children under age six may not be required to work more than 24 hours a week.
[14] The state stressed 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 have the option to scale back the number of hours (not to go below 30). The 30 hours apply to recipients with children over the age of six years. Recipients with children under six years old are required to work 20 hours.

Table III.B.3 Sanction Policies for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2001

	Initial Sanction		Most Severe Sanction	
State	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (In Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (In Months)
Alabama	25%	3 Months+	Entire Benefit	6 Months
Alaska	Adult Portion of Benefit[1]	Until Compliance	Adult Portion of Benefit[1]	12 Months+
Arizona	25%	1 Month	Entire Benefit	1 Month+
Arkansas	25%	Until Compliance	25%	Until Compliance
California	Adult Portion of Benefit	Until Compliance	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+
Colorado[2]	25%	1 Month	Entire Benefit	3 Months+
Connecticut	20%	3 Months+	Case Is Closed	3 Months and Must Reapply
Delaware	33.3%	Until Compliance or 2 Months (Whichever Is Shorter)	Entire Benefit	Permanent
D.C.	Adult Portion of Benefit	Until Compliance	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+
Florida	Entire Benefit	10 Days+	Entire Benefit	3 Months[3]+
Georgia	25%	Until Compliance up to 3 Months	Entire Benefit	Permanent
Hawaii	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance	Entire Benefit	3 Months+
Idaho	Entire Benefit	1 Month+	Entire Benefit	Permanent
Illinois	50%[4]	Until Compliance	Entire Benefit	3 Months+
Indiana	Adult Portion of Benefit	2 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	36 Months+
Iowa	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance	Entire Benefit	6 Months[5]
Kansas	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance	Entire Benefit	2 Months+
Kentucky	Pro Rata Portion of Benefit[6]	Until Compliance[7]	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance
Louisiana	Adult Portion of Benefit	3 Months	Case Is Closed	Until Compliance
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[8]	—-	—-	—-	—-
Non-exempt	None[9]	None[9]	Entire Benefit	Until in Compliance for 2 Weeks
Michigan	Entire Benefit[10]	1 Month+	Entire Benefit	1 Month+
Minnesota	10%	1 Month+	Vendor Payment and 30%[11]	1 Month+
Mississippi	Entire Benefit	2 Months+	Entire Benefit	Permanent
Missouri	25%	Until Compliance	25%	3 Months+
Montana	Adult Portion of Benefit[12]	1 Month	Case Is Closed[13]	12 Months and the Unit Must Renegotiate Contract
Nebraska				
Time-Limited Assistance	Entire Benefit	1 Month+	Entire Benefit	12 Months or the Remainder of 48 Months, Whichever Is Shorter
Non-Time-Limited Assistance[8]	—-	—-	—-	—-

Table III.B.3 Sanction Policies for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2001

State	Initial Sanction: Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Initial Sanction: Length of Sanction (In Months)	Most Severe Sanction: Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Most Severe Sanction: Length of Sanction (In Months)
Nevada	33.3% or Pro Rata Share, Whichever Is Greater[14]	1 Month+	Entire Benefit	Permanent
New Hampshire				
New Hampshire Employment Program	Adult Portion of Benefit	1 Payment Period+	66% of Adjusted Payment Standard[15]	1 Payment Period+
Family Assistance Program[8]	—-	—-	—-	—-
New Jersey	Adult Portion of Benefit[16]	1 Month+	Entire Benefit[17]	3 Months
New Mexico	25%	Until Compliance	Case Is Closed	6 Months+
New York	Adult Portion of Benefit	Until Compliance	Pro Rata Portion of Benefit	6 Months+
North Carolina				
Work First Active	25%	3 Months	Entire Benefit	3 Months[18]
Pre-Work First and Work First Preparatory[8]	—-	—-	—-	—-
North Dakota	Adult Portion of Benefit[19]	1 Month+	Entire Benefit[20]	3 Months+
Ohio	Adult Portion of Benefit	1 Month+	Entire Benefit	6 Months+
Oklahoma	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance
Oregon	$50	Until Compliance or 2 Months (Whichever Is Shorter)	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance
Pennsylvania	Adult Portion of Benefit[21]	30 Days+	Entire Benefit[21]	Permanent
Rhode Island	Adult Portion of Benefit	Until in Compliance for 2 Weeks	140% of Adult Portion of Benefit[22]	Until in Compliance for 2 Weeks
South Carolina	Entire Benefit	Until Reapplication and Compliance for 1 Month	Case Is Closed	Must Reapply and Comply for 1 Month
South Dakota	None[9]	None[9]	Case Is Closed	1 Month+ and Must Reapply
Tennessee	Entire Benefit	Until in Compliance for 2 Weeks	Entire Benefit	3 Months+
Texas	Adult Portion of Benefit	1 Month+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+
Utah	$100 [23]	Until Compliance	Entire Benefit [24]	Until Compliance
Vermont	$75 for Each Adult[25]	Until Compliance	$225	Until Compliance
Virginia				
VIEW	Entire Benefit	1 Month+	Entire Benefit	6 Months+
All except VIEW[8]	—-	—-	—-	—-
Washington	Adult Portion of Benefit	Until Compliance up to 1 Month[26]	Adult Portion of Benefit or 40%, Whichever Is Greater	Until in Compliance for 2 Weeks[26]
West Virginia	33.3%	3 Months	Entire Benefit	6 Months+

Table III.B.3 Sanction Policies for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2001				
State	Initial Sanction		Most Severe Sanction	
	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (In Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (In Months)
Wisconsin				
W-2 Transition and Community Service Jobs	Minimum Wage Times the Number of Hours of Nonparticipation	Until Compliance	Entire Benefit	Permanent[27]
Unsubsidized Employment	—-	—-	—-	—-
Trial Jobs	Decrease In Wages[28]	Until Compliance[28]	Entire Earnings	Permanent[27]
Wyoming	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance

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

Note: "Adult Portion of Benefit" describes the portion of the benefit the sanctioned individual would have received. Since 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.

[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] Counties have the option to determine the amount and duration of sanctions. These policies refer to Denver County.
[3] 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.
[4] If noncompliance continues after three months of reduced benefits, the entire unit is ineligible for benefits until compliance.
[5] The sanction continues after six months until the sanctioned parent signs a family investment agreement and completes 20 hours of eligible education/work activities.
[6] The pro rata portion of the benefit is equal to the total monthly benefit divided by the number of members in the unit.
[7] A caseworker's judgment may be used to determine whether the unit must be in compliance for two weeks before receiving benefits.
[8] Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they have no sanctions.
[9] The initial sanction does not reduce benefits. Recipients are given a written warning detailing the consequences of subsequent failures to comply.
[10] The entire benefit is removed if noncompliance occurs within the first two months of assistance. If noncompliance occurs after the initial two months of receipt, the benefit is reduced by 25 percent.
[11] The shelter costs are paid directly to the vendor; any remaining benefit amount is reduced by 30 percent of the Transitional Standard. Vendor payments continue for six months after the month in which the parent complies.
[12] To end the sanction, all eligibility requirements must be met, including the renegotiation of the Family Independence Agreement. If a new FIA has not been negotiated within 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.
[13] If eligibility requirements are not met and a new FIA has not been negotiated within one month after the end of the sanction period, the case is closed and the unit must reapply for benefits. If requirements are met and a new FIA has been negotiated, the case remains open and only the adult portion of the benefit is removed for the duration of the sanction or until compliance.
[14] During the first month, the benefit is reduced by one third or a pro rata share, whichever is greater. If the unit does not comply during the first month, the benefit is reduced by two thirds or a pro rata share, whichever is greater for one month. If the unit does not comply within the month, the entire benefit is removed for three months or until compliance, whichever is longer.
[15] The adjusted payment standard refers to the new benefit amount once the adult portion is removed.
[16] If noncompliance continues after three months of reduced benefits, the entire unit becomes ineligible for benefits and must reapply for further assistance.
[17] If noncompliance continues after three months, the case is closed and the unit must reapply for further assistance. The recipient must also satisfy an intent to comply before receiving subsequent benefits.
[18] After the three-month sanction period, the client is re-evaluated. If he or she is still not in compliance on the date of evaluation, he or she is sanctioned for another three-month period.
[19] If noncompliance continues after six months of reduced benefits, the entire unit is ineligible for benefits until compliance.
[20] If the adult is noncompliant for less than four months, only the adult portion of the benefit is removed. If noncompliance continues after 4 months of reduced benefits, the entire unit is ineligible for benefits.
[21] This applies to noncompliance that occurs 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.
[22] 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 seven 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.

[23] If noncompliance continues after two months of reduced benefits, the entire unit is ineligible for benefits until compliance.

[24] 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.

[25] If the individual fails to comply by the fourth month, the $75 sanction increases to $150. However, if the individual has received assistance for more than 60 months and already has 12 or more cumulative months of sanctions, then the $150 sanction amount increases to $225. During the first six cumulative months that the unit is sanctioned, the amount of the sanction may be limited to protect the family's ability to pay its housing costs. This may be extended for another six months if the family had previously received assistance for 36 months without sanctions.

[26] 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.

[27] If a recipient refuses to participate in an activity for the third time, the unit is ineligible to receive benefits in that component for life. The unit may receive benefits again if it becomes eligible for a different component (see Appendix 1 for a description of components).

[28] If a recipient has an unplanned 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 Trial Jobs component, he or she receives two warnings from the TANF agency and then becomes ineligible for the Trial Jobs component for life.

Ongoing Eligibility

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 2001. After a family applies for assistance and passes all the 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' eligibility and benefits may also be affected by their reproductive choices and the number of months they have received assistance. Some states impose family cap policies on recipients, which restrict benefits from increasing when a child is born to a family while on assistance. Almost all 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 do not generally 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 tests that tend to differ for applicants and recipients, including two-parent hours tests, asset tests, and income eligibility tests.

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).[18] In addition to the standard eligibility tests that all recipient units must pass, some states also 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. An hours test denies eligibility to some two-parent units where a parent works a substantial number of hours but would nevertheless be financially eligible for assistance because of a low-wage rate or a large family size. Note that states may apply this rule when determining the initial and/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 in the years 1996 through 2001.

Asset limits for recipients: Table IV.A.2 describes each state's asset limits for recipients. States determine the maximum amount of assets, including vehicles and restricted assets, which a family may hold and still remain eligible for benefits.

The first column of this 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. Note that the limits may vary for determining the initial eligibility of applicants versus the continuing eligibility of recipients.

[18] North Dakota no longer provides TANF benefits to two-parent, nondisabled units. Also note that in some states, benefits are provided to two-parent units under a "state-separate" program funded by state monies rather than the TANF grant. However, the table includes those states as providing benefits to two-parent families regardless of the funding source.

The second column describes whether some of or all the value of a vehicle(s) is excluded in determining the amount of a family's assets for purposes of eligibility. When a portion of the vehicle's value is exempted, that 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 much 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 assets in restricted accounts and whether the state deposits additional matching funds into these accounts. For instance, a unit may be allowed to save money toward education or the purchase of a home without having that money count toward their overall asset limit. 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. Some, but not all, of the restricted accounts are federally defined "Individual Development Accounts" (IDAs). In the table, those accounts that states specified as IDAs are distinguished from other restricted accounts. The table identifies the amount a recipient may hold in a restricted account, the types of activities the funds in the account must be used for, and the state match rate, if there is one.

Related tables: See Tables L8 and L9 for information on asset rules in effect in 1996 through 2001. See Table I.C.1 for the asset tests applied at application.

<u>Income eligibility tests for recipients:</u> Table IV.A.3 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 threshold is used for each test. To determine the value of the particular threshold for a family size of three, see Table I.E.3.

Note that this table describes the income tests imposed in addition to the implicit income test imposed by the benefit computation procedure. 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 the benefit computation procedure. In these states, the table 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, I.D.2, and I.D.3 describe policies concerning child support income, and the deeming of income from grandparents and stepparents that may be used in determining gross income for purposes of 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 also required to pass both nonfinancial and financial tests in order to continue receiving benefits.

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

Benefits to recipients that give birth to a child while receiving aid may or may not be affected by the addition of the child to the assistance unit. Under AFDC, when a child was born to a member of an assistance unit, the benefit increased 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 an additional child is born. In these states, the benefit increase that 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 the states' family cap policies. The table first indicates whether the state imposes a family cap, and 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 the notation "disregard" increase the earned income disregards for families that have a capped child; again, more details are provided in the footnotes. The final column of the table 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 of time. 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 demonstration 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 the years 1996 through 2001.

C. How long can a family receive benefits?

Since the passage of PRWORA, almost all 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. There are two basic types of limits that states impose on recipients: “lifetime time limits,” which eliminate part of or the entire benefit permanently and, “other time limits,” which interrupt or limit benefits for a period of time but do not eliminate benefits permanently. Both types of limits may terminate benefits to either the entire unit or just the adults in the unit. In addition, some states only impose lifetime limits or other time limits; other states impose a combination of the two types of limits.

Lifetime time limit: Under TANF, the federal government imposed a maximum 60-month lifetime time 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.[19] 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 only terminate benefits to 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 state’s lifetime time limit policies. The first column indicates the total number of months in which the state allows benefits, while the second and third columns identify whose benefits are terminated.

Other 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

[19] 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 any months against the 60-month limit in which units are child-only due to the ineligibility of their parents based on immigrant status or illegal activity.

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 of time. 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, an assistance 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, in this case, the unit may receive 12 months of assistance and is then ineligible for 24 months. This means that the unit may receive 12 months of benefits over any period of time but after they receive their 12th month of assistance, they will be ineligible for benefits for the next 24 months. 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.[20] The first column describes the type of other time limit that is imposed, while the second and third columns identify whose benefits are terminated.

<u>Exemptions:</u> Not all assistance units are subject to time limits. States may exempt up to 20 percent of their caseload (referred to as the hardship exemption) from the federal 60-month time limit. The types of individuals exempted under the hardship exemption are determined on a state-by-state basis and are eligible to receive federal TANF funds as long as the circumstances that caused their exemption exist.

The WRD includes the time limit exemption policies currently listed in states' manuals as of July 2001. However, since in many states units had not reached a time limit by that point,

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

exemption policies are not fully developed and therefore are often not in the manuals. Thus, we do not include a table describing time limit exemptions.

Note, however, that exemption policies are important for understanding the overall time limits in the states. Exemptions 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. Some state exemptions include months in which the unit contains an adult working 20 or more hours a week, months in which the unit head is caring for a child under 12 months old, or months in which the unit head is ill or incapacitated.

Table IV.A.1 Eligibility Rules for Two-Parent, Nondisabled Recipient Units, July 2001	
State	**Limit on Hours Worked per 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.	100
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	100
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
West Virginia	No Limit
Wisconsin	No Limit
Wyoming	No Limit

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

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

[1] North Dakota does not provide benefits to two-parent, nondisabled units. In order for a child and therefore the unit to be eligible, the child must be deprived of parental support.

Table IV.A.2 Asset Limits for Recipients, July 2001

State	Asset Limit	Vehicle Exemption	Restricted Asset Accounts: Amount	Restricted Asset Accounts: Description	Restricted Asset Accounts: Matching Rate
Alabama	$2,000/3,000[1]	All Vehicles Owned by Household	—-	—-	—
Alaska	$1,000	One Vehicle per Household[2]	—-	—-	—
Arizona	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household	$9,000	Educational or training costs, first home purchase, business capitalization costs	None
Arkansas	$3,000	One Vehicle per Household	—-	—-	—
California	$2,000/3,000[1]	$4,650[E]	$5,000	Postsecondary education, purchase of home, start a new business	None
Colorado	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household	Amount Determined by County[3]	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education, purchase of home, start a new business	*
Connecticut	$3,000	$9,500[4E]	No Limit	Postsecondary education of a dependent child, IRAs, Keoghs, 401k plans	None
Delaware	$1,000	$4,650[E]	$5,000	Dependent care expenses, security deposit for an apartment or house, purchase or repair of a vehicle, educational expenses, business expenses, or business investments	None
D.C.	$2,000/3,000 [5]	All Vehicles Owned by Household	—-	—-	—
Florida	$2,000	$8,500[E]	—-	—-	—
Georgia	$1,000	$1,500/4,650[6E]	$5,000	Postsecondary educational expenses, first home purchase, business capitalization	*
Hawaii	$5,000	One Vehicle per Household	—-	—-	—
Idaho	$2,000	$4,650 [7F]	—-	—-	—
Illinois	$2,000/3,000/+50[8]	One Vehicle per Household	No Limit	Postsecondary education, purchase of home, start a new business, purchase an automobile[9]	2 to 1
Indiana	$1,500	$5,000[E]	—-	—-	—
Iowa	$5,000	$4,042[E] per Vehicle for Each Adult and Working Teenager	All Deposits and Interest	Postsecondary education, job training, buying a home, home improvement, starting a small business, or medical emergencies	1 to 1 [10]
Kansas	$2,000	All Vehicles Owned by Household	*	Post-secondary education, first home purchase, or business capitalization.	*
Kentucky	$2,000 [11]	All Vehicles Owned by Household	$5,000	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education, purchase of home, start a new business	None
Louisiana	$2,000	All Vehicles Owned by Household[12]	$6,000	Postsecondary education or training expenses, or payments for work-related clothing, tools, or equipment	None
Maine	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household	$10,000 [13]	Family Development Accounts, educational expenses, purchase of a home, repairs to vehicle or home, or for a business startup	2 to1 [14]
Maryland	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household	—-	—-	—
Massachusetts	$2,500	$10,000[F]/$5,000[15E]	—-	—-	—
Michigan	$3,000	One Vehicle per Household[16]	No Limit	A trust established for the purpose of post-secondary educational expenses, a first home purchase, or business capitalization.	*
Minnesota	$5,000	$7,500[E]	—-	—-	—
Mississippi	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household[17]	—-	—-	—

Table IV.A.2 Asset Limits for Recipients, July 2001

State	Asset Limit	Vehicle Exemption	Restricted Asset Accounts: Amount	Restricted Asset Accounts: Description	Restricted Asset Accounts: Matching Rate
Missouri	$5,000	One Vehicle per Household[18]	No Limit	IDA account	*
Montana	$3,000	One Vehicle per Household[19]	—-	—-	—
Nebraska	$4,000/6,000[20]	One Vehicle per Household[21]	No Limit	Postsecondary education, purchase of home, start a new business	None
Nevada	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household	*[22]	Post-secondary education, first home purchase, or business capitalization.	*
New Hampshire	$2,000	One Vehicle per Licensed Driver	—-	—-	—
New Jersey	$2,000	$9,500 [23F]	—-	—-	—
New Mexico	$3,500 [24]	One Vehicle per Household[25]	No Limit[26]	Postsecondary education for dependent child, first home purchase, business capitalization	None
New York	$2,000/3,000[1]	$4,650 [27F]	No Limit	Postsecondary educational expenses, first home purchase, business capitalization	None
North Carolina	$3,000	One Vehicle per Licensed Driver	—-	—-	—
North Dakota	$3,000/6,000/+25[28]	One Vehicle per Household	—-	—-	—
Ohio	No Limit[29]	All Vehicles Owned by Household	$10,000	Post-secondary education, first time home purchase, establishment of a business	2 to 1
Oklahoma	$1,000	$5,000[E]	$2,000	Education, purchase of home, start a new business	1 to 1[30]
Oregon					
All, except JOBS	$10,000 [31]	$10,000[E]	—	—	—
JOBS/JOBS Plus	$10,000 [31]	$10,000[E]	No Limit	Education account	1 to hr. worked[32]
Pennsylvania	$1,000	One Vehicle per Household	No Limit	Postsecondary educational savings account, IDA Accounts	None
Rhode Island	$1,000	$4,650[33E]	—-	—-	—
South Carolina	$2,500	One Vehicle per Licensed Driver[34]	$10,000	IDA accounts, including lump-sum income deposited within 30 days of receipt	None
South Dakota	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household[35]	—-	—-	—
Tennessee	$2,000	$4,600[E]	$5,000	IDA accounts and profits from a business enterprise in escrow in a Low Income Entrepreneurial Escrow Account	None
Texas	$2,000/3,000[5]	$4,650[F] per Vehicle Owned by Household[18]	No Limit	IDA accounts	1 to 1[36]
Utah	$2,000	$8,000 [37E]	—-	—-	—
Vermont	$1,000 [38]	One Vehicle per Licensed Driver	No Limit	Education, purchase of home, start a new business	*
Virginia					
VIEW	$1,000	$7,500 [39F/E]	$2,000	Education, purchase of home, start a new business	2 to 1
All, except VIEW	$1,000	$1,500[E]	$2,000	Education, purchase of home, start a new business	2 to 1
Washington	$1,000 [40]	$5,000 [41E]	No Limit	Education, purchase of home, start a new business	*
West Virginia	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household	—-	—-	—
Wisconsin	$2,500	$10,000[E]	—-	—-	—
Wyoming	$2,500	$12,000 [42F]	—-	—-	—

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

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

* Data not obtained.
[1] Units including a member age 60 years or older may exempt $3,000; all other units exempt $2,000.
[2] Vehicles used as a home, to produce self-employment income, to transport a disabled family member, or to participate in an approved work activity are also exempt.
[3] Counties have the option to determine the amount of IDA accounts.
[4] 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.
[5] Households including an elderly or disabled person may exempt $3,000. All other units exempt $2,000.
[6] If the vehicle is used to look for work or in 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 will 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.
[7] The value of one specially equipped vehicle used to transport a disabled family member is also exempt.
[8] The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $2,000, two persons receive $3,000, and three or more receive another $50 for each additional person.
[9] 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.
[10] The state matches $0.50 for every dollar of a recipient's assets. In addition, $0.50 of federal funds are added to the recipient's IDA account.
[11] Only liquid resources will be considered for eligibility determinations. Liquid resources include cash, checking and savings accounts, CDs, stocks and bonds, and money market accounts.
[12] Recreational vehicles are not exempt.
[13] Up to $10,000 of nonrecurring lump sum income may be disregarded if used within 30 days.
[14] Community agencies will contribute matching funds up to $2,000 a year.
[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 towards the asset limit; however, if the value of the vehicle exceeds both limits, only the excess of the greater amount counts towards the asset limit.
[16] The value of any additional vehicle necessary for employment is also exempt.
[17] $4,650 of the fair market value of the unit's second vehicle is exempt.
[18] $1,500 of the equity of the unit's second vehicle is exempt.
[19] All income-producing vehicles are also exempt.
[20] The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $4,000, two or more persons receive $6,000.
[21] The entire vehicle is exempt only if used for employment, training, or medical transportation; any motor vehicle used as a home is also exempt.
[22] 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.
[23] Units with two adults may exempt up to $4,650 of the fair market value of a second vehicle if it is essential for work, training, or transportation of a handicapped individual.
[24] The total limit is $3,500; however, 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 a second vehicle, equipment, tools, livestock (with the exception of nonsalable domestic pets), one-time sale asset conversion, and lump sum payments.
[25] When public transportation is available, the value of one vehicle is exempt. When public transportation is not available, the value of one vehicle per participant involved in work activity is exempt.
[26] The state does not limit the amount of money a unit may save for postsecondary education or business capitalization; however, the unit may only save $1,500 toward the purchase of a new home.
[27] If the vehicle is needed to seek or retain employment, then the exemption is $9,300.
[28] 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.
[29] Ohio has eliminated the asset test.
[30] This applies to IDA account holders whose gross household income for the preceding calendar year was less than or equal to 100 percent of the poverty line. For account holders whose income was between 100 and 150 percent of the poverty line, the match rate is $0.75 to $1. For those with income between 150 and 200 percent of the poverty line, the match rate is $.50 to $1.
[31] The limit is reduced to $2,500 if the recipient does not cooperate with his or her case plan.
[32] The participant's employer contributes $1 for every hour the participant works.
[33] A unit may exempt $4,650 of the equity value of a vehicle, or an entire vehicle of a special type and/or specially equipped to provide necessary transportation of a disabled family member, regardless of equity value.
[34] 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.
[35] 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, 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.
[36] IDAs are generally matched dollar-for-dollar with funds from private citizens, corporations, banks, communities, or charitable organizations.
[37] The entire equity value of a vehicle used to transport a disabled household member is also exempt.
[38] In addition to the $1,000 asset limit, up to 100 percent of the unit's total gross earnings from the previous month, if placed in a savings account, will not count toward its asset limit.
[39] If the fair market value of the vehicle is greater than $7,500, any equity value greater than $1,500 is counted toward the resource limit.
[40] $3,000 in a savings account or certificate of deposit may also be excluded.
[41] The entire vehicle used to transport a disabled household member is also exempt.

[42] The $12,000 exemption applies to one vehicle for a single-parent unit and to two vehicles for a married couple.

Table IV.A.3 Income Eligibility Tests for Recipients, July 2001

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		
All, except JOBSTART	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard
JOBSTART	Net Income	185% of Need Standard
Arkansas	Net Income	100% of Income Eligibility Standard
California	No Explicit Tests	—-
Colorado	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard
Connecticut		
Time-Limited Units	Gross Earnings	100% of the Federal Poverty Level
	Unearned Income	100% of Need Standard and 100% of Payment Standard
Time-Limited Exempt	Gross Earnings	100% of the Federal Poverty Level
	Unearned Income	100% of Need 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 Need
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[1]
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[1]
Missouri	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard
Montana	Gross Income	185% of Benefit Standard
Nebraska	No Explicit Tests	—-
Nevada	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard[1]
New Hampshire	No Explicit Tests	—-
New Jersey	No Explicit Tests	—-
New Mexico	Gross Income	85% of Federal Poverty Level
	Net Income	100% of Need Standard
New York	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard and 100% of 1996 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	—-

Table IV.A.3 Income Eligibility Tests for Recipients, July 2001		
State	Type of Test	Income Must be Less Than
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 Recognizable Needs
Utah	Gross Income	185% of Adjusted Standard Needs Budget
	Net Income	100% of Adjusted Standard Needs Budget
Vermont	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard
	Net Income	100% of Need Standard
Virginia		
VIEW	Gross Earnings	100% of Federal Poverty Level
	Unearned Income	100% of Standard of Need[2]
All, except VIEW	Gross Income	185% of Standard of Need
Washington	Gross Earnings	100% of Maximum 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 DHHS/ACF.

Notes: “No Explicit Test” indicates that either the state imposes no income tests on recipients or the state does impose an income test, but the calculation of the test and disregards allowed for the test are not different from those used to calculate the benefit. See Table I.E.3 for information on eligibility standards.

[1] The gross income test does not apply to earnings for recipients receiving the 100 percent disregard.
[2] For two-parent units to be eligible their gross earned income must be below 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Level and unearned income must be below 100 percent of the Standard of Need.

Table IV.B.1 Family Cap Policies, July 2001				
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	None (Disregard)[2]	Always Capped
Arkansas	Yes	Any Month after Case Opening	None	6
California	Yes	10 [3]	None[4]	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 Increment for First Child Subject to Cap[6]	Always Capped
Georgia	Yes	10	Varies[7]	Always Capped
Hawaii	No	—-	—-	—-
Idaho	No[8]	—-	—-	—-
Illinois	Yes	10	None	9
Indiana	Yes	10	None	Always Capped
Iowa	No	—-	—-	—-
Kansas	No	—-	—-	—-
Kentucky	No	—-	—-	—-
Louisiana	No	—-	—-	—-
Maine	No	—-	—-	—-
Maryland	Yes	10	None (Third-Party Payment)[9]	Always Third-Party Payment
Massachusetts	Yes	10	None (Disregard)[10]	Always Capped
Michigan	No	—-	—-	—-
Minnesota	No	—-	—-	—-
Mississippi	Yes	10	None	Always Capped
Missouri	No	—-	—-	—-
Montana	No	—-	—-	—-
Nebraska	Yes	10	None	6
Nevada	No	—-	—-	—-
New Hampshire	No	—-	—-	—-
New Jersey	Yes	10	None (Earner Exemption)[11]	12 [12]
New Mexico	No	—-	—-	—-
New York	No	—-	—-	—-
North Carolina	Yes	10	None	Always Capped
North Dakota	Yes	8	None	12
Ohio	No	—-	—-	—-
Oklahoma	Yes	10	None (Voucher)[13]	Always Capped
Oregon	No	—-	—-	—-
Pennsylvania	No	—-	—-	—-
Rhode Island	No	—-	—-	—-
South Carolina	Yes	10	None (Voucher)[14]	Always Capped
South Dakota	No	—-	—-	—-
Tennessee	Yes	10	None	1 [15]
Texas	No	—-	—-	—-
Utah	No	—-	—-	—-
Vermont	No	—-	—-	—-
Virginia	Yes	10	None	Always Capped
Washington	No	—-	—-	—-

Table IV.B.1 Family Cap Policies, July 2001				
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]
West Virginia	No	—-	—-	—-
Wisconsin	No[16]	—-	—-	—-
Wyoming	Yes	10	No	Always Capped

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

Note: Some units may be exempt from family cap policies. See WRD for more details on specific state family cap 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, whereas other states may include previously capped children in benefit and eligibility calculations if the unit has not received assistance for a specified period of time.
[2] Units subjected to the family cap receive an additional disregard equal to the lost benefit amount. This additional disregard is allowed for each month the member is excluded due to a cap.
[3] The unit is exempt from the family cap if the unit leaves assistance for two months during the 10-month period leading up to the birth.
[4] Any child support received for a child subject to the family cap is treated as exempt income.
[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 birth of the child, the child will always be capped. If the minor did not receive benefits within 10 months of the birth of the child, the child will be eligible for assistance once the minor turns 18. Units in which the child is not permanently capped, may receive non-cash assistance services in the form of vouchers upon request, but they will not be automatically given each month. Receipt is based on need.
[6] The normal increment is the additional amount a unit receives for adding a person to the unit. For instance, a two-person unit that adds an additional child may receive another $30 each month since they are now a three-person unit. There is no increase in cash benefits for the second child or subsequent children subject to the cap.
[7] 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.
[8] The state provides a flat maximum benefit, regardless of family size. However, the payment standard 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.
[9] The money the unit would have received for the additional child will instead go to a third party (church, charitable organization, relative, etc.) to purchase necessary care requirements for the affected child.
[10] Units subjected to the family cap receive an additional disregard equal to the first $90 of income received by or on behalf of a capped child in any month.
[11] Units in which at least one adult member of the unit is working (any number of hours) are not subject to the family cap.
[12] After case closure, if the recipient is employed for three months and loses the job by no fault of his or her own, the previously capped child is included in the unit. These units do not receive a new 10-month grace period for any subsequent pregnancies.
[13] The unit will not receive cash for an additional child; however, the unit will receive a voucher for the amount it would have received during the first 36 months to pay for expenses associated with the child. Vouchers are similar to cash. The capped portion of the benefit is distributed every month, divided into two vouchers that can be used at any store to purchase things necessary for the capped child.
[14] Benefits will be provided in the form of vouchers up to the amount of increase in cash benefits the unit would have received for the child.
[15] The family cap remains in effect if the case was closed for non-cooperation with Families First policies, without good cause, or because of sanction. If the case was closed for non-cooperation, the family cap will remain in effect if the assistance group reapplies within three months of case closure. If the case was closed because of sanction, the family cap remains in effect whenever the assistance group reapplies.
[16] The state provides a flat benefit, regardless of family size.

Table IV.C.1 State Lifetime Time Limit Policies, July 2001

State	Lifetime Limit	Whose Benefits Are Terminated:	
		Entire Unit	Adult Only
Alabama	60 Months	X	—
Alaska	60 Months	X	—
Arizona			
All, except JOBSTART	—	—	—
JOBSTART	6 Months[1]	X	—
Arkansas	24 Months	X	—
California	60 Months[2]	—	X
Colorado	60 Months	X	—
Connecticut	21 Months[3]	X	—
Delaware	36 Months[4]	X	—
D.C.	—[5]	—	—
Florida	48 Months	X	—
Georgia	48 Months	X	—
Hawaii	60 Months	X	—
Idaho	24 Months	X	—
Illinois	60 Months	X	—
Indiana	24 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	—	—	—
Minnesota	60 Months	X	—
Mississippi	60 Months	X	—
Missouri	60 Months	X	—
Montana	60 Months	X	—
Nebraska	60 Months[8]	X	—
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	60 Months[9]	X	—
North Carolina	60 Months[10]	X	—
North Dakota	60 Months	X	—
Ohio	60 Months[11]	X	—
Oklahoma	60 Months	X	—
Oregon	—	—	—
Pennsylvania	60 Months	X	—
Rhode Island	60 Months	—	X
South Carolina	60 Months	X	—
South Dakota	60 Months	X	—
Tennessee	60 Months	X	—
Texas	60 Months	X	—
Utah	36 Months	X	—
Vermont	—	—	—

Table IV.C.1 State Lifetime Time Limit Policies, July 2001

State	Lifetime Limit	Whose Benefits Are Terminated: Entire Unit	Whose Benefits Are Terminated: Adult Only
Virginia			
VIEW	60 Months	X	—
All, except VIEW	—	—	—
Washington	60 Months	X	—
West Virginia	60 Months	X	—
Wisconsin	60 Months[12]	X	—
Wyoming	60 Months	X	—

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

[1] Recipients may only participate in JOBSTART for a total of six months. If they want to continue receiving assistance after that time, they are placed in the All, except JOBSTART component.
[2] California's TANF funding began December 1996, but recipients' benefit months did not begin to count against the units' 60-month limit until January 1998. Using state funds, California will extend recipients' benefits beyond 60 months if the units received assistance between December 1996 and January 1998. The length of the extension is equal to the number of months the unit received benefits during this time period.
[3] A recipient can qualify for an unlimited number of six-month extensions to the 21-month time limit provided that he or she meets the expectations of the employment contract, has not been sanctioned more than one time, and has income below the need standard. If the recipient is sanctioned at any time during the extension period, he or she becomes ineligible for assistance.
[4] The 36-month time limit applies to assistance units that apply for benefits on or after January 1, 2000. Units that have received benefits before this date are eligible for 48 months of assistance.
[5] The District of Columbia uses local money to fund assistance units that have reached the 60-month lifetime time limit.
[6] In addition to the 60-month lifetime limit, units must also 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). Recipients may select an ending date by laying out plans for a training goal and calculating the time needed to fulfill the activities needed to reach that goal, or select the desired ending date and choose activities that will lead to self-sufficiency by that date. The ending date should remain fixed; it should not be regularly revised or updated. However, the time frame can be extended if funding for activities or supportive services is not available. Recipients that fail to demonstrate satisfactory progress or choose not to develop a time frame plan will have their unit's benefits eliminated indefinitely until the recipient signs a time frame plan. A recipient that fails again will have his or her unit's benefits eliminated for a minimum of six months and thereafter until the recipient signs a time frame plan and completes 20 hours of work or training activity.
[7] Units who are 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] Because of the implementation of a state time limit under a waiver, Nebraska assumed that months in which an individual received assistance did not count toward the federal 60-month time limit. However, on August 1, 2002 the state was notified by the federal government that months of assistance do (did) count against the 60-month limit. Therefore, the state retroactively applied the 60-month time limit to all recipients as of the date TANF began or the first month of receipt under the waiver, whichever was later.
[9] After 60 months the unit is still eligible to receive noncash assistance through the state's Safety Net Assistance program.
[10] In certain circumstances, a child may be able to continue receiving benefits after the 60-month time limit has expired. Since the time limit follows the adult, a child may enter a new household and become eligible in a new assistance unit.
[11] 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.
[12] In addition to the total 60-month time limit, individuals are subject to a 24-month time limit in each of the following components: W-2 Transitions, Community Service Jobs (CSJ), and Trial Jobs.

Table IV.C.2 Other State Time Limit Policies, July 2001			
State	Time Limit	Whose Benefits Are Terminated:	
		Entire Unit	Adult Only
Alabama	—-	—-	—-
Alaska	—-	—-	—-
Arizona			
All, except JOBSTART	24 Out of 60 Months[1]	—-	X
JOBSTART	—- [2]	—-	—-
Arkansas	—-	—-	—-
California	—-	—-	—-
Colorado	—-	—-	—-
Connecticut	—-	—-	—-
Delaware	—	—	—-
D.C.	—-	—-	—-
Florida	24 Out of 60 Months or 36 Out of 72 Months[3]	X	—-
Georgia	—-	—-	—-
Hawaii	—-	—-	—-
Idaho	—-	—-	—-
Illinois	—-	—-	—-
Indiana	—-	—-	—-
Iowa	—-	—-	—-
Kansas	—-	—-	—-
Kentucky	—-	—-	—-
Louisiana	24 Out of 60 Months	X	—-
Maine	—-	—-	—-
Maryland	—-	—-	—-
Massachusetts			
Exempt	—-	—-	—-
Nonexempt	24 Out of 60 Months	X	—-
Michigan	—-	—-	—-
Minnesota	—-	—-	—-
Mississippi	—-	—-	—-
Missouri	—-	—-	—-
Montana	—-	—-	—-
Nebraska	—-	—-	—-
Time-Limited Assistance	24 Out of 48 Months	X	—-
Non-Time-Limited Assistance	—-	—-	—-
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	X	—-
Oklahoma	—-	—-	—-
Oregon	24 Out of 86 Months	X	—-
Pennsylvania	—-	—-	—-

Table IV.C.2 Other State Time Limit Policies, July 2001

State	Time Limit	Whose Benefits Are Terminated:	
		Entire Unit	Adult Only
Rhode Island	—-	—-	—-
South Carolina	24 Out of 120 Months	X	—-
South Dakota	—-	—-	—-
Tennessee	18 Months; Followed by 3 Months of Ineligibility	X	—-
Texas	12, 24, or 36 Months; Followed by 60 Months of Ineligibility[4]	—-	X
Utah	—- [5]	—-	—-
Vermont	—-	—-	—-
Virginia			
VIEW	24 Months; Followed by 24 Months of Ineligibility[6]	X	—-
All, except VIEW	—-	—-	—-
Washington	—-	—-	—-
West Virginia	—-	—-	—-
Wisconsin	—-	—-	—-
Wyoming	—-	—-	—-

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

[1] If a recipient reaches the 24-month limit, he or she loses eligibility, but his or her children are still eligible for benefits. The full resources and income of the ineligible individual are counted when determining the benefit for the eligible members of the unit; however, the needs of the ineligible individual are not included. In addition, the unit gets another disregard equal to the benefit amount lost due to the removal of the ineligible member. Note the ineligible member may still receive support services such as medical assistance, child care, and JOBS services. Also, for two-parent families a periodic time limit applies: six months of eligibility in any 12 month period.
[2] Two-parent families are only eligible for six months of eligibility in any 12 month period.
[3] The 24 of 60 months limit applies to nonexempt recipients that have received less than 36 months of assistance during the previous 60 months and are either over age 24 or under 24 with a high school diploma/GED. The 36 out of 72 months limit applies to nonexempt recipients that (1) have received benefits for 36 of the previous 60 months or (2) are under age 24, have not completed high school/GED, are not enrolled in a high school equivalency program, and have little or no work experience.
[4] The 12-month limit applies to nonexempt recipients that (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/GED, certificate from post-secondary school, or certificate or degree from vocational/technical school, and any work experience. The 24-month limit applies to nonexempt recipients who (1) have not completed the 11th grade and have six through 17 months of recent work experience, or (2) have 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) have not completed the 11th grade. Also, when determining the benefit for the remaining eligible individuals in the unit, the following procedure is used: calculate the countable gross monthly earned income of the disqualified parent or caretaker. Subtract the standard $120 work-related deduction from the earned income. Add the disqualified parent or caretaker's unearned income. Subtract the following: payments made to other dependents outside the home, amount paid in alimony and/or child support, and the Budgetary Needs Standard for the disqualified parent or caretaker plus the caretaker's dependents who live in the home but are excluded from the unit. The remaining income is deemed available to the unit.
[5] Two-parent families in which the principle wage earner is unemployed are only eligible for seven months of assistance in a 13-month period.
[6] After receiving 24 months of assistance, the unit may receive up to 12 months of transitional benefits. The 24 months of ineligibility begin with the month in which the case was closed or the month in which transitional benefits were terminated, whichever is later.

Policies across Time, 1996–2001

Policies across Time

This chapter of the *Databook* includes longitudinal tables for selected areas of policy for the years 1996, 1997, 1999, and 2001 (as of July of each year).[21] Although not every policy from the previous sections has a companion table here, data for every year from 1996 through 2001 for each policy can be found in the WRD.

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

Formal Diversion: 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 paid directly to the family or 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 did experiment with diversion through waivers. Generally, diversion programs began as demonstration projects in a few counties and, after TANF, the states expanded the programs statewide.[22]

Two-parent eligibility: 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 6-out-of-13-quarter work history test, and a 30-day waiting period. In the table, "Standard AFDC" describes the states that imposed the AFDC rules.

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[21] The data for years 1998 and 2000 can be obtained from the ANF publication, *Welfare Rules Databook: State TANF Policies as of 2000* by Gretchen Rowe and Tracy Roberts, or from the online WRD database.

[22] Years in which the state implemented a diversion program as a demonstration project in only a few counties are footnoted.

"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.

Maximum income for initial eligibility for a family of three: Table L3 calculates the amount of earned income a three- person unit can retain and still be technically eligible for assistance. "Technically eligible" means that the unit is eligible for assistance but may not actually receive a cash benefit. Most states will not pay out a benefit less than a specified amount (usually $10), but as long as the unit's potential benefit is positive, they are 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 that are allowed in determining the net income used for benefit computation. The disregards in this table apply to recipients.[23]

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

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

to keep more of their income and still remain eligible for aid. This broadening of disregards continued under TANF, which allows states to determine their own disregard policies.

Maximum monthly benefit for a family of three with no income: Table L5 indicates the benefit that a family of three will receive if they have no other income. The benefits are calculated assuming that the assistance unit includes one parent and two children, contains no "capped" children, 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 of the 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 in order 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 of age[24]. 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 purposes of the state's participation rate calculation. States have the option to exempt units with children younger or older than 12 months, but units with children over 12 months old will be included in

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

their work participation rate denominator. States with waivers also have the option of continuing their previous exemption policy under TANF, until the waivers expire.

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 types of policies continued and expanded under TANF. The federal government requires that all states sanction individuals for not complying with work requirements, but the 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 are different for applicants, they are footnoted.

States have liberalized asset tests over the past several years. Initially 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 and $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.[25] TANF neither requires nor prohibits family cap policies.

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

Table L1 Formal Diversion Payments, 1996-2001 (July)

State	1996	1997	1999	2001
Alabama	No	No	No	No
Alaska	No	No	Yes	Yes
Arizona	No	No	No	Yes
Arkansas	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
California[1]	No	No	No	Yes
Colorado[2]	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	No	No	Yes	Yes
Delaware	No	No	No	Yes[3]
D.C.	No	No	Yes	Yes
Florida	No	Yes	Yes[4]	Yes[5]
Georgia	No	No	No	No
Hawaii	No	No	No	No
Idaho	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Illinois	No	No	No	No
Indiana	No	No	No	No
Iowa	No	No[6]	No[6]	No[6]
Kansas	No	No	No	No
Kentucky	No	Yes[7]	Yes	Yes
Louisiana	No	No	No	No
Maine	No	Yes[8]	Yes[8]	Yes[8]
Maryland	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Massachusetts	No	No	No	No
Michigan	No	No	No	No
Minnesota	No	No	Yes[9]	Yes[9]
Mississippi	No	No	No	No
Missouri	No	No	No	No
Montana	No[10]	Yes[11]	Yes[11]	No
Nebraska	No	No	No	No
Nevada	No	No	No	No
New Hampshire	No	No	No	No
New Jersey	No	No	Yes[12]	Yes[12]
New Mexico	No	No	No	Yes[13]
New York	No	No	No	Yes[14]
North Carolina	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Dakota	No	No	No	No
Ohio[15]	No	No	Yes	Yes
Oklahoma	No	No	No	Yes[16]
Oregon	No	No	No	No
Pennsylvania	No	No	No	No
Rhode Island	No	No	No	No
South Carolina	No	No	No	No
South Dakota	No	No	Yes	Yes
Tennessee	No	No	No	No
Texas	No	No	Yes[17]	Yes[17]
Utah	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vermont	No	No	No	No
Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Washington	No	No	Yes	Yes
West Virginia	No	No[18]	Yes	Yes
Wisconsin	No	No[19]	Yes[20]	Yes[20]
Wyoming	No	No	No	No
Totals:	3	11	23	29

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

[1] Counties have the option to vary their diversion programs. These policies refer to Los Angeles County.
[2] Counties have the option to vary their diversion programs. These policies refer to Denver County.
[3] The state's diversion program is related to retaining or obtaining employment, and is only for parents living with natural or adopted children.
[4] Florida has two separate diversion programs. Up-front diversion 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.
[5] 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 Relocation Assistance, up to the amount needed to relocate, or a one-time $1,000 payment of Cash Severance Diversion. 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 receives a TANF payment as well. 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.
[6] Iowa is conducting a demonstration project that provides diversion assistance to its clients.
[7] Kentucky is conducting a demonstration project in four counties that provides diversion assistance to its clients.
[8] Diversion payments are only provided to caretaker relatives or parents who are employed or looking for work.
[9] 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 due to refusing suitable employment without good cause; (3) the family is at risk of MFIP eligibility if DA is not provided; and (4) the family is not in a period of eligibility for Emergency Assistance.
[10] Montana is conducting a demonstration project in eight counties that provides diversion assistance to its clients.
[11] Diversion payments are only provided for employment-related expenses at the discretion of the welfare department.
[12] Applicants for WFNJ/TANF must participate in New Jersey's diversion program, Early Employment Initiative, if they: (1) have a high school diploma or GED and a work history that equals or exceeds six months of full-time employment in the last 12 months, (2) have at least one child, (3) appear to meet TANF eligibility requirements, (4) are not in immediate need, and (5) 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 WFNJ/TANF application is being 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.
[13] Diversion payments are only available to assist applicants to keep a job or accept a bona fide offer of employment.
[14] New York has three types of diversion payments available: 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).
[15] Counties have the option to vary their diversion programs. These policies refer to Cuyahoga County.
[16] Individuals must be employed or have a bona fide offer of employment to qualify for diversion assistance.
[17] To qualify for the state's diversion program, the assistance unit must meet one of the "Crisis Criteria": (1) the caretaker or second parent has had a loss of employment in the process month, application month, or two months prior to application; (2) a single parent must have experienced a loss of financial support from a spouse within the last 12 months due to death, divorce, separation, or abandonment and have been employed within 12 months prior to the application or process month; (3) the caretaker or second parent has graduated from a university, college, junior college, or technical training school within 12 months prior to the application or process month and is under/unemployed; or (4)the caretaker and/or second parent is employed but faces the loss or potential loss of transportation/shelter or faces a medical emergency temporarily preventing them from continuing to work.
[18] West Virginia is conducting a demonstration project in nine counties that provides diversion assistance to its clients.
[19] Wisconsin is conducting a demonstration project in two counties that provides diversion assistance to its clients.
[20] 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, 1996-2001[1] (July)

State	1996	1997	1999	2001
Alabama	Standard AFDC	None	None	None
Alaska	Standard AFDC	None	None	None
Arizona	Modified[2]	Modified[2]	Modified[2]	Modified[2]
Arkansas	Standard AFDC	None	None	None
California	Modified[3]	Modified[3]	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	Standard AFDC
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]	Modified[3]
Iowa	Modified[6]	Modified[6]	Modified[7]	None
Kansas	Standard AFDC	None	None	None
Kentucky	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Modified[8]	Modified[8]
Louisiana	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	None	None
Maine	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Modified[9]	Modified[9]
Maryland	Standard AFDC	None	None	None
Massachusetts	Modified[10]	Modified[10]	Modified[10]	None
Michigan	None	None	None	None
Minnesota	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	None	None
Mississippi	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC
Missouri	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	None
Montana	Standard AFDC	None	None	None
Nebraska	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	None	None
Nevada	Standard AFDC	Modified[6]	None	None
New Hampshire	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC
New Jersey	Standard AFDC	None	None	None
New Mexico	Standard AFDC	None	None	None
New York	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	None	None
North Carolina	None	None	None	None
North Dakota	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Not Eligible[11]	Not Eligible[11]
Ohio	None	None	None	None
Oklahoma	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Modified[10]	Modified[10]
Oregon	None	None	None	None
Pennsylvania	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Modified[2]
Rhode Island	Standard AFDC	None	None	None
South Carolina	Standard AFDC	None	None	None
South Dakota	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Modified[12]	Modified[12]
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
Virginia	Standard AFDC	None	None	None
Washington	Standard AFDC	Modified[3]	Modified[3]	None
West Virginia	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	None	None
Wisconsin	Modified[3]	Modified[3]	None	None
Wyoming	Standard AFDC	None	None	None

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

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 do not, however, include any variation in state programs due to 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, six out of the last 13 quarters work history, and 30-day waiting period.
[4] Modified rules for two-parent units: 100-hour work limit for applicants and four-week waiting period.
[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 $500 within the six months before application, (4) receiving retirement benefits, (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: seven-day waiting period.
[8] 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.
[9] Modified rules for two-parent units: 100-hour work limit for applicants, 130-hour work limit for recipients, six out of the last 13 quarters work history, and 30-day waiting period.
[10] Modified rules for two-parent units: six out of the last 13 quarters work history and 30-day waiting period.
[11] North Dakota does not provide benefits to two-parent, nondisabled units.
[12] 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[1], 1996-2001 (July)

State	1996	1997	1999	2001
Alabama	$366	$205	$205	$205
Alaska	$1,118	$1,147	$1,182	$1,246
Arizona	$639	$639	$586	$586
Arkansas	$426	$279	$279	$279
California	$820	$844	$883	$906
Colorado	$511	$511	$511	$511
Connecticut	$835	$835	$835	$835
Delaware	$428	$428	$428	$428
D.C.	$742	$688	$479	$539
Florida	$574	$806	$393	$393
Georgia	$514	$514	$514	$514
Hawaii	$1,187	$1,641 [2]	$1,641 [2]	$1,641 [2]
Idaho	$1,081	$577	$637	$637
Illinois	$467	$467	$467	$467
Indiana	$378	$378	$378	$378
Iowa	$1,061	$1,061	$1,061	$1,061
Kansas	$519	$519	$519	$519
Kentucky	$616	$616	$909	$909
Louisiana	$405	$280	$310	$360
Maine	$643	$643	$1,023	$1,023
Maryland	$607	$471	$499	$549
Massachusetts				
Exempt	$669	$669	$669	$723
Nonexempt	$655	$655	$655	$708
Michigan	$774	$774	$774	$774
Minnesota	$622	$622	$955	$991
Mississippi	$458	$458	$458	$458
Missouri	$558	$558	$558	$558
Montana	$631			$859
Pathways and JSP	—-	$758	$797	—-
CSP	—-	$538	$569	—-
Nebraska	$454	$454	$667	$693
Nevada	$642	$435	$1,035	$1,098
New Hampshire	$943	$688	$688	$750
New Jersey	$783	$636	$636	$636
New Mexico	$479	$720	$720	$1,036 [3]
New York	$667	$667	$667	$667
North Carolina	$936	$936	$936	$750
North Dakota	$521	$521	$784	$1,252
Ohio	$631	$631	$630	$980
Oklahoma	$580	$734	$704	$704
Oregon	$550	$616	$616	$616
Pennsylvania	$677	$677	$677	$677
Rhode Island	$644	$1,278	$1,278	$1,278
South Carolina	$614	$630	$555	$578
South Dakota	$597	$597	$626	$626
Tennessee	$767	$826	$948	$979

Table L3 Maximum Income for Initial Eligibility for a Family of Three[1], 1996-2001 (July)

State	1996	1997	1999	2001
Texas	$400	$400	$400	$401
Utah	$525	$525	$550	$573
Vermont	$945	$965	$979	$988
Virginia				
VIEW	$1,082 [4]	$1,111	$1,157	$1,219
All, except VIEW	$380	$380	$380	$380
Washington	$937	$937	$1,090	$1,090
West Virginia	$498	$496	$503	$991
Wisconsin	$895	$895	—[5]	—[6]
Wyoming	$680	$340	$540	$540
Mean[7]	**$670**	**$669**	**$719**	**$761**
Median[7]	**$631**	**$631**	**$667**	**$693**

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

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 amounts 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. The amounts have been rounded to the nearest dollar, therefore, in some cases the family may be able to earn slightly less than the amount in the table and in other cases they may be able to earn slightly more. Note that most states only distribute a cash benefit if it is over $10.
[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] For purposes of the state's earned income disregard, the adult head is assumed to be working 40 hours a week.
[4] The All, except VIEW units comprised the majority of the caseload in this year.
[5] Units with full-time employment (generally greater than 30 hours a week) at application will not receive a cash benefit in the state. However, applicants may earn up to $1,331 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 the state. 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 on a case-by-case basis. Recipients may earn up to $1,356 and still be eligible for nonfinancial assistance, however.
[7] The values only include one amount per state (the policy affecting the largest percent of the caseload), and the eligibility threshold for Wisconsin is included in the calculation.

Table L4 Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, 1996-2001 (July)

State	1996	1997	1999	2001
Alabama	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months, $120 in next 8 months, $90 thereafter	100% in first 3 consecutive months, 20% thereafter	100% in first 3 consecutive months, 20% thereafter	100% in first 3 consecutive months, 20% thereafter
Alaska	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$150 and 33.3% 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[1]	$150 and 33.3% 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[1]	$150 and 33.3% 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[1]
Arizona				$90 and 30% of remainder
All, except JOBSTART	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$90 and 30% of remainder	—
JOBSTART	None	None	None	—
Arkansas	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in 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	$120 and 33.3% of remainder	$225 dollars and 50% of remainder	$225 dollars and 50% of remainder
Colorado	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter
Connecticut	100% of the federal poverty level	100% of the federal poverty level	100% of the federal poverty level	100% of the federal poverty level
Delaware	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter
D.C.	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$100 and 50% of remainder	$160 and 66.7% of remainder
Florida	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in 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 in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter

Table L4 Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, 1996-2001 (July)				
State	1996	1997	1999	2001
Hawaii	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in 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 in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	40%	40%	40%
Illinois	66.7%	66.7%	66.7%	66.7%
Indiana	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	No disregards- flat grant amount
Iowa	20% and 50% of remainder	20% and 50% of remainder	20% and 50% of remainder	20% and 50% of remainder
Kansas	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$90 and 40% of remainder	$90 and 40% of remainder	$90 and 40% of remainder
Kentucky	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	100% in first 2 months,[2] $120 and 33.3% of remainder in next 4 months, $120 in next 8 months, $90 thereafter	100% in first 2 months,[2] $120 and 33.3% of remainder in next 4 months, $120 in next 8 months, $90 thereafter	100% in first 2 months,[2] $120 and 33.3% of remainder in next 4 months, $120 in next 8 months, $90 thereafter
Louisiana	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$1,020 for 6 months, $120 thereafter	$1,020 for 6 months, $120 thereafter
Maine	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$108 and 50% of remainder	$108 and 50% of remainder
Maryland	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	26%	35%	35%
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 in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	36%	38%
Mississippi	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	100% for first 6 months, $90 thereafter[3]	100% for first 6 months, $90 thereafter[3]	100% for first 6 months, $90 thereafter[3]

Table L4 Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, 1996-2001 (July)

State	1996	1997	1999	2001
Missouri	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	66.7% and $90 of remainder in first 12 months, $90 thereafter[4]
Montana	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	—	—	$200 and 25% of remainder
Pathways	—	$200 and 25% of remainder	$200 and 25% of remainder	—
Community Service Program	—	$100	$100	—
Job Supplement Program	—	$200 and 25% of remainder	$200 and 25% of remainder	—
Nebraska	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	20%	20%
Nevada	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	100% first 3 months, 50% in months 4-12, $90 or 20% (whichever is greater) thereafter	100% first 3 months, 50% in months 4-12, $90 or 20% (whichever is greater) thereafter	100% first 3 months, 50% in months 4-12, $90 or 20% (whichever is greater) thereafter
New Hampshire	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	50%	50%	50%
New Jersey	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	100% in first month, 50% thereafter[5]	100% in first month, 50% thereafter[5]	100% in first month, 50% thereafter[5]
New Mexico	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$150 and 50% of remainder	All earnings in excess of 29 hours per week, $150 and 50% of remainder in first 24 months, $150 and 50% of remainder thereafter[6]	All earnings in excess of 34 hours per week, $125 and 50% of remainder in first 24 months, $125 and 50%of remainder thereafter[6]
New York	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$90 and 45% of remainder	$90 and 47% of remainder
North Carolina	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	100% in first 3 months of employment,[7] 27.5% thereafter

Table L4 Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, 1996-2001 (July)

State	1996	1997	1999	2001
North Dakota	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$90 or 27%, whichever is greater, and formula[8]	$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, and $180 or 27% (whichever is greater) thereafter
Ohio	$250 and 50% of remainder for first 12 months, $90 thereafter	$250 and 50% of remainder in first 12 months, $90 thereafter	$250 and 50% of remainder in first 18 months	$250 and 50% of remainder
Oklahoma	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 50% of remainder	$120 and 50% of remainder	$120 and 50% of remainder
Oregon	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	50%	50%
Pennsylvania	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	50%	50%	50%
Rhode Island	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in 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 in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	50% in first 4 months, $100 thereafter	50% in first 4 months, $100 thereafter
South Dakota	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$90 and 20% of remainder	$90 and 20% of remainder
Tennessee	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$150	$150	$150
Texas	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 90% of remainder (up to $1,400) for 4 out of 12 months, $120 thereafter
Utah	$100 and 50% of remainder[9]	$100 and 50% of remainder[9]	$100 and 50% of remainder[9]	$100 and 50% of remainder[9]
Vermont	$150 and 25% of remainder	$150 and 25% of remainder	$150 and 25% of remainder	$150 and 25% of remainder
Virginia	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter

Table L4 Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, 1996-2001 (July)

State	1996	1997	1999	2001
Washington	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	50%	50%
West Virginia	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	40%	60%
Wisconsin	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	No disregards- flat grant amount	No disregards- flat grant amount
Wyoming	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$200 [10]	$200 [10]	$200 [10]

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

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 benefit computation disregards for recipients. If the disregards differ for applicants, it is footnoted.

[1] This disregard is also applied to applicants who have received assistance in one of the previous four months.
[2] Recipients are eligible for the one-time 100 percent disregard if they become newly employed or report earnings acquired after approval.
[3] Recipients are eligible for the one-time 100 percent disregard if they find employment of 35 hours per week within the first 30 days following 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 due to increased earnings and the individual is employed for at least 25 hours per 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 that 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. Two-parent units may disregard 100 percent of earnings for the first six months, $120 and 33.3 percent of remainder in the next 12 months, and $90 thereafter.
[4] This disregard only applies to recipients who become employed while receiving TANF. Those recipients who gained employment before receiving TANF and applicants are allowed to disregard $120 and 33.3 percent of remainder for the first four months, $120 the next eight months, and $90 thereafter.
[5] The 100 percent disregard is only applicable 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.
[6] Two-parent units may disregard all earnings in excess of 35 hours per week for one parent and 24 hours per week for the other parent and $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 only applies to recipients for the first 24 months of benefit receipt, for both single- and two-parent units.
[7] The 100 percent disregard is only available once in a lifetime and may be received only if the recipient is newly employed at a job that is expected to be permanent for more than 20 hours a week.
[8] The formula for months one through eight equals A*(A/B)*.5, where A = Min[earnings after initial disregard, B] and B = Employment Incentive Limit; for months nine and 10 it equals A*(A/B)*.3, where A = Min[earnings after initial disregard, B] and B = Employment Incentive Limit; and for months 11 and 12 it equals A*(A/B)*.1, where A = Min[earnings after initial disregard, B] and B = Employment Incentive Limit. Beginning in the 13th month, there is no additional disregard.
[9] To be eligible for the 50 percent disregards, the recipient must have received benefits in at least one of the previous four months.
[10] Married couples with a child in common may disregard $400.

Table L5 Maximum Monthly Benefit for a Family of Three with No Income, 1996-2001 (July)

State	1996	1997	1999	2001
Alabama	$164	$164	$164	$164
Alaska	$923	$923	$923	$923
Arizona	$347	$347	$347	$347
Arkansas	$204	$204	$204	$204
California	$596			
Nonexempt	—	$565	$626	$645
Exempt	—	$631	$699	$720
Colorado	$356	$356	$356	$356
Connecticut	$543	$543	$543	$543
Delaware	$338	$338	$338	$338
D.C.	$415	$379	$379	$379
Florida	$303	$303	$303	$303
Georgia	$280	$280	$280	$280
Hawaii	$712	$570 [1]	$570 [1]	$570 [1]
Idaho	$317	$276	$276	$293
Illinois	$377	$377	$377	$377
Indiana	$288	$288	$288	$288
Iowa	$426	$426	$426	$426
Kansas	$429	$429	$429	$429
Kentucky	$262	$262	$262	$262
Louisiana	$190	$190	$190	$240
Maine	$418	$418	$461	$461
Maryland	$373	$377	$399	$439
Massachusetts				
Exempt	$579	$579	$579	$633
Nonexempt	$565	$565	$565	$618
Michigan	$459	$459	$459	$459
Minnesota	$532	$532	$532	$532
Mississippi	$120	$120	$170	$170
Missouri	$292	$292	$292	$292
Montana	$425		$469	$494
Pathways	—	$438	—	—
CSP	—	$438	—	—
JSP	—	—	—	—
Nebraska	$364	$364	$364	$364
Nevada	$348	$348	$348	$348
New Hampshire	$550	$550	$550	$600
New Jersey	$424	$424	$424	$424
New Mexico	$389	$389	$439	$389
New York	$577	$577	$577	$577
North Carolina	$272	$272	$272	$272
North Dakota	$431	$431	$457	$477
Ohio	$341	$341	$362	$373
Oklahoma	$307	$307	$292	$292
Oregon	$503	$503	$503	$503
Pennsylvania	$403	$403	$403	$403
Rhode Island	$554	$554	$554	$554
South Carolina	$200	$200	$201	$203
South Dakota	$430	$430	$430	$430

Table L5 Maximum Monthly Benefit for a Family of Three with No Income, 1996-2001 (July)

State	1996	1997	1999	2001
Tennessee	$185	$185		
Time Limited Unit	—	—	$185	$185
Time Limited Exempt Unit	—	—	$232	$232
Texas	$188	$188	$188	$201
Utah	$426	$426	$451	$474
Vermont	$597	$611	$622	$629
Virginia	$291	$291	$291	$320
Washington	$546	$546	$546	$546
West Virginia	$253	$253	$303	$453
Wisconsin	$518	$518		
W-2 Transition	—	—	$628	$628
Community Service Jobs	—	—	$673	$673
Wyoming	$360	$340	$340	$340
Mean[2]	**$395**	**$390**	**$399**	**$409**
Median[2]	**$377**	**$377**	**$379**	**$389**

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

Note: Maximum benefits are calculated assuming that the unit contains one adult and two children who are not affected by 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 at least two months in a lifetime. For units receiving the first and second months of benefits, the maximum benefit for a family of three is $712.
[2] The values only include one amount per state (the policy affecting the largest percent of the caseload).

Table L6 Work-Related Exemption When Caring for a Child under X Months, 1996-2001 (July)

State	1996	1997	1999	2001
Alabama	36	36	36	36
Alaska	36	12 [1]	12 [1]	12 [1]
Arizona			No Exemption	No Exemption
All, except JOBSTART	24	12	—	—
JOBSTART	24	24	—	—
Arkansas	No Exemption	3 [2]	3 [2]	3 [2]
California	36 [3]	36 [3]	12 [4]	12 [4]
Colorado	12	12 [5]	12 [5]	12 [5]
Connecticut[6]	12	12	12	12
Delaware	13 weeks	13 weeks	13 weeks	13 Weeks
D.C.	36	36	12	12
Florida	36	3 [7]	3 [7]	3 [7]
Georgia	36	12 [8]	12 [8]	12 [8]
Hawaii	36	6	6	6
Idaho	36	No Exemption	No Exemption	No Exemption
Illinois [9]	36	12	12	12
Indiana	36 [7]	24 [10]	3	3
Iowa	3	No Exemption[11]	No Exemption[11]	No Exemption[11]
Kansas	36	12	12	12
Kentucky	36	12 [12]	12 [12]	121 [2]
Louisiana	12	12 [12]	12 [12]	12 [12]
Maine	36	36	12 [12]	12 [12]
Maryland	36	12 [13]	12 [13]	12 [13]
Massachusetts				
Exempt[14]	—	—	—	—
Nonexempt	No Exemption	No Exemption	No Exemption	No Exemption
Michigan	No Exemption	3	3	3
Minnesota	36	36	12	12
Mississippi	36	12 [12]	12 [12]	12 [12]
Missouri	36	36	12 [12]	12
Montana	12			No Exemption
Pathways and Community Service	—	No Exemption	No Exemption	—
Job Supplement Program[14]	—	—	—	—
Nebraska	12	12		
Time-Limited Assistance	—	—	3	3
Non-Time-Limited Assistance[14]	—	—	—	—
Nevada	36	12 [12]	12 [12]	12 [12]
New Hampshire	36			
New Hampshire Employment Program	—	36	36	24 [15]
Family Assistance Program[14]	—	—	—	—
New Jersey	24 [16]	3 [17]	3 [17]	3 [17]
New Mexico	36	12 [12]	12 [12]	12 [12]
New York	36	36	12 [18]	12 [18]
North Carolina	60 [19]	60 [19]	12 [12]	12 [12]
North Dakota	24	4	4	4
Ohio	12	12	12	12
Oklahoma	12	12	3 [2]	3 [2]
Oregon	3 [20]	3 [20]	3	3
Pennsylvania	36	12 [12]	12 [12]	12 [12]
Rhode Island	36	12	12	12

Table L6 Work-Related Exemption When Caring for a Child under X Months, 1996-2001 (July)

State	1996	1997	1999	2001
South Carolina	36	12	12 [12]	12
South Dakota	12	12	3	3
Tennessee	12	4	4	4
Texas	36	60	48	24
Utah	No Exemption	No Exemption	No Exemption	No Exemption
Vermont	18 [21]	18 [21]	18 [21]	24 [22]
Virginia			18 [23]	18 [23]
VIEW	18 [23]	18 [23]	---	---
All, except VIEW	36	36	---	---
Washington	36	36	4 [12]	4 [12]
West Virginia	36	12 [24]	12 [24]	12 [24]
Wisconsin	12	3	3	3
Wyoming	12	12	3 [12]	3 [12]

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

[1] The caretaker loses this exemption after retaining it for 12 cumulative months.
[2] The parent may only receive exemptions, in any combination, for a total of 12 months in his or her lifetime. Any exemptions that the parent is eligible for and uses accumulate toward the 12 months.
[3] This exemption is limited to one child during a period of continuous TANF eligibility, where continuous is defined as receiving welfare without a break for at least six consecutive months.
[4] Counties have the option to vary some activities exemptions; these policies refer to Los Angeles County. The recipient may only receive this exemption one time; however, he or she may also receive a limited exemption for a second or subsequent child under six months old.
[5] Counties have the option to vary activities exemptions; these policies refer to Denver County. The exemption does not apply to recipients that have received benefits for 24 or more cumulative months.
[6] The exemption only applies if the child is not subject to a family cap.
[7] Recipients may be required to attend classes or other activities.
[8] The exemption is limited to once in the recipient's lifetime.
[9] The exemption does not apply to units where the youngest related child is age 13 or older.
[10] The exemption only applies if the child is not subject to a family cap. Caretakers of children subject to a family cap may be exempt if the child is under three months old.
[11] If the participant has a newborn child, absence from activities is determined using the standards of the Family 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.
[12] The exemption is limited to 12 months in the recipient's lifetime.
[13] This is a one-time exemption for the first child only.
[14] Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from activities requirements. To be included in this component, recipients have to meet certain criteria.
[15] Recipients under the age of 18 with no high school diploma or its equivalent must participate in basic education activities when their child is 12 weeks old. Recipients age 18 through 20 with no high school diploma must participate in basic education activities when their child is six months. Recipients that conceive a child while on assistance are exempt only until the child is 12 months old.
[16] Parents of children under age two are required to participate in counseling and vocational assessment.
[17] The exemption may be extended if a physician certifies it is medically necessary for the parent or child.
[18] 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.
[19] This applies to caretakers with children under five years, unless the caretaker or parent is working more than 30 hours a week.
[20] Native Americans who live in the Confederated Tribe of the Grande Ronde Service District are excluded from JOBS participation.
[21] The parent is exempt from working but must participate in the Reach Up program.
[22] If the recipient cares for a child under 24 months of age, work requirements may be modified or deferred. A participant's work requirement cannot be deferred for this reason for more than 24 months during a lifetime. If the participant has exhausted the 24 months of deferment and has a child is under 13 weeks of age, then the caretaker is automatically exempt from all work requirements.
[23] Recipients caring for children subject to a family cap are only exempt while the child is under six weeks old.
[24] 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).

Table L7 Most Severe Sanction Policy for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Adults, 1996-2001 (July)

	1996		1997		1999		2001	
State	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)
Alabama	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Entire Benefit	6 Months	Entire Benefit	6 Months	Entire Benefit	6 Months
Alaska	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit[1]	12 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit[1]	12 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit[1]	12 Months+
Arizona					Entire Benefit	1 Month+	Entire Benefit	1 Month+
All, except JOBSTART	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	—-	—-	—-	—-
JOBSTART	50%[2]	1 Month+	50%[2]	1 Month+	—-	—-	—-	—-
Arkansas	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Case Is closed[3]	3 Months+	25%	Until Compliance	25%	Until Compliance
California	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+
Colorado[4]	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Entire Benefit	3 Months+	Entire Benefit	3 Months+	Entire Benefit	3 Months+
Connecticut	Entire Benefit	3 Months and Must Reapply	Entire Benefit	3 Months and Must Reapply	Entire Benefit	3 Months and Must Reapply	Entire Benefit	3 Months and Must Reapply
Delaware	Entire Benefit	Permanent	Entire Benefit	Permanent	Entire Benefit	Permanent	Entire Benefit	Permanent
D.C.	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+
Florida	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Entire Benefit	3 Months[5]	Entire Benefit	3 Months[5]	Entire Benefit	3 Months[6]+
Georgia	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Entire Benefit	Permanent	Entire Benefit	Permanent	Entire Benefit	Permanent
Hawaii	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 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, 1996-2001 (July)

State	1996		1997		1999		2001	
	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)
Indiana			Adult Portion of Benefit	36 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	36 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	36 Months+
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	Entire Benefit	6 Months[7]	Entire Benefit	6 Months[7]
Kansas	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Entire Benefit	2 Months+	Entire Benefit	2 Months+	Entire Benefit	2 Months+
Kentucky	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Pro Rata Portion of Benefit[8]	Until Compliance	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance
Louisiana	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Case Is Closed	Until Compliance	Case Is Closed	Until Compliance
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 Month+	Entire Benefit	1 Month+	Entire Benefit	1 Month+
Minnesota	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Vendor Payment and 30%[10]	1 Month+	Vendor Payment and 30%[10]	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+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	25%	3 Months+	25%	3 Months+
Montana	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Case Is Closed[11]	12 Months	Case Is Closed[11]	12 Months

Table L7 Most Severe Sanction Policy for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Adults, 1996-2001 (July)

	1996		1997		1999		2001	
State	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)
Nebraska	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+				
Time-Limited Assistance	—-	—-	—-	—-	Entire Benefit	12 Months or the Remainder of 48 Months, Whichever Is Shorter	Entire Benefit	12 Months or the Remainder of 48 Months, Whichever Is Shorter
Non-Time-Limited Assistance	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-[9]	—-[9]	—-[9]	—-[9]
Nevada	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Pro Rata Portion of Benefit	1 Month+	Entire Benefit	Permanent	Entire Benefit	Permanent
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[12]	1 Payment Period+	66% of Adjusted Payment Standard[12]	1 Payment Period+
Family Assistance Program	—-	—-	—-[9]	—-[9]	—-[9]	—-[9]	—-[9]	—-[9]
New Jersey	Adult Portion of Benefit	90 Days+	Entire Benefit[13]	3 Months	Entire Benefit[13]	3 Months	Entire Benefit[13]	3 Months
New Mexico	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance for 30 Days	Case Is Closed	6 Months+	Case Is Closed	6 Months+
New York	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Pro Rata Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Pro Rata Portion of Benefit	6 Months+
North Carolina								
Work First Active	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	$75	12 Months+	Entire Benefit	3 Months[14]
Pre-Work First and Work First Preparatory[8]	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-
North Dakota	Adult Portion of Benefit	3 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	3 Months+	Entire Benefit[15]	3 Months+	Entire Benefit[15]	3 Months+
Ohio	Entire Benefit	6 Months+	Entire Benefit	6 Months+	Entire Benefit	6 Months+	Entire Benefit	6 Months+

Table L7 Most Severe Sanction Policy for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Adults, 1996-2001 (July)

	1996		1997		1999		2001	
State	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)
Oklahoma	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	Until Compliance	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance
Oregon	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance
Pennsylvania	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Entire Benefit[16]	Permanent	Entire Benefit[16]	Permanent	Entire Benefit[16]	Permanent
Rhode Island	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	140% of Adult Portion of Benefit[17]	Until in Compliance for 2 Weeks	140% of Adult Portion of Benefit[17]	Until in Compliance for 2 Weeks	140% of Adult Portion of Benefit[17]	Until in Compliance for 2 Weeks
South Carolina	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Case Is Closed	Must Reapply and Comply for 1 Month	Case Is Closed	Must Reapply and Comply for 1 Month	Case Is Closed	Must Reapply and Comply for 1 Month
South Dakota	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Case Is Closed	1 Month+ and Must Reapply	Case Is Closed	1 Month+ and Must Reapply
Tennessee	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Entire Benefit	3 Months+	Entire Benefit	3 Months+	Entire Benefit	3 Months+
Texas	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+
Utah	Entire Benefit[18]	Until Compliance	Entire Benefit[18]	Until Compliance	Entire Benefit[18]	Until Compliance	Entire Benefit[18]	Until Compliance
Vermont	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	$225	Until Compliance
Virginia	Entire Benefit	6 Months+	Entire Benefit	6 Months+	Entire Benefit	6 Months+	Entire Benefit	6 Months+
Washington	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit or 40%, Whichever Is Greater	Until in Compliance for 2 Weeks[19]	Adult Portion of Benefit or 40%, Whichever Is Greater	Until in Compliance for 2 Weeks[19]
West Virginia	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Entire Benefit	6 Months+	Entire Benefit	6 Months+	Entire Benefit	6 Months+
Wisconsin	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance	Entire Benefit	Must Reapply	Entire Benefit	Permanent[20]	Entire Benefit	Permanent[20]
Wyoming	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance

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

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

+ The unit is sanctioned for a specified number of months, or until the sanctioned individual complies with the activity requirements, whichever is longer.
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 will be removed from the JOBSTART program but will be eligible to participate in the non-JOBSTART component.

[3] When the state determines that case closure is not in the best interest of the child, the case will remain open with a 25 percent reduction in benefits until compliance.
[4] Counties have the option to determine the amount and duration of sanctions. These policies refer to Denver County.
[5] After the three-month penalty period, benefits are not restored until the sanctioned individual has complied for 10 working days. Assistance may still be provided to children under 16 in the unit; these benefits are issued to a protective payee.
[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] The sanction continues after six months until the sanctioned parent signs a family investment agreement and completes 20 hours of eligible education/work activities.
[8] Benefits are assigned to a protective payee.
[9] Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they have no sanctions.
[10] The shelter costs are paid directly to the vendor; any remaining benefit amount is reduced by 30 percent of the Transitional Standard. Vendor payments continue for six months after the month in which the parent becomes compliant.
[11] If eligibility requirements are not met and a new FIA has not been negotiated within one month after the end of the sanction period, the case is closed and the unit must reapply for benefits. If requirements are met and a new FIA has been negotiated, the case remains open and only the adult portion of the benefit is removed for the duration of the sanction or until compliance.
[12] The adjusted payment standard refers to the new benefit amount once the adult portion is removed.
[13] If noncompliance continues after three months, the case is closed and the unit must reapply for further assistance. The recipient must also satisfy an intent to comply before receiving benefits.
[14] After the three-month sanction period, the client is re-evaluated. If he or she is still not in compliance on the date of evaluation, he or she is sanctioned for another three-month period.
[15] If the adult is noncompliant for three or fewer months, only the adult portion of the benefit is removed. If noncompliance continues after four months, the entire unit is ineligible for benefits until compliance.
[16] Applies to noncompliance that occurs within the first 24 months of assistance. If the noncompliance occurs after the first 24 months of assistance, the entire benefit will be sanctioned.
[17] If the individual is noncompliant for one to six months, 110 percent of the parent's benefits are reduced from the unit's. For seven to 12 months of noncompliance, 120 percent of the parent's benefits are reduced from the unit's. 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 s/he is in compliance for two weeks.
[18] 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.
[19] 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.
[20] Wisconsin has four components (see Appendix 1 for description of components). When a recipient is sanctioned and permanently ineligible for benefits in W-2 T, Community Service Jobs, or Trial Jobs, the unit may receive benefits again if it becomes eligible for one of the other two. There is no permanent sanction for individuals in Unsubsidized Employment.

Table L8 Asset Limits for Recipients, 1996-2001 (July)				
State	1996	1997	1999	2001
Alabama	$1,000	$1,000	$2,000/3,000[1]	$2,000/3,000[1]
Alaska	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
Arizona	$1,000	$1,000	$2,000	$2,000
Arkansas	$1,000	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000
California	$2,000 [2]	$2,000 [2]	$2,000/3,000[1]	$2,000/3,000[1]
Colorado	$1,000	$1,000	$2,000	$2,000
Connecticut	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000
Delaware	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
D.C.	$1,000	$1,000	$2,000/3,000 [3]	$2,000/3,000 [3]
Florida	$1,000	$1,000	$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 [4]	$2,000/3,000/+ 50[4]	$2,000/3,000/+50[4]
Indiana	$1,000	$1,500 [5]	$1,500 [5]	$1,500 [5]
Iowa	$5,000 [6]	$5,000 [6]	$5,000 [6]	$5,000 [6]
Kansas	$1,000	$1,000	$2,000	$2,000
Kentucky	$1,000	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000 [7]
Louisiana	$1,000	$1,000	$2,000	$2,000
Maine	$1,000	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000
Maryland	$1,000	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000
Massachusetts	$2,500	$2,500	$2,500	$2,500
Michigan	$1,000	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000
Minnesota	$1,000	$1,000	$5,000 [8]	$5,000 [8]
Mississippi	$1,000	$1,000	$2,000	$2,000
Missouri	$5,000 [9]	$5,000 [9]	$5,000 [2]	$5,000 [2]
Montana	$1,000	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000
Nebraska	$1,000	$1,000	$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 [11]	$2,000 [11]	$2,000 [11]
New Jersey	$1,000	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000
New Mexico	$1,000	$3,500 [12]	$3,500 [12]	$3,500 [12]
New York	$1,000	$1,000	$2,000/3,000[1]	$2,000/3,000[1]
North Carolina	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000
North Dakota	$1,000	$1,000	$5,000/8,000[13]	$3,000/6,000/+25[13]
Ohio	$1,000	No limit[14]	No limit[14]	No limit[14]
Oklahoma	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
Oregon	$10,000 [15]	$10,000 [15]	$10,000 [15]	$10,000 [15]
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	$1,000	$2,000	$2,000
Tennessee	$1,000	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000
Texas	$1,000	$2,000/3,000[3]	$2,000/3,000[3]	$2,000/3,000[3]
Utah	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000
Vermont	$1,000 [16]	$1,000 [16]	$1,000 [16]	$1,000 [16]
Virginia	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
Washington	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000 [17]	$1,000 [17]
West Virginia	$1,000	$1,000	$2,000	$2,000

Table L8 Asset Limits for Recipients, 1996-2001 (July)				
State	1996	1997	1999	2001
Wisconsin	$1,000	$2,500	$2,500	$2,500
Wyoming	$1,000	$2,500	$2,500	$2,500

Source: The Welfare Rules Database, An Urban Institute's Assessing The New Federalism Project

Note: This table captures the asset limits for recipients. If the state designates a different asset limit for applicants, it is included as a footnote.

[1] Units including a member age 60 years and over may exempt $3,000, all other units exempt $2,000.
[2] The asset limit for applicants is $1,000.
[3] Households including an elderly or disabled person may exempt $3,000. All other units exempt $2,000.
[4] The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $2,000, two persons receive $3,000 and three or more receive another $50 for every additional person.
[5] The asset limit for applicants in Indiana is $1,000.
[6] The asset limit for applicants in Iowa is $2,000.
[7] Only liquid resources will be considered for eligibility determinations. Liquid resources include cash, checking and savings accounts, CDs, stocks and bonds, and money market accounts.
[8] The asset limit for applicants in Minnesota is $2,000.
[9] The asset limit for applicants, and recipients that do not sign a self-sufficiency pact in Missouri is $1,000.
[10] The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $4,000, two or more persons receive $6,000.
[11] The asset limit for applicants in New Hampshire is $1,000.
[12] The total limit is $3,500; however, 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 a second vehicle, equipment, tools, livestock (with the exception of non-salable domestic pets), one-time sale asset conversion, and lump sum payments.
[13] 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.
[14] Ohio has eliminated the asset test.
[15] The limit is reduced to $2,500 if the recipient does not participate in the required activities of his or her case plan.
[16] In addition to the $1,000 asset limit, up to 100 percent of the unit's total gross earnings from the previous month, if placed in a savings account, will not count toward its asset limit.
[17] $3,000 in a savings account or certificate of deposit may also be excluded.

Table L9 Vehicle Exemptions for Recipients, 1996-2001 (July)

State	1996	1997	1999	2001
Alabama	\$1,500[E]	One Vehicle per Licensed Driver	One Vehicle per Licensed Driver	All Vehicles Owned by Household
Alaska	\$1,500[E]	One Vehicle per Household[1]	One Vehicle per Household[1]	One Vehicle per Household[1]
Arizona	\$1,500[E]	\$1,500[E]	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household
Arkansas	\$1,500[E]	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household
California	\$4,500 [2E]	\$4,500 [2E]	\$4,650[E]	\$4,650[E]
Colorado	\$1,500[E]	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household
Connecticut	\$9,500[E]	\$9,500[3E]	\$9,500[3E]	\$9,500[3E]
Delaware	\$4,650[E]	\$4,650[E]	\$4,650[E]	\$4,650[E]
D.C.	\$1,500[E]	\$1,500[E]	\$4,650[F]	All Vehicles Owned by Household
Florida	\$1,500[E]	\$1,500[E]	\$8,500[E]	\$8,500[E]
Georgia	\$1,500[E]	\$1,500/4,650[4F]	\$1,500/4,650[4F]	\$1,500/4,650[4E]
Hawaii	\$1,500[E]	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household
Idaho	\$1,500[E]	\$4,650 [5F]	\$4,650 [5F]	\$4,650 [5F]
Illinois	\$1,500[E]	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household
Indiana	\$1,000[E]	\$1,000[E]	\$5,000[E]	\$5,000[E]
Iowa	\$3,889[E] per Vehicle for Each Adult and Working Teenager	\$3,889[E] per Vehicle for Each Adult and Working Teenager	\$3,916[E] per Vehicle for Each Adult and Working Teenager	\$4,042[E] per Vehicle for Each Adult and Working Teenager
Kansas	\$1,500[E]	One Vehicle per Household[6]	One Vehicle per Household[6]	All Vehicles Owned by Household
Kentucky	\$1,500[E]	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household	All Vehicles Owned by Household
Louisiana	\$1,500[E]	\$1,500[E]	\$10,000[E]	All Vehicles Owned by Household[7]
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	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household
Massachusetts	\$5,000[F]	\$5,000[F]	\$5,000[F]	\$10,000[F]/\$5,000[8E]
Michigan	One Vehicle per Household[5]	One Vehicle per Household[9]	One Vehicle per Household[9]	One Vehicle per Household[9]
Minnesota	\$1,500[E]	\$4,650[E]	\$7,500[E]	\$7,500[E]
Mississippi	\$1,500[E]	One Vehicle per Household[10]	One Vehicle per Household[10]	One Vehicle per Household[10]
Missouri	One Vehicle per Household[8]	One Vehicle per Household[11]	One Vehicle per Household[11]	One Vehicle per Household[11]
Montana	\$1,500[E]	One Vehicle per Household[12]	One Vehicle per Household[12]	One Vehicle per Household[12]
Nebraska	\$1,500[E]	\$1,500[E]	One Vehicle per Household[13]	One Vehicle per Household[13]
Nevada	\$1,500[E]	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household
New Hampshire	\$1,500[E]	One Vehicle per Household Member	One Vehicle per Liscensed Driver	One Vehicle per Licensed Driver
New Jersey	\$1,500[E]	\$9,500 [14F]	\$9,500 [14F]	\$9,500 [14F]
New Mexico	\$1,500[E]	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household[15]	One Vehicle per Household[15]

Table L9 Vehicle Exemptions for Recipients, 1996-2001 (July)

State	1996	1997	1999	2001
New York	$1,500^E	$1,500^E	$4,650^F	$4,650^F
North Carolina	$5,000^F	$5,000^F	One Vehicle per Adult	One Vehicle per Adult
North Dakota	$1,500^E	$1,500^E	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	$1,500^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	$4,600/1,500^16F/E	$4,600/1,500^16F/E	$4,650^16E
South Carolina	$1,500^E	$10,000^F	One Vehicle Per Licensed Driver[17]	One Vehicle Per Licensed Driver[17]
South Dakota	$1,500 ^18E	$1,500 ^18E	$4,650 ^19F	One Primary Vehicle per Household[19]
Tennessee	$1,500^E	$4,600^E	$4,600^E	$4,600^E
Texas	$1,500^E	$4,650^F	$4,650^F	$4,650^F per Vehicle Owned By Household[12]
Utah	$8,000 ^20E	$8,000 ^20E	$8,000 ^20E	$8,000 ^20E
Vermont	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Adult
Virginia				
View	$7,500 ^21F/E	$7,500 ^21F/E	$7,500 ^21F/E	$7,500 ^21F/E
All except View	$1,500^E	$1,500^E	$1,500^E	$1,500^E
Washington	$1,500^E	$1,500^E	$5,000 ^22E	$5,000 ^22E
West Virginia	$1,500^E	$1,500^E	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^F	$12,000 ^23F	$12,000 ^23F

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

Note: This table captures the asset limits for recipients. If the state designates a different asset limit for applicants, it is included as a footnote.

E Equity value of the vehicle.
F Fair market value of the vehicle.

1 Vehicles used as a home, to produce self-employment income, to transport a disabled family member, or to participate in an approved work activity are also exempt.
2 Applicants may only exempt $1,500 of the equity value of a vehicle.
3 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.
4 If the vehicle is used to look for work or in 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 will 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.
5 The value of one specially equipped vehicle used to transport a disabled family member is also exempt.
6 Any other vehicles used over 50 percent of the time for employment, needed for medical treatment, used as a home, or specially equipped for use by a handicapped person are exempt.
7 Recreational vehicles are not excluded.
8 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 towards the asset limit; however, if the value of the vehicle exceeds both limits, only the excess of the greater amount shall count towards the asset limit.
9 The value of any additional vehicle that is necessary for employment is also exempt.
10 $4,650 of the fair market value of the unit's second vehicle is exempt.
11 $1,500 of the equity value of the unit's second vehicle is exempt.
12 All income-producing vehicles are also exempt.
13 The entire vehicle is exempt only if used for employment, training, or medical transportation; any motor vehicle used as a home is also exempt.
14 Units with two adults may exempt up to $4,650 of the fair market value of a second vehicle if it is essential for work, training, or transportation of a handicapped individual.
15 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.

[16] A unit may exempt $4,650 of the equity value of a vehicle, or an entire vehicle of a special type and/or specially equipped to provide necessary transportation of a disable family member, regardless of equity value.
[17] 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.
[18] 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.
[19] $4,650 of the fair market value of a vehicle is exempt if used for transport members of the unit for education or employment. The unit may also exempt 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 the household, and a vehicle used as a home or to produce income.
[20] The entire equity value of a vehicle used to transport a disabled household member is also exempt.
[21] 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.
[22] The entire value of a vehicle used to transport a disabled household member is also exempt.
[23] The $12,000 exemption applies to one car for a single-parent unit and to two cars for a married couple.

Table L10 Family Cap Policies, 1996-2001 (July)

State	1996	1997	1999	2001
Alabama	No	No	No	No
Alaska	No	No	No	No
Arizona	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arkansas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
California	No	No	Yes	Yes
Colorado	No	No	No	No
Connecticut	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Delaware	Yes	Yes	Yes	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	Yes	Yes
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	Yes	Yes
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michigan	No	No	No	No
Minnesota	No	No	No	No
Mississippi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Missouri	No	No	No	No
Montana	No	No	No	No
Nebraska	No[3]	Yes	Yes	Yes
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	No	Yes	Yes
Ohio	No	No	No	No
Oklahoma	No	No	Yes	Yes
Oregon	No	No	No	No
Pennsylvania	No	No	No	No
Rhode Island	No	No	No	No
South Carolina	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
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	Yes	No[4]	No[4]
Wyoming	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Total States with Cap:	**14**	**19**	**21**	**21**

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

[1] In addition to the family cap policy, any child born to an unmarried minor parent after December 31, 1998 is ineligible for cash assistance (regardless of whether the minor was receiving aid at the time of the birth). These units 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.

[2] The state provides a flat maximum benefit, regardless of family size. However, the payment standard 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] Nebraska is conducting a demonstration project in five counties that subjects units to a family cap.

[4] The state provides a flat benefit, regardless of family size.

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 of Component	Duration of Component	Description of Component	Maximum Amount of Time in Component[1]	Component 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 6 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 on a full-time basis.	6 months	
California	Non-Exempt	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 are 1) 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. Also exempt are unaided non-parent caretakers.	Until recipient no longer meets exemption characteristics.	
Connecticut	Time-Limited Units	1/96 - present	Units who are subject to the 21-month time limit	No limit	Recipients change components only when something happens to change their exemption status.
	Time-Limit Exempt	1/96 - present	Units exempt from the time limit	Until recipients no longer meet the exemption criteria	

Appendix 1: Component Description

State	Name of Component	Duration of Component	Description of Component	Maximum Amount of Time in Component[1]	Component Interaction
Indiana	Nonplacement Track	5/95 - 3/97	Recipients who are not job ready or are exempt from activities	No limit	If a Placement Track recipient reaches the 24-month time limit and has served the 36 months of ineligibility, s/he 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	
Massachusetts	Exempt[2]	11/95 - present	Recipients who are one of the following: receiving SSI; disabled; caring for a relative with a disability; pregnant with a child who is expected to be born within 120 days; caring for a child under the age of 2; teen parents under age 20 meeting living arrangement requirements and attending school; or recipients 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	
Montana	Pathways	2/96 - 6/01	New applicants who do not opt for the JSP (diversion) are required to participate in Pathways. Pathways requires a family to complete a Family Investment Agreement (FIA) and limits benefits for adults to 24 months. After the time limit expires, the family enters the CSP.	24 months	New applicants have the option of participating in JSP. If they do not choose to participate in JSP, they are placed in Pathways. If the new applicant chooses to participate in JSP and at any time needs monthly benefits, the unit is placed in Pathways. After receiving 2 years of assistance under Pathways, the unit is required to move to the Community Service Program (CSP). The unit must meet all the requirements of the CSP component in order to continue receiving benefits.
	Community Service Program (CSP)	2/96 - 6/01	Recipients whose time limits have expired in Pathways move into CSP. CSP requires that recipients participate in CSP activities.	No limit	
	Job Supplement Program (JSP)	2/96 - 6/01	Intended to divert applicants from welfare receipt by providing support services (such as Medicaid and child care assistance) and an employment-related cash payment. This program is completely optional and participants must still meet AFDC/TANF eligibility requirements.	n.a.	

Appendix 1: Component Description

State	Name of Component	Duration of Component	Description of Component	Maximum Amount of Time in Component[1]	Component Interaction
North Carolina	Work First Active	7/96 - 11/99	Counties are responsible for assigning individuals to components. Most individuals who are nonexempt from activities requirements are assigned to the Work First Active component. This component specifically includes the following individuals: (1) an individual who has been sanctioned for noncooperation with Child Support; (2) at least one parent in all Unemployed Parent families; (3) a Work First Active participant who has transferred from another county; (4) an individual whose family has been granted an extension for Work First Assistance; (5) a caretaker who is employed at least 30 hours per week regardless of the age of the youngest child; and (6) a caretaker whose youngest child is age 5 or older.	Limited to 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, they move to Work First Active.
	Work First Preparatory	7/96 - 11/99	Individuals are assigned to Work First Preparatory when they are subject to activities requirements and are 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 who are exempt from activities requirements (whether temporarily or permanently) are placed in Pre-Work First.	Until recipients no longer meet the exemption criteria.	
Oregon	All, except JOBS Plus	1/96 - present	Recipients not participating in the JOBS Plus program	No limit	*
	JOBS Plus	1/96 - present	Recipients volunteer for the JOBS Plus program, which provides recipients with on-the-job training while paying their benefits as wages from a work-site assignment.	*	
Tennessee	Time-Limited Units	7/99 - present	Units that are subject to the time limit.	No limit	Recipients change components only when something happens to change their exemption status.
	Time-Limited Exempt Units	7/99 - present	Units that are exempt from the state time limit. These include child-only units and units where the head is disabled, caring full-time for a disabled family member, or over age 60.	Until recipients no longer meet the exemption criteria	

Appendix 1: Component Description

State	Name of Component	Duration of Component	Description of Component	Maximum Amount of Time in Component[1]	Component Interaction
Virginia	Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare Program (VIEW)	7/95 - present	All nonexempt recipients that are required to participate in employment activities (unsubsidized, subsidized, community service)	24 months	*
	All, except VIEW	7/95 - present	Recipients who are exempt from VIEW	No limit	
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 an individual's incapacitation or the need to remain in the home to care for another family member who is incapacitated or disabled	24 months	Recipients should always be placed at the highest level of employment participation possible. Therefore, recipients move between components as appropriate. Time limits may be extended on a case-by-case basis.
	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	24 months	
	Trial Jobs	3/97 - present	Individuals who are job ready but are not able to obtain an unsubsidized job	24 months	
	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 case management and some support services are available.	No limit	

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

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

Where “No Limit” is listed for “Maximum Amount of 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 Table III.B.1 or for more detail, see the Welfare Rules Database.
[2] In Massachusetts, the exempt component comprises the majority of the caseload.

About the Authors

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