

## Additional Resource: TANF Time Limits Until Work Requirement

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunities Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) forbids use of federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to provide assistance to a family for more than 60 months (5 years) in total. States however, may use their own funds to provide assistance to families after they have reached the 60 month threshold. A state may exempt up to 20% of the average monthly TANF caseload from these time limits for hardship reasons, or if the family includes a domestic violence victim.

PRWORA also requires that welfare recipients engage in "work" (as defined by the state) within 24 months of receiving benefits, and some states have their own more stringent work requirement deadlines. The following table lists the time limit for receipt of income support by State.

	Time Limit till Work Requirement (in Months)	Plan Effective Date	First Impact
CONNECTICUT**	21	10/1/96	10/1/97
TEXAS	12,24,36	11/5/96	11/5/97
TENNESSEE	18	10/1/96	4/1/98
MASSACHUSETTS	24	12/1/96	12/1/98
ARIZONA	24	10/1/96	10/1/98
FLORIDA	24	10/1/96	10/1/98
INDIANA	24	10/1/96	10/1/98
OREGON	24	10/1/96	10/1/98
SOUTH CAROLINA	24	10/12/96	10/12/98
NEBRASKA	24	12/1/96	12/1/98
GEORGIA	48	1/1/97	1/1/99
LOUISIANA	24	1/1/97	1/1/99
NORTH CAROLINA	24	1/1/97	1/1/99
VIRGINIA	24	2/1/97	2/1/99
DELAWARE	48	3/10/97	3/10/99
ARKANSAS	24	7/1/97	7/1/99
CALIFORNIA*	18	11/26/96	7/1/99
IDAHO	24	7/1/97	7/1/99
OHIO	36	10/1/96	10/1/99
UTAH	36	10/1/96	10/1/99
VERMONT	60	9/20/96	9/20/01
MICHIGAN	60	9/30/96	9/30/01
WISCONSIN	60	9/30/96	9/30/01
KANSAS	60	10/1/96	10/1/01

MISSISSIPPI	60	10/1/96	10/1/01
NEW HAMPSHIRE	60	10/1/96	10/1/01
OKLAHOMA	60	10/1/96	10/1/01
KENTUCKY	60	10/18/96	10/18/01
MAINE	60	11/1/96	11/1/01
ALABAMA	60	11/15/96	11/15/01
MISSOURI***	60	12/1/96	12/1/01
SOUTH DAKOTA	60	12/1/96	12/1/01
NEW YORK	60	12/2/96	12/2/01
NEVADA	60	12/3/96	12/3/01
MARYLAND	60	12/9/96	12/9/01
IOWA	60	1/1/97	1/1/02
WYOMING	60	1/1/97	1/1/02
WASHINGTON	60	1/10/97	1/10/02
WEST VIRGINIA	60	1/11/97	1/11/02
MONTANA	60	2/1/97	2/1/02
NEW JERSEY	60	2/1/97	2/1/02
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	60	3/1/97	3/1/02
PENNSYLVANIA	60	3/3/97	3/3/02
RHODE ISLAND	60	5/1/97	5/1/02
ALASKA	60	7/1/97	7/1/02
COLORADO	60	7/1/97	7/1/02
GUAM	60	7/1/97	7/1/02
HAWAII	60	7/1/97	7/1/02
ILLINOIS	60	7/1/97	7/1/02
MINNESOTA	60	7/1/97	7/1/02
NORTH DAKOTA	60	7/1/97	7/1/02
PUERTO RICO	60	7/1/97	7/1/02
VIRGIN ISLANDS	60	7/1/97	7/1/02
NEW MEXICO	Pending legislative changes		

This data came from <http://www.welfareinfo.org/tanfetime.htm>

Some of these time limits trigger termination of benefits, while other trigger benefit reductions. Some are lifetime limits, and others are limits on assistance within a given period, such as 18 months within a sixty-month period. For detailed information about each state's time limits, see the Urban Institute's publication, *One Year after Federal Welfare Reform: A Description of State TANF Decisions as of October 1997*