Welfare Rules Databook: State TANF Policies as of July 2017

OPRE Report 2018-109

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FINAL REPORT

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The Administration for Children & Families (ACF) is a division of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS). ACF promotes the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals and communities. The Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) studies ACF programs and the populations they serve through rigorous research and evaluation projects. These include evaluations of existing programs, evaluations of innovative approaches to helping low-income children and families, research syntheses, and descriptive and exploratory studies.

ABOUT THE WELFARE RULES DATABASE

The Welfare Rules Database is maintained by the Urban Institute under funding from the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation. This project produces a comprehensive, up-to-date database of TANF policies for the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The database contains hundreds of variables and is designed to capture TANF policies across time. The data are made available for public use; for more information visit https://wrd.urban.org.

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Table of Contents

Table of Tables

Table of Tables (continued)

Table of Tables (continued)

Introduction and Background

The purpose of this publication—the Welfare Rules Database's annual Databook—is to provide researchers and policymakers with easy access to detailed information on how states provide cash assistance under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.[1] The dozens of tables in this book collectively describe how states determine eligibility for TANF benefits, how they compute program benefits for eligible families, and the work requirements and time limits that they impose. In Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2017, 1.095 million families received cash aid from TANF in the average month.[2]

TANF cash assistance policies vary widely across states due to the nature of the TANF program and funding. TANF is a block grant, providing federal money that states combine with their own funding (there is a "maintenance of effort" or MOE requirement) to meet the goals of the program.[3] The four purposes of the program are: to (1) Provide assistance to needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes; (2) Reduce the dependency of needy parents by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage; (3) Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and (4) Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.[4] Some requirements are established at the federal level. However, states are allowed to determine how much of their block grant funds to spend on cash assistance compared with various other services, and to establish most of the specific policies used in providing those benefits. State policies—ranging from initial eligibility determination to benefit computation to ongoing eligibility requirements—can vary greatly. For example, a family eligible for several hundred dollars of cash aid each month in one state may be eligible for much less in another state and completely ineligible in a third state. Thus, while TANF is a single program from the perspective of federal law, in practice the program operates differently in every state.

[1] Throughout the Databook, the term "states" refers to the 50 states and the District of Columbia.
[2] The policies shown in this Databook are for July 2017, and fall within FFY 2017, which covers the period of October 2016 through September 2017. For information about the number of families receiving TANF in FFY 2017, as well as other caseload data, see the Office of Family Assistance website: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/resource/tanf-caseload-data-2017.
[3] States are required to maintain specified levels of funding, based in part on historical spending levels in each state. The requirement for state expenditures is referred to as the maintenance of effort (MOE) requirement; additional detail about MOE requirements can be found on the Office of Family Assistance website: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/policy/pi-ofa/1996/pi9602.
[4] Additional detail about the TANF program can be found on the Office of Family Assistance website: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/programs/tanf/about.

This publication presents the key policies that each state used to determine cash aid under the TANF program as of July 2017. The Databook also provides longitudinal tables describing various state policies for selected years between 1996 and 2017. All the tables in this publication are based on the information in the Welfare Rules Database (WRD), a publicly available, online database funded by the Department of Health and Human Services and developed and maintained by the Urban Institute. The Databook summarizes the more detailed information in the WRD. Users interested in more information than is provided in this Databook are encouraged to use the full database, available at https://wrd.urban.org. This site includes a point-and-click interface, as well as extensive documentation.

The focus of this publication, and the underlying database, is on the cash aid that is provided under TANF. During FFY 2016 (the most recent year for which financial data are available), 23.9 percent of combined federal TANF funds and state maintenance-of-effort (MOE) funds were spent on “basic assistance” (cash aid). Other TANF block grant funds were spent on work, education, and training activities; child care; refundable tax credits; child welfare services; pre-kindergarten/Head Start; out-of-wedlock pregnancy prevention; program management; and other activities.[5] The WRD covers only the policies for TANF cash aid and related policies such as work requirements for aid recipients; it does not cover policies for other programs that may be provided through TANF block grant funds.

The tables in this Databook are presented in five groups:

1. Initial eligibility in 2017
2. Benefits in 2017
3. Requirements in 2017
4. Ongoing eligibility and transitional benefits in 2017
5. Policies across time, 1996–2017

Each chapter begins with an overview of the policies, followed by information relating to specific tables.

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

[5] See table A.1 “Federal TANF and State MOE Expenditures Summary by ACF-196 Spending Category, FY 2016” on the ACF website, https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/resource/tanf-financial-data-fy-2016.

The Welfare Rules Database

The Welfare Rules Database is a comprehensive resource for comparing cash assistance programs across all 50 states and the District of Columbia, researching changes across time in cash assistance rules within a single state, or determining the rules governing cash assistance in one state at a point in time. The WRD is longitudinal and currently provides information on state Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and TANF policies from 1996 through 2017. The WRD was initially developed in the mid-1990s to meet the needs of researchers under the Urban Institute's Assessing the New Federalism project and was made publicly available in August 1999. The Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (HHS/ACF) currently funds 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 submitted to HHS/ACF and in annual reports issued by HHS/ACF summarizing the State Plans. In the early to mid-1990s, as more states received waivers to experiment with welfare rules, it became increasingly difficult to research states' policies. The waiver terms and conditions agreed to by the states and the federal government often did not provide full implementation details, and the implementation schedules often changed after the agreement was reached. The August 1996 passage of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), replacing AFDC with the TANF block grant, further increased both the degree of variation across state programs and the difficulty of tracking program rules. In addition, the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, which reauthorized the TANF program in 2006, modified work participation requirements and further altered state TANF policies.

Currently, each state is required to submit a TANF State Plan to the federal government every two years. TANF State Plans provide an overview of states' choices under the block grant; however, the plans' level of detail varies considerably across states, and alone, the plans generally offer insufficient information to completely understand the details of eligibility, benefit computation, and client requirements. Furthermore, although states are expected to notify the federal government if any of their choices change after the plan is submitted, they are not required to do so.

The WRD was developed to provide detailed information about states' TANF policies, going beyond the level of detail in most states' official State Plans and capturing changes in policies that occur between the submissions of those plans. The WRD focuses on cash assistance policies and some closely tied transitional benefits; it does not attempt to capture other uses of federal TANF funds (such as state earned income tax credits and child care programs).

Although in general the Welfare Rules Database and Databook can be thought of as tracking TANF policies, the state cash assistance programs tracked by the WRD are not always exclusively funded with "TANF" dollars. Some states' cash assistance policies incorporate a "state separate program" (SSP), and other states use a "solely state funded" (SSF) program.[6] States may choose to use different types of funding for families in different situations, although the materials used by caseworkers—which are generally the source materials for this project—do not generally indicate what funding is used in what circumstance. Thus, if a state funds benefits to two-parent units under an SSF program, or funds benefits to certain immigrant units under SSP funding, those benefits policies are included in the WRD to the extent they are described in the TANF caseworker materials, but the WRD does not separately identify which policies use SSP or SSF funds. This is particularly relevant for readers examining both the eligibility and benefit policies in the Databook and information on TANF spending or caseloads. The federal government's administrative data sources *do* capture information on SSP programs (it is usually shown separately from information on TANF programs); but information on SSF programs is not collected or disseminated by the federal government.

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 regulations used in each state and the District of Columbia.[7] The Urban Institute has a subscription or other arrangement with each state to obtain the manuals or regulations as well as the ongoing updates to those manuals or regulations. These

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[6] See Falk, Gene. "The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant: A Primer on TANF Financing and Federal Requirements." Congressional Research Service. December 14, 2017. https://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL32748.pdf.

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

documents provide a consistent source of detailed information on policy changes and implementation dates across states and time.

After reviewing and coding the documents describing 2017 procedures, project staff conducted a verification process with the states. The draft 2017 tables were submitted to program administrators who were asked to identify incorrect information and to indicate where project staff could locate missing information not initially identified in the policy materials used for coding.[8] The verification response rate was 96 percent. In 48 states and the District of Columbia, all issues that were raised by project staff or state staff were fully resolved. In two states (Arizona and Maine), most but not all issues were resolved.

A similar verification process has been performed in each year since the first WRD Databook, which described policy variations in 1999. Portions of the 1996–98 data in the WRD have been verified against selected secondary sources but have not been fully reviewed by state TANF staff.

Contents of the WRD

The WRD provides in-depth information on a wide range of policy topics. These topics are currently organized into 32 categories that together describe most significant dimensions of state policies regarding cash assistance to needy families. It is useful to consider the rules in the sequence in which individuals seeking and receiving assistance will likely encounter them. The 32 categories are listed below, organized into five sections, beginning with initial eligibility. (The organization of the tables in this report is similar to the organization of the database, but with slightly different categorizations.)

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

[8] In most cases, adjustments to initial coding were made after documentation was obtained in the form of an updated policy or supplemental policy document. In the few cases where a particular policy was not documented in any written form, initial coding was adjusted based on discussion with the state contact.

Eligibility of Individual Family Members

Inclusion of Noncitizens in the Unit

Treatment of Additional Adults in the Household[9]

Other Nonparent Caretaker Policies

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[10]

II. Benefits

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

Benefit Computation[11]

Benefit Issuance

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[12]

B. What work activities are required?

Activities Exemptions

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[9] Treatment of Additional Adults in the Household includes policies related to both financial and nonfinancial eligibility, as well as benefit computation. Therefore, the category could be included under sections I.A, I.D, and II.A.

[10] Information in Dollar Amounts is also relevant to other categories, including Deemed Income, Income Eligibility Tests, and Benefit Computation.

[11] Most states base benefits on the net income of the recipient. Net income is calculated by determining the gross income of a recipient and subtracting any earned income disregards the state may allow. Therefore, the Earned Income Disregard category is also relevant for section II.A.

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

Activities Requirements

Activities Sanctions

Minor Parent Activities Requirements and Bonuses

Components

IV. Ongoing Eligibility[13]

A. How long can a family receive benefits?

Time Limits

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

Family Cap

V. Transition to Self-Support

A. What happens after cash assistance ends?

Transitional Benefits

General Points about the WRD

In using the Databook and full database, it is helpful to keep in mind the following aspects of the WRD.

- The WRD contains information on the cash assistance rules in effect in each state across time. It does not include information on proposed legislation or on policies that have been agreed-upon but not yet implemented.
- The WRD focuses on the rules applied in determining families' eligibility, benefits, and requirements. The database does not contain information regarding caseloads, budgets, outcomes, or administrative practices.
- The database contains at least one "record" (a set of coded variables) for each state, year, and category of rules.
- The database contains additional records when the state changes a policy during the year or when the state's policy varies by geographic regions of the state, demographic characteristics of the assistance units, or "component" groups across the state. (The term "component" is used when the state's caseload is divided into mutually exclusive

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

groups based on multiple characteristics. Appendix 1 provides additional information about components.)

- The WRD indicates when states vary policies either by sub-state regions or by county. When eligibility or benefit levels vary by sub-state regions, those amounts are generally captured for all regions. However, when policies vary at the county level, data are recorded only for the largest county in the state.[14]

- The database contains for every year, state, and category of rules one record designated the "majority rule" record. This record represents the policy that affected the majority of the caseload for the majority of the year.

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

The Databook

The descriptions of the policies in this Databook are focused on what is relevant to the individuals and families to whom the policies apply. The book describes the rules that affect individuals and families in each state, but it generally does not specify whether those policies are imposed as a result of federal or state requirements. Thus, this book does not exhaustively describe federal requirements or prohibitions. Federal TANF policies are fully described in resources available from the Administration for Children and Families.[15]

The tables included in this book are designed to provide readers with easy access to key TANF policies across states as of July 2017. The first four chapters of the Databook provide

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

[15] For an index of TANF-related laws and regulations compiled by the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Financial Assistance, see the Office of Family Assistance website: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/programs/tanf/laws-regulations.

information as of July 2017 across four broad policy areas: initial eligibility, benefits, requirements, and ongoing eligibility and transitional benefits. The last chapter provides longitudinal tables for selected policies with data from 1996 through 2017.

The data for the tables are extracted from the WRD and represent only a portion of the 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" for an aspect of policy, while the full online database allows exploration of policy variations across months of the year and different subsets of the caseload.[16]

Each table follows the same general structure. Typically, the body of each table includes one row per state, which represents the policies in place as of July 2017. If different policies were used for different types of families, the tables show the policies for the predominant type of family in the state—generally, single-parent units with children. If a state's policies in a category vary by geographic area, the policies for the largest area in the state are shown.

Some tables include more information than just the rules for the majority of the caseload. In some cases, additional information is included in an additional row for the state; in other cases, additional information is included in 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—called "components" in the WRD—are usually defined by more than one characteristic, such as units either meeting any one of a number of work-exemption criteria or not meeting any of those criteria. Descriptions of states' components are located in Appendix 1.
- Additional data as a footnote: Several types of variations may appear as footnotes in the tables. These include variation by type of assistance unit (two-parent units versus one-parent units, or applicants versus recipients) or geographic areas. These types of policies are footnoted in some, but not all, tables. The tables do not capture all the variation in policies across regions and types of units, but the full database contains this information. In addition, states with county variations in policy are footnoted. The footnote indicates the name of the county (the largest in population in the state) to which the policy applies.

[16] In the tables regarding eligibility and benefits, states that vary dollar amounts used for eligibility or benefit standards are denoted.

Each 2017 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 tables in this book and their numbering are the same as in the Databook describing the July 2016 policies with the exception of the addition of a new Table, I.D.4 (Immigrant Parent Deeming Policies).

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 2017. Rules for *initial* eligibility apply to individuals who are applying for the first time or who are reapplying for assistance after a period of not receiving assistance. To be eligible, an applicant family must pass both nonfinancial tests, based on the 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?

Many states have policies that attempt to divert from assistance applicants who may be able to become self-sufficient with some type of state help other than regular monthly cash aid. These types of policies were developed during the 1990s, first under state waivers and then after the passage of PRWORA. Some states use a formal diversion program (described below), while others require job search at application, and some states use both approaches.

Formal Diversion Payments (Table I.A.1)

Under formal diversion programs, families may choose to receive a lump-sum cash payment to address immediate needs instead of receiving a monthly TANF benefit. Generally, states provide benefits to families to alleviate short-term problems that interfere with either keeping or finding employment. Many states require recipients of diversion assistance to be currently employed or seeking employment. Families that accept diversion payments typically are barred from applying for monthly TANF benefits for some period, but the period of ineligibility may be reduced by approaches such as deducting a portion of the diversion payment from future TANF benefits. Most diversion programs are voluntary; however, states may require certain families to enroll in a diversion program and participate in job search or job-related activities before applying for monthly TANF benefits.

For the purposes of the WRD, a formal diversion program is defined as diverting eligible applicants or recipients from ongoing TANF receipt by providing a lump-sum cash payment directly to the family or to a vendor for expenses incurred by the family. Other strategies 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 formal diversion programs in the WRD.

The maximum diversion payment is either a flat payment, regardless of the family's size and the state's maximum benefit (represented in table I.A.1 by a dollar amount), or a multiple of the maximum benefit the family would have received in monthly TANF benefits (represented in the table by a number of months of benefits). If the state provides diversion payments based on a multiple of the maximum monthly benefit, the amount will vary by the family size and the level of the state's maximum benefits.

Table I.A.1 describes whether a state provides a diversion payment, the maximum payment, the form of the payment, how often a recipient may receive the maximum payment, the period of TANF ineligibility after receiving a diversion payment, and whether the months that a family is diverted count toward the state’s time limit. Highlights for 2017 include:

- Thirty-two states have formal diversion programs.
- Of the states with formal diversion programs, nine states provide families the same diversion payment regardless of the family’s size. These payments range from $1,000 in Florida, Kansas, and Texas to $2,500 in Colorado. An additional two states provide families a fixed amount that does depend on the family’s size. For a family of three, these payments range from $750 in New Jersey to $1,500 in New Mexico.
- Sixteen states and DC pay diverted families an amount equal to a multiple of the maximum monthly benefit for the family’s size; the multiple ranges from 1 to 12, but is most commonly three times the maximum benefit. Additionally, California pays either $2,000 or three times the maximum aid payment for the family size, whichever is greater.
- Among the states with diversion programs, six count the payments toward the TANF time limit in some or all cases.

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

Related tables: For information on diversion programs for selected years between 1996 and 2017, see table L1.

Mandatory Job Search at Application (Table I.A.2)

In states requiring job search at application, applicants must look for jobs either before or while their applications are processed. To be eligible for aid, applicants must prove they have searched for jobs at a set number of businesses or participated in the state's job-related programs. The goal of these requirements is for applicants to find jobs and no longer need assistance, or at least be employed by the time they begin receiving assistance. States may exempt some applicants from searching for a job at the time of application. Exempt groups often include applicants who are ill or incapacitated, caring for someone who is ill or incapacitated, over a certain age, or pregnant.

Table I.A.2 indicates which states require applicants to search for a job at application as a condition of eligibility, what kinds of activities are required, who is exempt from the activities, and what happens to individuals who do not comply with the requirement. Findings for 2017 include:

- Nineteen states require the applicant to seek employment either before or while the application is processed.
- Of the states that require job search, 17 may deny the application if the individual fails to meet the job search requirements.

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. Families generally include at least one eligible child, but states may also allow TANF eligibility for pregnant women with no other children. States vary in whether they allow TANF for children living with caretakers who are not relatives; further, some states do not offer TANF to families that include two non-disabled parents.

When a family passes a state's initial tests, the next step in the eligibility process is to determine what many states refer to as the "assistance unit"—the group of people whose needs are considered in establishing the benefit. The definition of the assistance unit can have substantial implications for a unit's eligibility. In states that increase eligibility limits with unit size, a larger assistance unit might increase the family's chance of eligibility. In some cases, however, including an individual in the unit and including his or her income in the unit's countable income might lower the chance of eligibility. In most states, the size of the assistance unit also determines the maximum benefit that will be paid.

In general terms, the assistance unit consists of the dependent children and their parents—including any parents in the household, even if those parents are not married. However, states vary in the treatment of stepparents, immigrant parents, a parent's nonparent partner, and parents and children who receive benefits from the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. When the only adults in the family are prohibited from being in the assistance unit (due to immigrant status, receipt of SSI, certain time limits or sanctions, or nonparent caretaker status in some states and circumstances), or when they choose not to be in the unit (nonparent caretakers in other states and circumstances), a "child-only" assistance unit is formed.[17]

Eligibility of Pregnant Women with No Other Children (Table I.B.1)

At the most basic level, to be eligible for TANF, the family must include a child or, in some states, a pregnant woman. Table I.B.1 indicates whether units with pregnant women who have no other children are eligible to receive TANF cash assistance. The table also indicates whether the father and unborn child are also eligible for benefits—usually meaning they are included in the assistance unit. For states that provide TANF benefits to pregnant women with no other children, the table also indicates the month of pregnancy in which benefits may begin. Key findings for 2017 include:

- In cases when a woman is pregnant but has no other children, 32 states consider her potentially eligible for benefits for at least a portion of her pregnancy.
- Among the states that allow eligibility for a pregnant woman with no other children, nine states also consider the father eligible, and one state counts the unborn child in the size of the assistance unit.

[17] In some states, reaching a time limit results in removing the needs of the adult from the assistance unit.

Eligibility Rules for Two-Parent, Nondisabled Applicant Units (Table I.B.2)

Some states have different eligibility rules for families that include two parents compared with families with one parent or no parents.[18] If the family includes two parents, and neither parent has a disability, the family is ineligible for TANF in some states. In other states, a family with two nondisabled parents must pass additional eligibility tests (not imposed on other families) based on the parents' current or prior labor force status.[19] These additional requirements may include an "hours test," a work history test, or a waiting period.

Under an hours test, the unit is ineligible if the parent who is the principal wage earner is working more than a specified number of hours per month.[20] States may apply this rule when determining the initial or continuing eligibility of two-parent families. Under a work history test, the eligibility of two-parent units is restricted to those in which the principal wage earner worked during a certain number of calendar quarters over a specified number of years, or in which the principal wage earner satisfies other criteria related to labor force attachment.[21] 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.[22] For example, 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 loses his or her job.

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[18] The policies discussed here apply to both married or unmarried parents.

[19] In some states, benefits are provided to two-parent units under solely state-funded or separate state programs (SSFs or SSPs) funded by state monies rather than the TANF block grant. Table I.B.2 includes those states as providing benefits to two-parent families regardless of the funding source as long as these provisions are specified in each state's TANF policy manual.

[20] Under AFDC, the principal earner could be working no more than 100 hours per month in order for the family to be potentially eligible for aid.

[21] Under AFDC, the principal earner was required to have worked at least six of the last 13 quarters in order to be found eligible for benefits. 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 the previous 12 months but did not apply or his or her employment was not covered by UC laws.

[22] Under AFDC, waiting periods were imposed only 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.

Table I.B.2 presents the eligibility rules for families with two nondisabled parents at application. Highlights for 2017 include:

- Three states (Louisiana, New Hampshire, and North Dakota) do not allow two-parent families in which neither parent has a disability to receive TANF.
- In seven states, two-parent families are potentially eligible, but face additional tests not imposed on single-parent families (i.e., a work hours test, work history test, or application waiting period).

Related tables: For information about the hours test for two-parent non-disabled families who are already receiving benefits (as compared to those who are applying for benefits), see table IV.A.1. Table L2 provides information on the rules for two-parent units in selected years from 1996 through 2017.

Special Rules Imposed on Minor Parent Eligibility (Table I.B.3)

Parents who are teenagers may or may not be eligible to receive a benefit on their own, and in most cases they are eligible only if they are living with their adult parents or in another state-approved setting.[23] 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 in his or her own name. The second column indicates whether the state requires the minor parent to live with a parent or in another state-approved setting (referred to in the table as a living arrangement restriction). Findings from 2017 include:

- Forty-one states allow minor parents to apply for TANF as the head of a unit.
- Two states (Hawaii and Nebraska) do not require the minor parent to live with a guardian or in an approved setting.[24]

Related table: Table I.D.1 provides information on the treatment of the grandparents' income in cases when a minor parent is living with one or both of his or her parents and also heading his or her own assistance unit.

[23] 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.
[24] Benefits for assistance units that do not qualify for federal funding are provided with state funding.

Inclusion of Stepparents in the Assistance Unit (Table I.B.4)

State rules vary for whether a stepparent (i.e., a person who has married the children's biological/adoptive parent, but who has not legally adopted the children) is included in the assistance unit. 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. Table I.B.4 focuses on rules for stepparents who have no child in common with their spouses, have no biological children of their own in the assistance unit, are living in the home, and are not incapacitated. Policy highlights from 2017 include:

- Twenty-two states require that stepparents be included in the assistance unit.
- Fourteen states allow the unit head to choose whether to include the stepparent.
- Fifteen states prohibit the stepparent from being included in the assistance unit.

State rules for stepparents not meeting the criteria outlined for table I.B.4 may vary and are addressed in further detail in the WRD.

Related table: Information about the treatment of income from a stepparent who is *not* included in the assistance unit can be found in table I.D.2.

Eligibility of Noncitizens (Tables I.B.5, I.B.6, and I.B.7)

If a family is potentially eligible for aid, but one or more members of the family is not a citizen, complex rules govern whether the noncitizens can be included in an assistance unit. The eligibility of noncitizens depends on several factors, including when they arrived in the country, how long they have resided in the country, the specific status that allows them to be in the country (e.g., lawful permanent resident, refugee, etc.), and the extent to which they have worked since arriving in the country. The federal rules require that some groups of noncitizens be considered potentially eligible for TANF in all states, but states retain wide discretion regarding the eligibility of most noncitizens.

Under the AFDC program, the only noncitizens categorically ineligible for aid were unauthorized immigrants and noncitizens in the country temporarily (under student visas or temporary work visas). Further, the income of a legal immigrant's sponsor could be treated as available to the immigrant (a process known as "deeming") for a limited time; however, most legal immigrants were potentially eligible for benefits.

After the passage of PRWORA, noncitizens' access to federal TANF benefits was significantly restricted. PRWORA created the "qualified alien" distinction, which more narrowly defined the group of noncitizens potentially eligible for most federally-funded TANF assistance.[25] The federal law also extended sponsor deeming and further limited qualified aliens' access to assistance based on their date of entry into the country. Qualified aliens who entered the United States before August 22, 1996 (the date PRWORA was passed), are potentially eligible for federally-funded assistance without any waiting period, whereas most qualified aliens who arrived in the country on or after August 22, 1996 are subject to a five-year bar on federal TANF assistance.[26] After the five-year bar, qualified aliens are again potentially eligible for federally-funded TANF assistance.

Some immigrants are exempt from the various restrictions, and must be potentially eligible for TANF. Refugees and asylees must be considered potentially eligible in all states for their first five years in the country. Also, military personnel and veterans and their families can never be denied eligibility due to their immigrant status (regardless of how long they have been in the country).[27] Finally, noncitizens who arrived in the U.S. prior to the passage of PRWORA who

[25] Qualified aliens include lawful 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 before April 1, 1980, certain battered alien spouses and their children, battered alien children and their parents, and Cuban/Haitian entrants.

[26] The five-year bar applies only to those aliens who entered the United States—whether legally or illegally—on or after August 22, 1996. Therefore, a person may have entered illegally in 1994 and become a lawful permanent resident in 2000. As long as that person has been continuously present in the United States, the bar would not apply to him or her. See the Department of Justice's Interim Guidance on Verification of Citizenship, Qualified Alien Status and Eligibility under Title IV of PRWORA at 62 Federal Regulation 61415 (November 17, 1997). Further, if the noncitizen enters the United States on or after August 22, 1996, but is not qualified when he or she enters, the five-year clock begins on the date his or her immigrant status becomes qualified.

[27] States must permit the following qualified aliens who meet the state's eligibility criteria to receive TANF benefits for five years after the date of entry into the United States or the date asylum or withholding of deportation was granted: refugees (and victims of severe forms of trafficking and certain family members), asylees, aliens whose deportation has been withheld, Amerasians, and Cuban/Haitian entrants. Also, states may never deny eligibility to veterans or individuals on active duty along with their spouses and unmarried dependent children. Under the 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 110-161, § 101(a)(27)) and the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 110-181, § 8120(b)), Iraqi and Afghani aliens gained special immigrant status and became eligible to receive benefits available to refugees, including resettlement assistance and access to other public benefit programs. The Afghani and Iraqi aliens, while eligible for a time-limited exemption, are still otherwise subject to the federal five-year bar on benefit assistance. Afghani special immigrants became eligible for a six-month time-limited exemption from the federal five-year bar, while Iraqi special immigrants became eligible for an eight-month time-limited exemption from the federal five-year bar. The time-limited exemption from the federal five-year bar begins on the date the noncitizen enters the United States.

have accumulated 40 quarters of work history cannot be denied TANF eligibility due to their immigrant status in any state.[28]

Although federal law determines which noncitizens are *potentially* eligible for federally-funded benefits and the periods in which they may be eligible, states have substantial flexibility. States can choose to provide or deny assistance to certain qualified aliens the federal government has indicated are potentially eligible for federally-funded benefits. States can also provide state-funded assistance to certain aliens ineligible for federally-funded assistance, such as qualified aliens during the five-year bar or certain nonqualified aliens.[29]

States have made three types of decisions about the eligibility of noncitizens:

1. Will some or all qualified aliens who arrived before PRWORA (pre-PRWORA) be eligible for benefits?
2. Will some or all noncitizens who arrived on or after the date of the PRWORA legislation (post-PRWORA) be eligible for benefits during the five-year bar?
3. Will some or all post-PRWORA noncitizens be eligible for benefits after the five-year bar?

Tables I.B.5, I.B.6, and I.B.7 describe the variation in state policies concerning pre-PRWORA and post-PRWORA noncitizens.[30]

Table I.B.5 describes selected state policies regarding pre-PRWORA qualified noncitizens who are potentially eligible for federally-funded assistance, but who do not fall into groups required to be covered (in other words, they are "nonexempt"). Since PRWORA was passed more than 20 years prior to the policies covered by this Databook, the policies regarding pre-PRWORA entrants do not affect a large number of applicants; however, there are still some families applying for TANF in which the adults entered the country prior to August 1996 and have not obtained citizenship. The table provides eligibility rules for two groups of pre-PRWORA

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[28] Forty quarters is approximately 10 years for one person; however, a noncitizen may be credited with quarters of coverage worked by a parent or a spouse under certain circumstances.

[29] Two groups of non-qualified aliens—those who are in the country on a temporary basis (student visas, work visas, and so on) and those who are in the country without authorization—are not eligible for benefits in any state. However, there are other groups of nonqualified aliens, such as persons residing under color of law (PRUCOL), who are eligible in some states.

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

noncitizens—lawful permanent residents and asylees.[31] As mentioned above, even if a state does not provide assistance to *all* pre-PRWORA qualified aliens, those qualifying for special exceptions based on work history (having accumulated 40 quarters) or veteran or military status are still potentially eligible for federally-funded benefits in all states. Highlights from 2017 include:

- Forty-nine states consider all pre-PRWORA qualified aliens who are lawful permanent residents eligible for assistance.
- Forty-nine states consider all pre-PRWORA qualified aliens who are asylees eligible for assistance.
- One state (Mississippi) does not consider any pre-PRWORA lawful permanent residents or asylees eligible for assistance (with the exception of those who must be considered potentially eligible based on federal rules).

Table I.B.6 shows whether states use their own funding to provide assistance to post-PRWORA noncitizens who are ineligible for federal TANF assistance. The first three columns of the table focus on three groups of qualified noncitizens during their first five years, when they are ineligible for federally-funded TANF due to the five-year bar (unless they qualify for a military or veteran exemption). The three groups of qualified noncitizens shown in the table are lawful permanent residents, parolees, and people who meet the specific definition of "battered non-citizen." (Several other groups of qualified aliens—including refugees, asylees, and people with deportation withheld—are not shown in this table because they must be considered potentially eligible for federally-funded TANF in every state during their first five years.) The last column of the table describes whether any nonqualified aliens, other than those who are temporary or unauthorized, are potentially eligible for benefits using state funds. Key policies for 2017 include:

- Thirteen states fund benefits for all three categories of qualified aliens shown in the table (lawful permanent residents, parolees, and battered noncitizens) during their first five years.
- Nine states fund benefits for at least some nonqualified aliens.

[31] Versions of this table for 2014 and earlier years showed policies for additional categories of noncitizens. However, due to the diminishing numbers of pre-PRWORA entrants in the population applying for TANF, many states' caseworker manuals do not provide explicit policies for this group. Thus, this table focuses on the two statuses that are likely the most prevalent among noncitizens who entered prior to PRWORA.

Table I.B.7 shows whether post-PRWORA noncitizens are eligible for assistance after they have resided in the United States with qualified alien status for at least five years. After the five-year bar, qualified aliens may be provided with TANF using federal funds, but the state is not required to provide aid. The table provides eligibility rules for several categories of qualified aliens: lawful permanent residents, asylees/refugees, noncitizens with deportation withheld, noncitizens paroled in the country for at least one year, and battered noncitizens. Even if a state does not provide assistance to all qualified aliens following the five-year bar, those qualifying for special exceptions based on veteran or military status are still eligible for federally-funded benefits in all states. Further, some states provide aid only to some subgroups, for example only those who have attained 40 quarters of work history. Policies from 2017 include:

- Forty-five states consider all post-PRWORA qualified aliens who are lawful permanent residents and who are beyond the five-year bar to be potentially eligible for assistance.
- Four states only consider a lawful permanent resident past the five-year bar to be potentially eligible for assistance if that person can be credited with 40 quarters of work (or if federal rules require eligibility based on military or veteran status).
- Forty-two states consider post-PRWORA qualified aliens to be potentially eligible for assistance if they are past the five-year bar and if they fall into any of the other four groups shown in the table—asylees/refugees, deportees, parolees, or battered non-citizens.
- For post-PRWORA qualified aliens after the five-year bar who fall into any of the other four groups shown in the table—asylees/refugees, deportees, parolees, or battered non-citizens—three states do not provide any eligibility (unless federal rules require eligibility based on military or veteran status).

Two points are important to note for all three tables concerning the treatment of noncitizens. First, even if a state will potentially fund cash aid to an immigrant in a particular circumstance, that immigrant might still be ineligible if the immigrant has a sponsor whose income is deemed available for the immigrant's support. Policies related to sponsor deeming are not shown in the tables but are included in the WRD. Second, all noncitizen rules discussed here apply to individuals, not to entire families. Within a family, some individuals may be ineligible based on immigrant status, while others may remain eligible.

Related table: Information about the treatment of income from immigrant parents who are not eligible to be in the assistance unit can be found in table I.D.4.

Treatment of Non-Caretaker Adults in Household (Table I.B.8)

When a child's household includes adults who are neither the child's parents nor caretakers, state rules vary on whether those non-caretaker adults may be considered to be members of the assistance unit. For the purposes of the WRD, a non-caretaker adult is defined as an adult living in the household who is neither the primary caretaker of the children nor a parent of any children in the household. A non-caretaker adult could be an adult who is related to the parent or children (for instance, the children's aunt), the unmarried partner of the parent, or a friend of the parent who is not a relative or in a relationship with the parent. Table I.B.8 describes whether these individuals are eligible to be included in the TANF unit. Additionally, the table provides information about how states count income and calculate benefits when these individuals are not included in the assistance unit. The table also details whether shared living costs affect eligibility or benefits.

Key policies from 2017 include:

- Thirty-three states always exclude all non-caretaker adults in the household from the assistance unit.
- Four states (Hawaii, New York, Vermont, and Virginia) potentially allow any adult in the household to be included in the unit.

Eligibility Requirements for Children (Table I.B.9)

States define the maximum age of a child for purposes of TANF and may require that a child lives with either a parent or another relative to be potentially eligible for TANF. Table I.B.9 addresses these basic criteria for determining the potential eligibility of a family (as opposed to individuals within the family). The first two columns of the table show the maximum age at which a child can be TANF-eligible; the first column provides the maximum age for children who are not in school, and the second column gives the maximum that applies for children who are still enrolled in school. The last column of table I.B.9 addresses a second issue related to overall family eligibility—whether a child whose caretaker is a nonrelative is potentially eligible for TANF.[32] Policies from 2017 include:

- A teenager who is *not* attending school is still considered a child for purposes of TANF through age 17 (until reaching his or her 18th birthday) in 47 states, and through age 15 in two states. In addition, Michigan and Virginia require all school-age children to be in

[32] AFDC did not cover children with nonrelative caretakers.

school full-time as a condition of eligibility for either the child (in Virginia) or the entire family (in Michigan).

- In 48 states, the maximum age to be considered a child for purposes of TANF is slightly higher (generally through age 18) for those who are attending school.
- Eighteen states consider children living with nonrelative caretakers potentially eligible for TANF.

Inclusion of SSI Recipients in the Assistance Unit (Table I.B.10)

States also vary in the treatment of parents and children who receive benefits from the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. SSI provides cash aid to low-income individuals who are age 65 or over and low-income individuals under age 65—including children—who are determined by the program to have a disability. Table I.B.10 shows whether SSI recipients are included in the TANF assistance unit and when counted in the unit, how their income is treated. SSI benefits are typically higher than TANF benefits, so including an SSI recipient in the unit and counting his or her SSI income might reduce a family's likelihood of eligibility. Highlights for 2017 include:

- Four states (Idaho, New Hampshire, West Virginia, and Wisconsin) include SSI recipients in the TANF assistance unit. Idaho, New Hampshire, and Wisconsin include both child and adult SSI recipients, whereas West Virginia includes SSI recipients who are children.

Related table: For additional detail about SSI recipients, table II.A.5 gives the maximum benefit paid to a child-only TANF case with one child when the parents have been excluded due to SSI receipt.

Inclusion of Nonparent Caretakers in the Assistance Unit (Table I.B.11)

Many children live with caretakers who are not their parents—often a grandparent or another relative. Nonparent caretakers may or may not be considered part of the TANF assistance unit, depending on their characteristics and, in some cases, their own choice. Being included in the unit could increase the TANF benefit (depending on the caretaker's income), but it could also lead to additional requirements that would not be placed on a child-only unit (related to time limits and work requirements).

Table I.B.11 shows the state policies regarding nonparent caretakers. The first four columns of the table address whether nonparent caretakers are included in the unit, and under what circumstances caretakers are included when inclusion is optional. The final column of the table provides information as to whether a caretaker's spouse is included in the unit when the caretaker is included. This column is relevant in the situation when a child's caretakers are a married couple—for example, his or her grandmother and grandfather. Key policies from 2017 include:

- Four states never allow nonparent caretakers to be included in the assistance unit.
- Twenty-four states allow nonparent caretakers to choose whether to be included in the assistance unit.
- Twenty-two states allow for the inclusion of some nonparent caretakers (e.g., those with lower incomes, or those who are relatives), but do not allow others to be included in the unit.
- The remaining state (North Dakota) requires the inclusion of some nonparent caretakers, allows for the inclusion of other nonparent caretakers, and does not allow others to be included in the unit.

Related tables: For additional information about cases with nonparent caretakers, see table I.B.9 for whether the state ever provides TANF to a child living with a caretaker who is not a relative. Additionally, table I.D.3 describes the treatment of the income and assets of nonparent caretakers, table II.A.5 gives the maximum benefits paid to child-only units with a single child living with a nonparent caretaker, and table III.B.4 describes work-related activity requirements for nonparent caretakers.

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

If the family passes the nonfinancial eligibility tests, the next step in determining TANF eligibility may be an assets test. Most states restrict the amount of assets a family may hold and still be eligible for assistance; however, these amounts vary greatly by state and by type of asset. If the family's total assets exceed the amounts established by the state, the family is ineligible for assistance.

Asset Limits for Applicants (Table I.C.1)

States determine the maximum value of assets—including vehicles—an applicant family may hold and still remain eligible for benefits. Table I.C.1 describes each state's asset tests for applicants. The first column of the table provides the limit on the value of countable assets a family may hold and still be eligible for assistance. The second column describes whether some or all of the value of a vehicle is excluded in determining the amount of a family's assets for eligibility purposes; any portion not excluded is counted as part of the family's total asset value, which is then compared to the asset limit. When a portion of the vehicle's value is exempted, the value may be given in terms of equity or fair-market value. The fair-market value is the amount for which the vehicle could be sold, while the equity value is the fair-market value minus any amount still owed on the vehicle. When a family still owes money on a vehicle, the equity value will be less than the fair-market value, so this distinction is important when comparing vehicle exemption amounts across states. Policy highlights for 2017 include:

- Forty-three states have asset limits for applicants.
- In states with assets tests, the limits range from $1,000 in nine states to $10,000 in Delaware and Minnesota.

Related tables: Asset limits may be different for determining the initial eligibility of applicants compared to the continuing eligibility of recipients. For information on the asset test for recipients, see table IV.A.3. Tables L8 and L9 provide information on asset limits for recipients and the vehicle exemption for recipients, respectively, for selected years from 1996 through 2017.

D. How is income counted in determining eligibility?

Once a family has passed any asset test imposed by the state, its available income is computed for eligibility purposes. States have discretion in determining what portion and types of earned and unearned income are counted, in addition to whose income is counted, for eligibility purposes.[33]

[33] While there are many types of unearned income, this book only addresses unearned income in the form of child support payments (in chapter IV, Ongoing Eligibility). The WRD captures more details on the treatment of other types of unearned income, including interest income and lump-sum income.

Generally, if a person is considered part of the assistance unit, his or her earned and unearned income is counted as part of the unit's total ("gross") income. Many states also count a portion of or all income from certain individuals who are not part of the assistance unit but who have an obligation to support a member of the assistance unit. Typically, states view a portion of the income of these individuals as being required for their own needs; they "allocate" that portion to the individual and any remaining income is "deemed available" to the assistance unit as unearned income. This income may or may not actually be available to the unit, but the state assumes the individual bears some financial responsibility and therefore requires that a portion of the individual's income count as income of the unit. In particular, when a stepparent or a grandparent (the parent of a minor parent) lives in the same home as the applicant but is not considered part of the assistance unit, a portion of that person's income is sometimes counted against the applicant for eligibility and benefit computation purposes. Other groups of individuals whose income may receive special treatment are nonparent caretakers and immigrant parents who are members of the household but not included in the assistance unit.

Treatment of Grandparent Income (Table I.D.1)

When a minor parent is potentially eligible to head his or her own assistance unit, a portion of his or her parents' income may be deemed available to the minor's unit when determining eligibility and benefits. When the grandparents' (the parents of the minor parent) income is deemed available to the unit, the state may allow grandparents to disregard a portion of their earned income, similar to the earned income disregards available to applicants. States may also allow for an additional disregard approximating the amount of the grandparents' basic needs and the needs of their dependents outside the TANF assistance unit. The remaining income is deemed available to the minor parent's TANF unit and is counted as unearned income for eligibility and benefit computation purposes.

Table I.D.1 describes the treatment of grandparent income for applicants. The first column indicates if the state deems income in this situation, the second column indicates the initial earned income disregard available to the grandparents, and the third column describes any other disregards available to the grandparents (most often referred to as the need-based disregard). The table also indicates the income standards used by states to determine the disregard. Key policies from 2017 include:

- Thirty-nine states require a portion of the grandparent's income be deemed available to the minor parent.

- Two states (Arkansas and Vermont) do not require deeming of income from the grandparent.
- In the remaining 10 states, there is no policy regarding deeming since the minor parent is considered to be in an assistance unit that also includes the grandparent (the minor parent's adult parent).

Information pertaining to disregards for child support payments for dependents outside the home or alimony is not captured in the table, but can be found in the WRD.

Related tables: For the income standards listed in the final column, to determine the value for a family size of three, see table I.E.3 (Standards for Estimating Eligibility). For more information about minor parents, see table I.B.3, which describes whether minor parents are potentially eligible to head their own TANF units.

Treatment of Stepparent Income (Table I.D.2)

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

Table I.D.2 describes the deeming process for stepparents' income. The first column indicates if the state deems income, the second column indicates the initial earned income disregard available to the stepparent, and the third column describes any other disregards available to the stepparent (most often referred to as the need-based disregard). The table also indicates the income standards used by states to determine the disregard. Policy highlights for 2017 include:

- Twenty-eight states require that some of the stepparent's income be deemed to the unit.
- DC does not require deeming of income from the stepparents.

- In the remaining 22 states, there is no policy regarding deeming since the stepparents must be included in the unit.

As noted for table I.D.1, information pertaining to disregards for child support payments for dependents outside the home or alimony is not captured in the table, but can be found in the WRD.

Related tables: For the standards listed in the final column, to determine the value for a family size of three, see table I.E.3. For additional information on whether stepparents are potentially eligible to be included in the assistance unit, see table I.B.4.

Treatment of Income and Assets of Nonparent Caretakers (Table I.D.3)

In general, the treatment of a nonparent caretaker's income and assets depends on whether that person has been included in the assistance unit. Typically, if the caretaker is included in the unit, then his or her income and assets are counted; if the caretaker is not included in the unit, then his or her income and assets are not counted. This means that a unit that is "child only" because the child lives with a nonparent caretaker often has a countable income of $0. However, states may establish different policies, such as treating income differently for eligibility determination versus benefit computation. Table I.D.3 describes the state policies regarding the income of nonparent caretakers. Key highlights from 2017 include:

- For caretakers who are not in the assistance unit, five states include at least a portion of their income for eligibility and/or benefit computation.
- All 47 states that include at least some caretakers in the assistance unit count at least a portion of the included caretaker's income for eligibility and benefit calculations.

Related table: For information on whether nonparent caretakers are included in the assistance unit, see table I.B.11.

Treatment of Income of Parents Excluded from the Assistance Unit Due to Immigrant Status (Table I.D.4)

In many cases, the restrictions placed on immigrants' eligibility for TANF (see Tables I.B.5 through I.B.7) result in a parent not being eligible to be in the assistance unit, while one or more children are potentially eligible. For example, in the case of two lawful permanent residents who have been in the U.S. for three years, and who have a baby who was born in the U.S., the baby is potentially eligible for TANF (because he or she is a citizen) while the parents are still within the five-year bar, and therefore ineligible in many states. In all cases when a parent is in the household but is not included in the assistance unit, either all or a portion of the parent’s income is considered available to the potentially-eligible children for purposes of determining their eligibility and benefits. As with grandparent and stepparent deeming, states often allow the immigrant parent to disregard a portion of his or her earned income, similar to the earned income disregards available to applicants. States may also allow additional disregards, and some states only count a prorated portion of the parent’s income.

Table I.D.4 describes state policies that apply to units in which a child has a parent who is living in the household but not eligible to be part of the assistance unit due to immigrant status. The first column indicates if the state deems income from immigrant parents in this situation, the second column shows the initial earned income disregards available to the immigrant parent, the third column reflects any additional income disregards provided, and the fourth column conveys the computation methods used in determining both eligibility and benefits. Key highlights from 2017 include:

- Five states deem all the excluded parent’s income available to the unit for both eligibility and benefit calculations.
- In 45 states, some portion of the ineligible immigrant parent’s income is disregarded, with different disregards sometimes used for eligibility determination and for benefit computation.
- A large majority of states (47) utilize the “standard” method of computation--adding deemed income to the unit's other income, and then performing the eligibility and benefit computations with the unit size of the eligible members. Other states use other formulas. California computes eligibility and benefits using the family size that includes the family members who are ineligible due to immigrant status, but caps the benefit at the maximum payment for the family size that includes only the eligible members.
- One state—Wisconsin—does not allow eligibility for families in which all parents in the household are ineligible due to their immigrant status.

Related tables: Tables I.B.5, I.B.6, and I.B.7 describe the variation in state policies concerning the eligibility of pre-PRWORA and post-PRWORA noncitizens.

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

To determine initial eligibility for benefits, many states use income eligibility tests--that is, tests that compare the unit's gross or net income amount to a specified income threshold. If the applicant's countable income (for purposes of that test) exceeds the threshold, the applicant is not eligible to receive benefits. Income eligibility tests and the calculation of countable income vary greatly across states.

This section of the Databook describes the types of eligibility tests in the states, the earned income disregards used for the net income tests, and the income eligibility standards used for the various tests, and also presents a calculation of the maximum income for initial eligibility at application. The first three tables in this section must be used together to fully understand the income eligibility tests in each state.

Income Eligibility Test for Applicants (Table I.E.1)

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. States may impose one income test on applicants or use a combination of tests, which might include a gross income test, a gross earnings test, an unearned income test, and/or a net income test.

A gross income test compares the unit's total income (earned and unearned, including any deemed income) with a state-determined standard. If the unit's income is less than the standard, the next test is applied (if applicable) or the unit is considered eligible and a benefit is computed. A gross earnings test and an unearned income test operate similarly, but only the unit's earned income is used for a gross earnings test and only the unit's unearned income is used for an unearned income test.

States may also impose net income tests, either after a gross income test or in lieu of it. Net income is calculated by subtracting the state's earned income disregards from the unit's gross earned income and then adding the unit's unearned income to this amount. 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 applicable) or the unit is considered eligible and a benefit is computed.

Table I.E.1 describes states' income eligibility tests for determining whether an applicant can begin receiving benefits. The table indicates the state income standard used for each test.

"No explicit tests" indicates that either the state imposes no income tests on applicants (other than the implicit test inherent in the benefit computation formula) or the state imposes an income test, but the calculation of the test and disregards allowed for the test are no different from those used to calculate the benefit. Policies from 2017 include:

- Forty-four states have explicit net or gross income tests for applicants.
- Twenty-one states require applicants to pass two or more income eligibility tests.
- Seven states have no explicit income eligibility tests for applicants.

Related tables: Table I.E.3 provides the eligibility standards used to determine eligibility for a three-person family. Tables I.D.1, I.D.2, and I.D.4 describe policies concerning the deeming of income from grandparents, stepparents, and immigrant parents, respectively, that may be used when determining gross income for income eligibility tests. Table I.E.2 describes the earned income disregards that may be used for net income tests. Table I.E.4 combines information on the income eligibility tests applied to applicants with information on the earned income disregards and eligibility standards to show the maximum earnings a family can have and still be eligible for TANF. Table L3, in the last section of this book, provides the same information as in table I.E.4 for selected years from 1996 through 2017.

Earned Income Disregards for Initial Income Eligibility Purposes (Table I.E.2)

States that impose a net income test generally disregard a portion of the unit's earned income before comparing the income to the state's income standard. The amount of disregarded earned income varies greatly across states. Table I.E.2 describes the earned income disregards applied to applicants' income in determining net income for the income eligibility tests. When a state has more than one net income test and imposes different disregards for the tests, the table will show two rows for the state describing both the disregard and for which net income test the disregard applies. 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 a general earned income disregard; instead, they may disregard earnings only for specific expenses, such as child care. In those cases, "No disregards allowed" appears in the table. Key policies from 2017 include:

- Fifteen states have no explicit net income test, and therefore, do not have any earned income disregards for eligibility. An additional state, Virginia, imposes a net income test with disregards for applicants who are not in the VIEW component, but does *not* have an explicit net income test for applicants to the VIEW component.

- One state (Ohio) has a net income test that allows applicants to deduct dependent care expenses, but they do not disregard any other earnings in applying the net income test.
- Two states (California and Texas) have two different net income tests, which use different disregards.

Related tables: In some cases, states also use net income tests to determine a recipient's continuing eligibility. The earned income disregards used in applying net income tests for recipients' ongoing eligibility are captured in table IV.A.5. When a state has established different earned income disregards for applicants and recipients, the disregards are generally lower for applicants and higher for recipients. Additional disregards for child care expenses paid by a family or special disregards for units affected by a family cap or time limit are not included in the Databook; however, this information is included in the WRD.

Standards for Determining Eligibility (Table I.E.3)

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

Table I.E.3 identifies the standard by the name used in the caseworker manual. Under the former AFDC program, the standard for income eligibility tests was called the "need standard." Currently, because of the complexity of state programs, there is no longer a single need standard concept. States may compare an assistance unit's income against multiple standards, depending on the type or amount of income. Therefore, the term "need standard" is not used in the table unless the state explicitly uses it to refer to its eligibility standard. Key policies from 2017 include:

- Standards for determining eligibility vary significantly across states. The values for a family of three range from a $188 "Recognizable Needs" standard in Texas to a $4,002 "Standard of Need" in New Hampshire.

These values must be interpreted in conjunction with the information in other tables. The numbers do not by themselves indicate the maximum income at which a family may be eligible. That maximum depends on multiple policies, and on whether a family's income is earned or unearned.

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

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

Maximum Income for Initial Eligibility for a Family of Three (Table I.E.4)

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

The calculation assumes the assistance unit includes one parent and two children, has only earned income, has no child care expenses, contains no children subject to a family cap, has no special needs, pays for all shelter costs with no subsidies, and is subject to the benefit standard that applies to the majority of the state's caseload. Key findings for 2017 include:

- The maximum monthly earnings a family of three can have at application and be eligible for TANF varies significantly across states. The values for a family of three range from $268 in Alabama to $2,243 in Minnesota.
- Across the states, the average (mean) earnings level that is the maximum possible amount allowing TANF eligibility is $881. The median figure is slightly lower, at $828.

Related tables: Table L3 provides the maximum income for initial eligibility for selected years from 1996 through 2017. Table IV.A.6 provides information on the amount of earnings a *recipient* may have and remain eligible for assistance. (The figures for recipients may differ from those for applicants due to differences in income eligibility tests and earnings disregards.)

Table I.A.1. Formal Diversion Payments, July 2017 [1]

State	Diversion program	Maximum diversion payment [2]	Form of payment	How often recipient can receive maximum payment	Period of TANF ineligibility after receiving diversion payment	Payment counts toward the time limit
Alabama	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Alaska	No [3]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Arizona	Yes [4]	3 months of benefits	Cash payment	Once every 12 month period	Period used in computing maximum diversion payment	No
Arkansas	Yes	3 months of benefits	Cash loan	Once in a lifetime	100 days [5]	Yes
California [6]	Yes	Greater of $2,000 or 3 months of benefits [7]	Cash or vendor payment	As often as needed, up to maximums [7]	No ineligibility period [8]	Varies [8]
Colorado [9]	Yes	$2,500 [10]	Cash payment	Twice in a 12 month period up to 3 times in a lifetime	12 months [11]	No
Connecticut	Yes	3 months of benefits	Cash payment	Once in a 12 month period up to 3 times in a lifetime	Period used in computing maximum diversion payment	Yes
Delaware	Yes [12]	$1,500	Vendor payment	Once every 12 month period	Period used in computing maximum diversion payment [13]	No
D.C.	Yes	3 months of benefits	Cash or vendor payment	Once every 12 month period	Period used in computing maximum diversion payment [14]	No
Florida [15]	Yes [16]	$1,000	Cash payment	Once in a lifetime [17]	Period used in computing maximum diversion payment [18]	No
Georgia	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Hawaii	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Idaho	Yes	3 months of benefits	Cash payment	Once in a lifetime	Twice the number of months included in the payment	Yes
Illinois	Yes [19]	$1,200 [20]	Cash or vendor payment	As often as needed, up to maximums [21]	No ineligibility period	No
Indiana	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Iowa	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Kansas	Yes	$1,000	Cash payment	Once in a lifetime	12 months	Yes [22]
Kentucky	Yes	$1,300	Vendor payment	Once in a 24 month period up to 2 times in a lifetime	12 months	No
Louisiana	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Table I.A.1. Formal Diversion Payments, July 2017 [1]

State	Diversion program	Maximum diversion payment [2]	Form of payment	How often recipient can receive maximum payment	Period of TANF ineligibility after receiving diversion payment	Payment counts toward the time limit
Maine	Yes	3 months of benefits	Vendor payment	Once every 12 month period	No ineligibility period [23]	No
Maryland	Yes	3 months of benefits	Cash or vendor payment	As often as needed	Period used in computing maximum diversion payment	No
Massachusetts	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Michigan	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Minnesota	Yes [24]	1 month of benefits [25]	Cash or vendor payment	Once every 12 month period	4 months [26]	No
Mississippi	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Missouri	Yes	3 months of benefits	Cash payment	Once every 12 month period	Period used in computing maximum diversion payment	No
Montana	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Nebraska	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Nevada	Yes	Case-by-case	Cash payment	Once in a lifetime	Period used in computing maximum diversion payment [27]	No
New Hampshire	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
New Jersey	Yes [28]	$750 [29]	Cash payment	As often as needed [29]	No ineligibility period [30]	No
New Mexico	Yes [31]	$1,500 [32]	Cash payment	Twice in a lifetime	12 months [33]	No
New York	Yes [34]	Case-by-case [35]	Cash or vendor payment	Case-by-case	No ineligibility period	No
North Carolina	Yes	3 months of benefits	Cash payment	Once every 12 month period	No ineligibility period	No
North Dakota	Yes	Case-by-case [36]	Cash payment	Up to 4 months in a 12 month period	No ineligibility period	No
Ohio	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Oklahoma	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Oregon	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Pennsylvania	Yes	3 months of benefits [37]	Cash payment	Once every 12 month period	Period used in computing diversion payment	No
Rhode Island	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
South Carolina	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Table I.A.1. Formal Diversion Payments, July 2017 [1]						
State	Diversion program	Maximum diversion payment [2]	Form of payment	How often recipient can receive maximum payment	Period of TANF ineligibility after receiving diversion payment	Payment counts toward the time limit
South Dakota	Yes	2 months of benefits	Cash or vendor payment	As often as needed	3 months [38]	No
Tennessee	Yes [39]	12 months of benefits	Cash payment	As often as needed	No ineligibility period	Yes
Texas	Yes [40]	$1,000	Cash payment	Once every 12 month period	12 months	No
Utah	Yes	3 months of benefits	Cash payment	Once every 12 month period	3 months	No
Vermont	Yes [41]	4 months of benefits	Cash payment	Once every 12 month period	No ineligibility period [42]	No
Virginia	Yes	4 months of benefits	Cash or vendor payment	Once every 12 month period	Up to 160 days [43]	No
Washington	Yes	$1,250	Cash or vendor payment	Once every 12 month period	12 months [44]	No
West Virginia	Yes	3 months of benefits	Cash payment	Once in a lifetime	3 months	No [45]
Wisconsin	Yes	$1,600	Cash loan [46]	As often as needed, up to maximums [47]	No ineligibility period	No
Wyoming	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

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

[1] Many states require recipients of diversion assistance to be currently employed or seeking employment. Eligibility and diversion payment decisions often are made case by case. Receipt of diversion often precludes TANF applicants from being eligible for a certain period, but the degree of ineligibility may be decreased subject to a penalty such as prorating and deducting the diversion payment from initial TANF benefits. For more information on eligibility and payment calculations related to diversion assistance, see the "Diversion" category in the full Welfare Rules Database available online at https://wrd.urban.org/wrd/Query/query.cfm.

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

[3] Alaska's TANF program is not currently implementing the diversion payment option due to systematic and program integrity reasons. Alaska may re-implement the payment option when its new eligibility software is fully launched and state statutes/regulations have been updated to better define diversion-eligible households. According to the legislation authorizing the program, a recipient can receive a cash payment worth up to three months of TANF benefits. If a family applies for assistance during the three-month ineligibility period, the entire amount of the diversion payment is treated as unearned income to the family. The diversion payment is prorated equally over the three months, and the prorated amount is counted as monthly income. An individual can receive diversion payments up to four times in a lifetime but no more than once every 12 months.

[4] To be eligible, applicants must have employment or self-employment history in the application month or within the 12 months prior to the application month, have successfully completed an educational, vocational, or job training program in the application month or within the six months prior to the application month, or have a job offer for full-time employment that will begin within three calendar months of the grant diversion period.

[5] If the diversion loan is repaid, then it does not count toward the time limit. If it is not repaid, then it does count toward the time limit.

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

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

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

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

[10] The amount of the payment is determined case by case. If assistance greater than $1,500 is requested, it must be approved by a designated staffing team.

[11] The period of ineligibility is no more than four consecutive calendar months, unless good cause exists. The client may apply for the diversion assistance during the period of ineligibility if circumstances beyond his or her control exist. Such circumstances include but are not limited to: serious or terminal illness of an immediate family member; natural disaster such as fire, flood, etc.; child protection case involvement with activities that are incompatible with the Individual Responsibility Contract; a lack of child care; job lay-off; domestic violence; homelessness; and severe mental or physical disabilities.

[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] The diversion payment is divided by the maximum benefit for the family size in order to get the period of ineligibility. The period is rounded down to the nearest month.

[15] Florida has three separate diversion programs. An assistance unit may receive a one-time payment of up to $1,000 in up-front diversion or cash severance diversion, or up to the amount needed to relocate in relocation assistance. Cash severance diversion is also available to employed TANF recipients. Up-front diversion and relocation assistance do not count toward time limits. Cash severance diversion does not count toward time limits if the payment is made in a month in which the unit also receives a TANF payment. If the payment is made in a month in which the unit does not receive a TANF payment, the cash severance diversion payment counts as a month toward the time limit.

[16] Florida has three separate diversion programs. Up-front diversion is for individuals in need of assistance because of unexpected circumstances or emergency situations. Relocation assistance is available for individuals who reside in an area with limited employment opportunities and experience one of the following: geographic isolation, formidable transportation barriers, isolation from extended family, or domestic violence that threatens the ability of a parent to maintain self-sufficiency. Cash severance is available to TANF recipients if they meet the following criteria: they are employed and receiving earnings, they are able to verify their earnings, they will remain employed for at least six months, they have received cash assistance for at least six consecutive months since October 1996, and they are eligible for at least one more month of TANF.

[17] There is no limit on the number of times relocation assistance services are needed.

[18] The client is ineligible for three months for up-front diversion and six months for relocation assistance. If an up-front diversion recipient reapplies for TANF within the three-month period and the Regional Workforce Board confirms an emergency exists, TANF benefits are approved and the diversion benefit is prorated over the next eight months of eligibility. For relocation assistance, if the family applies for cash assistance before the six-month period ends for emergency reasons other than domestic abuse, the relocation payment will be prorated and subtracted from any cash assistance payments received.

[19] Illinois operates its diversion program through local community partners. Payments are provided when funding is available.

[20] Some of these expenses have individual limits.

[21] Clients cannot receive more than the maximum payment in any 12-month period without additional approval.

[22] Recipients of diversion payments have their lifetime limit for TANF benefits reduced by six months.

[23] 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.

[24] Minnesota's four-month Diversionary Work Program (DWP) is mandatory for all TANF applicants, unless exempt. Recipients receive financial assistance and must participate in four months of intensive employment services focused on helping the participant obtain an unsubsidized job before entering regular TANF. Failure to comply with the employment services, which may include a structured job search, results in ineligibility for both DWP and TANF until compliance. After completing the four-month program, participants who still require assistance may apply for TANF as applicants.

[25] DWP benefits are provided monthly and are equal to the difference between the unit's countable income and the sum of its actual housing costs, utility costs, $35 a month for telephone services, and up to $70 per unit member for personal needs. The total monthly grant amount cannot exceed the cash portion of the TANF transitional standard. DWP recipients are eligible to receive SNAP benefits in addition to their diversion benefits (unlike the TANF calculation, which combines the cash and SNAP benefits). The unit is generally not required to assign child support payments over to the state while participating in DWP, but child support must be signed over to the state if the family receives child care assistance.

[26] The unit may apply for TANF at the completion of the four-month diversion program. If a unit applies for TANF any time within 12 months of receiving either TANF or DWP assistance, it moves directly into TANF and is not eligible to participate in diversion.

[27] A recipient is ineligible to receive TANF for the number of months determined by dividing the Self-Sufficiency Grant (SSG) payment by the maximum TANF grant for the family size at the time of payment. Any part of a month counts as a full month.

[28] New Jersey's diversion program, the Early Employment Initiative (EEI), is mandatory for applicants who have a work history that equals or exceeds four months of full-time employment in the past 12 months, appear to meet TANF eligibility requirements, are not in immediate need, and do not meet criteria for a deferral from work requirements. Participants receive a one-time, lump-sum payment and are required to pursue an intensive job search for 15 to 30 days while their application is processed. If participants obtain employment and withdraw their 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 Work First New Jersey (WFNJ)/TANF agency for cash assistance.

[29] The maximum amount a family would receive is relative to the number of people in the unit. The amount included in the table is for a unit of three. The maximum diversion payment for a unit of eight or more people is $1,550. If the agency believes an individual may benefit, he or she may be considered suitable for repeated participation in the Early Employment Initiative (EEI) when determining subsequent eligibility for the program.

[30] 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.

[31] The diversion payment is intended to assist the benefit group in accepting or retaining employment, remedying an emergency situation, or alleviating an unexpected short-term need.

[32] The grant amount is $1,500 for a family of one to three people and $2,500 for a family of four or more.

[33] Good cause may include loss of employment, but not a voluntary quit or dismissal due to poor job performance or failure to meet a condition of employment, use of an illegal substance or other drug, catastrophic illness or accident of a family member which requires an employed participant to leave employment, a victim of domestic violence, or another situation or emergency that renders an employed family member unable to care for the basic needs of the family.

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

[35] Eligible individuals include cash assistance applicants or re-applicants who meet eligibility criteria for cash assistance, but are deemed unable to meet the work requirements. The value of the payment is determined case by case depending on the specific needs of the family.

[36] Cash payment for emergency needs is limited to $430 a month for up to four months. Additional supportive services can include: Housing/shelter costs; $1,000 maximum for the cost of books, tuition, and fees relating to a work activity; $1,000 maximum for moving expenses relating to a job offer; $500 maximum for vehicle repairs; $250 maximum for employment related clothing; $150 maximum for cost for tools or equipment required for employment; and $150 maximum for monthly transportation expenses.

[37] The payment equals one, two, or three months of the family size allowance.

[38] If the unit applies for benefits before the three months have passed, the individual 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.

[39] To be eligible, the applicant must have an identifiable one-time financial need, have been a resident of Tennessee for six months, have no identifiable barriers to employment, have earned a high school diploma or GED, and either be currently employed or have been steadily employed in six of the last 12 months, with at least three being consecutive. In two-parent units, both parents must meet the eligibility criteria to qualify for a diversion payment.

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

[41] To be eligible for diversion assistance, an applicant family must meet cash assistance financial eligibility and diversion eligibility criteria and, if it has no members who are mandatory applicants, must choose to participate in the diversion program. Families who meet the following criteria are mandatory applicants: (1) at least one member of the family is work eligible, (2) work-eligible individuals in the family are neither disregarded from nor meeting their cash assistance work requirement, (3) none of the work-eligible individuals have received a diversion assistance payment in the 12 months before the application month, and (4) at least one work-eligible adult is part of a two-parent family, has recent and stable employment with earnings of at least 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, or has a marketable college degree or vocational education certificate.

[42] The unit may be transferred into regular TANF (Reach Up) at any time after the four-month period of diversion (Reach First) payments. It is at the caseworker's discretion to move a family into regular TANF during the four-month diversion period. However, should the unit need to apply for Reach Up in the months attributed to the Reach First payments, the payment will reduce dollar for dollar any Reach Up financial assistance in the months covered by the payment.

[43] The period of ineligibility is 160 days when the diversion payment equals four times the monthly TANF benefit the unit could have received. The period may be shorter. The number of days of ineligibility is computed through these steps: (1) divide the diversion payment by 1/30th of the monthly TANF benefit the unit could have received; (2) round up to the higher whole number; (3) multiply by 1.33; (4) round up to the higher whole number.

[44] If a unit requests monthly benefits before 12 months have passed, the diversion payment becomes a loan. The amount of the loan is calculated by dividing the diversion payment by 12 and multiplying the quotient by the number of months remaining of the 12-month period since the diversion payment was received. The unit's monthly benefit is decreased by 5 percent each month until the loan is paid off.

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

[46] 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).

[47] In a 12-month period, a unit may receive several loans, but it may not receive more than $1,600 in total loans or have an outstanding loan balance of more than $1,600.

Table I.A.2. Mandatory Job Search at Application, July 2017 [1]

State	Job search required?	Description of job search requirement	Who is exempt from job search at application?	What is the penalty for noncompliance?
Alabama	Yes	Apply to 3 jobs at businesses with job openings	Individuals who are non-parent caretakers not included in the assistance unit, receive SSI, are ill or incapacitated, are aged 60 years or older, are providing full-time care for a child under 12 weeks of age, are full-time volunteers in the VISTA program, or are working more than 30 hours per week earning minimum wage	Application is denied
Alaska	Yes	Participate in a 4-week job search program, which may include group or individual job search and job readiness activities	Individuals who are not job-ready, are ill or incapacitated, are caring for an ill or incapacitated family member, are caring for a child under 12 months old, or lack access to adequate child care [2]	Benefit is reduced
Arizona	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Arkansas	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
California [3]	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Colorado [4]	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Connecticut	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Delaware	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
D.C.	No [5]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Florida	No [6]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Georgia	Yes	Within 6 weeks of application review, make 12-24 job contacts	Individuals who are not job-ready, are ill or incapacitated, or are providing full-time care for a child under 12 months of age	Application is denied
Hawaii	Yes	Complete orientation and intake within 1 week of application; complete 1 full week of job readiness training within 21 days from intake	Individuals who are non-needy caretakers, are receiving SSI, are caring for an ill or incapacitated family member, are aged 65 or older, are single-custodial parents providing full-time care for a child under 6 months of age, or are exempt from work requirements due to temporary disability, substance abuse treatment, or crisis due to domestic violence situation	Application is denied

Table I.A.2. Mandatory Job Search at Application, July 2017 [1]

State	Job search required?	Description of job search requirement	Who is exempt from job search at application?	What is the penalty for noncompliance?
Idaho	Yes	Participate in a job search program, which may include group or individual job search and job readiness activities	Individuals who are providing full-time care for a child under 12 weeks of age	Application is denied
Illinois	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Indiana	Yes	Participate in job search for 4 hours per day for 20 days within the 60 day application period [7]	Individuals who receive Medicaid as Blind or Disabled, SSDI or other disability benefit, are aged 60 years or older, are providing full-time care for a child under 12 weeks of age or an incapacitated household member, or are refugees (or other alien with refugee equivalent status) and within 6 months of their date of arrival	Application is denied
Iowa	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Kansas	No [8]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Kentucky	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Louisiana	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Maine	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Maryland	Yes	For 2 weeks, search for jobs for at least 20 hours per week	Individuals who are non-parent caretakers not included in the assistance unit, are ill or incapacitated, are providing full-time care for a child under 12 months of age for a maximum of 12 months in the parent's lifetime, or are working more than 30 hours per week earning minimum wage	Application is denied
Massachusetts	Yes	Within first 30 days, 3 job contacts (one of which is a mandatory orientation session), 3 job contacts within second 30 days	Individuals who are under age 18, not subject to work requirements, currently enrolled in an education or training activity, or participating in inpatient substance abuse treatment	Work Ready Job Search: Unit's application is denied; Initial Job Search Program: Noncompliant adult is removed from unit

Table I.A.2. Mandatory Job Search at Application, July 2017 [1]

State	Job search required?	Description of job search requirement	Who is exempt from job search at application?	What is the penalty for noncompliance?
Michigan	Yes	For a minimum of 21 days up to a maximum of 30, participate in work activities including job search	Individuals who are ill or incapacitated, are caring for someone ill or incapacitated, are aged 65 or older, are providing full-time care for a child under 2 months of age, are experiencing pregnancy complications, or are victims of domestic violence	Application is denied
Minnesota	Yes [9]	For 4 months, participate in work activities program including job search [9]	Individuals who are aged 60 or older, are single parents providing full-time care for a child under 12 months of age, have received Diversion or TANF benefits within the last 12 months, or are in units with either refugee or asylee caregivers granted such status within the last 12 months	Ineligible until in compliance [10]
Mississippi	Yes	Within 30 days, make at least 3 job search contacts	Individuals who are exempt from work requirements	Application is denied
Missouri	Yes	Register/login to jobs.mo.gov to start job search	Individuals who are exempt or temporarily excluded from work activities	Application is denied
Montana	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Nebraska	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Nevada	Yes	Determined by local office	Individuals who are non-head-of-household minor parents, are undocumented non-citizens, receive SSI/SSDI, are parents caring for a disabled family member, or are non-recipient non-parent relatives	Application is denied
New Hampshire	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
New Jersey	Yes [11]	For a minimum of 15 days up to a maximum of 30, participate in required job search placement plan	Individuals who are ill or incapacitated, are caring for a newborn or for someone ill or incapacitated, are aged 62 or older, are pregnant, lack access to adequate child care, are victims of domestic violence, or are in drug, alcohol, or mental health treatment [12]	Application is denied
New Mexico	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
New York	Yes	Determined by local office	Individuals who are ill or incapacitated, are aged 60 or older, are providing full-time care for a child under 3 months of age, or are pregnant within 30 days of expected delivery date [13]	Application is denied

Table I.A.2. Mandatory Job Search at Application, July 2017 [1]				
State	Job search required?	Description of job search requirement	Who is exempt from job search at application?	What is the penalty for noncompliance?
North Carolina	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
North Dakota	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Ohio	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Oklahoma	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Oregon	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Pennsylvania	Yes [14]	While application pends, apply to 3 jobs per week [14]	Individuals who are employed, are participating in the Diversion program, are participating in the Department of Human Services' employment and training program, or meet a work requirement exemption	Application may be denied
Rhode Island	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
South Carolina	Yes	Within 2 weeks, contact at least 5 employer contacts	Individuals who are ineligible aliens, are ill or incapacitated, are caring for someone ill or incapacitated, are single parents providing full-time care for a child under 12 months of age, are at least seven months pregnant, are victims of domestic violence, are reapplying to cure a sanction within 60 days after the closure, or are refugees	Application is denied
South Dakota	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Tennessee	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Texas	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Utah	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Vermont	Yes	Report to the Department of Labor within two working days following eligibility interview	Individuals who face barriers to work or do not have any recent or stable work history	Application is denied
Virginia	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Washington	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
West Virginia	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Wisconsin	Yes	Participate in a job search program, which may include job orientation or other job search activities	Individuals who are not job-ready	Application may be denied
Wyoming	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

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

[1] This table refers to single-parent unit heads over 21 years old.

[2] The unit's benefit is reduced by the difference between the adult-based need standard for a two-person unit and the child-only need standard for a one-person unit.

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

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

[5] Job search is not required, but families may be referred for job search assistance based on their needs.

[6] Applicants are required to engage in work activities, which may include job search, as determined by the local workforce board.

[7] Job search training and job readiness activities are allowed for up to 20 hours of the 80 total hours.

[8] As a condition of eligibility, applicants are required to complete an on-line assessment and an on-line employment services orientation tutorial.

[9] Most families who have not used cash assistance in the last 12 months must first participate in the Diversionary Work Program (DWP). The participant and caseworker develop an employment plan, including hours of job search, before receiving DWP benefits; the participant must report job search activity and accept any offer of suitable employment. If the participant is a victim of domestic violence, the employment plan is developed in association with a family violence advocate. After the DWP, participants may apply for TANF assistance, without a requirement for job search at application.

[10] During the four-month DWP eligibility period, the case is closed until the family comes into compliance with employment services, at which point the benefit is prorated from the date of compliance. There is no minimum amount of time the case must be closed.

[11] Job search is a mandatory part of the state's diversion program. Once in the program, participants receive an activity payment and are required to search for a job during the TANF application process. If no employment is secured, the applicant is referred back for traditional cash assistance.

[12] Pregnant women are deferred from work requirements if they are in the third trimester, or earlier in the pregnancy with a medical reason.

[13] The exemption for a caretaker of a child under 3 months may last for no more than 12 months in a recipient's lifetime, and it may not last for more than three months for any one child unless the social services official makes a determination to extend the exemption for up to the total of 12 months.

[14] As a condition of eligibility, applicants who are not employed a minimum of 20 hours per week are required to document that they applied for at least three jobs per week while the application is pending authorization for benefits.

Table I.B.1. Eligibility of Pregnant Women with No Other Children, July 2017

State	Eligible for Benefits: Mother	Father [1]	Unborn Child	Eligible in what month of pregnancy?
Alabama	No	No	No	n.a.
Alaska	Yes [2]	No	No	7
Arizona	No	No	No	n.a.
Arkansas	No	No	No	n.a.
California	Yes [3]	No	No	4 [4]
Colorado	Yes	No	No	1 [5]
Connecticut	Yes [6]	No	No	1
Delaware	Yes [7]	No	No	9 [8]
D.C.	Yes	No	No	5
Florida	Yes	No	No	9 [9]
Georgia	No	No	No	n.a.
Hawaii	Yes	No	No	9
Idaho	Yes	No	No	7 [10]
Illinois	Yes	Yes [11]	No	1
Indiana	No	No	No	n.a.
Iowa	No	No	No	n.a.
Kansas	Yes	Yes	No	1
Kentucky	No	No	No	n.a.
Louisiana	Yes [6]	No [12]	No	6
Maine	Yes	No	No	7
Maryland	Yes	Yes	No	1
Massachusetts	Yes	No	No	6 [13]
Michigan	Yes	Yes [14]	No	1
Minnesota	Yes	No [15]	No	1 [16]
Mississippi	No	No	No	n.a.
Missouri	No	No	No	n.a.
Montana	Yes	No	No	7
Nebraska	Yes	Yes [17]	Yes	7
Nevada	Yes	No	No	6
New Hampshire	No	No [12]	No	n.a.
New Jersey	No	No	No	n.a.
New Mexico	Yes	Yes [18]	No	7
New York	Yes	Yes	No	1 [5]
North Carolina	No	No	No	n.a.
North Dakota	Yes	No [19]	No	6
Ohio	Yes	No	No	6
Oklahoma	No	No	No	n.a.
Oregon	Yes	Yes	No	8 [20]
Pennsylvania	Yes [21]	No	No	1 [5]
Rhode Island	Yes [6]	No	No	7 [22]
South Carolina	No	No	No	n.a.
South Dakota	No	No	No	n.a.

Table I.B.1. Eligibility of Pregnant Women with No Other Children, July 2017				
	Eligible for Benefits			Eligible in what month of pregnancy?
State	Mother	Father [1]	Unborn Child	
Tennessee	Yes	No	No	6
Texas	No	No	No	n.a.
Utah	Yes	Yes	No	7
Vermont	Yes	No	No	9 [23]
Virginia	No	No	No	n.a.
Washington	Yes	No	No	1 [24]
West Virginia	No	No	No	n.a.
Wisconsin	Yes [25]	No	No	6 [26]
Wyoming	No	No	No	n.a.
Total states providing benefits	**32**	**9**	**1**	**n.a.**

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

[1] If a state's policies vary for same-sex couples, the policy for same-sex couples is described in the notes.

[2] The needs, resources, and income of all household members who would be required to be in the mandatory filing unit must be considered in determining eligibility. If the woman is eligible, the payment is based solely on the pregnant woman's income and needs.

[3] A pregnant woman must meet the eligibility requirements as if her child were already born and living with her. If the father of the unborn child is living in the home, his income, resources, and needs are counted to determine her eligibility and benefits. After the child is born, the father and child will be added to the assistance unit if eligible.

[4] A pregnant woman age 19 or older, with no other eligible children in the home, may be eligible beginning in the second trimester of pregnancy.

[5] A pregnant woman is eligible upon verification of pregnancy.

[6] A pregnant woman must meet the eligibility requirements as if her child were already born and living with her.

[7] A pregnant woman's financial eligibility in the month that her child is due is determined by comparing her gross income to 185 percent of the standard of need for one person. If she lives with the father of her unborn child, financial eligibility is determined by comparing the sum of the pregnant woman's income and the father's income to the standard of need for three people (the number of people who would be included in the family unit when the child is born). If income exceeds the standard, the application is denied. If income is less than the standard, only the mother's income and needs are considered in determining the amount of the grant.

[8] A pregnant woman is eligible on the first day of the month in which the child is expected.

[9] 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. The ninth month is defined as the calendar month in which the due date falls.

[10] A pregnant woman is eligible only if she is in her last trimester and unable to work for medical reasons.

[11] A pregnant woman and her spouse or civil union partner, if living with her, are eligible for assistance.

[12] This state does not provide benefits to two-parent, nondisabled families. If the father of the child is disabled, incapacitated, or caring for a disabled family member living in the home, he may be included.

[13] A pregnant woman may only receive benefits after a licensed medical practitioner has verified the pregnancy and determined the expected date of delivery. A pregnant woman age 18 or younger is eligible from the date the pregnancy is verified and if she is otherwise meeting her school's attendance requirements.

[14] The father must be married to the mother to be eligible.

[15] The income and assets of both the mother and father are used to determine eligibility and benefits if the mother and the father live together and are married.

[16] A pregnant woman is eligible the first day of the month in which the pregnancy is confirmed, or the application date, whichever is later.

[17] When the parents of the unborn child are married, the father's needs are included when determining the benefit.

[18] The father of the unborn child may be in the assistance unit if living in the home. Additionally, to be considered, the father must sign a sworn statement attesting to paternity of the child.

[19] This state does not provide benefits to two-parent, nondisabled families. If the pregnant woman resides with her spouse and either the woman or spouse is incapacitated, aged, or disabled, they may both be included.

[20] A pregnant woman may apply in the month prior to her due date. A pregnant woman who is at risk or has a safety concern due to domestic violence may apply for TANF at any point during her pregnancy.

[21] A pregnant woman must meet the eligibility requirements as if her child were already born and living with her. If the pregnant woman's spouse is living in the home, his income, resources, and needs are included in this calculation. If she is not married, the income, resources, and needs of the father will not be included in the eligibility calculation until the child is born and paternity has been established.

[22] A pregnant woman can begin to receive assistance within three months of her medically-verified due date.

[23] A pregnant woman may be eligible in the seventh month if she is a minor or is documented as having a high-risk pregnancy.

[24] A pregnant woman may only receive benefits after a licensed medical practitioner has verified the pregnancy and determined the expected date of delivery.

[25] A pregnant woman is eligible in the third trimester of pregnancy if she is unmarried, unable to work due to a medically-verified at-risk pregnancy, and the at-risk pregnancy is verified no earlier than 30 days prior to the beginning of the third trimester.

[26] Pregnant women are eligible for cash assistance beginning in the sixth month of pregnancy. Prior to the sixth month of pregnancy, if a pregnant woman does not qualify for cash assistance, she may receive other support services (i.e., employment or child care related services) upon medical verification of the pregnancy.

Table I.B.2. Eligibility Rules for Two-Parent, Nondisabled Applicant Units, July 2017 [1]

State	Upper limit on monthly work hours [2]	Work history test [3]	Application waiting period after employment ends
Alabama	No limit	No	None
Alaska	No limit	No	None
Arizona	No limit	No	None
Arkansas	No limit	No	None
California	100 [4]	No	None
Colorado	No limit	No	None
Connecticut	No limit	No	None
Delaware	No limit	No	None
D.C.	No limit	No	None
Florida	No limit	No	None
Georgia	No limit	Must be connected to the work force [5]	None
Hawaii	No limit	No	None
Idaho	No limit	No	None
Illinois	No limit	No	None
Indiana	No limit	No	None
Iowa	No limit	No	None
Kansas	No limit	No	None
Kentucky	100 [6]	Must have earned at least $1,000 in the last 2 year period [7]	30 days
Louisiana [8]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Maine	100	6 out of 13 quarters	30 days
Maryland	No limit	No	None
Massachusetts	No limit	No	None
Michigan	No limit	No	None [9]
Minnesota	No limit	No	None
Mississippi	100	6 out of 13 quarters	30 days
Missouri [10]	No limit	No	None
Montana	No limit	No	None
Nebraska	No limit	No	None
Nevada	No limit	No	None
New Hampshire [8]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
New Jersey	No limit	No	None
New Mexico	No limit	No	None
New York	No limit	No	None
North Carolina	No limit	No	None [11]
North Dakota [8]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Ohio	No limit	No	None
Oklahoma	No limit	6 out of 13 quarters	30 days
Oregon	No limit	No	None
Pennsylvania	No limit	No	None
Rhode Island	No limit	No	None
South Carolina	No limit	No	None

Table I.B.2. Eligibility Rules for Two-Parent, Nondisabled Applicant Units, July 2017 [1]

State	Upper limit on monthly work hours [2]	Work history test [3]	Application waiting period after employment ends
South Dakota	100	Must have earned at least $1,500 in the last 6 month period [12]	None
Tennessee	No limit	No	None
Texas	No limit	No	None
Utah	No limit	No	None
Vermont	No limit	No	None
Virginia	No limit	No	None
Washington	No limit	No	None
West Virginia	No limit	No	None
Wisconsin	No limit	No	None
Wyoming	No limit	No	None

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

[1] In some states, benefits are provided to two-parent units under a state-funded program instead of through federal TANF. This table describes the treatment of two-parent units regardless of the funding source. Eligibility rules for two-parent, nondisabled families are special categorical rules in addition to the other state rules that all units must pass. Under the AFDC program, states imposed rules on two-parent families' work effort, including limits on hours of work, work history tests, and waiting periods. Some states have continued to impose these policies under TANF.

[2] States with this policy generally allow eligibility for units with two nondisabled parents only if the principal earner in the couple works no more than a certain number of hours per month. However, in most states with this policy, eligibility may still be allowed when hours exceed the maximum, if work hours are usually at or below the maximum. See the full database for details.

[3] Applicants have to demonstrate previous attachment to the workforce; under AFDC, the principal earners was required to work at least six of the last 13 quarters. The 13-quarter period must have ended within one year of applying for assistance. Generally, work history could also be established if one of the following applied: (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 the previous 12 months but did not apply or his or her employment was not covered by UC laws.

[4] To be eligible for cash assistance, the individual has to have been employed less than 100 hours during the four-week period before the date of eligibility for cash aid.

[5] Applicants must have been connected to the workforce, which includes one of the following: (1) currently working at least 20 hours a week, (2) receiving Unemployment Compensation, or received UC benefits within 12 months prior to the application date, (3) unemployed or working less than 20 hours a week and earned $500 within the six months before application, (4) receiving retirement benefits or received retirement benefits in any of the six months prior to the application month, or (5) has received disability benefits based on 100 percent disability in any of the last six months.

[6] The applicant may not have turned down a bona fide offer of training or employment without good cause, and must be available for full-time labor.

[7] Applicants must have earned at least $1,000 during the 24-month period before the month of application. Two semesters of full-time attendance in a postsecondary institution may be substituted for $500 of the $1,000.

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

[9] Applicants who refuse suitable employment without good cause while their application is pending, or up to 30 days before their application date, are not eligible for benefits until the 30th day after the refusal of employment.

[10] Policies shown are for all areas of the state, with the exception of Kansas City.

[11] While there is no waiting period for newly unemployed families, these families cannot receive benefits in a given month during which the family receives verified wages that make them ineligible.

[12] 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 2017 [1]

State	Can be head of unit	Living arrangement restriction [2]
Alabama	Yes	Yes
Alaska	Yes	Yes
Arizona	Yes	Yes
Arkansas	Yes	Yes
California	Yes	Yes [3]
Colorado	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	Yes	Yes
Delaware	No [4]	Yes
D.C.	Yes	Yes
Florida	Yes	Yes
Georgia	Yes	Yes
Hawaii	Yes	No
Idaho	No [5]	Yes [6]
Illinois	Yes	Yes [7]
Indiana	Yes	Yes
Iowa	Yes	Yes
Kansas	No [8]	Yes
Kentucky	Yes	Yes
Louisiana	No [9]	Yes
Maine	Yes [10]	Yes
Maryland	No	Yes
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes [11]
Michigan	No [12]	Yes
Minnesota	Yes [13]	Yes
Mississippi	Yes	Yes
Missouri	Yes	Yes [14]
Montana	No [15]	Yes
Nebraska	Yes	No
Nevada	Yes	Yes
New Hampshire	Yes	Yes
New Jersey	Yes	Yes
New Mexico	Yes	Yes
New York	Yes [16]	Yes
North Carolina	No	Yes
North Dakota	Yes	Yes [17]
Ohio	Yes	Yes [18]
Oklahoma	Yes	Yes
Oregon	Yes	Yes [19]
Pennsylvania	Yes	Yes
Rhode Island	Yes	Yes [20]
South Carolina	Yes	Yes
South Dakota	Yes	Yes [21]
Tennessee	Yes	Yes
Texas	Yes	Yes
Utah	Yes	Yes

Table I.B.3. Special Rules Imposed on Minor Parent Eligibility, July 2017 [1]		
State	Can be head of unit	Living arrangement restriction [2]
Vermont	Yes	Yes [22]
Virginia	Yes [23]	Yes
Washington	Yes	Yes
West Virginia	No	Yes
Wisconsin	No	Yes
Wyoming	Yes	Yes
Total states with policy	**41**	**49**

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

[1] This table provides policies for parents under 18 years old. States may have a different age cutoff for treating parents as minors for at least some purposes.

[2] This column describes whether the state requires unmarried minor parents, who have not been legally emancipated, to live with their parents 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. Under federal policy, minors may be exempt from this requirement under the following circumstances: the minor has no parent, legal guardian, or other appropriate relative who is living or whose whereabouts are known; the minor or his or her child has been subjected to, or faces an imminent risk of, serious physical or emotional harm in the residence of the minor's parent or legal guardian; or the state agency determines it is in the best interest of the minor's child to waive the requirement.

[3] A minor parent is exempt from living with his or her parents if he or she does not have a living parent or legal guardian, there is no a state-licensed living arrangement available, a child protection services worker determines that such a living arrangement would be physically or emotionally unsafe, or the minor parent has lived apart from his or her parents for more than 12 months.

[4] Children born to teenage parents are ineligible for cash assistance unless the parent is married. The minor parent may receive noncash assistance services in the form of vouchers for their children upon request; however, vouchers are not automatically distributed each month. Voucher payments are distributed through a protective payee to the minor parent's parent or the adult in the supervised living arrangement.

[5] A minor parent may be the head of an assistance unit if the minor parent is married.

[6] An unmarried parent under age 18 must live with his or her parents, unless good cause is established. Two unmarried parents under the age of 18, with a child in common, can choose to live with the parents of the unmarried father or the unmarried mother.

[7] Minor parents may receive benefits for up to six nonconsecutive months without complying with the residency requirement.

[8] Minor parents may be the head of the unit if they are 16 or 17 and have been married, have been placed in independent living by the department of children and families, are in an approved transitional living program, or are in Job Corps.

[9] A minor parent can head his or her own unit if he or she meets an exemption to the residency requirement.

[10] If the minor lives with his or her parents and the grandparents are parenting the child, the grandparents must be included in the TANF unit. If the minor is parenting the child and the grandparents are not receiving TANF for other children, the grandparents may or may not be included, at the option of the family.

[11] A minor parent may live on his or her own when the Department of Children and Families determines that he or she has acquired sufficient independent living and parenting skills.

[12] A minor parent can head his or her own unit when the adult relative or legal guardian is not receiving assistance. In these cases, the supervising adult must serve as the protective payee.

[13] When two unmarried minor caregivers live together with their minor child, at least one minor caregiver must meet the living arrangement requirements in order for the minor child, along with the minor caregiver, to be eligible.

[14] A minor parent is exempt from living with his or her parents if he or she does not have a living parent or guardian (or if the whereabouts of the parent or guardian is unknown), the minor parent's legal living parent or guardian will not allow the minor parent to live in his or her home, the state determines that such a living arrangement would be physically or emotionally unsafe, the minor parent lived apart from any parent or legal guardian for at least a year prior to either the birth of the dependent child or applying for benefits, or the state determines good cause to live apart from a parent, adult relative, or other approved setting.

[15] Individuals under the age of 18 can head their own units if they have been emancipated by court action or a previous marriage.

[16] The minor parent must be at least 16 years old to receive assistance as the head of the assistance unit.

[17] Minor parents are exempt from living with a parent, legal guardian or a legally responsible caretaker relative, or in an adult-supervised supportive living arrangement if they have a marital status of separated, divorced, or widowed, or are active duty in the uniformed service.

[18] If the minor lives with a parent, guardian, or relative, the benefit is generally paid to that person as a protective payee. A protective payment is not required if the minor lives in a supervised supportive living arrangement such as a group home.

[19] A minor parent may be exempt from the residency requirement if it is unsafe or impractical for the minor parent to live with his or her parents, legal guardian, or other adult relative.

[20] Minors who are at least six months pregnant are subject to the residency requirements.

[21] A minor parent is exempt from living with his or her parents if no adult relative or legal guardian will allow the minor parent and child to live with them.

[22] Minor parents may be exempt if they are 17 years old and have lived independently for at least six months, live with their child’s other parent and both parents are age 16 or older, or lack an appropriate living arrangement.

[23] A minor parent may form his or her own unit provided none of the minor parent's siblings receive benefits.

Table I.B.4. Inclusion of Stepparents in the Assistance Unit, July 2017 [1]

State	Inclusion in the assistance unit
Alabama	Mandatory
Alaska	Prohibited
Arizona	Prohibited
Arkansas	Mandatory
California	Optional
Colorado	Prohibited
Connecticut	Prohibited
Delaware	Optional [2]
D.C.	Optional
Florida	Prohibited
Georgia	Optional
Hawaii	Optional
Idaho	Mandatory
Illinois	Optional
Indiana	Optional [3]
Iowa	Prohibited
Kansas	Mandatory
Kentucky	Prohibited
Louisiana	Mandatory [4]
Maine	Optional
Maryland	Optional
Massachusetts	Prohibited
Michigan	Mandatory
Minnesota	Mandatory
Mississippi	Prohibited
Missouri	Prohibited
Montana	Mandatory
Nebraska	Mandatory
Nevada	Optional
New Hampshire	Mandatory
New Jersey	Optional [5]
New Mexico	Mandatory
New York	Optional
North Carolina	Mandatory
North Dakota	Mandatory
Ohio	Prohibited
Oklahoma	Prohibited
Oregon	Mandatory
Pennsylvania	Optional [6]
Rhode Island	Mandatory
South Carolina	Mandatory
South Dakota	Mandatory [7]
Tennessee	Prohibited [8]
Texas	Optional
Utah	Mandatory
Vermont	Mandatory
Virginia	Prohibited
Washington	Mandatory

Table I.B.4. Inclusion of Stepparents in the Assistance Unit, July 2017 [1]

State	Inclusion in the assistance unit
West Virginia	Mandatory
Wisconsin	Mandatory [9]
Wyoming	Prohibited

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

[1] The table describes policies for units in which the stepparent has no child in common with the spouse (the head of unit and the parent of the child or children), the stepparent has no dependents of his or her own living in the household, the spouse is living in the home, and the spouse is not incapacitated. States may have different policies that apply when these conditions are not true (e.g. if the natural parent is incapacitated).

[2] The needy legal spouse or civil union partner of a child's natural or adoptive parent can be included in the unit if the parent is the principal wage earner and qualifies as an unemployed parent.

[3] The stepparent is included only if he or she is a specified relative with care and control of the child.

[4] If both the parent and the stepparent are able bodied, then the unit is considered a two-parent unit and is not eligible for assistance.

[5] 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.

[6] If the stepparent is a specified relative or essential person (i.e., a relative who lives with the child and cares for the dependent), the stepparent may be included in the assistance unit.

[7] If the stepparent is an Indian in Indian country who is under the exclusive jurisdiction of a tribe for purposes of determining the domestic relations rights of the family, the stepparent has the option of being included in the assistance unit.

[8] The stepparent is not allowed to be included in the unit unless he or she is the only relative in the home who meets the caretaker requirements.

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

Table I.B.5. Eligibility of Non-exempt, Pre-PRWORA, Qualified Aliens, July 2017 [1]

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

Table I.B.5. Eligibility of Non-exempt, Pre-PRWORA, Qualified Aliens, July 2017 [1]		
State	Lawful permanent residents [2]	Asylees [3]
Utah	All	All
Vermont	All	All
Virginia	All	All
Washington	All	All
West Virginia	All	All
Wisconsin	All	All
Wyoming	All	All

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

[1] This table describes the eligibility of a subset of people who entered the United States before August 22, 1996—those whose current status is either legal permanent resident or asylee, and who are "nonexempt" as federally-defined. For example, non-citizens who entered the U.S. prior to August 22, 1996 are exempt from special eligibility restrictions if they are legal permanent residents who can claim 40 quarters of work history; people who satisfy a federal exemption criterion are potentially eligible in all states. This table does not cover the eligibility of individuals who entered prior to August 22, 1996 and currently have other qualified immigrant statuses, or who are nonqualified immigrants.

[2] Lawful permanent residents are individuals who have been granted authorization to permanently live and work in the United States. Pre-PRWORA LPRs with 40 quarters of work are exempt from eligibility restrictions by federal law and are therefore potentially eligible in all states.

[3] Asylees are immigrants who flee their countries owing to persecution because of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a social group, and who request permission to remain in the U.S. Asylees are permitted to apply for LPR status after one year of asylee status but are not required to do so. (Refugees, not shown in this table, are similar to asylees but receive their status before coming to the U.S.; they are required to apply for LPR status after one year.)

[4] The LPR must meet one of the following to be potentially eligible: 1) five years lawful residency, 2) prior qualified status, 3) military connection, and 4) continuous residency.

[5] All immigrant units are funded through a state program with the same eligibility rules as TANF. No immigrant units, however, are eligible for federal TANF funding.

[6] Obtaining permanent residency does not negate the person's original entry status for TANF eligibility in the state.

[7] Qualified immigrants are only eligible for benefits for seven years beginning on the date they attained qualified immigrant status.

Table I.B.6. State Practices Regarding Eligibility of Noncitizens Who Entered after Enactment and Are Ineligible for Federal TANF Assistance, July 2017 [1]

State	Qualified aliens during their first five years [2]: Lawful permanent residents [3]	Parolees [4]	Battered noncitizens [5]	Nonqualified aliens [6]
Alabama	No	No	No	No
Alaska	No [7]	No	No	No
Arizona	No	Yes	No	No
Arkansas	No	No	No	No
California	Yes	Yes	Yes	Some [8]
Colorado	No	No	No	No
Connecticut	Yes [9]	Yes [9]	Yes [9]	No
Delaware	No	No	Yes	No
D.C.	No	No	No	No
Florida	No	No	No	No
Georgia	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Hawaii [10]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Idaho	No	No	No	No
Illinois	No [7]	Yes	Yes	No
Indiana	No	No	No	No
Iowa	No	No	Yes	No
Kansas	No	No	No	No
Kentucky	No [7]	No	No	No
Louisiana	No [7]	No	No	No
Maine	Some [11]	Some [11]	Some [11]	Some [11]
Maryland [10]	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Massachusetts	No	No	No	No
Michigan	No	No	No	No
Minnesota	Some [12]	Yes	Yes	Some [13]
Mississippi	No	No	No	No
Missouri	No	No	No	No
Montana	No	No	No	No
Nebraska	No	No	No	No
Nevada	No	No	Yes	No
New Hampshire	No	No	No	No
New Jersey	No	No	Yes	No
New Mexico	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
New York	Yes	Yes	Yes	Some [14]
North Carolina	No	No	No	No
North Dakota	No	No	No	No
Ohio	No	No	No	No
Oklahoma	No	No	No	No
Oregon	Yes	Yes	Yes	Some [15]
Pennsylvania	Yes	Yes	Yes	Some [16]
Rhode Island	No	No	Yes	No
South Carolina	No	No	No	No

Table I.B.6. State Practices Regarding Eligibility of Noncitizens Who Entered after Enactment and Are Ineligible for Federal TANF Assistance, July 2017 [1]

State	Qualified aliens during their first five years [2]			Nonqualified aliens [6]
	Lawful permanent residents [3]	Parolees [4]	Battered noncitizens [5]	
South Dakota	No	No	No	No
Tennessee	No	No	No	No
Texas	No [7]	No	No	No
Utah	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Vermont	No [7]	No	No	No
Virginia	No	No	No	No
Washington	Yes	Yes	Yes	Some [16]
West Virginia	No	No	No	No
Wisconsin	Yes	Yes	Yes	Some [17]
Wyoming	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

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

[1] This table refers only to noncitizens that have entered the United States on or after August 22, 1996, and are ineligible for federally funded TANF assistance because of the five-year bar or nonqualified status. Refugees, asylees, and deportees are eligible for federal funding for the first five years after obtaining that status, and therefore are not included in this table.

[2] 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.

[3] Lawful permanent residents are individuals who have been granted authorization to permanently live and work in the United States.

[4] Parolees are individuals permitted entry into the United States in cases of emergency or because of an overriding public interest. The table only discusses the eligibility of aliens paroled into the United States for at least one year. Aliens paroled into the United States for less than a year are not "qualified" aliens according to the immigrant definition in PRWORA.

[5] Battered noncitizens refer to those individuals who have been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty in the U.S. by a spouse or parent who is a U.S. citizen or LPR. To be eligible for benefits, individuals must no longer be living in the same household as the abuser and there must be a connection between the abuse and the need for benefits. See 8 USC 1641 (c).

[6] Two groups of non-qualified aliens--those who are in the country on a temporary basis (student visas, work visas, and so on), and those who are in the country without authorization--are not eligible for benefits in any state. However, there are other groups of nonqualified aliens, such as persons residing under color of law (PRUCOL). This column describes whether any nonqualified aliens other than those who are temporary or unauthorized are potentially eligible for benefits using state funds.

[7] Certain American Indians born in Canada may be regarded as lawful permanent residents for purposes of eligibility and are therefore qualified aliens. These individuals are eligible for benefits during the five-year bar.

[8] All nonqualified aliens who are legally in the country and were not on a temporary basis are eligible for assistance.

[9] To be eligible, all noncitizens must pursue citizenship to the maximum extent allowed by law, unless incapable owing to mental incapacity, a medical condition, a language barrier, or a domestic violence situation.

[10] All immigrant units are funded through a state program with the same eligibility rules as TANF.

[11] A noncitizen who is not eligible for federal funding may receive state-funded cash assistance if the noncitizen received (or was applying for) TANF on December 1, 2012; is elderly or disabled; is a victim of domestic violence; or is suffering from a hardship while waiting for proper work documentation. In addition, asylum seekers with work documentation who are unemployed may be eligible if funding is available.

[12] Lawful permanent residents age 18-70 who have lived in the US for at least four years and whose benefits are funded entirely with state money must either be participating in a literacy or citizenship class, on a waiting list, applying for a waiver, or applying for citizenship to remain eligible for state-funded assistance. This requirement does not apply to legal permanent residents in the country less than four years.

[13] All non-citizens who are legally in the country and who were not admitted on a temporary basis are eligible for assistance.

[14] Individuals permanently residing in the United States under color of law as defined by the state and parolees in the country for less than one year are eligible for assistance.

[15] Victims of trafficking and noncitizens at risk of domestic violence are eligible for assistance.

[16] Individuals permanently residing in the United States under color of law are potentially eligible.

[17] Individuals with employment authorization by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services are eligible for assistance.

Table I.B.7. Eligibility of Post-PRWORA Qualified Aliens after Five Years, July 2017 [1]

State	Lawful permanent residents [2]	Asylees/ Refugees [3]	Deportees [4]	Parolees [5]	Battered noncitizens [6]
Alabama	All	None	None	None	All
Alaska	All	All	All	All	All
Arizona	All	All	All	All	All
Arkansas	All	All	All	All	None
California	All	All	All	All	All
Colorado	All	All	All	All	All
Connecticut	All	All	All	All	All
Delaware	All	All	All	All	All
D.C.	All	All	All	All	All
Florida	All	All	All	All	All
Georgia	All	All	All	All	All
Hawaii [7]	All	All	All	All	All
Idaho	All	All	All	All	All
Illinois	All	All	All	All	All
Indiana	Some [8]	All	All	None	None
Iowa	All	All	All	All	All
Kansas	All	All	All	All	All
Kentucky	All	All	All	All	All
Louisiana	All	All	All	All	All
Maine	All	All	All	All	All
Maryland	All	All	All	All	All
Massachusetts	All	All	All	All	All
Michigan	All	All	None	All	All
Minnesota	Some [9]	All	All	All	All
Mississippi	Some [10]	None	None	None	None
Missouri	All	All	All	All	All
Montana	All	Some [11]	Some [11]	All	Some [10]
Nebraska	All	All	All	All	All
Nevada	All	All	All	All	All
New Hampshire	All	All	All	All	All
New Jersey	All [12]	All	All	All	All
New Mexico	All	All	All	All	All
New York	All	All	All	All	All
North Carolina	All	All	All	All	All
North Dakota	All	All	All	All	All
Ohio	Some [10]	Some [10]	Some [10]	None	None
Oklahoma	All	All	All	All	All
Oregon	All	All	All	All	All
Pennsylvania	All	All	All	All	All
Rhode Island	All	All	All	All	All
South Carolina	Some [10]	None	None	None	None
South Dakota	All	All	All	All	All

Table I.B.7. Eligibility of Post-PRWORA Qualified Aliens after Five Years, July 2017 [1]					
State	Lawful permanent residents [2]	Asylees/ Refugees [3]	Deportees [4]	Parolees [5]	Battered noncitizens [6]
Tennessee	All	All	All	All	None
Texas	Some [10]	None	None	None	None
Utah	All	All	All	All	All
Vermont	All	All	All	All	All
Virginia	All	All	All	All	All
Washington	All	All	All	All	All
West Virginia	All	All	All	All	All
Wisconsin	All	All	All	All	All
Wyoming	All	All	All	All	All

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

[1] This table identifies the eligibility for federally-funded TANF assistance of certain groups of qualified aliens. In general, the table captures potential eligibility five years after the point when a person obtains the specified status, which may be later than the date of entry to the U.S. (e.g., if a person initially enters the country in a non-qualified status but later obtains asylee status). Post-PRWORA entrants who are military personnel or veterans (and their families) are potentially eligible in every state. 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 individuals who have been granted authorization to permanently live and work in the United States.

[3] Asylees and refugees are immigrants who flee their countries owing to persecution because of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a social group. Refugees request permission to enter the country, while asylees are already in the United States and request permission to stay.

[4] Deportees are individuals granted a stay of deportation or who have had their deportation withheld.

[5] Parolees are individuals permitted entry into the United States in cases of emergency or because of an overriding public interest. The table only discusses the eligibility of aliens paroled into the United States for at least one year. Aliens paroled into the United States for less than a year are not "qualified" aliens according to the immigrant definition in PRWORA.

[6] Battered noncitizens refer to those individuals who have been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty in the U.S. by a spouse or parent who is a U.S. citizen or LPR. To be eligible for benefits, individuals must no longer be living in the same household as the abuser and there must be a connection between the abuse and the need for benefits. See 8 USC 1641 (c).

[7] All immigrant units are funded through a state program with the same eligibility rules as TANF. No immigrant units, however, are eligible for federal TANF funding.

[8] Only lawful permanent residents who have previously been refugees are eligible.

[9] Lawful permanent residents age 18-70 who have lived in the US for at least four years and whose benefits are funded entirely with state money must either be participating in a literacy or citizenship class, on a waiting list, applying for a waiver, or applying for citizenship to remain eligible for state-funded assistance. This requirement does not apply to legal permanent residents in the country less than four years.

[10] Forty qualifying quarters of work are required.

[11] Qualified aliens with this status are only eligible for benefits for seven years beginning on the date they entered the United States.

[12] Aliens who were not continuous residents of the United States (meaning they left the United States for 30 days or more) before becoming lawful permanent residents are ineligible for benefits.

Table I.B.8. Treatment of Non-caretaker Adults in Household, July 2017 [1]

State	Which subgroups of non-caretaker adults are potentially eligible to receive assistance as part of the unit? [2]	When a non-caretaker adult living in the household is not included in the TANF unit: Treatment of income: Is the income of the non-caretaker adult counted against the unit for eligibility and benefit computation?	Treatment of income: How much of the adult's income is counted?	Shared living costs: [3] Under what circumstances are benefits or eligibility affected when sharing living costs?	Shared living costs: [3] How much are benefits or eligibility reduced when sharing living costs? [4]
Alabama	None	Not counted [5]	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
Alaska	None	Not counted	n.a.	Unit spends less than 30% of need standard on shelter costs	Any unused portion of the 30% is deducted from the Need Standard before benefit calculation
Arizona	None	Not counted	n.a.	Recipient has no obligation to pay a shelter cost for at least three months	Need standard reduced 37% for eligibility and benefit calculations
Arkansas	Relatives [6]	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
California [7]	Registered domestic partners [8]	Registered domestic partners	Total earned and unearned income less a $90 disregard	Adult not included in the unit pays all of shelter costs	Need standard reduced by value of shelter, food, and clothing
Colorado	None	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
Connecticut	Relatives	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
Delaware	None [9]	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
D.C.	Relatives	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
Florida	Relatives	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
Georgia	None	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
Hawaii	All adults [10]	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
Idaho	None	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
Illinois	Civil union partners	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
Indiana	None	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
Iowa	None	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
Kansas	Relatives and partners [11]	Not counted	n.a.	One or more persons reside in the household and are not in the unit	Shelter allowance reduced by 40% [12]
Kentucky	None	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.

Table I.B.8. Treatment of Non-caretaker Adults in Household, July 2017 [1]

State	Which subgroups of non-caretaker adults are potentially eligible to receive assistance as part of the unit? [2]	When a non-caretaker adult living in the household is not included in the TANF unit: Treatment of income: Is the income of the non-caretaker adult counted against the unit for eligibility and benefit computation?	Treatment of income: How much of the adult's income is counted?	Shared living costs: [3] Under what circumstances are benefits or eligibility affected when sharing living costs?	Shared living costs: [3] How much are benefits or eligibility reduced when sharing living costs? [4]
Louisiana	None	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
Maine	None	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
Maryland	None	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
Massachusetts	Relatives	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
Michigan	Relatives	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
Minnesota	None	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
Mississippi	None	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
Missouri	None	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
Montana	None	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
Nebraska	None	Not counted	n.a.	If the total amount of the unit's housing is provided or paid for by an individual outside the unit	Amount contributed by the non-unit members, up to $103, is added to the unit's unearned income for benefit calculation [13]
Nevada	None	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
New Hampshire	None	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
New Jersey	None	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
New Mexico	Relatives	Not counted	n.a.	Adult residing in the household and not included in the unit pays part or all of shelter costs	Amount contributed by non-unit members is counted as unearned income
New York	All adults [14]	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
North Carolina	None	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
North Dakota	Relatives	Not counted	n.a.	One or more adults (over age 18) reside in the household and are not included in the unit	Unit does not receive $50 increase to payment standard
Ohio	None	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.

Table I.B.8. Treatment of Non-caretaker Adults in Household, July 2017 [1]

		When a non-caretaker adult living in the household is not included in the TANF unit:			
		Treatment of income:		Shared living costs: [3]	
State	Which subgroups of non-caretaker adults are potentially eligible to receive assistance as part of the unit? [2]	Is the income of the non-caretaker adult counted against the unit for eligibility and benefit computation?	How much of the adult's income is counted?	Under what circumstances are benefits or eligibility affected when sharing living costs?	How much are benefits or eligibility reduced when sharing living costs? [4]
Oklahoma	None	Partners only [15]	Earned and unearned income less $120 the need standard for the number of people outside the unit [16]	No effect	n.a.
Oregon	Essential persons [17]	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
Pennsylvania	Relatives	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
Rhode Island	None	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
South Carolina	None	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
South Dakota	None	Not counted	n.a.	One or more adults (over age 18) reside in the household and are not included in the unit	Payment standard is reduced by $170 [12]
Tennessee	None	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
Texas	Relatives	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
Utah	None	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
Vermont	All adults [18]	Not counted	n.a.	Household includes people who are not in the assistance unit	Need standard includes the amount of shelter costs paid by the included members up to $400; Payment standard includes the amount of shelter costs paid by the included members times the ratable reduction [19]
Virginia	All adults [20]	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
Washington	None	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
West Virginia	None	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.

Table I.B.8. Treatment of Non-caretaker Adults in Household, July 2017 [1]

State	Which subgroups of non-caretaker adults are potentially eligible to receive assistance as part of the unit? [2]	When a non-caretaker adult living in the household is not included in the TANF unit: Treatment of income: Is the income of the non-caretaker adult counted against the unit for eligibility and benefit computation?	Treatment of income: How much of the adult's income is counted?	Shared living costs: [3] Under what circumstances are benefits or eligibility affected when sharing living costs?	Shared living costs: How much are benefits or eligibility reduced when sharing living costs? [4]
Wisconsin	None	Not counted	n.a.	No effect	n.a.
Wyoming	None	Not counted	n.a.	If unit is not obligated to pay any portion of the shelter costs, lives in government subsidy housing or contains a minor parent living with adult supervisor	Maximum benefit is reduced to $455 [12]

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

[1] A "non-caretaker adult" is an additional adult living in the household with a parent or caretaker of children. The non-caretaker adult is not the primary caretaker of the children, nor a parent of any children in the household. In this table, a non-caretaker adult could be an adult who is related to the parent or children, the unmarried partner of the parent, or a friend of the parent who is not a relative or in a relationship with the parent. A separate set of policies may apply to non-caretaker adults who are renters or boarders sharing a household with the unit. When there is variation, the values in the table represent the amounts for individuals living in the largest county and for a family size of three.

[2] This column indicates which subgroups of non-caretaker adults—defined in terms of relationship to the unit members—are potentially eligible to be included in the unit; specific requirements for inclusion may be provided in footnotes. When "all adults" appears in this column, it means relatives who are not primary caretakers, partners of the parent or caretaker, and nonrelative non-partners are potentially eligible to receive assistance as part of the unit, subject to other requirements.

[3] The policies regarding shared living costs apply to assistance units living in households including other adults. These columns do not capture policies regarding states' treatment of assistance units in public or subsidized housing.

[4] Unless otherwise specified, the reduction applies to both eligibility calculations and benefit computation, when applicable.

[5] The income of adult non-unit members living in the household is included only if the income received is formally earmarked for a member of the assistance unit.

[6] Only one additional adult may be included in the unit.

[7] California has two categories of non-caretaker-adults. The first category includes spouses, registered domestic partners, and aided relative non-caretakers. The policies shown here are for this category of adults. The second category includes unrelated non-partner adults (e.g. boyfriend, girlfriend, etc.).

[8] Relatives and registered domestic partners of the primary caretaker may be included at the option of the unit head.

[9] To be eligible, the adult must be providing care to the children in the unit.

[10] The additional adult must provide care that is deemed essential and would need to be provided if the additional adult were not in the household.

[11] Cohabiting partners are mandatory unit members.

[12] The amount of the reduction varies by family size.

[13] The amount added to the unit's unearned income varies by family size.

[14] To be eligible, the adult must be deemed essential to the well-being of the family applying for or receiving TANF benefits.

[15] The income of any non-relative adult of the opposite sex, not receiving TANF, who lives in the home is counted. However, the income of non-relative adults of the opposite sex not receiving TANF may be excluded if the adults have separate living quarters and demonstrate no characteristics of a person acting in the role of spouse.

[16] Partners may also subtract the actual amount paid to individuals not living in the household but claimed as dependents, and alimony and child support payments made to individuals outside the household. The remaining income after all disregards are applied is counted in the unit's unearned income for eligibility and benefit computation purposes.

[17] An essential person is someone not required to be in the unit who provides a service necessary to the health or protection of a unit member with a mental or physical disability, when it is less expensive to include this person in the unit than to purchase the service from another source.

[18] Non-caretaker adults are included only if they qualify as a "needy essential person," which is defined as someone not required to be in the unit who provides a service necessary to the health or protection of a unit member with a mental or physical disability, when it is less expensive to include this person in the unit than to purchase the service from another source.

[19] If the individual lives in Chittenden County, the need standard includes the amount of shelter costs paid by the included members up to $450.

[20] Additional adults can be included in the unit at the option of the caretaker only if they are needy, not otherwise eligible for TANF, and providing services essential to the well-being of the children—either caring for a disabled family member living in the home or providing child care that allows the caretaker to work or participate in work-related activities on a full-time basis.

Table I.B.9. Eligibility Requirements for Children, July 2017 [1]

State	Maximum age a child can be eligible for TANF: If not attending secondary or vocational/technical school full time	Maximum age a child can be eligible for TANF: If attending secondary or vocational/technical school full time	Are children living with nonrelative caretakers potentially eligible? [2]
Alabama	17	18	No
Alaska	17	18	No
Arizona	17 [3]	18	Yes
Arkansas	17	17	No
California	17	18	No
Colorado	17	18	Yes
Connecticut	17	18	Yes
Delaware	17	18	Yes
D.C.	15	18	No
Florida	17	18	No
Georgia	17	18	Yes
Hawaii	17 [3]	18 [4]	No
Idaho	17	18	No
Illinois	17	18	No
Indiana	17	17	No
Iowa	17	18	No
Kansas	17	18	Yes [5]
Kentucky	17	18	No
Louisiana	17	18	No
Maine	17	20	No
Maryland	17	19 [6]	No
Massachusetts	17	18 [7]	No
Michigan	5 [8]	18	Yes [9]
Minnesota	17	18	Yes
Mississippi	17 [3]	17 [3]	No
Missouri	17	18	Yes [9]
Montana	15	18	No
Nebraska	17	18	Yes [10]
Nevada	17	18	No
New Hampshire	17	18 [11]	No
New Jersey	17	18 [12]	Yes
New Mexico	17	18 [13]	Yes
New York	17	18	Yes
North Carolina	17 [3]	18 [14]	Yes
North Dakota	17 [3]	18 [15]	No
Ohio	17	18	Yes
Oklahoma	17	18	No
Oregon	17	18	No
Pennsylvania	17	18	No
Rhode Island	17	18 [16]	No
South Carolina	17	18	No

Table I.B.9. Eligibility Requirements for Children, July 2017 [1]			
	Maximum age a child can be eligible for TANF		
State	If not attending secondary or vocational/technical school full time	If attending secondary or vocational/technical school full time	Are children living with nonrelative caretakers potentially eligible? [2]
South Dakota	17 [17]	18	No
Tennessee	17	18 [18]	No
Texas	17	18 [15]	No
Utah	17	18	No
Vermont	17 [17]	18 [19]	Yes
Virginia	4 [20]	18 [21]	No
Washington	17	18	Yes [22]
West Virginia	17	18	Yes
Wisconsin	17	18	No
Wyoming	17	18	No

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

[1] This table covers policies for children living with families or caretakers. Policies for children in foster care may differ.

[2] This column provides information on the potential eligibility of children who live with non-relative caretakers in regular household settings; it does not address the extent to which pregnant or parenting teens may live with non-relatives in alternative living arrangements.

[3] The child is eligible through the month in which he or she turns 18.

[4] The child is eligible through the month in which he or she turns 19.

[5] A nonrelative caretaker must be a court-appointed guardian, conservator, or legal custodian in order to be potentially eligible for assistance.

[6] The child is eligible through the calendar year in which he or she turns 19.

[7] A child is eligible, provided the child's expected graduation date falls before he or she turns 19.

[8] If a child is age 6 through 15 and not attending school full time, the entire family loses TANF eligibility, regardless of whether there are other eligible children present. If the child is age 16 or older and not attending school full time, and the family has other eligible children, only the child not attending school is excluded from the assistance unit.

[9] Unrelated legal guardians receive benefits paid from a state-only funding source.

[10] A child must be living with nonrelative caretakers who are either court-appointed guardians or conservators in order to be potentially eligible for assistance.

[11] The policy shown in the table reflects eligibility for federal TANF. New Hampshire funds an additional separate state program where students through age 19 are eligible for benefits.

[12] Individuals up to age 21 are considered children if they are enrolled in a special education program.

[13] A student receiving special education services regulated by the State Board of Education will be considered a dependent child until age 22.

[14] The child is eligible through the month he or she turns 19 if he or she also graduates from high school in the same month.

[15] Children are eligible through the month in which they turn 19 if they will graduate high school that month.

[16] A child is eligible through age 18 if the child is expected to graduate before or in the month of his or her 19th birthday.

[17] A 16- or 17-year-old not attending school must take part in case management services.

[18] A child with a disability who will not complete high school or an equivalent vocational or technical training before turning 19 is eligible for benefits through the month of his or her 19th birthday.

[19] Children age 18 and without a disability are eligible for benefits if they will graduate before their 19th birthday. A child with a disability who will not complete high school or an equivalent vocational or technical training before turning 19 is eligible for benefits through the month of his or her 19th birthday.

[20] A truant child is removed from the grant unless the parent cooperates in developing a plan to return the child to school.

[21] An 18-year-old is eligible if enrolled in secondary school or vocational/technical school and is expected to graduate prior to or in the same month as his or her 19th birthday.

[22] Only children living with nonrelative caretakers who are court ordered guardians or acting in loco parentis are eligible. Nonrelatives must pass a criminal background check in order to receive a TANF grant on behalf of a child.

Table I.B.10. Inclusion of SSI Recipients in the Assistance Unit, July 2017

State	Treatment of SSI Recipients in Families with Children: Inclusion in the Assistance Unit: Is a child who receives SSI included in the TANF unit with his or her parents or siblings?	Is an adult who receives SSI included in the TANF unit with his or her children or spouse?	If an SSI recipient is included in the assistance unit, is his or her income counted?
Alabama	No	No	n.a.
Alaska	No [1]	No	n.a.
Arizona	No	No	n.a.
Arkansas	No	No	n.a.
California	No	No	n.a.
Colorado	No	No	n.a.
Connecticut	No	No	n.a.
Delaware	No	No	n.a.
D.C.	No	No	n.a.
Florida	No	No	n.a.
Georgia	No	No	n.a.
Hawaii	No	No	n.a.
Idaho	Yes	Yes	Only non-SSI income is counted [2]
Illinois	No	No	n.a.
Indiana	No	No	n.a.
Iowa	No	No	n.a.
Kansas	No	No	n.a.
Kentucky	No	No	n.a.
Louisiana	No	No	n.a.
Maine	No	No	n.a.
Maryland	No	No	n.a.
Massachusetts	No	No	n.a.
Michigan	No	No	n.a.
Minnesota	No	No	n.a.
Mississippi	No	No	n.a.
Missouri	No	No	n.a.
Montana	No	No	n.a.
Nebraska	No	No	n.a.
Nevada	No	No	n.a.
New Hampshire	Yes	Yes	Adult SSI recipients: Count all income; Dependent child SSI recipients: Exclude SSI benefits [3]
New Jersey	No	No	n.a.
New Mexico	No	No	n.a.
New York	No	No	n.a.
North Carolina	No	No	n.a.
North Dakota	No	No	n.a.
Ohio	No	No	n.a.

Table I.B.10. Inclusion of SSI Recipients in the Assistance Unit, July 2017

State	Treatment of SSI Recipients in Families with Children: Inclusion in the Assistance Unit: Is a child who receives SSI included in the TANF unit with his or her parents or siblings?	Is an adult who receives SSI included in the TANF unit with his or her children or spouse?	If an SSI recipient is included in the assistance unit, is his or her income counted?
Oklahoma	No	No	n.a.
Oregon	No	No	n.a.
Pennsylvania	No	No	n.a.
Rhode Island	No	No	n.a.
South Carolina	No	No	n.a.
South Dakota	No	No	n.a.
Tennessee	No	No	n.a.
Texas	No	No	n.a.
Utah	No	No	n.a.
Vermont	No	No	n.a.
Virginia	No	No	n.a.
Washington	No	No	n.a.
West Virginia	Yes	No	Only non-SSI income is counted [4]
Wisconsin	Yes	Yes	Adult SSI recipients: Count all income; Child SSI recipients: Count unearned non-SSI income [5]
Wyoming	No	No	n.a.

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

[1] Children receiving SSI under the age of 18 who are blind or disabled may be included in the unit if the caretaker relative requests it.

[2] The SSI income and other assets are counted if the person receiving SSI is part of a one-parent household, a two-parent household, or a caretaker household with only one child in the unit. In a caretaker household with multiple children, if any child receives SSI, that income is not counted.

[3] SSI benefits received by dependent children are not counted.

[4] While the SSI recipient's SSI allocation is not counted, the non-SSI income and assets of the individual are counted.

[5] For eligible families who receive cash payments, the payment does not vary by income. Also, recipients of SSI and Social Security Disability payments are not considered W-2 participants.

Table I.B.11. Inclusion of Nonparent Caretakers in the Assistance Unit, July 2017 [1]

State	Inclusion of nonparent caretakers in the assistance unit	Caretakers who must be included in the unit (when some but not all must be included)	Caretakers who have the option to be included (when some but not all have that option)	Caretakers who are prohibited from being included in assistance unit [2]	If a caretaker's spouse is included in the unit when the caretaker is included [3]
	In Nonparent-Caretaker Families Potentially Eligible for TANF, Whether the Caretaker and Her or His Spouse Are Included in the Unit				
Alabama [4]	Prohibited	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Alaska [4]	Optional for all	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Prohibited
Arizona	Some optional, others prohibited	n.a.	Income under a limit	Income above a limit	Prohibited
Arkansas [4]	Optional for all [5]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Caretaker has option
California [4]	Some optional, others prohibited	n.a.	Income under a limit	Income above a limit	Caretaker has option
Colorado	Optional for all	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Mandatory
Connecticut	Some optional, others prohibited	n.a.	Income under a limit	Income above a limit	Caretaker has option
Delaware	Some optional, others prohibited	n.a.	Income under a limit	Income above a limit	Mandatory
D.C. [4]	Optional for all	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Prohibited
Florida [4]	Optional for all	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Prohibited
Georgia	Some optional, others prohibited	n.a.	All relative caretakers	All nonrelative caretakers	Prohibited
Hawaii [4]	Some optional, others prohibited	n.a.	Income under a limit	Income above a limit	Mandatory
Idaho [4]	Optional for all	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Mandatory
Illinois [4]	Optional for all	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Caretaker has option
Indiana [4]	Optional for all	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Prohibited
Iowa [4]	Some optional, others prohibited	n.a.	Income under a limit	Income above a limit	Prohibited [6]
Kansas	Optional for all	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Mandatory
Kentucky [4]	Optional for all	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Mandatory
Louisiana [4]	Some optional, others prohibited	n.a.	Relative caretakers without minor children in the home	Relative caretakers with minor children in the home	Mandatory
Maine [4]	Optional for all	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Caretaker has option

Table I.B.11. Inclusion of Nonparent Caretakers in the Assistance Unit, July 2017 [1]

State	Inclusion of nonparent caretakers in the assistance unit	Caretakers who must be included in the unit (when some but not all must be included)	Caretakers who have the option to be included (when some but not all have that option)	Caretakers who are prohibited from being included in assistance unit [2]	If a caretaker's spouse is included in the unit when the caretaker is included [3]
	In Nonparent-Caretaker Families Potentially Eligible for TANF, Whether the Caretaker and Her or His Spouse Are Included in the Unit				
Maryland [4]	Some optional, others prohibited	n.a.	Income under a limit	Income above a limit	Mandatory
Massachusetts [4]	Optional for all	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Prohibited
Michigan	Optional for all	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Mandatory
Minnesota	Optional for all	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Mandatory
Mississippi [4]	Some optional, others prohibited	n.a.	Income under a limit	Income above a limit	Mandatory
Missouri	Some optional, others prohibited	n.a.	Income under a limit	Income above a limit	Prohibited [6]
Montana [4]	Optional for all	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Prohibited [6]
Nebraska	Some optional, others prohibited	n.a.	Income under a limit	Income above a limit	Prohibited
Nevada [4]	Optional for all [5]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Prohibited [7]
New Hampshire [4]	Optional for all	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Prohibited
New Jersey	Some optional, others prohibited	n.a.	All relative caretakers whose income is under a limit	All nonrelative caretakers; All relative caretakers whose income is above a limit	Mandatory
New Mexico	Optional for all	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Mandatory
New York	Some optional, others prohibited	n.a.	Income under a limit	Income above a limit	Caretaker has option
North Carolina	Prohibited	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
North Dakota [4]	Some mandatory, some optional, others prohibited	Legally responsible caretaker relative	Non-legally responsible caretaker relative	Non-legally responsible caretaker relative if spouse resides in the household	Caretaker has option
Ohio	Some optional, others prohibited	n.a.	Relative caretakers who do not have eligible children of their own	All nonrelative caretakers; All relative caretakers with minor children in the home	Prohibited [6]

Table I.B.11. Inclusion of Nonparent Caretakers in the Assistance Unit, July 2017 [1]

State	In Nonparent-Caretaker Families Potentially Eligible for TANF, Whether the Caretaker and Her or His Spouse Are Included in the Unit				
	Inclusion of nonparent caretakers in the assistance unit	Caretakers who must be included in the unit (when some but not all must be included)	Caretakers who have the option to be included (when some but not all have that option)	Caretakers who are prohibited from being included in assistance unit [2]	If a caretaker's spouse is included in the unit when the caretaker is included [3]
Oklahoma [4]	Some optional, others prohibited	n.a.	Income under a limit	Income above a limit	Prohibited
Oregon [4]	Some optional, others prohibited	n.a.	Income under a limit	Income above a limit	Mandatory
Pennsylvania [4]	Optional for all	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Caretaker has option [8]
Rhode Island [4]	Optional for all	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Mandatory [9]
South Carolina [4]	Optional for all	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Mandatory
South Dakota [4]	Prohibited	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Tennessee [4]	Optional for all	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Mandatory
Texas [4]	Optional for all	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Prohibited
Utah [4]	Optional for all	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Mandatory
Vermont	Some optional, others prohibited	n.a.	Income under a limit	Income above a limit	Prohibited
Virginia [4]	Some optional, others prohibited	n.a.	Income under a limit	Income above a limit	Prohibited
Washington	Some optional, others prohibited [5]	n.a.	Income under a limit	Income above a limit	Prohibited
West Virginia	Some optional, others prohibited	n.a.	All relative caretakers	All nonrelative caretakers	Mandatory
Wisconsin [4]	Prohibited	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Wyoming [4]	Some optional, others prohibited	n.a.	Income under a limit	Income above a limit	Mandatory

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

[1] A state will only have "All nonrelative caretakers" indicated when the state forbids such caretakers from being included the unit, but still allows the children living with such caretakers to be eligible for benefits.

[2] "Included in the assistance unit" indicates the person is considered in the family size for purposes of determining the benefit. This table applies only to families with potential eligibility for TANF based on their composition; table I.B.8 indicates if families in which the caretaker is a nonrelative are ever eligible.

[3] If states have policies allowing for "essential persons", a caretaker's spouse might qualify under those criteria to be a member of the assistance unit; see the first column of table I.B.8 for more information.

[4] Information applies only to families with a relative caretaker. Children in families with nonrelative caretakers can never receive TANF in this state.

[5] Only one caretaker relative may be included in the unit at a time.

[6] Although the spouse is not counted as a member of the assistance unit, some of his or her income may be deemed available to the unit.

[7] The caregiver's spouse or domestic partner's income is used to determine eligibility for the caregiver and children.

[8] If the spouse is not included in the unit, his or her income is deemed to the non-parent caretaker.

[9] The spouse is included in the unit unless inclusion causes ineligibility. If the caretaker spouse's income renders the assistance unit ineligible for cash assistance, then the caretaker has the option to apply for cash assistance for the children in his or her care only.

Table I.C.1. Asset Limits for Applicants, July 2017

State	Asset limit [1]	Vehicle exemption [2]
Alabama	No limit	n.a.
Alaska	$2,000/$3,000 [3]	All vehicles owned by household [4]
Arizona	$2,000	All vehicles owned by household
Arkansas	$3,000	One vehicle per household [5]
California	$2,250/$3,250 [6]	$9,500/one vehicle per licensed driver [E, 7]
Colorado	No limit	n.a.
Connecticut	$3,000	$9,500 [E, 8]
Delaware	$10,000	All vehicles owned by household
D.C.	$2,000/$3,000 [3]	All vehicles owned by household
Florida	$2,000	$8,500 [E]
Georgia	$1,000	$4,650 [E, 9]
Hawaii	No limit	n.a.
Idaho	$5,000	One vehicle per adult [10]
Illinois	No limit	n.a.
Indiana	$1,000	$5,000 of one vehicle per household [E]
Iowa	$2,000 [11]	One vehicle per household [12]
Kansas	$2,250	One vehicle per adult [13]
Kentucky	$2,000 [14]	All vehicles owned by household
Louisiana	No limit	n.a.
Maine	$2,000	One vehicle per household
Maryland	No limit	n.a.
Massachusetts	$2,500	$15,000 [F]
Michigan	$3,000	All vehicles owned by household
Minnesota	$10,000 [15]	One vehicle per household member who is 16 or older [F, 16]
Mississippi	$2,000 [17]	All vehicles owned by household [E, 18]
Missouri	$1,000	First vehicle 100%/ Second vehicle $1,500 [E, 19]
Montana	$3,000	One vehicle per household [20]
Nebraska	$4,000/$6,000 [21]	One vehicle per household [22]
Nevada	$6,000	One vehicle per household [23]
New Hampshire	$1,000	One vehicle per licensed driver [24]
New Jersey	$2,000	All vehicles owned by household [25]
New Mexico	$3,500 [26]	All vehicles owned by household [27]
New York	$2,000/$3,000 [28]	$11,000 [F, 29]
North Carolina	$3,000	All vehicles owned by household
North Dakota	$3,000/$6,000/$6,000+$25 [30]	One vehicle per household
Ohio	No limit	n.a.
Oklahoma	$1,000	$5,000 [E]
Oregon	$2,500 [31]	$10,000 of all vehicles owned by household [E]
Pennsylvania	$1,000	One vehicle per household [23]
Rhode Island	$1,000	One vehicle per adult [32]
South Carolina	$2,500	One vehicle per licensed driver [33]
South Dakota	$2,000	One vehicle per household [34]
Tennessee	$2,000	$4,600 [E]
Texas	$1,000	$4,650 of each vehicle owned by household [E, 35]

Table I.C.1. Asset Limits for Applicants, July 2017

State	Asset limit [1]	Vehicle exemption [2]
Utah	$2,000	All vehicles owned by household
Vermont	$9,000 [36]	One vehicle per adult
Virginia	No limit	n.a.
Washington	$1,000	$5,000 [E, 37]
West Virginia	$2,000	One vehicle per adult [38]
Wisconsin	$2,500	$10,000 [E]
Wyoming	$5,000	Two vehicles per household [E]

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

[1] Additional details about policies for units with elderly or older adults, including the age definitions used by states, can be found in the full database.

[2] States may have separate policies for non-standard vehicles, such as income-producing vehicles, recreational vehicles, and vehicles that are used as homes. See the Welfare Rules Database for more information. Policies that distinguish between the equity value and fair-market value of vehicles are marked as follows: (E) equity value of the vehicle; (F) fair-market value of the vehicle.

[3] Units including an elderly person may exempt $3,000; all other units exempt $2,000.

[4] Vehicles are exempt if used for one of the following: (1) to meet the family's basic needs, such as getting food and medical care or other essentials; (2) to go to and from work, school, training, or work activity (such as job search or community service); (3) as the family's house; (4) to produce self-employment income; or (5) to transport a disabled family member, whether or not he or she is a part of the assistance unit. If the vehicle does not meet one of these requirements, the equity value of the vehicle is counted in the determination of resources.

[5] If the family has more than one vehicle, then the market value of any additional vehicles will be considered in full.

[6] Units including an elderly or disabled person may exempt $3,250; all other units exempt $2,250.

[7] Each vehicle must be evaluated for its equity value. Before this calculation, a vehicle is excluded if it: (1) is used primarily for income-producing purposes; (2) is necessary for long-distance travel that is essential for employment; (3) is used as the family’s home; (4) is necessary to transport a physically disabled household member; (5) would be exempt under previously stated exemptions but the vehicle is not in use because of temporary unemployment; (6) is used to carry fuel or water to the home and is the primary method of obtaining fuel or water; and (7) is a gift, donation, or family transfer. For each remaining vehicle, the state excludes one additional vehicle per adult and one additional vehicle per licensed child who uses the vehicle to travel to school, employment, or job search. For each remaining vehicle not completely excluded, the equity value that exceeds $9,500 counts against the family’s asset limit.

[8] The unit may exempt up to $9,500 of the vehicle's equity value, or the entire value of one vehicle used to transport a handicapped person. The motor vehicle exclusion is applied to the registered vehicle with the highest fair market value.

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

[10] If the unit owns any other vehicle that is non-exempt, the fair market value of the additional vehicle is applied to the resource limit.

[11] If at least one member of the household applying was a program recipient in the month prior to the month of application, then the asset limit is increased to $5,000.

[12] Additionally, $5,880 of the equity value of a vehicle is exempt for each adult and working teenager whose resources must be considered in determining eligibility.

[13] One licensed vehicle per adult household member is exempt. Additional vehicles may be exempt if they are used by a minor for employment, training, education, or seeking employment, used primarily for producing income, essential to employment, used as the household’s home, necessary to transport a household member with a physical disability, used to carry the primary source of fuel and water for the home, or valued at $1,500 or less.

[14] Only liquid resources are considered for eligibility determinations. Liquid resources include cash, checking and savings accounts, CDs, stocks and bonds, and money market accounts.

[15] Withdrawals from ABLE accounts used to pay for a qualified disability expense are excluded.

[16] Any additional vehicle that is not exempt is counted toward the $10,000 asset limit and is valued at the amount of the vehicle's trade-in value as listed in the current NADA online car values and car prices guide.

[17] If the unit is considered broad-based categorically eligible, it is not subject to asset limits. Households that include a convicted drug felon or a member currently disqualified for an intentional program violation are not considered broad-based categorically eligible. When a TANF recipient marries while receiving assistance, the liquid resources of the new spouse are excluded for six months beginning the month after the date of the marriage.

[18] Determination of whether to count a vehicle is made case by case.

[19] $1,500 of the equity value of the unit's second vehicle is exempt.

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

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

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

[23] Vehicles other than the household's primary vehicle are evaluated for equity value.

[24] The equity value of all non-junk vehicles is counted in addition to any excluded vehicles.

[25] Recreational vehicles are not exempt and are evaluated for fair market value.

[26] The total limit is $3,500, but only $1,500 of that amount can be in liquid resources and only $2,000 can be in non-liquid resources.

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

[28] Units including a person age 60 years or older may exempt $3,000; all other units exempt $2,000.

[29] One automobile is exempt, up to $11,000 of the fair market value; local districts may adopt a higher vehicle exemption.

[30] 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.

[31] The asset limit for new TANF applicants is $2,500. Once the participant enters the pre-TANF program or becomes a TANF recipient, the asset limit increases to $10,000.

[32] Exemptions for adult drivers cannot exceed two vehicles per household. Additionally, the entire value of a vehicle is exempt if it is used primarily to provide transportation for a disabled family member, used primarily to produce income, or used as the family's home.

[33] Vehicles owned by or used to transport disabled individuals or that are essential to self-employment are also exempt. If the unit owns any other vehicle that is non-exempt, the equity value of the additional vehicle is applied to the resource limit.

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

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

[36] Other excluded resources include assets accumulated from earnings, interest earned on assets, non-liquid assets purchased with savings from earnings, retirement accounts (such as IRAs, 401(k)s, and other qualified accounts), and child education savings accounts (such as the Vermont Higher Education Investment Plan and other qualified plans).

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

[38] A person must be work-eligible to qualify for the vehicle exemption.

Table I.D.1. Treatment of Grandparent Income, July 2017 [1]

State	Deeming [2]	Earned income disregard	Other income disregards [3]
Alabama	Yes	20%	100% of countable net income for the grandparent divided by the number of persons in the household not otherwise receiving assistance plus the grandparent and minor parent [4]
Alaska	Yes	$90	100% of the need standard for the unaided family members
Arizona	Yes [5]	None	None
Arkansas	No	n.a.	n.a.
California	Yes	$90; $225 and 50% of remainder [6]	100% of minimum basic standard of adequate care for the unaided family members
Colorado	Yes	$90	100% of the need standard for the unaided family members
Connecticut	Yes	$90	100% of the federal poverty guideline for the unaided family members
Delaware	n.a., grandparent always in unit	n.a.	n.a.
D.C.	Yes	$90	100% of standard of assistance for the unaided family members
Florida	Yes	$90	100% of consolidated need standard for the unaided family members
Georgia	Yes	$90	100% of standard of need for the unaided family members
Hawaii	Yes	20%	100% of standard of need for the unaided family members
Idaho	n.a., grandparent always in unit	n.a.	n.a.
Illinois	Yes	Difference between 50% of the current federal poverty guideline for the applicant's family size and their TANF payment level	300% of the payment standard for the unaided family members
Indiana	Yes	$90	100% of the need standard for the unaided family members
Iowa	Yes	20%	100% of the need standard for the unaided family members [7]
Kansas	n.a., grandparent always in unit	n.a.	n.a.
Kentucky	Yes	$90	100% of standard of need for the unaided family members
Louisiana	n.a., grandparent always in unit	n.a.	n.a.
Maine	Yes	$108, 50%	100% of the gross income test for the unaided family members
Maryland	n.a., grandparent always in unit	n.a.	n.a.
Massachusetts	Yes	None	200% of the federal poverty guideline for the unaided family members

Table I.D.1. Treatment of Grandparent Income, July 2017 [1]

State	Deeming [2]	Earned income disregard	Other income disregards [3]
Michigan	n.a., grandparent always in unit	n.a.	n.a.
Minnesota	Yes	None	200% of the federal poverty guideline for the unaided family members
Mississippi	Yes	$90	100% of the need and payment standard for the unaided family members
Missouri	Yes	100% of Federal Poverty Guidelines, $90 [8]	100% of the need standard for the unaided family members
Montana	n.a., grandparent always in unit	n.a.	n.a.
Nebraska	Yes	None	300% of the federal poverty guideline for the unaided family members
Nevada	Yes	Greater of $90 or 20%	100% of the need standard for the unaided family members
New Hampshire	Yes	20%	100% of standard of need for the unaided family members
New Jersey	Yes [9]	None [10]	None [11]
New Mexico	Yes	$125	Prorated portion of the grandparent's remaining countable income [12]
New York	Yes	$90	100% of the need standard for the unaided family members
North Carolina	n.a., grandparent always in unit	n.a.	n.a.
North Dakota	Yes	Greater of $180 and 27%	100% of standard of need for the unaided family members
Ohio	Yes	$90	100% of allocation allowance standard for the unaided family members
Oklahoma	Yes	$240 and 50% [13]	100% of the need standard for the unaided family members
Oregon	Yes	$90	100% of the adjusted income standard for the unaided family members
Pennsylvania	Yes	$90	100% of standard of need for the unaided family members
Rhode Island	Yes	$90	100% of the cash assistance monthly standard for the unaided family members
South Carolina	Yes	None	185% of the need standard for the grandparent plus dependents living in the home
South Dakota	Yes	$90 and 20%	100% of the payment standard for the unaided family members
Tennessee	Yes	$250	100% of consolidated need standard for the unaided family members
Texas	Yes	$120	100% of budgetary needs standard for the unaided family members
Utah	Yes	$100	100% of adjusted standard needs budget for the unaided family members
Vermont	No	n.a.	n.a.
Virginia	Yes	$90	100% of the standard of assistance for the unaided family members

Table I.D.1. Treatment of Grandparent Income, July 2017 [1]

State	Deeming [2]	Earned income disregard	Other income disregards [3]
Washington	Yes	$90	100% of the need standard for the unaided family members
West Virginia	n.a., grandparent always in unit [14]	n.a.	n.a.
Wisconsin	n.a., grandparent always in unit	n.a.	n.a.
Wyoming	Yes	$600 [15]	100% of maximum benefit for the unaided family members

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

[1] In this table, "grandparent" refers to the parent of a minor parent. This table describes whether a portion of the grandparent's income is deemed available to the minor and her child when the grandparent is not part of the assistance unit but living in the household with the minor. The table describes the disregards that the grandparent and his or her dependents are allowed to claim for their own needs. The remaining income after these disregards are deducted from the grandparent's income is the amount available, or deemed, to the minor parent and the children. The table captures instances in which the income of the grandparent is deemed for both eligibility determination and benefit computation; if those policies differ, the eligibility policies are reflected in the table, and the benefit computation policies are footnoted. 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. Some states may deduct the grandparents' child care expenses prior to deeming; see the WRD for more information. See table I.E.3 for information on the value of the standards for a family of three.

[2] In some states, the grandparent is either always included in the unit, or sometimes included in the unit. In those cases, the grandparent's income is treated like that of other unit members for eligibility and benefit computation purposes.

[3] "Unaided family members" represents the grandparent and all dependents outside the assistance unit.

[4] The minor child's child is not included in the calculation.

[5] As part of the needy family test, the income of the grandparent is counted for eligibility determination but not for benefit computation.

[6] Applicants may disregard $90 for the eligibility test that compares net income to the MBSAC. Applicants and recipients may disregard $225 (minus any portion of the $225 applied to disability income), plus 50 percent of the remainder for the eligibility test that compares net income to the MAP, and for benefit computation.

[7] After disregarding 20 percent of earnings and 100 percent of the need standard for the unaided family members, 58 percent of the remainder is deducted for purposes of benefit computation.

[8] The grandparent may initially disregard earned income up to 100 percent of the federal poverty guideline for the number of dependents in his or her household. He or she may then disregard an additional $90 of earned income.

[9] Income is deemed to a minor parent unit even if he or she is not living in the home with the grandparent. The rules for deeming are the same.

[10] For benefit computation, the parent can disregard 100 percent in the first month of earnings, 75 percent in months two-seven, and 50 percent thereafter.

[11] For benefit computation, child support is another income disregard.

[12] The grandparent's remaining countable income is divided by the total aided plus unaided family members; the disregard equals that per-capita amount times the number of unaided people.

[13] This disregard is applicable to those working at least 30 hours per week. If those working are employed less than 30 hours a week, then the disregard is $120 and 50 percent of the remainder.

[14] An un-emancipated minor parent cannot head his or her own unit, but an emancipated minor parent may. If an emancipated minor parent heads his or her own unit and is living with his or her parent, the income of the minor parent's parent is not deemed to the minor parent.

[15] Married couples with a child in common may disregard $1,200.

Table I.D.2. Treatment of Stepparent Income, July 2017 [1]

State	Deeming [2]	Disregards applied prior to deeming: Earned income disregard	Disregards applied prior to deeming: Other income disregards [3]
Alabama	n.a., stepparent is always in unit	n.a.	n.a.
Alaska	Yes	$90	100% of need standard for the unaided family members
Arizona	Yes [4]	None	None
Arkansas	n.a., stepparent is always in unit	n.a.	n.a.
California	Yes [5]	$90; $225 and 50% of remainder [6]	None
Colorado	Yes	$90	100% of need standard for the unaided family members
Connecticut	Yes	$165 [7]	100% of federal poverty guideline for the unaided family members
Delaware	Yes	$90	100% of standard of need for the unaided family members
D.C.	No	n.a.	n.a.
Florida	Yes	$90	100% of consolidated need standard for the unaided family members
Georgia	Yes	$90	100% of standard of need for the unaided family members
Hawaii	Yes	20%	100% of standard of need for the unaided family members
Idaho	n.a., stepparent is always in unit	n.a.	n.a.
Illinois	Yes [8]	None	(Per-person share of payment standard for the unaided family members) times (the stepparent plus any dependents of either spouse or civil union partner living in the home but not in the unit)
Indiana	Yes	$90	100% of need standard for the unaided family members
Iowa	Yes	20%	100% of need standard for the unaided family members and 58% of remaining earnings
Kansas	n.a., stepparent is always in unit	n.a.	n.a.
Kentucky	Yes	$90	100% of standard of need for the unaided family members
Louisiana	n.a., stepparent is always in unit	n.a.	n.a.
Maine	Yes	$108 and 50%	100% of gross income test for the unaided family members
Maryland	Yes [9]	20%	100% of allowable payment for the unaided family members
Massachusetts	Yes	$200	100% of need standard and payment standard for the unaided family members

Table I.D.2. Treatment of Stepparent Income, July 2017 [1]

State	Deeming [2]	Disregards applied prior to deeming: Earned income disregard	Disregards applied prior to deeming: Other income disregards [3]
Michigan	n.a., stepparent is always in unit	n.a.	n.a.
Minnesota	n.a., stepparent is always in unit	n.a.	n.a.
Mississippi	Yes [10]	$90	100% of need standard and payment standard for the unaided family members
Missouri	Yes	$90	100% of need standard for the unaided family members
Montana	n.a., stepparent is always in unit	n.a.	n.a.
Nebraska	n.a., stepparent is always in unit	n.a.	n.a.
Nevada	Yes	Greater of $90 or 20%	100% of need standard for the unaided family members
New Hampshire	n.a., stepparent is always in unit	n.a.	n.a.
New Jersey	Yes [11]	None	None
New Mexico	n.a., stepparent is always in unit	n.a.	n.a.
New York	Yes	$90	100% of need standard for the unaided family members
North Carolina	n.a., stepparent is always in unit	n.a.	n.a.
North Dakota	n.a., stepparent is always in unit [12]	n.a.	n.a.
Ohio	Yes	$90	100% of allocation allowance standard for the unaided family members
Oklahoma	Yes	$240 and 50% [13]	100% of need standard for the unaided family members
Oregon	n.a., stepparent is always in unit	n.a.	n.a.
Pennsylvania	Yes	$90	100% of standard of need for the unaided family members
Rhode Island	n.a., stepparent is always in unit	n.a.	n.a.
South Carolina	n.a., stepparent is always in unit	n.a.	n.a.
South Dakota	n.a., stepparent is always in unit [14]	n.a.	n.a.
Tennessee	Yes [15]	$250	100% of consolidated need standard for the unaided family members
Texas	Yes [16]	$120	100% of budgetary needs standard for the unaided family members
Utah	n.a., stepparent is always in unit	n.a.	n.a.

Table I.D.2. Treatment of Stepparent Income, July 2017 [1]			
		Disregards applied prior to deeming	
State	Deeming [2]	Earned income disregard	Other income disregards [3]
Vermont	n.a., stepparent is always in unit	n.a.	n.a.
Virginia	Yes	$90	100% of standard of assistance for the unaided family members
Washington	n.a., stepparent is always in unit	n.a.	n.a.
West Virginia	n.a., stepparent is always in unit	n.a.	n.a.
Wisconsin	n.a., stepparent is always in unit	n.a.	n.a.
Wyoming	Yes	$600	100% of maximum benefit for the unaided family members

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

[1] These policies apply to units in which the stepparent is not a part of the assistance unit but is living in the household, has no child in common with the spouse (head of unit), and has no dependents of his or her own living in the unit. Unless otherwise noted, the stepparent's income is deemed to the spouse and the spouse's dependents. The table captures instances in which the income of the stepparent is deemed for both eligibility determination and benefit computation; instances in which the income of the stepparent is treated differently for eligibility determination and benefit computation are footnoted. 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. These policies are not captured in this table. For more information on other disregards, see the full Welfare Rules Database. See table I.E.3 for information on the value of the standards for a family of three.

[2] In cases where the stepparent is included in the unit, there is no deeming; the stepparent's income is treated like that of other unit members for eligibility and benefit computation purposes.

[3] "Unaided family members" represents the stepparent and all dependents outside the assistance unit.

[4] As part of the needy family test, the income of the stepparent is counted for eligibility determination if his or her spouse is applying for benefits as part of the assistance unit, but the stepparent is not counted as part of the unit for benefit computation.

[5] If the stepparent is not included as a member of the assistance unit, his or her countable income is counted for eligibility purposes but his or her needs are not considered for benefit computation.

[6] Applicants may disregard $90 for the eligibility test that compares net income to the MBSAC. Applicants and recipients may disregard $225 (minus any portion of the $225 applied to disability income), plus 50 percent of the remainder for the eligibility test that compares net income to the MAP, and for benefit computation.

[7] In addition to the standard earned income disregard for unit members, stepparents are also allowed an additional $75 for the gross earnings personal employment expenses disregard.

[8] The stepparent's income is deemed only to the spouse or civil union partner.

[9] The stepparent's countable income is tested against 50 percent of the federal poverty guideline 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 guideline, no income is deemed to the unit. When the income is over 50 percent of the federal poverty guideline, all of the stepparent's income minus deductions is deemed to the unit.

[10] If a recipient marries for the first time, his or her new spouse may receive a one-time, 100 percent disregard for six consecutive months.

[11] The stepparent's income is deemed only to the stepchildren.

[12] The stepparent must be included in the unit. If a parent marries while receiving TANF and the stepparent is not eligible for TANF, his or her income is disregarded for the first six months. Beginning in month seven, there is a stepparent income disregard of 27 percent or $180, whichever is greater. If the stepparent is eligible for TANF, he or she is included in the assistance unit and his or her income is treated the same as other members of the TANF household.

[13] This disregard is applicable to those working at least 30 hours per week. If those working are employed less than 30 hours a week, then the disregard is $120 and 50 percent of the remainder.

[14] The stepparent must be included in the unit, with the exception of a Native American stepparent who is under exclusive jurisdiction of a tribe for the purposes of determining the domestic relations rights of the family, in which case the stepparent has the option of being included in the assistance unit.

[15] When a caretaker marries while receiving assistance, different deeming rules can apply. The caretaker can choose to exclude the new spouse and his or her income and resources for a period of three months, beginning on the first day of the month following the month of the marriage. During this time, eligibility and benefits for the unit are determined as if the spouse were not present in the home. No income is deemed, and the spouse's needs are not included. This policy applies regardless of the spouse's income and even if the spouse is the father of one of the assistance group children. After the three month period, the new spouse must be included in the assistance unit and his or her income and resources are fully counted.

[16] For the first six months of a new marriage, all stepparent income is disregarded, provided the family's total gross income is less than 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline.

Table I.D.3. Treatment of Income and Assets of Nonparent Caretakers, July 2017

State	Caretakers who are *not* in the assistance unit: Treatment of income	Caretakers who are *not* in the assistance unit: Treatment of assets	Caretakers who are *in* the assistance unit: Treatment of income	Caretakers who are *in* the assistance unit: Treatment of assets
Alabama	Not included	n.a., no assets test	n.a., caretaker not included in unit	n.a., caretaker not included in unit
Alaska	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
Arizona	Included for eligibility; Excluded for benefits [1]	Not included	Included	Included
Arkansas	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
California	Not included [2]	Not included	Included	Included
Colorado	Not included	n.a., no assets test	Included	n.a., no assets test
Connecticut	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
Delaware	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
D.C.	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
Florida	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
Georgia	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
Hawaii	Not included	n.a., no assets test	Included	n.a., no assets test
Idaho	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
Illinois	Not included	n.a., no assets test	Included	n.a., no assets test
Indiana	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
Iowa	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
Kansas	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
Kentucky	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
Louisiana	Not included	n.a., no assets test	Included	n.a., no assets test
Maine	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
Maryland	Not included	n.a., no assets test	Included	n.a., no assets test
Massachusetts	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
Michigan	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
Minnesota	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
Mississippi	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
Missouri	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
Montana	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
Nebraska	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
Nevada	Included [3]	Not included	Included [3]	Included
New Hampshire	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
New Jersey	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
New Mexico	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
New York	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
North Carolina	Not included	Not included	n.a., caretaker not included in unit	n.a., caretaker not included in unit
North Dakota	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
Ohio	Not included	n.a., no assets test	Included	n.a., no assets test
Oklahoma	Included	Included	Included	Included
Oregon	Not included [4]	Not included	Included	Included
Pennsylvania	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
Rhode Island	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
South Carolina	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
South Dakota	Not included	Not included	n.a., caretaker not included in unit	n.a., caretaker not included in unit
Tennessee	Not included	Not included	Included	Included

Table I.D.3. Treatment of Income and Assets of Nonparent Caretakers, July 2017				
	Caretakers who are *not* in the assistance unit:		Caretakers who are *in* the assistance unit:	
State	Treatment of income	Treatment of assets	Treatment of income	Treatment of assets
Texas	Included if legally responsible	Not included	Included	Included
Utah	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
Vermont	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
Virginia	Not included	n.a., no assets test	Included	n.a., no assets test
Washington	Included [5]	Not included	Included	Included
West Virginia	Not included	Not included	Included	Included
Wisconsin	Not included	Not included	n.a., caretaker not included in unit	n.a., caretaker not included in unit
Wyoming	Not included	Not included	Included	Included

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

[1] As part of the needy family test, the total family income, including the nonparent caretaker's income, cannot exceed 130 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

[2] Income of the nonparent caretaker is included if participating in the KinGap program.

[3] If countable income (gross earned and unearned) of all household members exceeds 275 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, the assistance unit is ineligible. If the countable income is less than 275 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, only the child’s income and resources are considered in determining the child's eligibility and payment.

[4] If countable income of the nonrelative caretaker, his or her spouse and children, and the child requesting TANF exceeds 185 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, the assistance unit is ineligible. If the countable income is less than 185 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, only the child’s income and resources are considered in determining the child's eligibility and payment.

[5] In most cases, if the caretaker's family's net income (gross income minus the earned income disregards and 50 percent of unearned income), exceeds 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, the assistance unit is ineligible; this test applies unless a child was placed in the home by a welfare agency and has an open child welfare case.

Table I.D.4. Treatment of Income of Parents Excluded from the Assistance Unit Due to Immigrant Status, July 2017 [1]

State	Deeming	Disregards applied prior to deeming: Earned income disregard	Disregards applied prior to deeming: Other income disregards [2]	Computation Method [3]
Alabama	Yes	Child care expenses	None	Standard
Alaska	Yes	$90	None	Standard
Arizona	Yes	None	None	Standard
Arkansas	Yes	20% [4]	None	Standard
California	Yes	$90; $225 and 50% of remainder [5]	None	Eligibility computed for unit size including unaided family members [6]
Colorado	Yes	$90 [7]	None	Standard
Connecticut	Yes	$90	100% of self employment expenses, personal employment expenses, and child care expenses [8]	Standard
Delaware	Yes	Gross income test: None; Net income test: $90 [9]	Gross income test: None; Net income test: Dependent care expenses [10]	Standard
D.C.	Yes	$160 [11]	None	Standard
Florida	Yes	None (treated same as unearned income)	Prorated share of parent's countable income [12]	Standard
Georgia	Yes	$90	100% of standard of need for unaided family members	Standard
Hawaii	Yes	Gross income test: None; Net income test: 20% [13]	Gross income test: None; Net income test: Needs of ineligible family members and adult care expenses [14]	Standard
Idaho	Yes	60%	Parents with both earned and unearned income: 100% of unearned income; Parents with only unearned income: None	Standard
Illinois	Yes	Difference between 50% of federal poverty guideline and 100% of payment standard	None	Standard
Indiana	Yes	$90	100% of the need standard for unaided family members	Standard

Table I.D.4. Treatment of Income of Parents Excluded from the Assistance Unit Due to Immigrant Status, July 2017 [1]

State	Deeming	Disregards applied prior to deeming: Earned income disregard	Disregards applied prior to deeming: Other income disregards [2]	Computation Method [3]
Iowa	Yes	20%, plus 58% of remainder after other deductions	Gross income test: None; Net income test: Needs of the ineligible parent and ineligible children, and child support payments [15]	Standard
Kansas	Yes	None	None	Standard
Kentucky	Yes	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings, $120 in months 5-12, and $90 thereafter	None	Standard
Louisiana	Yes	None	None	Standard
Maine	Yes	$108 and 50% of the remainder	100% of need standard for unaided family members, child care, and child support payments	Standard
Maryland	Yes	20% [16]	Prorated share of parent's countable income [17]	Standard
Massachusetts	Yes	$200	Need standard amount for unaided family members	Standard
Michigan	Yes	$200, plus 20% of remainder [18]	Child support	Standard
Minnesota	Yes	$65, plus 50% of remainder after other deductions	Need standard amount for unaided family members, child care expenses, and child support payments	Standard
Mississippi	Yes	None	None	Standard
Missouri	Yes	$90	None	Standard
Montana	Yes	Gross income test: None; Net income test: $200 and 25% of remainder [19]	Gross income test: None; Net income test: Up to $200 for dependent care [19]	Eligibility computed for unit size including unaided family members [6]
Nebraska	Yes	20% [20]	None	Standard
Nevada	Yes	None	None	Standard
New Hampshire	Yes	20%	100% of standard of need for unaided family members	Standard
New Jersey	Yes	None [21]	None [22]	Standard

Table I.D.4. Treatment of Income of Parents Excluded from the Assistance Unit Due to Immigrant Status, July 2017 [1]

State	Deeming	Disregards applied prior to deeming: Earned income disregard	Disregards applied prior to deeming: Other income disregards [2]	Computation Method [3]
New Mexico	Yes	$125	Prorated share of parent's countable income [23]	Standard
New York	Yes	$90	100% of the need standard for unaided family members	Standard
North Carolina	Yes	27.5%	None	Standard
North Dakota	Yes	Greater of $180 and 27% in all months, plus 50% of remainder in first 6 consecutive months of earnings, 35% of remainder in months 7-9, and 25% of remainder in months 10-13 [24]	Child and spousal support payments and dependent care expenses	Standard
Ohio	Yes	$90	100% of allocation allowance standard for unaided family members; child support	Standard
Oklahoma	Yes	$240, plus 50% of remainder [25]	100% of the need standard for the unaided family members, plus child care expenses	Standard
Oregon	Yes	Gross income test: None; Net income test: 50% [26]	Gross income test: None; Net income test: Prorated share of parent's countable income [27]	Gross and net income tests computed for unit size including ineligible members; benefit computed for unit size of eligible members
Pennsylvania	Yes	$90	100% of standard of need for unaided family members	Standard
Rhode Island	Yes	$90	100% of the cash assistance monthly standard for unaided family members; child care expenses	Standard
South Carolina	Yes	50%	None	Standard
South Dakota	Yes	$90 and 20% of remainder	Child support payments	Standard
Tennessee	Yes	$250	100% of consolidated need standard for unaided family members	Standard

Table I.D.4. Treatment of Income of Parents Excluded from the Assistance Unit Due to Immigrant Status, July 2017 [1]

State	Deeming	Disregards applied prior to deeming: Earned income disregard	Disregards applied prior to deeming: Other income disregards [2]	Computation Method [3]
Texas	Yes	$120	100% of budgetary needs standard for unaided family members; child support payments	Standard
Utah	Yes	Gross income test: None; Net income test for applicants: $100 [28]	Gross income test: None; Net income test: Dependent care costs and child support payments	Standard
Vermont [29]	Yes	$250 and 25% of remainder	100% of need standard for parents and all dependents; alimony and child support payments [30]	Standard
Virginia	Yes	$90	100% of the standard of assistance for unaided family members; child support payments	Standard
Washington	Yes	50%	Payment standard amount for unaided family members; child support payments, child care expenses [31]	Standard
West Virginia	Yes	None [32]	None [33]	Standard
Wisconsin	n.a. [34]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Wyoming	Yes	$600	None	Standard

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

[1] These policies apply to units in which a child has a parent who is living in the household but not eligible to be part of the assistance unit due to immigrant status. The deeming policies shown here, regarding whether a portion of the immigrant parent's income is considered available to the children in the unit, generally apply for both explicit eligibility tests and benefit computation formulas (which may also act as implicit eligibility tests); if those policies differ, the eligibility-test policies are reflected in the table, and the benefit computation policies are footnoted. For more information on other disregards, see the full Welfare Rules Database. See table I.E.3 for information on the value of the standards for a family of three.

[2] "Unaided family members" represents the parent and all dependents outside the assistance unit. Please see the full Welfare Rules Database for more information on states' disregards for dependent care expenses.

[3] This column describes how the deemed income (the countable portion of the parent's income, after deductions) is used in computing the unit's eligibility or benefits. The standard computation method adds deemed income to the unit's other income, and then performs the eligibility and benefit computations with the unit size of the eligible members.

[4] For ongoing eligibility, the parent may also disregard 60 percent of earnings remaining after the 20 percent disregard.

[5] Applicants may disregard $90 for the eligibility test that compares net income to the MBSAC. Applicants and recipients may disregard $225 (minus any portion of the $225 applied to disability income), plus 50 percent of the remainder for the eligibility test that compares net income to the MAP, and for benefit computation.

[6] For benefit computation, an initial benefit is computed for a unit size including the eligible and ineligible family members; the benefit is capped at the maximum for the eligible family members.

[7] For benefit computation, there is a 67 percent disregard (the $90 disregard is for initial eligibility determination only).

[8] For benefit computation, additional disregards are allowed: the need standard for the parent and his or her dependents outside the assistance unit, and actual alimony and child support payments.

[9] For benefit computation and continuing eligibility, the excluded parent may disregard $90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3 percent of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings.

[10] An excluded parent may disregard dependent care expenses up to $200 per month for each dependent child under the age of 2 and $175 per month for each dependent child age 2 or older or incapacitated adult for the net income test and benefit computation.

[11] For benefit computation, the parent can also disregard 67 percent of remaining earnings.

[12] The immigrant parent's total countable income is divided by the total aided plus unaided family members, which includes the parents plus all dependents in the household; the amount disregarded equals that per-capita amount times the number of unaided family members.

[13] For purposes of benefit computation, an excluded parent may disregard 20 percent.

[14] The needs of ineligible family members are defined as the standard of assistance for the unit size including both eligible and ineligible members minus the standard of assistance for the unit size with only the eligible members.

[15] These disregards are used for initial and ongoing eligibility. The needs of the ineligible parents and ineligible children are computed as the need standard for a unit including the ineligible family members minus the amount for a unit with only the eligible members. For benefit computation, the needs-based disregards are computed using the payment standard; child support payments may also be disregarded.

[16] The earned income disregard is 50 percent for earnings from self-employment, earnings from room and board, or earnings from rental income.

[17] The immigrant parent's remaining countable income is divided by the number of people in the assistance unit plus the parent; the amount disregarded equals that per-capita amount (i.e., the parent’s per-capita share).

[18] For benefit computation, there is a $200 disregard followed by 50 percent of the remainder.

[19] The disregards for benefit computation are the same as the disregards for the net income test.

[20] For benefit computation, there is a 50 percent earned income disregard.

[21] For benefit computation, the parent can disregard 100 percent in first month of earnings, 75 percent in months two-seven, and 50 percent thereafter.

[22] For benefit computation, child support is another income disregard.

[23] The immigrant parent's countable income is divided by the total aided plus unaided family members, which includes the parents plus all dependents in the household; the amount deemed to the unit equals that per-capita amount times the number of unaided family members.

[24] Each excluded parent has a lifetime limit of one 13-month cycle of the extra disregards, unless the excluded parent is employed for less than six consecutive months, in which case the 13-month cycle starts over upon re-employment.

[25] This disregard is applicable to those working at least 30 hours per week. If those working are employed less than 30 hours a week, then the disregard is $120 and 50 percent of the remainder.

[26] The excluded parent may disregard 50 percent of earnings for the net income test and benefit computation.

[27] The excluded parent may disregard the prorated share of his or her countable income for the net income test and benefit computation. The immigrant parent's remaining countable income is divided by the total aided plus unaided family members, which includes the parents plus all dependents in the household; the amount disregarded equals that per-capita amount times the number of unaided family members.

[28] For benefit computation, the excluded parent may disregard $100 and 50 percent of the remainder. If the unit has received benefits in at least one of the previous four months, the excluded parent may disregard $100 and 50 percent of the remainder for the net income test.

[29] These policies apply to parents who are excluded from the assistance unit due to the five-year bar for qualified immigrants. Vermont's policies do not describe how income is treated when non-citizen parents are excluded due to other immigrant statuses.

[30] The need-standard disregard amount equals the basic need standard for a family size including the parents and anyone who can be claimed as a dependent for income tax purposes, plus the actual shelter expense up to the applicable maximum. Parents can also disregard amounts paid to people outside the household who can be claimed as dependents.

[31] The payment standard amount for the unaided family members equals the payment standard amount for both aided and unaided family members minus the amount for only the aided family members.

[32] For benefit computation, the parent can disregard 40 percent of earnings.

[33] For benefit computation, the parent can disregard child and adult care expenses and child support income.

[34] Families with a parent excluded due to immigrant status are not eligible for TANF or components of TANF.

Table I.E.1. Income Eligibility Tests for Applicants, July 2017 [1]

State	Type of test [2]	Income must be less than [3]
Alabama	Net income	100% of Payment Standard
Alaska	Gross income	185% of Need Standard
	Net income	100% of Need Standard
Arizona	Gross income	185% of Need Standard
	Gross income	100% of the 2017 Federal Poverty Guidelines [4]
	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 (MBSAC)
	Net income	100% of Maximum Aid Payment (MAP)
Colorado	Net income	100% of Need Standard
Connecticut	Net income	100% of Need Standard
	Unearned income	100% of Payment Standard
Delaware	Gross income	185% of Standard of Need
	Net income	100% of Payment Standard
D.C.	Net income	100% of Payment Level
Florida	Gross income	185% of Consolidated Need Standard
	Net income	100% of Payment Standard
Georgia	Gross income	185% of Standard of Need
	Net income	100% of Standard of Need
Hawaii	Gross income	185% of Standard of Need
	Net income	100% of Standard of Assistance
Idaho	No explicit tests	n.a.
Illinois	Net income	100% of Payment Standard
Indiana	Gross income	185% of Need Standard
	Net income	90% of Need 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
	Net income	100% of the Second Income Test
Maryland	Net income	100% of Allowable Payment
Massachusetts	Net income	100% of Need Standard and Payment Standard
Michigan	Net income	100% of Payment Standard
Minnesota	Net income	100% of Family Wage Level
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	100% of the Gross Monthly Income Standard
	Net income	100% of Benefit Standard
Nebraska	Net income	100% of Standard of Need
Nevada	Gross income	130% of the 2017 Federal Poverty Guidelines
	Net income	100% of Need Standard
New Hampshire	Net income	100% of Payment Standard
New Jersey	Gross income [5]	150% of Maximum Benefit Payment Schedule
New Mexico	Gross income	85% of the 2016 Federal Poverty Guidelines
New York	Gross income	185% of Need Standard
	Gross earnings	100% of the 2017 Federal Poverty Guidelines
	Net income	100% of Need Standard

Table I.E.1. Income Eligibility Tests for Applicants, July 2017 [1]		
State	Type of test [2]	Income must be less than [3]
North Carolina	No explicit tests [6]	n.a.
North Dakota	No explicit tests	n.a.
Ohio	Net income [7]	50% of the 2017 Federal Poverty Guidelines
Oklahoma	Gross income	185% of Need Standard
	Net income	100% of Need Standard
Oregon	Gross income	100% of Countable Income Limit
	Net income	100% of Adjusted Income Standard
Pennsylvania	Net income [8]	100% of Standard of Need
Rhode Island	No explicit tests	n.a.
South Carolina	Gross income	185% of Need Standard
South Dakota	No explicit tests	n.a.
Tennessee	Gross income	185% of Consolidated Need Standard
Texas	Net income	100% of Budgetary Needs Standard
	Net income	100% of Recognizable Needs
Utah	Gross income	185% of Adjusted Standard Needs Budget (SNB)
	Net income	100% of Adjusted Standard Needs Budget (SNB)
Vermont	No explicit tests	n.a.
Virginia		
All, except VIEW	Gross income	185% of Standard of Assistance
	Net income	100% of Standard of Assistance
VIEW	Gross earnings	100% of the 2016 Federal Poverty Guidelines
	Unearned income	100% of Standard of Assistance
Washington	Gross earnings	100% of Maximum Gross Earned Income Limit
West Virginia	Gross income	100% of Standard of Need
Wisconsin	Gross income	115% of the 2017 Federal Poverty Guidelines
Wyoming	No explicit tests	n.a.

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

[1] See table II.A.2 for information on benefit computation policies. See table I.E.3 for information on the value of the standards for a family of three.

[2] "No explicit tests" indicates that either the state imposes no income tests on applicants or the state imposes an income test, but the calculation of the test and disregards allowed for the test are no different from those used to calculate the benefit. Also, in some states, applicants could pass the explicit tests shown, but might not be eligible for a positive benefit because of the way the state computes benefits.

[3] In some states, the test is passed if income is less than or equal to the amount shown; in other states, the test is passed only if income is less than the amount shown.

[4] This test, the needy family test, includes all family members of the adult caretaker for counting income and family size. When the adult caretaker is a non-parent relative of the dependent child receiving benefits for the child only, the income limit is 130 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

[5] When the total countable income equals or exceeds the applicable benefit level, the assistance unit is no longer eligible for WFNJ/TANF benefits except for cases with earned income that are subject to six-month reporting requirements. Such cases need not report changes in earned income until such time as the assistance unit's total income exceeds 130 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. However, if the assistance unit does report a change, the county or municipal agency will act on that change. For households where a non-needy stepparent is married to a natural or adoptive recipient parent, the gross household income may not exceed 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

[6] While the state does not impose any income tests for applicants to receive cash assistance, the state does impose a gross income eligibility test at 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines to receive certain social services.

[7] This test applies for families who have not received benefits in the past four months.

[8] This test (the "Earned Income Disregard Eligibility Test") is not imposed on applicants who have received benefits in one of the last four months.

Table I.E.2. Earned Income Disregards for Initial Income Eligibility Purposes, July 2017 [1]	
State	Earned income disregard
Alabama	20% [2]
Alaska	$90 [3]
Arizona	$90 and 30% of remainder
Arkansas	20%
California	For the test that uses MBSAC: $90 [4] For the test that uses MAP: $225 and 50% of remainder
Colorado	$90
Connecticut	$90
Delaware	$90
D.C.	$160 per employed unit member
Florida	$90 [5]
Georgia	$90
Hawaii	20%, $200, and 36% of remainder
Idaho	No explicit net income test
Illinois	Difference between 50 percent of the current federal poverty guideline for the applicant's family size and their TANF payment level
Indiana	$90
Iowa	20%
Kansas	$90
Kentucky	No explicit net income test
Louisiana	$120
Maine	$108 and 50% of remainder
Maryland	20%
Massachusetts	$200
Michigan	$200 and 20% of remainder
Minnesota	$65 and 50% of remainder
Mississippi	$90
Missouri	$90
Montana	$200 and 25% of remainder
Nebraska	20%
Nevada	Greater of $90 or 20%
New Hampshire	20%
New Jersey	No explicit net income test
New Mexico	No explicit net income test
New York	$90 [3]
North Carolina	No explicit net income test
North Dakota	No explicit net income test
Ohio	No disregards allowed [6]
Oklahoma	$240 [7]
Oregon	50%
Pennsylvania	$90
Rhode Island	No explicit net income test
South Carolina	No explicit net income test
South Dakota	No explicit net income test
Tennessee	No explicit net income test
Texas	For the test that uses Budgetary Needs: $120 For the test that uses Recognizable Needs: $120 and 33% of remainder

Table I.E.2. Earned Income Disregards for Initial Income Eligibility Purposes, July 2017 [1]

State	Earned income disregard
Utah	$100 [8]
Vermont	No explicit net income test
Virginia	
All, except VIEW	$155 and 20% of remainder [9]
VIEW	No explicit net income test [10]
Washington	No explicit net income test
West Virginia	No explicit net income test
Wisconsin	No explicit net income test
Wyoming	No explicit net income test

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

[1] The table describes the disregards used for initial applicant eligibility purposes. See table IV.A.5 for the disregards used for ongoing, recipient eligibility purposes. Note that several states treat applicants who have recently received benefits as recipients. 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. This table only shows earned income disregards for explicit net income tests. "No explicit net income test" indicates that either the state does not impose a net income test at application or the state imposes a net income test, but the calculation of the test and disregards allowed for the test are the same as those used to calculate the benefit. See table II.A.2 for information on benefit computation policies.

[2] The earned income disregard cannot be applied to the earnings of an individual receiving assistance beyond the 60th month under a hardship extension.

[3] This state considers units who have received assistance in one of the previous four months as recipients for the purpose of earned income disregards.

[4] If a participant applies for TANF benefits within three calendar months of his or her subsidized employment placement ending, he or she will be considered a recipient for purposes of earned income disregards.

[5] Applicant units receiving assistance in one of the last four months may disregard $200 and 50 percent of the remainder.

[6] This state does test net income for initial eligibility but does not allow units to apply the type of earned income disregard discussed in this table. The net income test includes more specific disregards, such as deductions for dependent care.

[7] This disregard applies to individuals working full time (defined as 20 hours a week for individuals with a child under age 6 and 30 hours a week for all others). Individuals who are not employed full time may disregard $120.

[8] Applicants who have received benefits in at least 1 of the previous 4 months may disregard $100 and 50 percent of the remainder.

[9] The dollar amount of the disregard varies by family size. For one to three unit members, the disregard is $155. For four members, it is $168; for five members, it is $197; and for six or more members, it is $226.

[10] All applicants must pass the same initial income eligibility tests. VIEW income eligibility tests and earned income disregards apply only to recipients who have met the initial eligibility requirements.

Table I.E.3. Standards for Determining Eligibility, July 2017 [1]

State	State name for standard	Amount for family of three [2]
Alabama	Payment Standard	$215
Alaska	Need Standard	$1,594
Arizona	Need Standard	$964
	2017 Federal Poverty Guidelines	$1,702
Arkansas	Income Eligibility Standard	$223
California [3]		
Non-exempt	Minimum Basic Standard of Adequate Care (MBSAC)	$1,342
	Maximum Aid Payment (MAP)	$714
Exempt	Minimum Basic Standard of Adequate Care (MBSAC)	$1,342
	Maximum Aid Payment (MAP)	$799
Colorado [3]	Need Standard	$421
Connecticut [3]	Need Standard	$818
	Payment Standard	$597
	2017 Federal Poverty Guidelines	$1,702
Delaware	Standard of Need	$1,260
	Payment Standard	$338
D.C.	Standard of Assistance	$712
	Payment Level	$508
Florida	Consolidated Need Standard	$1,702
	Payment Standard	$303
Georgia	Standard of Need	$424
Hawaii	Standard of Need	$1,590
	Standard of Assistance	$763 [4]
Idaho	n.a., no explicit income test	n.a.
Illinois [3]	Payment Standard	$432
Indiana	Need Standard	$320
Iowa	Need Standard	$849
Kansas [3]	Budgetary Standards	$429
Kentucky	Standard of Need	$526
Louisiana	Flat Grant Amount	$240
Maine	Gross Income Test	$1,023
	Second Income Test	$596
Maryland	Allowable Payment	$648
Massachusetts		
Exempt	Need Standard and Payment Standard	$633
	2017 Federal Poverty Guidelines	$1,702
Non-exempt	Need Standard and Payment Standard	$618
	2017 Federal Poverty Guidelines	$1,702
Michigan	Payment Standard	$492
Minnesota	Family Wage Level	$1,090
	2017 Federal Poverty Guidelines	$1,702
Mississippi	Need Standard and Payment Standard	$368
Missouri	Need Standard	$846
Montana	Benefit Standard	$463
	Gross Monthly Income Standard	$1,092
Nebraska	Standard of Need	$816
	2017 Federal Poverty Guidelines	$1,702

Table I.E.3. Standards for Determining Eligibility, July 2017 [1]		
State	State name for standard	Amount for family of three [2]
Nevada	Need Standard	$1,276
	2017 Federal Poverty Guidelines	$1,702
New Hampshire	Payment Standard	$1,021
	Standard of Need	$4,002
New Jersey	Maximum Benefit Payment Schedule	$424
New Mexico	2016 Federal Poverty Guidelines	$1,680
New York [3]	Need Standard	$789
	2017 Federal Poverty Guidelines	$1,702
North Carolina	n.a., no explicit income test	n.a.
North Dakota	Standard of Need	$486 [5]
Ohio	2017 Federal Poverty Guidelines	$1,702
	Allocation Allowance Standard	$980
Oklahoma	Need Standard	$645
Oregon	Countable Income Limit	$616
	Adjusted Income Standard	$485
	Exit Limit Increase Standard	$1,012
Pennsylvania [3]	Standard of Need	$587
Rhode Island	Cash Assistance Monthly Standard	$554
South Carolina	Need Standard	$840
South Dakota	Payment Standard	$615
Tennessee	Consolidated Need Standard	$1,066
Texas	Budgetary Needs Standard	$751
	Recognizable Needs	$188
Utah	Adjusted Standard Needs Budget (SNB)	$568
Vermont [3]	n.a., no explicit income test	n.a.
Virginia [3]		
All, except VIEW	Standard of Assistance	$419
VIEW	Standard of Assistance	$419
	2016 Federal Poverty Guidelines	$1,680
Washington	Need Standard	$2,106
	Maximum Gross Earned Income Limit	$1,042
West Virginia	Standard of Need	$991
Wisconsin	2017 Federal Poverty Guidelines	$1,702
Wyoming	Maximum Benefit	$660

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

[1] The values in this table represent all standards used during the eligibility process, including those used for grandparent deeming, stepparent deeming, applicant income eligibility tests, and recipient income eligibility tests. See tables I.D.1, I.D.2, I.E.1, and IV.A.4 for more information on how these standards are used. This table provides information on the standards only; to determine how the standards are applied, see the companion tables listed above. For example, states may use a percentage of the above amounts in an eligibility test (e.g. 185 percent of the Standard of Need). Those calculations are not included above.

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

[3] Dollar amounts used to calculate benefits vary within the state, either by county or by region of the state. Calculations are based on the dollar amount that applies to the majority of the state. See the Welfare Rules Database for more information.

[4] The Standard of Assistance is $610 for a family of three in the third or subsequent months of receiving benefits.

[5] North Dakota adds $50 to the Standard of Need for units with sole responsibility for all housing costs. The additional $50, which North Dakota considers to be a special item of need, is included in the amount shown in this table.

Table I.E.4. Maximum Income for Initial Eligibility for a Family of Three, July 2017 [1]	
State	Maximum earnings an applicant can receive in a month and still be eligible for assistance
Alabama	$268
Alaska	$1,683
Arizona	$585
Arkansas	$278
California [2]	$1,431
Colorado [2]	$511
Connecticut [2]	$908
Delaware	$428
D.C.	$668
Florida	$393
Georgia	$514
Hawaii [3]	$1,740
Idaho	$972
Illinois [2]	$851
Indiana	$378
Iowa	$1,061
Kansas [2]	$519
Kentucky	$908
Louisiana	$360
Maine	$1,023
Maryland	$810
Massachusetts	
Exempt	$833
Non-Exempt	$818
Michigan	$815
Minnesota	$2,243
Mississippi	$457
Missouri	$557
Montana	$817
Nebraska	$1,020
Nevada	$1,595
New Hampshire	$1,276
New Jersey	$636
New Mexico	$942
New York [2]	$879
North Carolina	$681
North Dakota	$1,331
Ohio	$851
Oklahoma	$823
Oregon	$616
Pennsylvania [2]	$677
Rhode Island	$1,277
South Carolina	$1,554
South Dakota	$857
Tennessee	$1,315
Texas	$401
Utah	$668

Table I.E.4. Maximum Income for Initial Eligibility for a Family of Three, July 2017 [1]

State	Maximum earnings an applicant can receive in a month and still be eligible for assistance
Vermont [2]	$1,103
Virginia [4]	$677
Washington	$1,040
West Virginia	$565
Wisconsin [5]	n.a.
Wyoming	$1,259
Mean [6]	**$881**
Median [6]	**$828**

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

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

[2] Dollar amounts used for calculations vary within the state, either by county or by region of the state. These calculations are based on the dollar amounts that apply to the majority of the state. See the Welfare Rules Database for more information.

[3] This threshold applies to units that have received assistance for no more than two months in a lifetime. For units applying for their third and subsequent months of benefits, the eligibility threshold for a family of three is $1,894.

[4] Dollar amounts used for calculations vary within the state, either by county or by region of the state. These calculations are based on the dollar amounts that apply to the majority of the state. See the Welfare Rules Database for more information. All applicants, including those who will subsequently participate in the VIEW program, must pass the same initial income eligibility tests.

[5] Units with earnings at application will not receive a cash benefit, except for units with earnings from unsubsidized employment who work less than 30 hours per week and face limitations to increasing their work hours. These units are eligible for a Community Service Job placement where they may receive a prorated benefit. Units with income less than $1,957 at application who find employment during up-front job search have their income disregarded for purposes of determining eligibility for nonfinancial assistance.

[6] The mean and median calculations only include one value per state (the policy affecting the largest portion of the caseload).

II. Benefits

The tables in this chapter of the Databook describe key aspects of the rules for calculating and distributing the assistance unit's benefit as of July 2017. The tables include information on how benefits are calculated, the maximum benefits for different types of assistance units, and how benefits are administered.

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

Rules for calculating benefits apply once the family has passed all eligibility tests, both nonfinancial and financial. State rules for calculating benefits vary, and the calculations across states range in complexity. In the more straightforward calculations, net income is subtracted from a state-determined standard (often called the payment standard), which varies by family size, and the benefit paid is the difference (sometimes referred to as the income deficit). Some states, however, either use more complex calculations or pay a flat grant amount. The following section describes these policies in greater detail.

Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation (Table II.A.1)

When states use net income for benefit computation, they disregard a portion of the assistance unit's income in calculating the income of the unit. Table II.A.1 describes the earned income disregards allowed when calculating the benefit. If a state pays a flat grant amount (explained further below), then earned income disregards are not relevant to benefit computation and "no disregards – flat grant amount" appears in the table. In some cases, states use different earned income disregards to determine the benefit of a unit in its first month of eligibility versus subsequent months. This information is included in the tables and notes. Policies for 2017 include:

- All 49 states that vary benefits with income use an earned income disregard.
- Of the states that do have earned income disregards for benefit computation, 34 have a disregard that applies in all months, and 14 states have an income disregard that changes over time. In the remaining state (Virginia), the amount of the income disregard varies by unit size.

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

Related tables: Disregards for benefit computation and income eligibility may differ. For information on the earned income disregards used for an applicant's income eligibility, see table I.E.2. See table IV.A.5 for the earned income disregards used with income eligibility tests for recipients' ongoing eligibility. Table L4, in the last section of this book, describes the earned income disregards used for benefit computation for selected years from 1996 through 2017.

Benefit Determination Policies (Table II.A.2)

Table II.A.2 describes how states compute benefits for units that pass all applicable eligibility tests. In many states, net income is subtracted from a state-determined payment standard, which typically varies by the size of the assistance unit. The benefit paid to the family is then the difference between the net income and state payment standard, sometimes referred to as the income deficit. In other states, a statutory maximum benefit is imposed, generally varying by family size. 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. Finally, some states provide a fixed (flat grant) amount, regardless of family income. Policies for 2017 include:

- A majority of states (34) compute benefits for all or most of their caseload by subtracting income from a selected dollar amount (a payment standard); the benefit equals the difference (the income deficit).
- Fifteen states pay only a portion of the income deficit, impose a maximum, or use both of those strategies in combination.
- Two states—Arkansas and Wisconsin—determine benefits for eligible families in a way that does not vary with family income.

Related tables: For the income standards named in this table, table II.A.3 gives the value of the standard for a three-person family. Table II.A.4 combines information from table II.A.2 with information on benefit standards for various family sizes and presents the benefit paid to an assistance unit with no net income and with two, three, four, five, or six members. Table II.A.1

describes the earned income disregards allowed in calculating the net income used for benefit computation, and tables I.D.1, I.D.2, I.D.4, and IV.A.2 include policies on the treatment of unearned income (amounts deemed from grandparent units, stepparent units, immigrant parents, and treatment of child support income). Table L5, in the last section of this book, provides the maximum benefits paid to a three-person unit for selected years from 1996 through 2017.

Standards for Determining Benefits (Table II.A.3)

As described earlier, benefit computations involve state-established income amounts that almost always 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 with one adult and two children. The first two columns of the table describe what we refer to in general terms as the "payment standard"—the dollar amount from which net income is subtracted, or the flat grant amount in the few states that use that approach. The first column gives the state's name for this standard, and the second column gives the amount of this standard for a three-person family. In states that impose a statutory maximum benefit, the third and fourth columns of the table provide the state's name for that standard and the amount of the maximum benefit for a three-person family. Policy highlights from 2017 include:

- Twelve states have a statutory maximum benefit. The amount for a family of three ranges from $170 in Mississippi to $991 in Minnesota. (The amount for Minnesota includes the SNAP allotment; excluding the portion intended for food assistance, the maximum benefit in Minnesota is $532.)

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 most populous area of the state with a footnote indicating that the benefits are not constant across the state. In other states, the amounts may be higher for families with certain special needs, such as a pregnancy; the amounts in the table assume no special needs. Also, a few states have different sets of standards for one-parent families, two-parent families, and child-only units (in other words, the payment standard might differ for a single parent with two children compared with a married couple with one child, even though both units have three people); the table shows the values for a one-parent family with two children. Finally, some states prorate the eligibility or benefit standards depending on whether a unit pays for shelter; the amounts in the table assume the unit pays all shelter costs and does not live in public or subsidized housing.

Related tables: The standards by themselves are not necessarily comparable across states, since benefit computation procedures differ. To determine how the standards are used in practice, see table II.A.2. Table II.A.4 provides the benefit paid to two- to six-person units with no other income, and table L5 provides the three-person maximum benefits for selected years from 1996 through 2017. Table II.A.5 provides the benefit paid to a unit consisting of a single child, with no adults.

Maximum Monthly Benefit for a Family with No Income (Table II.A.4)

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 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 (which is less than the payment standard). In still other cases, it will be a percentage of the payment standard. Table II.A.4 provides information on the maximum benefit in each state for family sizes two through six. The calculation assumes the assistance unit includes one parent and the other unit members are children, the unit contains no children subject to a family cap, no assistance unit members have special needs, the unit pays for all shelter costs with no subsidies, and the unit is subject to the benefit standard that applies to the majority of the state's caseload. Key findings for 2017 include:

- The maximum monthly benefit for a family of three with no income ranges from $170 in Mississippi to $1,021 in New Hampshire.
- Across the states, the average (mean) maximum monthly benefit for a family of three is $454. The median figure is slightly lower, at $432.

Data for family sizes larger than six people may be found in the WRD.

Related tables: Table L5 provides the benefit paid to a three-person assistance unit with no net income for selected years from 1996 through 2017. Table II.A.5 gives the maximum benefits paid to child-only units with one child.

Maximum Monthly Benefit for a Child-Only Unit with One Child, No Income (Table II.A.5)

Table II.A.5 provides the maximum monthly TANF benefit that could be paid to a child-only unit consisting of a single child. Information is shown for three different circumstances that may lead to child-only units: when the child lives with a nonparent caretaker (and the caretaker was never included in the unit), a parent or caretaker who receives SSI, or a parent who is excluded due to immigrant status. (If a state's TANF program does not provide benefits in one or more of those situations, no value is shown and more information is provided in a footnote.) Policies for 2017 include:

- Among the states whose TANF programs include at least two of these three types of child-only units, three states pay different TANF benefits depending on the reason that the unit includes only children.
- Across the states, the average (mean) child-only benefit is $250 when the child lives with a nonparent caretaker, $237 when the child lives with a parent excluded from the unit due to SSI receipt, and $248 when the child lives with a parent excluded from the unit due to immigrant status.

Related tables: For more information on policies leading to a unit being child-only, tables I.B.5, I.B.6, and I.B.7 provide information on parents who are immigrants, table I.B.10 provides information on SSI recipients, and table I.B.11 provides information on nonparent caretakers.

Benefit Issuance Policies (Table II.A.6)

Table II.A.6 provides the method by which states deliver TANF benefits to families. The four possible methods for distributing benefits are: paper check, electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards, electronic payment cards (EPC), and electronic funds transfers (EFT). An EBT card is a state-issued debit card on which benefits are deposited by the state, similar to (and sometimes the same as) the cards used by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). An EPC card is similar to an EBT card; however, EPC cards are issued and maintained by a third-party brand, such as Visa or MasterCard, rather than the state. An EFT is an electronic direct deposit into a recipient's checking account. In addition, some states may offer benefits in the form of direct vendor payments or vouchers. These instances are footnoted.

Under the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, states are directed to prevent the use of EBT and EPC cards "in any liquor store; any casino, gambling casino, or gaming establishment; or any retail establishment which provides adult-oriented entertainment in which performers disrobe or perform in an unclothed state for entertainment."[34] The last

[34] Public Law 112-96. Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012: https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-112publ96/pdf/PLAW-112publ96.pdf.

column of table II.A.6 describes the locations where states prohibit the use of EBT or EPC cards, beyond those already prohibited under federal law. Policies for 2017 include:

- Forty states allow electronic benefits transfer (EBT) as a form of benefit issuance.
- Nine states allow electronic payment cards (EPC) as a form of benefit issuance.
- Thirty states allow electronic funds transfer (EFT) as a form of benefit issuance.

Table II.A.1. Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, July 2017

State	Earned income disregards [1]
Alabama	100% in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, 20% thereafter [2]
Alaska	$150 in all months, plus 33% of remainder in first 12 cumulative months of earnings, 25% of remainder in months 13-24, 20% of remainder in months 25-36, 15% of remainder in months 37-48, 10% of remainder in months 49-60
Arizona	$90 and 30% of remainder in all months
Arkansas	No disregards - flat grant amount
California	$225 and 50% of remainder in all months [3]
Colorado	67% in all months
Connecticut	100% up to federal poverty guideline in all months [4]
Delaware	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings [5]
D.C.	$160 and 66.7% of remainder in all months [6]
Florida	$200 and 50% of remainder in all months
Georgia	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings
Hawaii	20% and $200 of remainder in all months, plus 55% of remainder in first 24 cumulative months of assistance and 36% of remainder thereafter
Idaho	60% in all months
Illinois	75% in all months
Indiana	75% in all months
Iowa	20% and 58% of remainder in all months
Kansas	$90 and 60% of remainder in all months
Kentucky	100% in first 2 months earnings would affect eligibility; $120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings, $120 in months 5-12, $90 thereafter [7]
Louisiana	$120 in all months, plus $900 in any 6 months over a recipient's lifetime [8]
Maine	$108 and 50% of remainder in all months
Maryland	40% in all months
Massachusetts	n.a.
Exempt	$200 and 50% of remainder in all months
Non-Exempt	$200 and 50% of remainder in all months
Michigan	$200 and 50% of remainder in all months
Minnesota	$65 and 50% of remainder in all months
Mississippi	$90 in all months [9]
Missouri	100% in first 6 consecutive months of earnings, 66.7% and $90 of remainder in months 7-18, $90 thereafter [10]
Montana	$200 and 25% of remainder in all months
Nebraska	50% in all months
Nevada	100% in first 3 cumulative months of earnings, 85% in months 4-6, 75% in months 7-9, 65% in months 10-12, greater of $90 or 20% thereafter [11]
New Hampshire	50% in all months
New Jersey	100% in first month of earnings, 75% in months 2-7, 50% thereafter [12]
New Mexico	$125 and 50% of remainder in all months [13]
New York	$90 and 51% of remainder in all months
North Carolina	27.5% in all months

Table II.A.1. Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, July 2017	
State	Earned income disregards [1]
North Dakota	Greater of $180 and 27% in all months, plus 50% of remainder in first 6 consecutive months of earnings, 35% of remainder in months 7-9, and 25% of remainder in months 10-13 [14]
Ohio	$250 and 50% of remainder in all months
Oklahoma	100% in first 3 consecutive months of earnings, $240 and 50% of remainder thereafter [15]
Oregon	50% in all months
Pennsylvania	50% in all months
Rhode Island	$170 and 50% of remainder in all months
South Carolina	50% in first 4 months earned income is budgeted, $100 thereafter [16]
South Dakota	$90 and 20% of remainder in all months
Tennessee	$250 in all months
Texas	$120 in all months, plus 90% of remainder (up to $1,400) for 4 out of 12 months [17]
Utah	$100 and 50% of remainder in all months
Vermont	$250 and 25% of remainder in all months [18]
Virginia	Varies by unit size [19]
Washington	50% in all months
West Virginia	40% in all months
Wisconsin	No disregards - flat grant amount
Wyoming	$600 in all months [20]

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

[1] The table describes the earned income disregards used to compute a recipient's benefit. If different disregards are used to compute an applicant's benefit in the first month, they are footnoted. 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, and earned income disregards that apply to new marriages or in cases of deeming--are not included in this table. When no duration is specified for the disregards, they remain for the entire period of benefit receipt.

[2] The earned income disregard cannot be applied to the earnings of an individual receiving assistance beyond the 60th month under an extension. The disregard can only be applied to earnings reported within 10 days of receipt.

[3] If a recipient applies for TANF benefits within three calendar months of his or her subsidized employment placement ending, he or she will be considered for the recipient earned income disregard rather than the applicant $90 income disregard.

[4] A unit that has not received cash assistance in one of the four prior months will disregard $90 of earned income for purposes of benefit computation.

[5] If benefits or employment end before the fourth consecutive month of earnings, the recipient is eligible to receive the $30 and 33.3 percent disregard for four additional months upon reapplication or re-employment. When a recipient has received the $30 and 33.3 percent disregard for four consecutive months and the $30 disregard for an additional eight months, neither disregard may be applied again until the individual has not received any benefits for 12 months.

[6] The unit may disregard $160 per employed member.

[7] Recipients are eligible for the one-time, two-month 100 percent disregard if they become newly employed or report increased wages acquired after approval. Recipients are eligible to receive the 33.3 percent disregard during the first four consecutive months of earnings if they have not received benefits for at least 12 consecutive months.

[8] The six months in which the extra $900 is disregarded need not be consecutive, but the recipient may use this extra disregard in no more than six months over the course of his or her lifetime.

[9] Recipients are eligible for a one-time 100 percent disregard for the first six consecutive months of earnings if they find employment of 35 hours a week within the first 30 days of their initial approval for TANF. If work is not found within 30 days, the recipient is ineligible to ever receive the disregard again. An additional 100 percent disregard is available to units for three months when the unit's case is subject to closure because of increased earnings and the individual is employed for at least 25 hours a week at the federal minimum wage or higher. The recipient may not have already received the six-month disregard, unless there has been at least a 12-month break in receipt of TANF benefits. The three-month disregard may be received more than once during the 60-month TANF benefit period provided 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.
[10] These disregards apply to recipients who gained employment while receiving TANF. Recipients who gained employment before receiving TANF may disregard $120 and 33.3 percent of the remainder in the first 4 consecutive months of earnings, $120 in months 5-12, and $90 thereafter.

[11] The first 12 months of disregards are available to recipients again if they have been off TANF for at least 12 months.

[12] These disregards apply to individuals working 20 or more hours a week. Individuals employed fewer than 20 hours a week may disregard 100 percent in the first month of employment and 50 percent thereafter; however, if an individual's hours increase to 20 hours during the first six months, he or she may disregard 75 percent for the remainder of the six-month period. The 100 percent disregard is applicable only once every 12 months, even if employment is lost and then regained.

[13] Two-parent units may disregard $225 and 50 percent of the remainder in all months.

[14] Each recipient has a lifetime limit of one 13-month cycle of the extra disregards, unless the recipient is employed for less than six consecutive months, in which case the 13-month cycle starts over upon re-employment.

[15] These disregards apply to individuals working full time, defined as 20 hours a week for recipients caring for a child under age 6 and 30 hours a week for all other recipients. Individuals working less than full time may disregard 100 percent in the first three consecutive months of earnings and $120 and 50 percent of the remainder thereafter. Regardless of the number of hours worked, the 100 percent disregard only applies to recipients who reside in units where all members have a combined monthly income less than or equal to $2,064 and remain eligible for cash assistance after all other disregards are applied to the payment standard.
[16] The 50 percent disregard is available only once in a lifetime.

[17] Once the recipient has received four months (they need not be consecutive) of the 90 percent disregard, he or she is not eligible to receive the disregard again until the TANF case has been denied and remains denied for one full month, and 12 calendar months have passed since the denial. The 12-month ineligibility period begins with the first full month of denial after the client used the fourth month of the 90 percent disregard.

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

[19] The disregard is calculated by excluding varying earned income amounts based on the unit size, followed by a 20 percent disregard of the remainder regardless of unit size in all months. The dollar amounts excluded are: $155 for one to three unit members, $168 for four unit members, $197 for five unit members, and $226 for six or more unit members. A recipient who is participating in unsubsidized employment is eligible for an enhanced earned income disregard, provided the TANF recipient's income does not exceed 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for TANF-UP households.
[20] Married couples with a child in common may disregard $1,200.

Table II.A.2. Benefit Determination Policies, July 2017

State	Benefit equals [1]
Alabama	Payment standard minus net income
Alaska	Lesser of (58.1% of need standard minus net income) or maximum payment [2]
Arizona	80% of (payment benefit minus net income)
Arkansas	Maximum payment level (flat grant amount) [3]
California	Maximum aid payment minus net income [4]
Colorado	Grant standard minus net income
Connecticut	Payment standard minus net income [5]
Delaware	Lesser of (50% of (standard of need minus net income)) or payment standard
D.C.	Payment level minus net income
Florida	Payment standard minus net income
Georgia	Lesser of (standard of need minus net income) or family maximum
Hawaii	Standard of assistance minus net income
Idaho	Lesser of (work incentive payment minus net earnings) or maximum benefit [6]
Illinois	Payment standard minus net income
Indiana	Net income standard minus net income
Iowa	Payment standard minus net income
Kansas	Budgetary standard minus net income
Kentucky	Lesser of (55% of (standard of need minus net income)) or maximum benefit
Louisiana	Flat grant amount minus net income
Maine	Lesser of (standard of need minus net income) or maximum benefit
Maryland	Allowable payment minus net income
Massachusetts	Need standard and payment standard minus net income
Michigan	Payment standard minus net income
Minnesota	Lesser of (family wage level minus net income) or transitional standard [7]
Mississippi	Lesser of (60% of (need standard and payment standard minus net income)) or maximum benefit
Missouri	Payment standard minus net income
Montana	Payment standard minus net income
Nebraska	(Lesser of (standard of need minus net earnings) or payment standard) minus unearned income
Nevada	Payment allowance minus net income
New Hampshire	Payment standard minus net income
New Jersey	Maximum benefit payment schedule minus net income
New Mexico	Standard of need minus net income minus budgetary adjustment
New York	Need standard minus net income
North Carolina	50% of (need standard minus net income)
North Dakota	Standard of need minus net income
Ohio	Payment standard minus net income
Oklahoma	Payment standard minus net income
Oregon	
All, except JOBS Plus	Payment standard minus net income
JOBS Plus	Cash value of the unit's SNAP and TANF benefits minus a measure of net earnings [8]
Pennsylvania	Family size allowance minus net income
Rhode Island	Cash assistance monthly standard minus net income
South Carolina	33.72% of (need standard minus net income)
South Dakota	Payment standard minus net income
Tennessee	Lesser of (consolidated need standard minus net income) or maximum benefit [9]

Table II.A.2. Benefit Determination Policies, July 2017	
State	Benefit equals [1]
Texas	Maximum grant minus net income
Utah	Maximum financial assistance payment minus net income
Vermont	Payment standard minus net income
Virginia	
All, except VIEW	Lesser of (standard of assistance minus net income) or maximum benefit
VIEW	Lesser of (federal poverty guideline minus net income) or (standard of assistance minus gross unearned income) or maximum benefit [10]
Washington	Lesser of (payment standard minus net income) or maximum benefit [11]
West Virginia	Payment standard minus net income
Wisconsin	
W-2T	Benefit amount (flat grant amount)
CSJ	Benefit amount (flat grant amount)
TEMP	No benefit [12]
UE	No benefit [13]
Wyoming	Maximum benefit minus net income

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

[1] For information on the benefit standards, see table II.A.3.

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

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

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

[5] For each capped child, $50 is added to the payment standard. The capped children are not included in the family size used to determine eligibility and benefit amounts.

[6] This formula is for units with earned income; for these units, all unearned income is disregarded. For units without earned income, the benefit equals the maximum benefit minus the unearned income.

[7] This formula is for units with earned income and no unearned income. The calculation for recipients without earned income is the transitional standard minus net income. The calculation for recipients with earned and unearned income is the following: if the family wage level minus earned income is less than the transitional standard, the benefit equals the family wage level minus total net income (earned and unearned income). If the family wage level minus earned income is greater than the transitional standard, the benefit equals the transitional standard minus unearned income. The MFIP payment standards include the state's SNAP allotment. MFIP recipients' cash and SNAP grants are computed with the same calculation. A flat amount (based on family size) for the SNAP allotment is subtracted from the benefit amount, and any remaining amount is provided to the unit in cash. To calculate the TANF grant amount without SNAP, the food portion of the MFIP standard is subtracted from the benefit.

[8] If a unit's combined JOBS Plus wages are less than the combined value of the unit's combined determined TANF and SNAP benefits, then the state will provide a wage supplement benefit to make up the difference. The benefit is equal to the maximum of (A-C or B-D), where A equals the full benefit equivalent, the sum of TANF and SNAP benefits, calculated using normal rules. B equals the minimum benefit equivalent, A minus the difference between the income/payment standard for the unit including the JOBS Plus participant and adjusted income/payment standard for the unit not including the JOBS Plus participant. C equals the JOBS Plus participant's wage multiplied by his or her available hours to work (all scheduled hours, regardless of whether the participant worked those hours) minus $90 and the amount of garnishments withheld. Added to the remainder is child support received. D equals the JOBS Plus participant's wage multiplied by his or her actual worked hours minus $90 and the amount of garnishments withheld. Added to the remainder is child support received.

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

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

[11] For child-only units with nonparent caretakers, the payment standard is reduced when the net income of the caretaker's family exceeds 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, as follows: the payment standard is 80 percent of the full payment standard if net income is between 201 and 225 percent of poverty; it is 60 percent of the full payment standard if net income is between 226 and 250 percent of poverty; it is 40 percent of the full payment standard if net income is between 251 and 275 percent of poverty; and it is 20 percent of the full payment standard if net income is between 276 and 300 percent of poverty.

[12] TEMP participants receive wages from the TEMP employer; they do not receive cash payments from TANF. The employer can also receive a subsidy that covers all or a portion of costs attributed to the employment of the participant.

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

Table II.A.3. Standards for Determining Benefits, July 2017 [1]

State	Payment standard: State name for standard	Payment standard: Amount for family of three	Statutory maximum benefit: State name for standard	Statutory maximum benefit: Amount for family of three
Alabama	Payment Standard	$215	n.a.	n.a.
Alaska	Need Standard	$1,594	Maximum Payment	$923
Arizona	Payment Benefit	$347	n.a.	n.a.
Arkansas	Maximum Payment Level	$204	n.a.	n.a.
California				
Non-exempt [2]	Maximum Aid Payment (MAP)	$714	n.a.	n.a.
Exempt [2]	Maximum Aid Payment (MAP)	$799	n.a.	n.a.
Colorado [2]	Grant Standard	$462	n.a.	n.a.
Connecticut [2]	Payment Standard	$597	n.a.	n.a.
Delaware	Standard of Need	$1,260	Payment Standard	$338
D.C.	Payment Level	$508	n.a.	n.a.
Florida	Payment Standard	$303	n.a.	n.a.
Georgia	Standard of Need	$424	Family Maximum	$280
Hawaii	Standard of Assistance	$610 [3]	n.a.	n.a.
Idaho	Work Incentive Payment	$389	Maximum Benefit	$309
Illinois [2]	Payment Standard	$432	n.a.	n.a.
Indiana	Net Income Standard	$288	n.a.	n.a.
Iowa	Payment Standard	$426	n.a.	n.a.
Kansas [2]	Budgetary Standards	$429	n.a.	n.a.
Kentucky	Standard of Need	$526	Maximum Benefit	$262
Louisiana	Flat Grant Amount	$240	n.a.	n.a.
Maine	Standard of Need	$620	Maximum Benefit	$485
Maryland	Allowable Payment	$648	n.a.	n.a.
Massachusetts				
Exempt	Need Standard and Payment Standard	$633	n.a.	n.a.
Non-Exempt	Need Standard and Payment Standard	$618	n.a.	n.a.
Michigan	Payment Standard	$492	n.a.	n.a.
Minnesota	Transitional Standard [4]	$991 ($532) [5]	n.a.	n.a.
	Family Wage Level [6]	$1,090	Transitional Standard	$991 ($532) [5]
Mississippi	Need Standard and Payment Standard	$368	Maximum Benefit	$170
Missouri	Payment Standard	$292	n.a.	n.a.
Montana	Payment Standard	$588	n.a.	n.a.
Nebraska	Standard of Need	$816	Payment Standard	$450
Nevada	Payment Allowance	$383	n.a.	n.a.
New Hampshire	Payment Standard	$1,021	n.a.	n.a.
New Jersey	Maximum Benefit Payment Schedule	$424 [7]	n.a.	n.a.
New Mexico	Standard of Need	$447	n.a.	n.a.
	Budgetary Adjustment	$38	n.a.	n.a.
New York [2]	Need Standard	$789	n.a.	n.a.
North Carolina	Need Standard	$544	n.a.	n.a.

Table II.A.3. Standards for Determining Benefits, July 2017 [1]

	Payment standard:		Statutory maximum benefit:	
State	State name for standard	Amount for family of three	State name for standard	Amount for family of three
North Dakota	Standard of Need	$486 [8]	n.a.	n.a.
Ohio	Payment Standard	$474	n.a.	n.a.
Oklahoma	Payment Standard	$292	n.a.	n.a.
Oregon				
All, except JOBS Plus	Payment Standard	$506	n.a.	n.a.
JOBS Plus	Payment Standard and SNAP [9]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Pennsylvania [2]	Family Size Allowance	$403	n.a.	n.a.
Rhode Island	Cash Assistance Monthly Standard	$554	n.a.	n.a.
South Carolina	Need Standard	$840	n.a.	n.a.
South Dakota	Payment Standard	$615	n.a.	n.a.
Tennessee	Consolidated Need Standard	$1,066	Maximum Benefit	$185 [10]
Texas	Maximum Grant	$286	n.a.	n.a.
Utah	Maximum Financial Assistance Payment	$498	n.a.	n.a.
Vermont [2]	Payment Standard	$640	n.a.	n.a.
Virginia [2]				
All, except VIEW	Standard of Assistance	$419	Maximum Benefit	$419 [11]
VIEW	Standard of Assistance	$419	Maximum Benefit	$419 [11]
	2016 Federal Poverty Guideline	$1,680	Maximum Benefit	$419 [11]
Washington [12]	Payment Standard	$521	Maximum Benefit	$521
West Virginia	Payment Standard	$340	n.a.	n.a.
Wisconsin				
W-2T	Benefit Amount	$608	n.a.	n.a.
CSJ	Benefit Amount	653 [13]	n.a.	n.a.
TEMP [14]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
UE [15]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Wyoming	Maximum Benefit	$660	n.a.	n.a.

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

[1] 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 head of the unit is not pregnant; and the unit has no special needs, pays for shelter, and lives in the most populated area of the state.

[2] Dollar amounts used to calculate benefits vary within the state, either by county or by region of the state. Calculations are based on the dollar amount that applies to the majority of the state. See the Welfare Rules Database for more information.

[3] This applies to units that have received assistance for at least two months in a lifetime. For units receiving their first and second months of benefits, the standard of assistance for a family of three is $763.

[4] This standard applies to recipients without earnings.

[5] Minnesota's transitional standard includes the SNAP allotment for each unit size. The SNAP and cash benefit are computed together for welfare recipients. The SNAP allotment is a flat benefit, based on family size, which is subtracted from the benefit amount. Any remaining benefit is given to the unit as cash. The value of the TANF benefit only is in parentheses.

[6] This standard applies to recipients with any earned income.

[7] An additional $150 is added to the benefit amount for exempt units receiving assistance beyond the 60th month.

[8] North Dakota adds $50 to the Standard of Need for units with sole responsibility for all housing costs. The additional $50, which North Dakota considers to be a special item of need, is included in the amount shown in this table.

[9] If a unit’s combined JOBS Plus wages are less than the combined value of the unit’s combined determined TANF and SNAP benefits, then the state will provide a wage supplement benefit to make up the difference. The wage supplement benefit is equal to the maximum of (A-C or B-D), where A equals the full benefit equivalent, which is the sum of TANF and SNAP benefits calculated using normal rules. B equals the minimum benefit equivalent, which is the full benefit equivalent (A) minus the difference between adjusted income/payment standard for the unit including the JOBS Plus participant and adjusted income/payment standard for the unit not including the JOBS Plus participant. C equals the JOBS Plus participant's wage multiplied by his or her available hours (all scheduled hours, regardless of whether the participant worked those hours), minus $90, minus child support received, and minus any garnishment withheld. D equals the JOBS Plus participant's wage times hours actually worked, minus $90, minus child support received, and minus any garnishment withheld.

[10] For units where the caretaker is over age 65, disabled, caring full time for a disabled family member, or excluded from the assistance unit, the maximum benefit for a family of three is $232.

[11] The maximum benefit only applies to payments for units with six or more members.

[12] The maximum benefit only applies to payments for units with nine or more members.

[13] Community Service Jobs participants can receive a prorated payment if they are working 40 hours a week in a combination of unsubsidized employment, work training, and educational activities. Education may never fulfill more than 10 hours of the requirement. Participants working 20 to 29 hours a week in an unsubsidized job may receive $218, those working 15 to 19 hours receive $327, and individuals working 10 to 14 hours a week receive $435. Individuals who are working fewer than nine hours are eligible for the full payment. Individuals employed full time are not considered to have barriers to work and are therefore ineligible for payments.

[14] Recipients in TEMP receive wages from the TEMP employer; they do not receive cash payments from TANF.

[15] Recipients participating in unsubsidized employment receive wages and do not receive TANF cash assistance.

Table II.A.4. Maximum Monthly Benefit for a Family with No Income, July 2017 [1]

	Family Size				
State	2	3	4	5	6
Alabama	$190	$215	$245	$275	$305
Alaska	$821	$923	$1,025	$1,127	$1,229
Arizona	$220	$278	$335	$392	$449
Arkansas	$162	$204	$247	$286	$331
California [2]					
Non-exempt	$577	$714	$852	$968	$1,087
Exempt	$645	$799	$949	$1,080	$1,214
Colorado [2]	$364	$462	$561	$665	$767
Connecticut [2]	$487	$597	$701	$803	$908
Delaware	$270	$338	$407	$475	$544
D.C.	$398	$508	$621	$716	$842
Florida	$241	$303	$364	$426	$487
Georgia	$235	$280	$330	$378	$410
Hawaii [3]	$485	$610	$735	$860	$985
Idaho	$309	$309	$309	$309	$309
Illinois [2]	$318	$432	$474	$555	$623
Indiana	$229	$288	$346	$405	$463
Iowa	$361	$426	$495	$548	$610
Kansas [2]	$352	$429	$497	$558	$619
Kentucky	$225	$262	$325	$361	$398
Louisiana	$188	$240	$284	$327	$366
Maine	$363	$485	$611	$733	$856
Maryland	$513	$648	$776	$900	$989
Massachusetts					
Exempt	$531	$633	$731	$832	$936
Non-exempt	$518	$618	$713	$812	$912
Michigan	$403	$492	$597	$694	$828
Minnesota	$437	$532	$621	$697	$773
Mississippi	$146	$170	$194	$218	$242
Missouri	$234	$292	$342	$388	$431
Montana	$467	$588	$709	$830	$950
Nebraska	$378	$450	$522	$594	$666
Nevada	$318	$383	$448	$513	$578
New Hampshire	$812	$1,021	$1,230	$1,439	$1,648
New Jersey	$322	$424	$488	$552	$616
New Mexico	$327	$409	$493	$576	$659
New York [2]	$574	$789	$951	$1,119	$1,238
North Carolina	$236	$272	$297	$324	$349
North Dakota [4]	$385	$486	$583	$682	$781
Ohio	$387	$474	$584	$684	$761
Oklahoma	$225	$292	$361	$422	$483
Oregon	$432	$506	$621	$721	$833
Pennsylvania [2]	$316	$403	$497	$589	$670
Rhode Island	$449	$554	$634	$714	$794
South Carolina	$224	$283	$341	$399	$457
South Dakota	$550	$615	$680	$744	$809
Tennessee	$142	$185	$226	$264	$305
Texas	$248	$286	$344	$382	$439
Utah	$399	$498	$583	$663	$731

Table II.A.4. Maximum Monthly Benefit for a Family with No Income, July 2017 [1]

	Family Size				
State	2	3	4	5	6
Vermont [5]	$535	$640	$726	$816	$878
Virginia [2]	$347	$419	$486	$578	$614
Washington	$420	$521	$613	$706	$802
West Virginia	$301	$340	$384	$420	$460
Wisconsin					
W-2T	$608	$608	$608	$608	$608
CSJ	$653	$653	$653	$653	$653
TEMP [6]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
UE [7]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Wyoming	$621	$660	$660	$701	$701
Mean [8]	**$374**	**$454**	**$531**	**$607**	**$679**
Median [8]	**$361**	**$432**	**$497**	**$589**	**$659**

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

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

[2] Dollar amount used to calculate benefit varies within the state, either by county or by region of the state. Calculations are based on the dollar amount that applies to the majority of the state. See the Welfare Rules Database for more information.

[3] The benefits shown here apply to units that have received assistance for three or more months in a lifetime.

[4] The amounts shown include an additional $50 payment for units that pay their own shelter costs.

[5] Dollar amount used to calculate benefit varies within the state, either by county or by region of the state. Calculations are based on the dollar amount that applies to the majority of the state. See the Welfare Rules Database for more information. These amounts apply to units paying $400 per month for housing. Benefits are lower if housing expenses are lower. For units with higher expenses, the benefit may be higher by up to $90 times the ratio of the payment standard to need standard.

[6] Recipients in TEMP receive wages from the TEMP employer; they do not receive cash payments from TANF. The wage is determined by the employer, but is at least the federal minimum wage; the agency subsidizes a portion of the wages. Most TEMP jobs are 40 hours per week.

[7] Recipients participating in unsubsidized employment receive wages and do not receive TANF cash assistance.

[8] In states for which this table shows more than one component, the amounts used to compute the means and medians are the amounts for the first component that is listed, which is the one affecting the largest portion of the caseload.

Table II.A.5. Maximum Monthly TANF Benefit for a Child-Only Unit with One Child, No Income, July 2017

State	Child lives with a nonparent caretaker [1]	Child lives with a parent excluded from the unit due to:	
		SSI	Immigrant status
Alabama	$165	$165	$165
Alaska	$452	$452	$452
Arizona	$164	$164	$164
Arkansas	$81	$81	$81
California	$355	$355	$355
Colorado	$128	$128	$128
Connecticut	$366	$366	$366
Delaware	$201	$201	$201
D.C.	$320	$320	$320
Florida	$180	$180	$180
Georgia	$155	$155	$155
Hawaii	$450	$450	$450
Idaho	$309	n.a. [2]	$309
Illinois	$117	$117	$117
Indiana	$139	$139	$139
Iowa	$183	$183	$183
Kansas	$186	$186	$186
Kentucky	$186	$186	$186
Louisiana	$122	$122	$122
Maine	$138	$138	$138
Maryland	$293	$293	$293
Massachusetts	$428	$428	$428
Michigan	$158	$158	$306
Minnesota	$250	$250	$250
Mississippi	$110	$110	$110
Missouri	$136	$136	$136
Montana	$347	$347	$347
Nebraska	$306	$306	$306
Nevada	$417	$253	$253
New Hampshire	$603	n.a. [2]	$603
New Jersey	$162	$162	$162
New Mexico	$244	$244	$244
New York	$460	$460	$460
North Carolina	$181	$181	$181
North Dakota	$166	$166	$166
Ohio	$283	$283	$283
Oklahoma	$104	$104	$104
Oregon	$228	$228	$228
Pennsylvania	$205	$205	$205
Rhode Island	$327	$327	$327
South Carolina	$166	$166	$166
South Dakota	$379	$278	$278
Tennessee	$140	$140	$140
Texas	$98	$98	$98
Utah	$288	$288	$288
Vermont	$434	$434	$434

Table II.A.5. Maximum Monthly TANF Benefit for a Child-Only Unit with One Child, No Income, July 2017

State	Child lives with a nonparent caretaker [1]	Child lives with a parent excluded from the unit due to: SSI	Child lives with a parent excluded from the unit due to: Immigrant status
Virginia	$260	$260	$260
Washington	$332 [3]	$332	$332
West Virginia	$262	$262	$262
Wisconsin	$232 [4]	n.a. [5]	n.a. [6]
Wyoming	$376	$376	$376
Mean [7]	**$250**	**$237**	**$248**
Median [7]	**$228**	**$203**	**$236**

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

[1] This column provides benefit amounts for units with one child and with a nonparent caretaker who has never been included in the unit. The figures shown are for child-only benefits from TANF unless otherwise stated. In some states, nonparent caretakers are eligible for higher benefits under a “kinship care” program in some cases (e.g., when a child would otherwise be in foster care).

[2] Parents receiving SSI are also eligible for TANF benefits.

[3] For child-only units with nonparent caretakers, the benefit is reduced when the net income of the caretaker’s family exceeds 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, as follows: the benefit is 80 percent of the maximum benefit if net income is between 201 and 225 percent of poverty; it is 60 percent of the maximum benefit if net income is between 226 and 250 percent of poverty; it is 40 percent of the maximum benefit if net income is between 251 and 275 percent of poverty; and it is 20 percent of the maximum benefit if net income is between 276 and 300 percent of poverty.

[4] Families with a nonparent caretaker are potentially eligible for a kinship care payment of $232 per month per child.

[5] Children whose parents or caretakers are SSI recipients are covered by a component of the TANF program called Caretaker Supplement (CTS). CTS benefits are $250 per child per month for the first child and $150 per child per month for each additional child. (CTS families do not receive any other type of TANF cash payment.) To be eligible, a child's sole custodial parent must receive SSI or the child must live with both custodial parents and both receive SSI. Children must still meet asset and income requirements.

[6] Families with a parent excluded due to immigrant status are not eligible for TANF or components of TANF.

[7] The calculations only include one value per state (the policy affecting the most populous area).

Table II.A.6. Benefit Issuance Policies, July 2017

State	Forms of Benefit Issuance [1]: Paper check	Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT)	Electronic Payment Card (EPC)	Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)	Locations where EBT/EPC/EFT use is prohibited, in addition to those prohibited by federal law [2]
Alabama	No	Yes	No	No	No additional restrictions
Alaska	No	Yes	No	Yes	Bars
Arizona	No	Yes	No	No	Cannabis shops
Arkansas	No	Yes	No	No	No additional restrictions
California [3]	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Bars, Tobacco retailers, Firearms retailers, Spas/Massage parlors, Cruise ships, Bail bond agencies, Psychic readers, Cannabis shops, Establishments outside of the state
Colorado [3]	Yes [4]	Yes	No	Yes	Bars, Firearms retailers, Cannabis shops
Connecticut [3]	No	Yes	No	Yes	n.a.
Delaware [5]	Yes	No	No	No	n.a.
D.C.	No	Yes	No	No	No additional restrictions
Florida	No	Yes	No	Yes	No additional restrictions
Georgia	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Bars, Tobacco retailers, Firearms retailers, Tattoo/Piercing parlors, Spas/Massage parlors, Cruise ships, Bail bond agencies, Psychic readers
Hawaii	No	Yes	No	Yes	No additional restrictions
Idaho	No	Yes	No	Yes	Tobacco retailers, Tattoo/Piercing parlors, Bail bond agencies, Any establishment where minors under age 18 are not permitted
Illinois	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No additional restrictions
Indiana	No	Yes	No	No	Bars, Firearms retailers
Iowa [6]	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No additional restrictions
Kansas [6]	Yes	Yes	No	No	Tobacco retailers, Tattoo/Piercing parlors, Spas/Massage parlors, Cruise ships, Bail bond agencies, Psychic readers, Jewelry stores, Nail salons, Lingerie shops, Vapor cigarette stores, Video arcades, Movie theaters, Swimming pools, Theme parks, Any establishments where minors under age 18 are not permitted, Establishments outside of the state
Kentucky	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No additional restrictions

Table II.A.6. Benefit Issuance Policies, July 2017					
	Forms of Benefit Issuance [1]				
State	Paper check	Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT)	Electronic Payment Card (EPC)	Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)	Locations where EBT/EPC/EFT use is prohibited, in addition to those prohibited by federal law [2]
Louisiana	No	Yes	No	No	Bars, Tobacco retailers, Tattoo/Piercing parlors, Spas/Massage parlors, Cruise ships, Bail bond agencies, Jewelry stores, Amusement attractions, Psychic readers
Maine [3]	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Bars, Tobacco retailers, Firearms retailers, Tattoo/Piercing parlors, Cruise ships, Lotteries conducted by the State, Vacation or travel services [7]
Maryland	No	Yes	No	No	No additional restrictions
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Tobacco retailers, Firearms retailers, Tattoo/Piercing parlors, Cruise ships, Bail bond agencies, Rent-to-own stores, Cash transmittal agencies to foreign countries [8]
Michigan	No	Yes	No	No	Tobacco retailers, Tattoo/Piercing parlors, Spas/Massage parlors, Cruise ships, Bail bond agencies [9]
Minnesota	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Tobacco retailers, Tattoo/Piercing parlors
Mississippi	No	No	Yes	No	No additional restrictions
Missouri	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Tobacco retailers, Tattoo/Piercing parlors, Any establishment where minors under age 18 are not permitted
Montana	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No additional restrictions
Nebraska	No	No	Yes	Yes	No additional restrictions
Nevada	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No additional restrictions
New Hampshire	No	Yes	No	Yes	Tobacco retailers, Tattoo/Piercing parlors, Locations where alcohol comprises 50% or more of visible inventory, Cannabis shops
New Jersey	No	Yes	No	No	No additional restrictions
New Mexico	No	Yes	No	No	No additional restrictions
New York	No	Yes	No	No	No additional restrictions
North Carolina	No	Yes	No	Yes	No additional restrictions
North Dakota	No	No	Yes	No	No additional restrictions
Ohio [6]	No	No	Yes	Yes	No additional restrictions
Oklahoma [3]	No	No	No	Yes	Tobacco retailers
Oregon	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Cannabis shops
Pennsylvania	Yes	Yes	No	No	No additional restrictions

Table II.A.6. Benefit Issuance Policies, July 2017

State	Forms of Benefit Issuance [1]				Locations where EBT/EPC/EFT use is prohibited, in addition to those prohibited by federal law [2]
	Paper check	Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT)	Electronic Payment Card (EPC)	Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)	
Rhode Island	No	Yes	No	No	No additional restrictions
South Carolina	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No additional restrictions
South Dakota	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No additional restrictions
Tennessee	No	Yes	No	No	Tobacco retailers [10]
Texas [6]	No	Yes	No	No	Bars, Tobacco retailers, Firearms retailers, Tattoo/Piercing parlors, Spas/Massage parlors, Cruise ships, Bail bond agencies, Locations that receive more than 10% of gross revenue from entertainment [11]
Utah	No	Yes	No	No	No additional restrictions
Vermont [3]	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No additional restrictions
Virginia	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Tobacco retailers, Tattoo/Piercing parlors
Washington	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Bars, Tattoo/Piercing parlors, Any establishment where minors under age 18 are not permitted
West Virginia	No	Yes	No	Yes	No additional restrictions
Wisconsin	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No additional restrictions
Wyoming	Yes	No	No	No	n.a.

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

[1] In states that offer more than one benefit delivery method, policies may vary for whether the participant is able to choose the method for delivery or whether it is determined by the state. An EBT card is a state-issued debit card; an EPC card is a debit card issued and maintained by a third-party brand; an EFT is an electronic direct deposit into a recipient's checking account.

[2] Federal law prohibits the use of Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards and Electronic Payment Cards (EPC) in any liquor store, casino/gambling establishment, and adult-oriented businesses. This column displays any additional restrictions that the state imposes on locations where EBT/EPC transactions can be made, including ATMs located in these establishments.

[3] This state may also issue benefits as direct payments to vendors.

[4] If continued misuse occurs, the cash portion of the recipient's EBT card is disabled for one month, requiring the county to notify the participant of additional options for receipt of payment (direct deposit or county warrant).

[5] Recipient may request voluntary protective payee as a basic delivery method.

[6] This state may also issue benefits through a pay warrant or voucher.

[7] EBT and EPC use is prohibited at retail establishments where 50 percent or more of gross revenue is derived from the sale of liquor, and for any transportation service that is incurred for an extended period of recreation or any other costs incurred for such purpose.

[8] If a store sells a majority of prohibited items (even if not a location where EBT use is prohibited), the Department of Temporary Assistance takes steps to block the location.

[9] Michigan also prohibits the use of TANF cash assistance to purchase lottery tickets; the assistance unit agrees not to use TANF cash assistance to purchase lottery tickets during the initial contract agreement.

[10] ATM use is permitted in tobacco stores.

[11] Texas only allows the use of TANF cash assistance to purchase goods and services deemed essential for the welfare of the family, which include: food, clothing, housing, utilities, furniture, transportation, telephone, laundry, medical supplies not paid by Medicaid, and incidentals such as household equipment, supplies, and recreation for children. Any locations not selling those goods and services, while not explicitly prohibited, are implicitly prohibited.

III. Requirements

The tables in this chapter of the Databook describe requirements that individual members of an assistance unit must meet to become or remain eligible for assistance, as of July 2017. To receive benefits, most states require recipients to negotiate and sign contracts detailing what is required of individuals within the unit. These requirements vary considerably by state but can include conditions for dependent children as well as conditions for the adult head of the household. All states' TANF programs include work requirements, as well as sanctions if work requirements are not met.

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

States place various types of requirements on members of the assistance unit—including not only work requirements but also other types of behavioral requirements. For example, dependent children may be required to maintain a minimum grade point average in school, and adults may be required to keep current with immunizations for their children. Fulfilling behavioral requirements can be a condition of initial and continuing eligibility.

Behavioral Requirements and Bonuses (Table III.A.1)

Behavioral requirements affect adults and minor parents in many states. Requirements imposed on children may include school, immunization, health screening, and other health requirements. Table III.A.1 captures whether the following requirements and bonuses are imposed for either initial or continuing eligibility:

- School policies may require children to attend school or to achieve at least a minimum grade point average. This Databook addresses only the school requirements imposed on dependent children, not those that may be imposed on minor parents. (Although not included in this report, information about school requirements for minor parents is available 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.

- Immunization policies require parents/caretakers to have their children immunized. Sometimes, proof of immunization for children is not required if they are enrolled in school because the school systems impose their own immunization requirements. Additionally, the immunization requirement may be waived if the immunization requirement might risk a child's health or violate a family's religious beliefs.
- Health screening requirements may include regular checkups for both children and adults, although the requirements usually apply only to children. Other health requirements primarily involve compliance with the rules of the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) program.

Requirements are only included in this table if (1) they are either explicitly mentioned in the state's TANF 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 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. Key policies from 2017 include:

- Thirty-seven states have some sort of school requirements recipients must follow to remain eligible.
- Twenty-five states have immunization requirements for recipients.
- Five states require health screenings for recipients.

B. What work activities are required?

Under the TANF block grant, the federal government requires states to (1) meet the annual work participation rates determined by the federal government and (2) ensure that every recipient is working (as defined by the state) as soon as the state determines he or she is able or after 24 months of benefit receipt, whichever is earlier.[35] States that do not meet the federal

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[35] The work participation rate is the percentage of the state TANF caseload with a work-eligible individual that must be participating in work activities in order to meet federal requirements. In 2017, federal rules required that among a state's cases that include a work-eligible individual, 50 percent participate in work activities an average of 30 hours a week (an average of 20 hours per week if a single-parent family with a child under 6); two-parent families (with two work-eligible individuals) were required to participate at a rate of 90 percent for an average of 35 hours a week. For more information on the work participation rate, see the FFY 2014 and 2015 TANF Report to Congress available at https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ofa/12th_annual_tanf_report_to_congress_final.pdf.

requirements may be sanctioned financially. Within the context of the federal policies, states determine who is exempt from activities requirements, what activities are possible for non-exempt recipients, and what sanctions are imposed on individuals who do not comply with requirements.[36]

Work-Related Activity Exemptions for Single-Parent Head of Unit (Table III.B.1)

States may, but are not required to, exempt certain individuals or groups from participating in work-related activities.[37] Table III.B.1 describes each state's rules for exempting a single-parent head of an assistance unit from work-related requirements. The table includes exemptions for individuals who are working a specified number of hours in an unsubsidized job, are ill or incapacitated, are caring for an ill or incapacitated person, are elderly, are in a specified month of pregnancy, or are caring for a child under a specified age. Policies for 2017 include:

- Thirty states exempt single-parent unit heads from work requirements if they are ill or incapacitated.
- Nineteen states exempt single-parent unit heads from work requirements if they are 60 years or older, one state (New Jersey) exempts single-parent heads if they are 62 years or older, and six states exempt single-parent heads if they are 65 years or older.
- Eight states exempt single-parent unit heads from work requirements during some portion of a pregnancy.
- Four states (Colorado, Idaho, Montana, and New Mexico) do not allow any of the work-related activity exemptions shown in the table.

The exemptions shown in this table are the most common, but this list is not exhaustive. For other exemption criteria, see the WRD. Also, some states will consider some of these criteria as "good cause" for noncompliance, even if they do not provide an explicit exemption in these cases.

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[36] The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, which reauthorized the TANF program, substantially changed federal work-related policies. For more information about the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, see the Reauthorization of TANF Final Rule, February 5, 2008, https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ofa/tanf_final_rule.pdf.

[37] The denominator for the work participation rate calculation is established at the federal level. It excludes single parents of a child under 12 months old, recipients sanctioned for refusing to meet work requirements under certain situations, and parents needed in the home to care for a family member with a disability. Further, a single parent may only be excluded from the participation rate calculation under these circumstances for a maximum of 12 months over the assistance unit's lifetime.

Related tables: See Table L6 for information about the exemptions for a parent caring for a young child for selected years from 1996 through 2017.

Work-Related Activity Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit (Table III.B.2)

Work programs vary widely from state to state based on several factors, including who must work, how much work is required, and what activities are considered work. Table III.B.2 provides a general overview of state activity 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 each week, including what share of those hours can be spent in education and training programs. Not all assistance units have the same work requirements. For simplicity, this table only includes the activities requirements for units headed by a single-parent 20 years old or older with children at least 6 years of age. Work activity requirements for other units may be found in the WRD. Policies for 2017 include:

- Thirty-six states require single-parent unit heads to immediately meet work requirements upon benefit receipt.
- Thirty-eight states require single-parent unit heads to work a minimum of 30 hours per week.

This table should be interpreted as providing an overview of states' work-related activity policies rather than a full picture of those policies. In particular, caseworker manuals (which are the primary source documents for the WRD) do not generally indicate the likelihood that a recipient will be assigned to one activity or another. Thus, two states could have the same potential activities but have very different policies for how often different activities are assigned in practice. Alternatively, one state might include a potential activity not listed in another state's list but in practice rarely assign anyone to that activity. Despite these limitations, the table provides a starting point for understanding the range of work-related requirements across states.

Sanction Policies for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit (Table III.B.3)

If adults required to participate in activities do not comply with the requirements, the state can sanction the unit. States have discretion in defining what constitutes noncompliance and the consequences for noncompliance. Typically, if a recipient does not participate in his or her assigned activities for the specified number of hours, he or she is not complying and could be sanctioned. A sanction generally results in the removal of the noncompliant individual from the unit for benefit computation, a percentage reduction in the entire unit's benefit, a full benefit sanction, or complete case closure. A full benefit sanction results in the unit losing its entire benefit for some period, whereas a complete case closure often requires the applicant to reapply after the sanction period. Often states increase the severity of the sanction based on the number of times or the amount of time the individual is noncompliant.

Table III.B.3 describes sanction policies for failing to comply with work requirements. The table provides both the initial sanction (for the first instance of noncompliance) and the most severe sanction (after multiple instances of noncompliance). For both the initial and most severe sanctions, the table describes the amount of the reduction in benefits and the duration of the sanction. When the sanction is described as "adult portion of the benefit," the state re-computes 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.) When the sanction is instead described as "pro rata portion of the benefit," the state reduces the benefit by one-half in the case of a two-person unit with a noncompliant member, by one-third in the case of a three-person unit with a noncompliant member, and so on. Policy highlights from 2017 include:

- Twelve states reduce the TANF benefit by a fixed percentage for the first case of noncompliance with work requirements. Eight states reduce the TANF benefit by removing the adult portion of the benefit for the first case of noncompliance with work requirements. Washington reduces the TANF benefit by the adult portion or 40 percent, whichever is greater.
- Thirty states close the TANF case for the most severe sanction of noncompliance with work requirements.

The WRD includes more details on sanctions, including any sanctions that occur between the initial and most severe sanctions.

Related table: See table L7 for information about the most severe sanction for selected years from 1996 through 2017.

Work-Related Activity Requirements for Parents Outside the Unit and Nonparent Caretakers (Table III.B.4)

Parents and caretakers who are not included in the assistance unit are generally not required to engage in work-related activities. However, in some cases, adults who are not included in the assistance unit are still subject to work-related activity requirements, with variations in policy across states and by the reason that the adult is not in the unit. Nonparent caretakers who are in the assistance unit are generally required to participate in the same way as parents, but these policies vary across the states. Table III.B.4 shows the work-related activity requirements for parents who are not in the assistance unit due to immigrant status or due to time limits. The table also shows the policies for nonparent caretakers who are not in the assistance unit and for nonparent caretakers who are in the assistance unit. Key policies for 2017 include:

- Thirty-six states do not require parents outside the assistance unit due to immigrant status to participate in work requirements. Participation is required in 12 states and optional in 3 states.
- Among the four states in which a child-only unit may be created due to a family reaching a time limit, two states (Indiana and Oregon) require parents outside the assistance unit due to time limits to participate in work requirements, and one state (Texas) offers parents outside the assistance unit due to time limits the option to participate in work requirements.
- Forty-seven states do not require nonparent caretakers outside the assistance unit to participate in work requirements; their participation is required in one state and optional in two states.
- All of the 47 states that ever include a nonparent caretaker in the assistance unit require those caretakers to participate in work requirements.

Table III.A.1. Behavioral Requirements and Bonuses, July 2017				
State	School requirements [1]	School bonuses [2]	Immunization requirements [3]	Health screening requirements [4]
Alabama	No	No	No	No
Alaska	No	No	No	No
Arizona	Yes	No	Yes	No
Arkansas	Yes	No	Yes [5]	No
California	Yes	Yes [6]	Yes [5]	No
Colorado	Yes	Yes [7]	No	No
Connecticut	No	No	No	No
Delaware	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
D.C.	Yes	No	No	No
Florida	Yes	No	Yes [5]	No
Georgia	Yes	No	Yes	No
Hawaii	No	No	No	No
Idaho	Yes	No	Yes [5]	No
Illinois	Yes	No	No	No
Indiana	Yes	No	Yes	No
Iowa	No	No	No	No
Kansas	Yes	No	No	No
Kentucky	Yes	Yes	No	No
Louisiana	Yes	No	Yes	No
Maine	No	No	Yes	No
Maryland	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Massachusetts	Yes	No	Yes [8]	No
Michigan	Yes	No	Yes [9]	No
Minnesota	No	No	No	No
Mississippi	Yes	No	Yes [10]	No
Missouri	No	No	No	No
Montana	No	No	No [11]	No
Nebraska	Yes	No	No	No
Nevada	Yes	No	Yes [5]	No
New Hampshire	Yes	No	No	No
New Jersey	Yes	No	Yes	No
New Mexico	Yes	No	Yes	No
New York	Yes	No	No	No
North Carolina	Yes	No	Yes [5]	Yes
North Dakota	Yes	Yes	No	No
Ohio	No	Yes [12]	No	No
Oklahoma	Yes	Yes	Yes [5]	No
Oregon	No	No	No	No
Pennsylvania	No	No	No	No
Rhode Island	No	No	No	No
South Carolina	Yes	No	Yes [13]	No
South Dakota	Yes	No	Yes	No
Tennessee	Yes	No	Yes [5]	Yes

Table III.A.1. Behavioral Requirements and Bonuses, July 2017				
State	School requirements [1]	School bonuses [2]	Immunization requirements [3]	Health screening requirements [4]
Texas	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Utah	Yes	Yes [14]	No	No
Vermont	No	Yes [15]	No	No
Virginia	Yes	No	Yes [16]	No
Washington	Yes	No	No	No
West Virginia	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Wisconsin	Yes	No	No	No
Wyoming	Yes	No	No	No
Total states with policy	**37**	**9**	**25**	**5**

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

[1] School requirements apply only to requirements for dependent children, not minor parents. A requirement is coded "Yes" if the state explicitly mentions it as a requirement for cash assistance or if it is included as a requirement in the recipient's contract and noncompliance results in a sanction. These policies may require children to attend school or to achieve a minimum grade point average; they may also require parents to be involved in their children's education in some way. The requirements may apply only to a subset of children; for additional detail, see the Welfare Rules Database.

[2] This column captures financial incentives for assistance units whose children meet specific attendance or achievement standards. Unless otherwise noted, school bonuses apply to both dependent children and minor parents.

[3] Immunization requirements include information on standard immunizations for children. A requirement is coded "Yes" only if the state explicitly mentions it as a requirement for cash assistance or if it is included as a requirement in the recipient's contract and noncompliance results in a sanction.

[4] Health screening requirements include information on regular checkups for both children and adults, although the requirements usually apply only to children. A requirement is coded "Yes" only if the state explicitly mentions it as a requirement for cash assistance or if it is included as a requirement in the recipient's contract and noncompliance results in a sanction.

[5] The immunization requirement may be waived if the procedures would risk the child's health or violate the family's religious beliefs.

[6] School bonuses apply to pregnant or teen parents under age 19.

[7] School bonuses only apply to teen parents aged 16 through 19. These policies refer to Denver County.

[8] Children are exempt from showing proof of required immunization if they are enrolled in school.

[9] The immunization requirement may be waived if the procedures would risk the child's health or violate the family's religious beliefs. Additionally, children under 2 months of age may also be exempt.

[10] Children are exempt from showing proof of required immunization if they are enrolled in school. School-age children not attending school, being home-schooled, or attending a non-public school must provide proof of current immunizations.

[11] Assistance units must cooperate with the third party liability unit and maintain cost effective health insurance as a condition of eligibility.

[12] School bonuses are issued under the Learning, Earning, and Parenting (LEAP) program for teen custodial parents and pregnant teens under age 19 who have not obtained a high school diploma or equivalent.

[13] Children are exempt from showing proof of immunization if they are enrolled in school or a licensed day care provider.

[14] Minor parents are potentially eligible for a school bonus if they are enrolled in the WIOA Youth program.

[15] School bonuses only apply to teen parents aged 16 through 19. School bonuses are allowed at case manager discretion.

[16] The immunization requirement may be waived if the procedures would risk the child's health or violate the family's religious beliefs. Additionally, children are exempt from showing proof of required immunization if they are enrolled in school or a licensed day care provider.

Table III.B.1. Work-Related Activity Exemptions for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2017 [1]

State	Exempt if working in unsubsidized job for X hours per week	Exempt if ill or incapacitated	Exempt if caring for an ill or incapacitated person	Exempt if age X or older (years)	Exempt if in month X or later of pregnancy	Exempt if caring for a child under age X (months)
Alabama	No	Yes [2]	Yes	60	No [3]	12
Alaska	No	Yes [4]	Yes [5]	No	No	12 [6]
Arizona	40 [7]	No	No	No	No	No
Arkansas [8]	No	Yes	Yes	60	7	3 [9]
California	No	Yes	Yes	60	No [3]	24 [10]
Colorado [11]	No	No [12]	No [12]	No	No	No [13]
Connecticut	No	Yes	Yes	60	No [14]	12 [15]
Delaware	No	Yes [16]	Yes [17]	No	No	12 [18]
D.C.	30 [19]	Yes [20]	Yes	60	4	12
Florida	No	No	Yes	No	No	3 [21]
Georgia	No	No	Yes	No	No	12 [22]
Hawaii	No	No [23]	Yes [24]	65	No	6 [18]
Idaho	No	No	No	No	No	No
Illinois	No	Yes	Yes	60	No [25]	12 [26]
Indiana	No	Yes [27]	Yes	60	No	3
Iowa	No	No	No	No	No	3 [28]
Kansas	No	No	Yes	No	No	3
Kentucky	30	No [12]	Yes [29]	60	No	12 [18]
Louisiana	No	Yes	Yes	60	No	No
Maine	No	Yes [30]	Yes [31]	No	No	12 [18]
Maryland [32]	30 [33]	Yes [34]	Yes	No	No	12 [35]
Massachusetts						
Exempt [36]	n.a.	Yes [37]	Yes [37]	60 [37]	5 [37]	24 [37]
Non-exempt	30 [38]	n.a. [39]	n.a. [39]	n.a. [40]	n.a. [41]	n.a. [42]
Michigan	40 [33]	Yes [43]	Yes	65	No [3]	2 [44]
Minnesota	No	No [45]	No	No [46]	No [3]	12
Mississippi	No	Yes [47]	Yes	60	No [48]	12 [18]

Table III.B.1. Work-Related Activity Exemptions for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2017 [1]

State	Exempt if working in unsubsidized job for X hours per week	Exempt if ill or incapacitated	Exempt if caring for an ill or incapacitated person	Exempt if age X or older (years)	Exempt if in month X or later of pregnancy	Exempt if caring for a child under age X (months)
Missouri	No	Yes	Yes	60	No	3
Montana	No	No [49]	No	No	No	No [50]
Nebraska						
Time-limited assistance	No	n.a. [39]	n.a. [39]	n.a. [51]	n.a. [52]	n.a. [53]
Non-time-limited assistance [54]	n.a.	Yes [55]	Yes [55]	65 [55]	8 [55]	3 [56]
Nevada	30 [57]	No	Yes	60 [58]	No [59]	12 [22]
New Hampshire						
NHEP	No	Yes [60]	Yes	n.a. [40]	No [61]	12 [62]
FAP [54]	n.a.	Yes [63]	n.a.	60 [64]	n.a.	n.a.
New Jersey	No	Yes	Yes	62	7 [65]	3
New Mexico [66]	No	No	No	No	No	No
New York	No	Yes [67]	Yes	60	9	3 [68]
North Carolina	No	No [69]	Yes	No	No	12 [18]
North Dakota	No	No [12]	No [12]	65	No [70]	2
Ohio	30	No	Yes [71]	No	No	12
Oklahoma	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	4 [18]
Oregon	No	No	Yes	60	9	6
Pennsylvania	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	12 [18]
Rhode Island	No	Yes [72]	Yes	No	7 [73]	12
South Carolina						
All, except CARES	30	n.a. [74]	Yes	No	No [75]	12 [76]
CARES [54]	n.a.	Yes [77]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
South Dakota	No	No [78]	No [79]	No	No	3
Tennessee	No	Yes	Yes	65	No [3]	12
Texas	No	Yes [80]	Yes	60 [81]	No [3]	12
Utah	No	No	Yes [71]	No	No	No [82]

Table III.B.1. Work-Related Activity Exemptions for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2017 [1]						
State	Exempt if working in unsubsidized job for X hours per week	Exempt if ill or incapacitated	Exempt if caring for an ill or incapacitated person	Exempt if age X or older (years)	Exempt if in month X or later of pregnancy	Exempt if caring for a child under age X (months)
Vermont	No	Yes	Yes	60	No	24 [83]
Virginia						
All, except VIEW [54]	n.a.	Yes [84]	Yes [85]	60 [85]	n.a.	12 [86]
VIEW	No	n.a. [39]	n.a. [39]	n.a. [39]	No [87]	n.a. [39]
Washington	No	Yes	Yes	No [88]	No	12 [89]
West Virginia	No	Yes	Yes	No	No [3]	No [90]
Wisconsin	No	No [12]	No [91]	No	No	2
Wyoming	No	No	No	65	No	3 [18]

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

[1] This table refers to single-parent unit heads over 21 years old. In some cases, recipients meeting certain criteria are placed in alternative components; see appendix 1 for more information on components.

[2] An incapacitated person may be fully or partially exempt from work requirements.

[3] A pregnant woman may qualify for an exemption if the pregnancy is disabling and prohibits her from participating in work or training programs.

[4] While an incapacitated person may be fully or partially exempt from work activities, he or she is still required to develop a Family Self-Sufficiency Plan outlining the self-sufficiency activities in which he or she will participate.

[5] If the incapacitated person is an adult, the caretaker is exempt only if he or she is related to the person and providing 24-hour care.

[6] The exemption is limited to 12 cumulative months in the recipient's lifetime. While the caretaker is exempt from work activities requirements, the recipient will still be required to develop a Family Self-Sufficiency Plan outlining the self-sufficiency activities in which he or she will participate.

[7] To be exempt, the job must pay at least the minimum wage and be expected to last at least 30 days.

[8] Counties are given discretion to grant temporary exempt status when the recipient does not have adequate support services, such as transportation or child care. A review of the exemptions occurs at least every six months. SSI and SSDI recipients and individuals ineligible because of immigration status are exempt.

[9] A parent loses this exemption after retaining it for 12 cumulative months. Months in which the parent is exempt because child care is unavailable for a child less than 12 months old also count toward the 12-month lifetime limit.

[10] Months spent as a primary care provider for one child, birth to 23 months old, are exempt. For two-parent families, each parent has the option to receive the exemption but only one exemption can be granted at a time. An individual may only be eligible for this exemption one time. An exemption for care of an additional child six months of age or under is also available.

[11] Counties have the option to vary some activities exemptions. These policies refer to Denver County.

[12] The state does not consider these groups technically exempt, but they may meet the state's criteria for good cause for noncompliance or deferral.

[13] A recipient caring for a child under the age of six who is unable to obtain child care may be exempt from work activities or sanctions.

[14] A pregnant woman may qualify for an exemption if the pregnancy is disabling and prohibits her from participating in work or training programs. She may also be exempt from work requirements for six weeks postpartum.

[15] The exemption applies only if the child is not subject to a family cap.

[16] Disabled parents and caretakers are referred to the Transitional Work Program (TWP) to determine employability and, if appropriate, develop an employability plan.

[17] To qualify for this exemption, the ill or incapacitated individual must be a direct relative, either a child or spouse, and living in the home.

[18] The exemption is limited to 12 cumulative months in the recipient's lifetime.

[19] The hours apply to recipients with children age six or older. Recipients with children under six years old are required to work 20 hours in order to be exempt.

[20] Individuals are screened during assessment for physical or mental incapacities that interfere with their ability to participate in countable work activities. After a medical evaluation confirms incapacity, the client is moved from TANF to POWER. POWER requires limited work activities and has no time limits.

[21] Recipients may be required to attend classes or other activities.

[22] Single custodial parents can have one three-month exemption per child up to a cumulative total of 12 months.

[23] Although not exempt, the state recognizes that recipients who are ill or incapacitated may not be able to participate fully. The amount of participation required from each recipient is determined on a case-by-case basis by a medical board. The recipient is also subject to sanctions for noncompliance with required activities.

[24] To qualify for this exemption, the ill or incapacitated individual must be a direct relative, such as a child or spouse, and living in the home.

[25] Pregnant women are not exempt, but they are considered to have a barrier to full-time employment for the six weeks before the due date and the 12 weeks after birth. The amount of participation required is determined case by case.

[26] Recipients may be required to attend classes or other activities.

[27] Individuals who are eligible for Medicaid for the disabled or blind and individuals receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or other assistance due to disability are exempt.

[28] Although recipients are not exempt, they may be absent from work without sanction if they have a newborn child. Absence from activities is determined using the standards of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993. The maximum time available for one parent is 12 work weeks during any 12-month period.

[29] A parent providing constant care for a disabled family member for more than eight consecutive weeks is exempt, provided the disabled person lives in the home and does not attend school or participate in another activity full time. A parent caring for disabled family members for less than eight consecutive weeks has good cause for non-compliance but is not technically exempt.

[30] To be exempt, an ill or incapacitated person must receive SSI or the head of household must be caring for a spouse who is receiving SSI.

[31] The need for the recipient to care for the disabled family member must be verified at least every six months by an acceptable medical or mental health source. The recipient is not considered to be personally providing care if the individual is a full-time student.

[32] Exemptions do not apply to individuals who have received 24 cumulative months of federal cash assistance. The only exemption that may be available after 24 months is to single parents who are caring for a child under age six and who are unable to obtain appropriate child care.

[33] To be exempt, the job must pay minimum wage or higher.

[34] Exemptions are limited to 12 months unless the individual has applied for SSI and the SSI application is approved, pending, or in appeal.

[35] The exemption is limited to 12 cumulative months in the recipient's lifetime. A recipient caring for a child under the age of six who is unable to obtain child care may be exempt from work activities or sanctions.

[36] Recipients who are in the Exempt component are automatically exempt from activities requirements.

[37] Individuals with this characteristic are placed in the exempt component. All individuals in this component are exempt from activities requirements.

[38] This exemption applies to parents whose youngest child is mandatory school age or older. If the youngest child is between two years old and mandatory full-time school age, 20 hours a week are required. Parents with children less than two years old are placed in the exempt component and do not have work requirements.

[39] Individuals with this characteristic are placed in an alternative component.

[40] Recipients age 60 or older are placed in an alternative component.

[41] Women who are pregnant and within 120 days of their expected due date are placed in an alternative component.

[42] Individuals caring for a child under two years old are placed in an alternative component.

[43] Individuals with a mental or physical illness, limitation, or incapacity that is expected to last more than 90 days and that prevents participation in employment activities are required to undergo a medical review. After the medical review, the individual may be determined disabled and required to apply for SSI or RSDI, work ready with limitations and referred to the work program, or work ready and referred to the work program.

[44] Women are exempt from activities requirements for two months after giving birth when the newborn is in the home or for postpartum recovery when the newborn is not in the home.

[45] Persons meeting this criterion will not be required to meet full participation requirements if the participant's condition significantly restricts his or her employment opportunities or ability to maintain suitable employment for at least 20 hours per week. The number of hours and the types of activities required will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

[46] While not explicitly exempt, a person meeting this criteria will not be required to meet full participation requirements if the participant's condition significantly restricts his or her range of employment opportunities or his or her ability to maintain suitable employment for at least 20 hours per week. The number of hours and the types of activities required will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

[47] If determined eligible for vocational rehabilitation, ill and incapacitated clients can be assigned to a work program activity.

[48] A pregnant woman may be exempt from work requirements for six weeks postpartum. A pregnant woman may qualify for an exemption if the pregnancy is disabling and prohibits her from participating in work or training programs.

[49] A person declared totally incapacitated by a qualified medical professional and who is unable to engage in any participation activities may not be required to participate.

[50] Individuals caring for a newborn child may count this activity toward participation requirements for three full months following the child's birth, up to a total of 12 months in an individual's lifetime. Individuals can choose not to participate in other work activities during this time.

[51] Recipients age 65 and older are placed in an alternative component.

[52] Pregnant women will be placed in an alternative component the month before the month of their due date.

[53] Recipients caring for children under three months old are placed in an alternative component.

[54] Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from activities requirements.

[55] Individuals with this characteristic are placed in the non-time-limited component. All individuals in this component are exempt from activities requirements.

[56] Recipients caring for a child under 3 months old are exempt and would be non-time-limited for the period of time they qualify for this exemption. This exemption can be extended under special circumstances.

[57] Recipients working 30 hours a week or more are exempt only from job training requirements. A single custodial parent with a child under age six must be employed a minimum of 20 hours a week to be exempt from job training requirements.

[58] A needy relative caregiver other than a parent is exempt at 60 years of age or older (parents are not exempt).

[59] A woman is exempt only when determined unable to work by a physician. The exemption applies only to job training requirements.

[60] Recipients who are temporarily ill or incapacitated are exempt from work requirements for a six-month period with medical verification. Clients may apply for an additional six-month exemption, but will be required to apply for SSI or SSDI.

[61] A pregnant woman with a verified medical condition that prevents participation would follow the same exemption protocol as other clients with a temporary incapacity.

[62] The exemption is limited to 12 cumulative months in the recipient's lifetime. If the recipient has exhausted this 12-month limit or has received 39 or more months of assistance prior to the birth of an additional child, the unit must participate in NHEP when the youngest child turns 12 weeks old.

[63] Recipients who are permanently ill or incapacitated are placed in the Family Assistance Program component. All individuals in this component are exempt from activities requirements.

[64] Individuals with this characteristic are placed in the Family Assistance Program component. All individuals in this component are exempt from activities requirements.

[65] Prior to the third trimester, recipients may be exempt if a physician certifies that a medical reason exists.

[66] There are no activities exemptions. Participants may request a limited work participation status reducing their required hours to no less than one hour per week. Individuals who have extraordinary circumstances may be granted a complete reduction of required hours.

[67] A person may be exempt up to three months if supported by medical documentation.

[68] 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.

[69] A healthcare provider may limit the activities and participation hours for a disabled individual to less than 30 per week.

[70] An individual may be granted good cause from participation in work-related activities due to medical reasons, beginning with the sixth month of pregnancy through the month of birth. Once born, the caretaker is exempt from participation for two months. However, the individual is subject to 12 cumulative months in the recipient's lifetime.

[71] To qualify for this exemption, the ill or incapacitated individual must be a family member living in the home full time and the disability must last a minimum of 30 days.

[72] Recipients of SSI, RSDI/SSDI, or other disability benefits that have the same standards of disability as defined by the Social Security Administration, or those determined likely to be eligible for SSI or SSDI benefits by a DHS approved provider or DHS designated staff, may be exempt.

[73] An applicant in her third trimester or a recipient in her third trimester who has documentation she cannot work may be exempt.

[74] Individuals with incapacities expected to last 90 days or longer are placed in the CARES program.

[75] Although technically not an exemption, an individual in the seventh month of pregnancy has legal cause for not meeting participation requirements.

[76] A parent personally providing care for his or her child under age one will be expected to participate in the work program but cannot be sanctioned for failure to do so.

[77] Individuals with this characteristic are placed in the CARES component. All individuals in this component are exempt from activities requirements.

[78] The state does not consider these groups technically exempt, but they may meet the state's criteria for good cause for noncompliance or deferral if the condition is expected to last at least 30 days.

[79] The state does not consider these groups technically exempt, but they may meet the state's criteria for good cause for noncompliance or deferral if the condition is expected to last at least 30 days and the ill or incapacitated individual is a family member living in the home.

[80] To qualify for this exemption, the incapacity must be expected to last a minimum of 180 days. A temporary illness qualifies as good cause for noncompliance.

[81] Single grandparents who are age 50 or older and caring for a child under age three are exempt.

[82] If parents are unable to find care for a child under age 13, the state may exempt the parents from activity requirements while it provides assistance in finding child care.

[83] The exemption is limited to 24 months in a recipient's lifetime. In addition, recipients may be exempt for 13 weeks following the birth of each additional child.

[84] To be fully exempt, a recipient must obtain a note from a doctor or other certified professional indicating that he or she is unable to participate in at least 20 hours of activities a week. If the individual can participate in at least 20 hours of activities a week, he or she must participate in work activities that take into consideration his or her limitations. Individuals with this characteristic are placed in the All, except VIEW component. All individuals in this component are exempt from activities requirements.

[85] Individuals with this characteristic are placed in the All, except VIEW component. All individuals in this component are exempt from activities requirements.

[86] The exemption is limited to 12 cumulative months in the recipient's lifetime. The caretaker can be exempt for a maximum of six additional weeks if he or she has another child after the limit expires. Recipients caring for a child subject to a family cap are only exempt while the child is under six weeks old. Individuals with this characteristic are placed in the All, except VIEW component. All individuals in this component are exempt from activities requirements.

[87] A recipient in her third trimester of pregnancy may have the initial job search or job readiness assignment waived and be assigned to another activity.

[88] Nonparent relative caretakers over the age of 55 are exempt.

[89] The exemption is limited to 12 cumulative months in the recipient's lifetime. Participants may be required to participate in mental health or chemical dependency treatment if it is indicated in their assessment.

[90] The state does not consider these groups technically exempt; however, they may meet the state's criteria for good cause for noncompliance or deferral. This may be taken any time while the child is under 12 months for up to 12 months in the recipient's lifetime. In addition, all mothers are eligible for a 12-week postpartum exemption good cause period following the birth of any additional child.

[91] The state does not consider these groups technically exempt; however, they may meet the state's criteria for good cause for noncompliance. In addition, an individual's participation requirement may be to care for an ill or incapacitated child, spouse, or co-parent who is living in the home.

Table III.B.2. Work-Related Activity Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2017 [1]

State	Timing of requirement relative to benefit receipt	Allowable activities listed [2]	Minimum hour requirement (weekly unless noted)	Limit on education hours that count toward work hour requirement [3]
Alabama	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job development and placement, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, self-employment, child care provision for others, community service	35 [4]	10 [5]
Alaska	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job development and placement, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, life skills training, community service	30	No limit
Arizona	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job development and placement, job search, on-the-job training, work experience programs	Case-by-case	No limit
Arkansas	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, child care provision for others, counseling, life skills training, community service, substance abuse treatment	30 [4]	10
California [6]	After assessment	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, counseling, community service, substance abuse treatment	30 [4]	No limit [7]

Table III.B.2. Work-Related Activity Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2017 [1]

State	Timing of requirement relative to benefit receipt	Allowable activities listed [2]	Minimum hour requirement (weekly unless noted)	Limit on education hours that count toward work hour requirement [3]
Colorado [8]	After assessment	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, child care provision for others, counseling, life skills training, community service, substance abuse treatment	30 [9]	n.a.
Connecticut	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job development and placement, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, child care provision for others, counseling, community service	Case-by-case	No limit
Delaware				
All, except TWP [10]	Upon application [11]	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, child care provision for others, counseling, life skills training, community service, substance abuse treatment, post-secondary education, job development and placement	30 [4]	10 [12]
TWP	Upon referral by DSS	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, child care provision for others, counseling, life skills training, community service, substance abuse treatment, post-secondary education, job development and placement [13]	No minimum [14]	n.a. [15]

Table III.B.2. Work-Related Activity Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2017 [1]				
State	Timing of requirement relative to benefit receipt	Allowable activities listed [2]	Minimum hour requirement (weekly unless noted)	Limit on education hours that count toward work hour requirement [3]
D.C.	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, self-employment, child care provision for others, community service	30 [4]	10
Florida	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, child care provision for others	30	10
Georgia	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, child care provision for others, counseling, life skills training, community service, substance abuse treatment	30 [16]	10
Hawaii	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, child care provision for others, counseling, community service, substance abuse treatment	30 [4]	No limit
Idaho	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, community service [17]	Number of work days in a month multiplied by 6 hours [18]	No limit

Table III.B.2. Work-Related Activity Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2017 [1]				
State	Timing of requirement relative to benefit receipt	Allowable activities listed [2]	Minimum hour requirement (weekly unless noted)	Limit on education hours that count toward work hour requirement [3]
Illinois [19]	31 days after application	Postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, counseling, life skills training, community service, substance abuse treatment	30	No limit [20]
Indiana	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job development and placement, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, counseling, life skills training, community service	30 [4]	10 [21]
Iowa	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, child care provision for others, counseling, life skills training, community service, substance abuse treatment	30 [22]	No limit
Kansas	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, counseling, life skills training, community service	30 [23]	10 [21]
Kentucky	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job development and placement, job search, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, child care provision for others, counseling, life skills training, community service, substance abuse treatment	30	10 [21]

Table III.B.2. Work-Related Activity Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2017 [1]

State	Timing of requirement relative to benefit receipt	Allowable activities listed [2]	Minimum hour requirement (weekly unless noted)	Limit on education hours that count toward work hour requirement [3]
Louisiana [19]	Immediately	Postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, community service	30 [4]	n.a. [24]
Maine	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job development and placement, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, self-employment, child care provision for others, counseling, life skills training, community service	30 [4]	10 [25]
Maryland	Upon application	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, child care provision for others, counseling, community service, substance abuse treatment	30 [26]	16 [27]
Massachusetts				
Exempt [28]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Non-exempt	After 2 months of receiving assistance [29]	Basic or remedial education, high school/HiSET, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job development and placement, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, child care provision for others, counseling, community service, grandparent providing care for child in home, substance abuse treatment	30 [30]	No limit [31]

Table III.B.2. Work-Related Activity Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2017 [1]

State	Timing of requirement relative to benefit receipt	Allowable activities listed [2]	Minimum hour requirement (weekly unless noted)	Limit on education hours that count toward work hour requirement [3]
Michigan [19]	Upon application	Basic or remedial education, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, child care provision for others, community service	30 [4]	10
Minnesota	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job development and placement, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, child care provision for others, counseling, life skills training, community service	130 hours per month	No limit
Mississippi [19]	Within 24 months of receiving assistance	Basic or remedial education, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, child care provision for others, life skills training, community service	40	No limit
Missouri	Within 24 months of receiving assistance [32]	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job development and placement, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, counseling	30 [4]	No limit

Table III.B.2. Work-Related Activity Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2017 [1]

State	Timing of requirement relative to benefit receipt	Allowable activities listed [2]	Minimum hour requirement (weekly unless noted)	Limit on education hours that count toward work hour requirement [3]
Montana				
All, except PAS	Upon application [33]	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job development and placement, job search, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, community service	33 [34]	10 [35]
PAS	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, postsecondary education	12 school credit hours per semester [36]	No limit
Nebraska				
Time-limited assistance	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, counseling, life skills training, community service, substance abuse treatment	30 [4]	10 [21]
Non-time-limited assistance	Immediately	Job skills training, job readiness activities, life skills training	30	n.a.
Nevada	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, child care provision for others, counseling, life skills training, community service	30 [4]	10 [21]

Table III.B.2. Work-Related Activity Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2017 [1]

State	Timing of requirement relative to benefit receipt	Allowable activities listed [2]	Minimum hour requirement (weekly unless noted)	Limit on education hours that count toward work hour requirement [3]
New Hampshire				
NHEP	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, child care provision for others, counseling, life skills training	30 [37]	10 [38]
FAP [28]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
New Jersey	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, child care provision for others, counseling, life skills training, community service, substance abuse treatment [39]	35	No limit
New Mexico				
NMW	Within 3 months of receiving assistance	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, child care provision for others, counseling, life skills training [40]	34 [41]	14
EWP	Within 2 months after application	English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, community service	20	No limit

Table III.B.2. Work-Related Activity Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2017 [1]				
State	Timing of requirement relative to benefit receipt	Allowable activities listed [2]	Minimum hour requirement (weekly unless noted)	Limit on education hours that count toward work hour requirement [3]
New York [19]	Upon application [42]	English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, child care provision for others, community service	30 [43]	10
North Carolina	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, counseling, life skills training, community service, substance abuse treatment	30 [4]	No limit [44]
North Dakota	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job development and placement, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, child care provision for others, counseling, community service	30 [4]	No limit
Ohio	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, child care provision for others, counseling, life skills training, community service, substance abuse treatment	30	10
Oklahoma	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, counseling, community service	30	No limit

Table III.B.2. Work-Related Activity Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2017 [1]

State	Timing of requirement relative to benefit receipt	Allowable activities listed [2]	Minimum hour requirement (weekly unless noted)	Limit on education hours that count toward work hour requirement [3]
Oregon				
All, except JOBS Plus	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, counseling, life skills training	Case-by-case	No limit
JOBS Plus [45]	n.a.	Job search, on-the-job training, work supplement/subsidized job	Case-by-case	n.a.
Pennsylvania	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, child care provision for others, counseling, community service, substance abuse treatment	30 [4]	10 [46]
Rhode Island	Upon application	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, child care provision for others, counseling, life skills training, community service, substance abuse treatment	30 [4]	10 [47]
South Carolina				
All, except CARES	Immediately	Job readiness activities, job search, life skills training [48]	30 [4]	n.a.
CARES	Immediately	Postsecondary education, job readiness activities, on-the-job training, counseling, life skills training, community service [49]	Case-by-case	No limit

Table III.B.2. Work-Related Activity Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2017 [1]

State	Timing of requirement relative to benefit receipt	Allowable activities listed [2]	Minimum hour requirement (weekly unless noted)	Limit on education hours that count toward work hour requirement [3]
South Dakota [19]	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, child care provision for others, counseling, community service, substance abuse treatment	30 [4]	10
Tennessee	Upon signing agreement	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, counseling, life skills training, community service, substance abuse treatment	30	10 [21]
Texas	Upon signing agreement	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, community service	30 [4]	10 [50]
Utah	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, counseling, life skills training, community service, substance abuse treatment	30 [4]	10 [51]
Vermont	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, child care provision for others, life skills training, community service	30 [52]	10 [53]

Table III.B.2. Work-Related Activity Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2017 [1]

State	Timing of requirement relative to benefit receipt	Allowable activities listed [2]	Minimum hour requirement (weekly unless noted)	Limit on education hours that count toward work hour requirement [3]
Virginia				
All, except VIEW [28]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
VIEW	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, counseling, community service, substance abuse treatment	35 [54]	15
Washington	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job development and placement, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, counseling, life skills training, community service	32 [4]	No limit
West Virginia	Immediately	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment, child care provision for others, counseling, life skills training, community service, substance abuse treatment	30 [4]	10 [25]

Table III.B.2. Work-Related Activity Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2017 [1]				
State	Timing of requirement relative to benefit receipt	Allowable activities listed [2]	Minimum hour requirement (weekly unless noted)	Limit on education hours that count toward work hour requirement [3]
Wisconsin				
W-2T	After assessment	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job development and placement, on-the-job training, counseling, life skills training, community service, substance abuse treatment	Case-by-case	12
CSJ	After assessment	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, life skills training, community service	Case-by-case	10
TEMP [10]	After assessment	Basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, job skills training, on-the-job training, work supplement/subsidized job	25 [55]	No limit
UE	After assessment	Unsubsidized employment [56]	No minimum [57]	n.a.
Wyoming	Immediately	High school/GED, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, on-the-job training, unsubsidized employment, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience programs, self-employment	30 [4]	10

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

[1] This table covers work-related activity requirements for recipients, while table I.A.2 covers mandatory job search requirements for diversion programs at application. The table contains the activity requirements for single-parent recipients 20 years old or older with children at least 6 years of age, in cases when the parents are not exempt from work-related activity requirements. (See table III.B.1 for work-related activity exemptions.)

[2] Possible activities include the following: (a) Job-related activities include job skills training, job readiness activities, and job search; (b) Education and training (E&T) activities include basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education (including vocational training), and on-the-job training; (c) Employment activities include unsubsidized job, work supplement/subsidized job, work experience program (CWEP and/or AWEP), self-employment, and community service; (d) Other allowable activities include child care provision for others, counseling, life skills training, and substance abuse treatment. (Some states may accept the TASC in addition to or in place of the GED.)

[3] If education is not an approved activity, "n.a." is shown. Policies regarding training activities are not captured here; see the Welfare Rules Database for more information on training policies.

[4] Recipients with children under 6 years old are only required to work 20 hours.

[5] In cases where the caseworker determines that educational activities are necessary for a recipient to overcome barriers to employment, the limit on the number of hours that may be spent in education may be waived.

[6] The list of potential activities includes all those allowed by the state. Counties choose whether to include all of the potential activities or a subset. All other activities requirements policies are statewide.

[7] California allows clients to spend a total of 36 months in an education and training activity with no hourly limit; 24 months while on the Welfare-to-Work 24-Month Time Clock, and an additional 12 months aligned with federal requirements. After 36 months education can only be counted as a non-core activity.

[8] Counties have the option to vary their activity requirements. These policies refer to Denver County.

[9] Recipients with children under 6 years old are only required to work 20 hours. Single parents under age 20 are also only required to work 20 hours.

[10] This applies to non-exempt recipients who are unemployed.

[11] Participation in required activities is required for two weeks prior to receipt of benefits.

[12] Those who opt into the employment and training program defined by Senate Bill 101-1999 do not have a limit on their education hours as long as they are also participating in work or a work-related activity.

[13] Recipients in the transitional work program must develop an individualized transitional work plan with their case manager and comply with the activities requirements and deadlines established in the plan.

[14] While TWP participants do not have to participate in activities for a specific number of hours per week, they are expected to adhere to their employability plan, which may include a minimum hour requirement.

[15] TWP participants do not have to participate in educational activities or meet a minimum hour requirement. However, their employability plan may include an activity requirement and a limitation on the number of education hours that count toward the requirement.

[16] Recipients who are able to work 40 hours per week are required to do so. Recipients with children under 6 years old are only required to work 20 hours.

[17] Recipients with children under the age of 12 weeks are only required to participate in life skills training.

[18] Single parents who have children older than 12 weeks but younger than 6 months are only required to work 20 hours per month.

[19] The state distinguishes between those with and without a high school diploma or GED. The requirements shown here are for TANF recipients who have obtained at least a high school diploma or GED.

[20] This applies to post-secondary education only.

[21] There is no limit on post-secondary education.

[22] Participation must be either equivalent to the level of commitment required for full-time employment or deemed significant enough to move the recipient toward full-time employment. Recipients with children under 6 years old are only required to work 20 hours.

[23] Single parents with children under age 6 are required to work a minimum of 20 hours per week.

[24] Post-secondary education may be included if applicable, but does not count towards the required hours.

[25] The number of hours that may be spent in education and training is not capped for parents of children under 6 years old.

[26] The state requires recipients to work 40 hours, but recipients caring for a child age 6 or older are not sanctioned if working at least 30 hours, and recipients caring for a child under 6 years old are not sanctioned if working at least 20 hours.

[27] Educational activities hours are counted after 24 hours are met with core activities.

[28] Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities.

[29] Non-exempt adults are expected to use this 60-day period for job search prior to the imposition of work program requirements.

[30] Recipients with children under 6 years old are only required to work 20 hours. Recipients with children under two years old are placed in the exempt component and do not have work requirements.

[31] An education or training activity cannot exceed 24 months.

[32] The requirement is imposed at 24 months or until the state determines the recipient is work ready, whichever is sooner.

[33] The unit may request for work-related activity requirements to begin on the first day of the month following the month of application.

[34] Recipients with children under 6 years old are only required to work 27 hours.

[35] The number of hours that may be spent in education and training is capped at two hours for parents of children under 6 years old.

[36] Recipients in this component must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours per semester and up to a maximum of 30 credit hours per year.

[37] A recipient with a child under 6 years old is required to work 20 hours but may be required to work more if he or she is participating in unsubsidized employment, AWEP, or CWEP, does not face substantial barriers, and is meeting participation requirements.

[38] Individuals may count postsecondary education as core activities for 12 months with no limit on the hours per week. After 12 months as a core activity, there is a 10-hour limit. Certain types of basic or remedial education and English as a Second Language (ESL) can count towards the first 20 hours.

[39] Life skills training refers to the TANF Initiative for Parents (TIP), which offers parenting skills assistance to mothers of children under 12 months of age.

[40] Education Works program activities are focused on education and training; however, with program approval, participants may also take part in any other activity relevant to their education and pursuant to the New Mexico Works Cash Assistance Program.

[41] Recipients with children under 6 years old are only required to work 24 hours.

[42] The social services official shall ensure that each parent or caretaker of a dependent child is engaged in work as soon as practicable, but no later than 24 months (whether or not consecutive) from initial receipt of assistance.

[43] Recipients can be assigned to work activities for up to 40 hours per week, unless otherwise limited.

[44] Postsecondary education only counts toward non-core hours.

[45] All recipients in JOBS Plus are working for an employer, receiving actual wages reimbursed by the state.

[46] There is no limit on high school or GED.

[47] Individuals with reading test scores below third grade level or below sixth grade level, if the individual has very limited or no prior work experience, and individuals with very limited English language skills, may participate in educational activities for 30 hours per week minimum as part of an intensive work readiness program. There is no limit on post-secondary education.

[48] Post-secondary education is an allowable activity for those who are not considered job-ready.

[49] Recipients experiencing disabilities that prevent full-time participation, but who are able to participate in limited work and training activities, may participate in any cash assistance work program activities for which they qualify even though special accommodations may be needed. The participant's disability must prevent full participation in these cash assistance work activities for 90 days or longer.

[50] Recipients with children under 6 years old must spend all required hours in non-education-related activities.

[51] There is no limit on post-secondary education for one year. Recipients with children under 6 years old must spend all required hours in non-education-related activities.

[52] Recipients with children under 6 years old are only required to work 20 hours. A participant at least 20 years old who is engaged in at least 25 hours per week of learning activities to obtain a diploma or GED, and who is making satisfactory progress, does not have to engage in other work-related activities for a period of up to six months. This is considered a deferment of work requirements.

[53] This does not apply to students who qualify for the education deferment.

[54] These hours refer to a unit's collective hour requirement if no one in the unit is employed full time. Recipients employed full time are required to work 30 hours.

[55] Custodial parents in TEMP placement have a 25 hour minimum requirement. Noncustodial parents in TEMP are not subject to a minimum requirement.

[56] The allowable activity listed is for those in the CMU placement within the Unsubsidized Employment component. Those in the Case Management Job Ready (CMJ) placement may participate through basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, job skills training, job readiness activities, job search, life skills, while those in the Case Management Follow-up (CMF) may participate through basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, and unsubsidized employment.

[57] Those in the CMU and CMF placements within the Unsubsidized Employment component do not have a weekly minimum hour requirement. Those in the CMJ placement have a 30 hour requirement.

Table III.B.3. Sanction Policies for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2017 [1]				
	Initial sanction		Most severe sanction	
State	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)
Alabama	50% [2]	Until compliance or 3 months, whichever comes first [2]	Entire benefit	12 months
Alaska	40%	Until compliance or 4 months	Case is closed [3]	Must reapply
Arizona	25%	1 month	Entire benefit	Until compliance or 1 month, whichever is longer
Arkansas	Entire benefit	1 month	Case is closed	Until in compliance for 2 weeks and must reapply
California	Adult portion of benefit [4]	Until compliance	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance
Colorado [5]	25%	1 month	Entire benefit	Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer
Connecticut	25%	3 months	Case is closed	3 months and must reapply
Delaware				
All, except TWP	Case is closed	Until compliance [6]	Case is closed	Until compliance
TWP	$50 per month	Until compliance	Case is closed	Until compliance
D.C.	20%	Until in compliance for 4 weeks	Entire benefit	Until in compliance for 4 weeks
Florida	Entire benefit	Until compliance or 10 days, whichever is longer	Entire benefit [7]	Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer
Georgia	25%	3 months	Case is closed	12 months
Hawaii	Entire benefit	Until compliance	Entire benefit	Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer
Idaho	Entire benefit	Until compliance or 1 month, whichever is longer	Case is closed	Permanent
Illinois	50%	Until compliance or 3 months, whichever comes first	Case is closed	Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer and must reapply
Indiana	Case is closed	Until compliance or 1 month, whichever is longer	Case is closed	Permanent

Table III.B.3. Sanction Policies for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2017 [1]

State	Initial sanction: Reduction in benefit	Initial sanction: Length of sanction (months)	Most severe sanction: Reduction in benefit	Most severe sanction: Length of sanction (months)
Iowa	Entire benefit	Until compliance [8]	Case is closed	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer and must reapply [9]
Kansas	Entire benefit	Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer	Case is closed	10 years and must reapply
Kentucky	Pro rata portion of the benefit	Until in compliance for 15 days	Entire benefit	Until compliance
Louisiana	Case is closed	Until compliance or 1 month, whichever is longer	Case is closed	Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer
Maine	Adult portion of benefit [10]	Until compliance or 3 months, whichever comes first	Entire benefit	Until compliance
Maryland	Entire benefit	Until compliance	Entire benefit	Until in compliance for 1 month
Massachusetts				
Exempt [11]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Non-exempt [12]	None [13]	n.a. [13]	Entire benefit	Until in compliance for 2 weeks
Michigan	Case is closed	3 months	Case is closed	Permanent
Minnesota	10%	Until compliance or 1 month, whichever is longer	Case is closed	Until compliance or 1 month, whichever is longer
Mississippi	Entire benefit	Until compliance or 2 months, whichever is longer	Case is closed	Permanent
Missouri	50%	10 weeks or until in compliance for 4 consecutive weeks, whichever is shorter [14]	Case is closed	Until in compliance for 1 week and must reapply
Montana				
All, except PAS	Adult portion of benefit	1 month	Case is closed	6 months and must reapply
PAS	Adult portion of benefit	1 month	Case is closed [15]	6 months and must reapply
Nebraska	Entire benefit	Until compliance or 1 month, whichever is longer	Entire benefit	Until compliance or 12 months, whichever is longer

Table III.B.3. Sanction Policies for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2017 [1]

State	Initial sanction		Most severe sanction	
	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)
Nevada	Case is closed	Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer and must reapply	Case is closed	Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer and must reapply
New Hampshire				
NHEP	Adult portion of benefit [16]	Until in compliance for 2 weeks or 1 month, whichever is longer	Case is closed [17]	Until in compliance for 2 weeks
FAP [11]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
New Jersey	Pro rata portion of the benefit	1 month	Case is closed	1 month and must reapply
New Mexico				
NMW	25%	Until compliance or 1 month, whichever is longer	Case is closed	6 months and must reapply
EWP	None [18]	n.a.	Case is closed [19]	Until compliance
New York	Pro rata portion of the benefit [20]	Until compliance	Pro rata portion of the benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer [21]
North Carolina	Case is closed	Must reapply	Case is closed	3 months and must reapply
North Dakota	Adult portion of benefit [22]	1 month	Case is closed	1 month
Ohio	Entire benefit	Until compliance or 1 month, whichever is longer	Entire benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer
Oklahoma	Entire benefit	Until compliance	Entire benefit	Until compliance
Oregon	25%	1 month	Case is closed	Until compliance or 2 months, whichever is shorter, and must reapply
Pennsylvania	Adult portion of benefit	1 month and until in compliance for 1 week [23]	Entire benefit	Permanent
Rhode Island	Adult portion of benefit [24]	3 months or until in compliance for 2 consecutive weeks, whichever is shorter	Case is closed [25]	Must reapply

Table III.B.3. Sanction Policies for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2017 [1]

State	Initial sanction: Reduction in benefit	Initial sanction: Length of sanction (months)	Most severe sanction: Reduction in benefit	Most severe sanction: Length of sanction (months)
South Carolina				
All, except CARES	Case is closed	Until in compliance for 1 month	Case is closed	Until in compliance for 1 month
CARES [11]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
South Dakota	None [13]	n.a. [13]	Case is closed	Until compliance or 1 month, whichever is longer and must reapply
Tennessee	Entire benefit	1 month	Entire benefit	12 months
Texas	Entire benefit	Until compliance or 1 month, whichever is longer	Case is closed	Until compliance or 2 months, whichever is longer and must reapply
Utah	Case is closed	1 month	Case is closed	1 month and must reapply [26]
Vermont	$75	Until in compliance for 2 weeks	$150	Until in compliance for 2 weeks
Virginia				
All, except VIEW [11]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
VIEW	Entire benefit	Until compliance or 1 month, whichever is longer	Entire benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer
Washington	Adult portion of benefit or 40%, whichever is greater	Until in compliance for 4 weeks [27]	Case is closed	Permanent
West Virginia	Entire benefit	1 month	Entire benefit	Until compliance or 12 months, whichever is longer
Wisconsin				
W-2T and CSJ	$5 multiplied by the hours of nonparticipation	Until compliance	Case is closed	Until compliance
TEMP	Adult portion of benefit [28]	Until compliance [28]	Case is closed [29]	Permanent [29]
UE [11]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Wyoming	Entire benefit	Until compliance	Entire benefit	Until compliance

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

[1] "Adult portion of benefit" describes the portion of the benefit the sanctioned individual would have received. Because the table only represents sanctions for single-parent units, in all cases the sanctioned individual is an adult. In some cases, recipients in certain component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they have no sanctions. See appendix 1 for more information about components.

[2] This sanction applies to noncompliance that occurs during the first 24 months of assistance. For noncompliance that occurs after the first 24 months, the entire unit is ineligible for benefits for one month.

[3] Case closure follows eight months of non-compliance.

[4] The needs of the sanctioned individual are not included for benefit calculation; however, the individual's income (after standard disregards) and assets are still included for eligibility and benefit calculation purposes. The individual is sanctioned until compliance. If the head is sanctioned, the benefit is issued to a protective payee. In a two-parent unit, the second parent will also lose his or her benefits unless he or she participates in activities requirements or is exempt from participation.

[5] Counties have the option to determine the amount and duration of sanctions. These policies refer to Denver County.

[6] The assistance unit must engage in four consecutive weeks of employment and training activities before full family sanctions are cured.

[7] Assistance may still be provided to children under age 16 in the unit; these benefits are issued to a protective payee (after the second and subsequent sanction).

[8] A new application for TANF assistance may be required to reinstate eligibility.

[9] The sanctioned parent must sign a new family investment agreement and complete 20 hours of eligible education or work activities to become eligible again.

[10] Benefits to the sanctioned individual are terminated; however, the sanctioned parent's income (after disregards listed below) and assets are still included for eligibility and benefit calculation purposes. If the head is sanctioned, the benefit is issued to a protective payee. Disregards include an amount equal to the standard of need for support of non-categorically eligible dependents living in the household with the sanctioned parent, alimony and child support payments to persons outside the household, and payments to dependents of the sanctioned parent who live outside the household. If the unit head is sanctioned, the benefit is issued to a third-party payee. In determining benefit payment, only the income and assets of sanctioned parents are considered. Only the sanctioned stepparent's income (not assets) is considered. The income and assets of sanctioned individuals who are not parents or stepparents is excluded.

[11] Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they are not subject to sanctions.

[12] An individual who demonstrates good cause will not be sanctioned for noncompliance with work requirements.

[13] The initial sanction does not reduce benefits. Recipients are given a written warning detailing the consequences of subsequent failures to comply.

[14] The unit is sanctioned for 10 weeks. The sanction ends when the participant completes four consecutive weeks of participation in work activities for an average of 30 hours per week in the 10 week period.

[15] The participant loses eligibility for the PAS program and the household loses benefits for up to six months.

[16] If the adult is compliant within two weeks, only the adult portion of the benefit is removed (this is referred to as the adjusted payment standard). If the adult is compliant within two to four weeks, the adjusted payment standard is reduced by one-third; if the adult is compliant within five to eight weeks, the adjusted payment standard is reduced by two-thirds. In addition, the case may also be closed if the adult is sanctioned for more than three months in any 12-month period (any portion of a month counts as one month).

[17] If a unit accrues three months of sanctions in any 12-month period, the case may be closed. Any portion of a month counts as one full month.

[18] The individual is placed on probationary status for the following school term to improve his or her grade point average or meet the educational institution's standards.

[19] If the participant is not complying with child support enforcement, school attendance, or reporting requirements in the New Mexico Works Program, the individual's Education Work Program case is closed and the individual is transitioned back to the New Mexico Works Program. If noncompliance stems from not meeting the educational institution's standards or having a GPA for the semester below 2.0, the program participant is placed on probation. If standards have not been met or an overall GPA of 2.0 has not been achieved by the end of the probationary period, the department may take action to terminate an individual's participation in the Education Works Program and transition the individual back to the New Mexico Works Program.

[20] The assistance unit's benefit is reduced pro rata by the sanctioned individual's share; however, the individual's income (after standard disregards) and assets are still included for eligibility and benefit calculation purposes.

[21] This policy applies to individuals who do not reside in a city with a population of one million or more individuals. For individuals who reside in a city of one million or more, the length of the sanction is until compliance with employment requirements, as assigned by the local district.

[22] The needs of the individual are not included for benefit calculation; however, the individual's income (after standard disregards) and assets are still included for eligibility and benefit calculation purposes. A sanction penalty runs from the effective date of the sanction through the last day of that month.

[23] The sanction applies for a minimum of 30 days and until the adult demonstrates and maintains compliance for one week. After 90 days, all cash benefits are closed until compliance is maintained for one week.

[24] In a two-person unit, the adult portion is equal to the difference between the benefit a family of three would have received and the benefit the two-person family actually received. For all other family sizes, the adult portion is computed normally, using the difference between the family's current monthly benefit and the monthly benefit for a family size excluding the sanctioned adult. Benefits are restored on the first of the month following the month in which the unit came into compliance. If no work activity was previously assigned, the sanction ends on the day that the recipient agrees to participate.

[25] If a person is penalized and then becomes exempt, the benefits will be restored in the first full month following the month in which the state received documentation of the exemption.

[26] The unit must also complete a two-week trial participation period before it is eligible to receive benefits again.

[27] The sanction remains in effect until the individual is compliant for four weeks; after four weeks of compliance, benefits are restored to their pre-sanction level.

[28] Recipients in the Trial Employment Match Program component are not subject to hourly reductions because they are paid wages directly by the employer. The initial sanction for an unplanned and unexcused absence by a recipient is a decrease in wages as determined by their employer.

[29] Recipients in the Trial Employment Match Program component are not subject to hourly reductions because they are paid wages directly by the employer. The TEMP employer and participant work together to allow for planned and excused absences. However, unplanned and unexcused absences by the participant will be reflected by a decrease in wages as determined by the employer. If unplanned and unexcused absences continue, the recipient will be ineligible for benefits in the TEMP program for life but may be eligible to receive benefits in another component.

Table III.B.4. Work-Related Activity Requirements for Parents Outside the Unit and Nonparent Caretakers, July 2017

State	Individuals who are ***not*** in the assistance unit [1]			
	Parents outside the assistance unit due to immigrant/citizenship status	Parents not counted in the unit due to time limit [2]	Nonparent caretakers who are not in the assistance unit [3]	Nonparent caretakers who are in the assistance unit [4]
Alabama	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	n.a.
Alaska	Optional	n.a.	No requirements	Required
Arizona	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	Required
Arkansas	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	Required
California	No requirements	No requirements	No requirements	Required
Colorado	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	Required
Connecticut	Required	n.a.	No requirements	Required
Delaware	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	Required
D.C.	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	Required
Florida	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	Required
Georgia	No requirements	n.a.	Required	Required
Hawaii	Required	n.a.	No requirements	Required
Idaho	Required	n.a.	No requirements	Required
Illinois	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	Required
Indiana	No requirements	Required [5]	No requirements	Required
Iowa	Required [6]	n.a.	No requirements	Required
Kansas	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	Required
Kentucky	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	Required
Louisiana	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	Required
Maine	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	Required
Maryland	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	Required [7]
Massachusetts	Required	n.a.	No requirements	Required
Michigan	Optional	n.a.	No requirements	Required
Minnesota	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	Required
Mississippi	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	Required
Missouri	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	Required
Montana	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	Required
Nebraska	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	Required
Nevada	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	Required
New Hampshire	Required	n.a.	No requirements	Required
New Jersey	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	Required
New Mexico	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	Required
New York	Required [8]	n.a.	Optional	Required [9]
North Carolina	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	n.a.
North Dakota	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	Required
Ohio	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	Required
Oklahoma	No requirements	n.a.	Optional	Required
Oregon	Required [10]	Required	No requirements	Required
Pennsylvania	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	Required

Table III.B.4. Work-Related Activity Requirements for Parents Outside the Unit and Nonparent Caretakers, July 2017

State	Individuals who are ***not*** in the assistance unit [1]: Parents outside the assistance unit due to immigrant/citizenship status	Parents not counted in the unit due to time limit [2]	Nonparent caretakers who are not in the assistance unit [3]	Nonparent caretakers who are in the assistance unit [4]
Rhode Island	Required	n.a.	n.a.	Required
South Carolina	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	Required
South Dakota	Required	n.a.	No requirements	n.a.
Tennessee	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	Required
Texas	No requirements	Optional	No requirements	Required
Utah	Required	n.a.	No requirements	Required
Vermont	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	Required
Virginia	Required	n.a.	No requirements	Required
Washington	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	Required
West Virginia	Optional	n.a.	No requirements	Required
Wisconsin	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	n.a.
Wyoming	No requirements	n.a.	No requirements	Required

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

[1] A coding of "n.a." implies that the described case is not applicable in a given state. For example, if a state's policy is to always include nonparent caretakers in the assistance unit, the corresponding column would be coded "n.a." because it refers to cases where the nonparent caretaker is excluded from the unit, which cannot exist in that state. An entry of "optional" means that the state's policies explicitly allow members of a group to volunteer to participate in work activities, although their participation is not required.

[2] This column is only relevant in those states that, under some circumstances, exclude a parent from an assistance unit after a time limit is reached but continue to pay benefits to the children.

[3] This column refers to those non-parent caretakers who are either prohibited from being included due to their status as a non-parent or because their non-parent status gives them an option of choosing to not be a part of the unit.

[4] An n.a. in this column means the state never allows non-parent caretakers to be a part of the assistance unit.

[5] Parents who are excluded from the unit due to meeting the time limit under the IMPACT program, Indiana's employment and training program, must continue to cooperate with the work requirements and meet all other eligibility criteria in order for the assistance unit to continue receiving benefits.

[6] Nonqualified aliens are not subject to work-related activity requirements.

[7] Nonparent caretakers are only required to participate if they have children of their own in the unit.

[8] A nonexempt parent residing in the same household as a child receiving assistance and who is receiving non-federal assistance may be required to participate in work activities up to 40 hours per week, unless otherwise limited.

[9] A nonexempt individual receiving assistance may be required to participate in work activities up to 40 hours per week, unless otherwise limited.

[10] Immigrant parents who are ineligible for TANF but are authorized to work in the U.S. are required to participate in work activities.

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 2017. After a family applies for assistance and passes all eligibility tests, its members become recipients and a benefit is calculated. However, the recipients still face eligibility requirements that affect their ability to continue receiving benefits. States may impose income and asset tests on recipients, which generally differ from the initial eligibility tests for applicants. Having an additional child may or may not affect eligibility limits and benefits. States also impose time limits, which reduce or eliminate benefits to recipients based on their accumulated total months of benefit receipt. Additionally, states may provide some "transitional" cash benefit to families who are leaving TANF. The following four sections describe the requirements that affect ongoing eligibility and transitional assistance.

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

Like applicants, recipients must pass both nonfinancial and financial tests to remain eligible for assistance each month. The nonfinancial rules generally do not vary for applicants and recipients; however, for some rules, such as two-parent eligibility, they may. Unlike nonfinancial rules, the financial rules often differ for applicants and recipients. The following provides more information on two-parent hours tests, treatment of child support income, asset tests, income eligibility tests, and earned income disregards for recipient units, as well as the maximum amount a recipient can earn and remain eligible.

Eligibility Rules for Two-Parent, Nondisabled Recipient Units (Table IV.A.1)

In addition to the standard eligibility tests that all recipient units must pass, some states impose "hours tests" on two-parent units. Under an hours test, the unit is not eligible if the principal wage earner is working more than a specified number of hours per month. States may apply this rule when determining the initial or continuing eligibility of two-parent families. For states providing benefits to two-parent families, table IV.A.1 describes the hours test imposed on two-parent recipients where neither parent is disabled (“unemployed-parent” families, in the former AFDC program).[38] Policies for 2017 include:

- Forty-five states have no limit on hours worked per month for two-parent, nondisabled recipient units.
- In the three states that do limit the hours worked in a month, the limit is 100 hours in Mississippi and South Dakota, and 130 hours in Maine.

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 for selected years from 1996 through 2017.

Treatment of Child Support Income for Recipients (Table IV.A.2)

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 counted for eligibility determination; what portion, if any, is transferred to the family as unearned income; and how much of the portion transferred to the family is counted as income in determining the benefit.[39] Table IV.A.2 describes each state’s treatment of child support income for recipients.

The first column of the table displays the amount of collected child support counted for recipients’ eligibility determination (regardless of whether any is transferred to the family). Those states that do *not* count child support collections for determining recipients’ eligibility typically establish some method to ensure that families with high and continuing child support amounts do not remain on TANF indefinitely. The second column of the table shows what portion of the collected child support is transferred to the family as unearned income, and the third column indicates how much of that transferred amount is disregarded for benefit computation. The traditional $50 “pass-through” that was allowed under AFDC would be represented in this table with a “$50” coded in both the second and third columns; $50 is transferred to the unit as unearned income, and, of that amount, all $50 is disregarded for benefit computation.

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

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

Key policies in place as of July 2017 include:

- Twenty-seven states consider at least a portion of the child support income collected by the state for purposes of a recipient's eligibility.
- Twenty-seven states do not transfer any portion of the child support collected to the family.

Asset Limits for Recipients and Related Assets Policies (Table IV.A.3)

States determine the maximum amount of assets—including vehicles and restricted assets—a family may hold and still remain eligible for benefits. Table IV.A.3 describes each state's asset tests for recipients. The first column of the table provides the limit on the value of unrestricted assets a family may hold and still be eligible for assistance. Unrestricted assets include the cash value of any asset the state counts toward the limit, regardless of the asset's purpose. Limits may vary for determining initial eligibility versus continuing eligibility.

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

The last three columns describe programs that allow families to save money in a special account, often with no fees, sometimes with their savings matched with funds from the government or other entity (referred to as the match rate in the tables), and with some requirements placed on the uses of the funds. These programs may be available to non-TANF as well as TANF families, but even those not explicitly connected with the TANF program are shown in the table to provide a more complete picture of asset-related policies affecting TANF families. In states that limit the countable assets that families may have and still be eligible for TANF, the funds in an account of this type are not counted against the asset limit. For example, a unit may be allowed to save money toward educational expenses or the purchase of a home without that money counting toward its overall asset limit. Some, but not all, restricted accounts are federally defined individual development accounts (IDAs). In the table, accounts that states specify as IDAs are distinguished from other restricted accounts.

Key policies from 2017 include:

- All but eight states have asset limits for recipients. For the states that do have asset limits for recipients, the limit ranges from $1,000 in Georgia, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Texas to $10,000 in Delaware, Minnesota, and Oregon.
- Forty-one states offer some type of restricted asset account.

Related tables: See tables L8 and L9 for information on asset rules in effect in selected years from 1996 through 2017. See table I.C.1 for the asset tests applied at application.

Income Eligibility Tests for Recipients (Table IV.A.4)

Table IV.A.4 describes income eligibility tests that states impose to determine whether a recipient (whose income might have increased since initial eligibility) is eligible to continue receiving benefits. The table indicates which state income standard is used for each test. Even if a family passes all eligibility tests, it is possible in some states that the family will not qualify for a positive benefit under the state's benefit computation formula. In those cases, the family will not receive a benefit. In some cases, states have streamlined their eligibility policies and do not perform any income tests other than the implicit test imposed by benefit computation. In these states, the table indicates "no explicit tests." Key policies for 2017 include:

- Twenty-nine states have an explicit net income, gross income, or gross earnings test for recipients.
- Ten states require recipients to pass two or more income eligibility tests.
- Twenty-two states have no explicit income eligibility tests for recipients.

Related tables: To determine the value of the particular standard for a family size of three, see table I.E.3. Tables I.D.1, I.D.2, and I.D.4 describe policies concerning the deeming of income from grandparents, stepparents, and immigrant parents, and table IV.A.2 shows the extent to which child support collections are counted in determining gross income for income eligibility tests. Table IV.A.5 describes the earned income disregards used for the net income tests listed in IV.A.4. The tables in sections I.B, I.D, and II.A are also relevant to ongoing eligibility. In most states, recipients are required to pass both nonfinancial and financial tests to continue receiving benefits.

Earned Income Disregards for Continuing Income Eligibility Purposes (Table IV.A.5)

Table IV.A.5 describes the earned income disregards associated with the net income tests in table IV.A.4, which may differ from the amount of earnings disregarded for purposes of initial eligibility or from the amount of earnings disregarded for benefit computation. Some states consider units who have received assistance in one of the previous four months as recipients for the purpose of earned income disregards, even if they stopped receiving assistance and are reapplying for benefits. Policies for 2017 include:

- Twelve states use earned income disregards for recipient eligibility purposes.
- The remaining states do not use an earned income disregard because they do not have an explicit net income test.

Related tables: Table I.E.2 contains the earned income disregards that apply to new TANF applicants for the purpose of determining their initial eligibility, and table II.A.1 gives the earned income disregards for benefit computation.

Maximum Income for Ongoing Eligibility for a Family of Three (Table IV.A.6)

Table IV.A.6 synthesizes the various financial rules related to ongoing eligibility to provide information on the maximum amount of income a family of three can earn and remain eligible for assistance in various months (2, 7, 13, and 25) of combining work and welfare. This calculation incorporates information on the income eligibility rules for recipients, earned income disregards for ongoing eligibility and benefit computation, benefit computation policies, and the eligibility and payment standards. The calculation determines the maximum amount of earnings a three-person family can have and still be technically eligible for assistance in each state, in each month. Technical eligibility does not mean the unit will necessarily receive a cash benefit—most states only distribute a cash benefit if it is over $10—but the unit will have passed all eligibility tests and be eligible for some positive amount.

The calculation assumes the assistance unit includes one parent and two children, has only earned income, has no child care expenses, contains no children subject to a family cap, has no special needs, pays for all shelter costs with no subsidies, and is subject to the benefit standard that applies to the majority of the state's caseload. Policy highlights for 2017 include:

- The maximum earnings a recipient can have and remain eligible for assistance in month two ranges from $565 in West Virginia to $2,528 in Alaska. Four states have no maximum in the second month.

- In 14 states, the maximum earnings is lower at the 25-month point (the latest month shown in the table) compared with maximum possible earnings in the 2^{nd} month.

Related tables: Table I.E.4 provides information on the amount of earnings an *applicant* may have and become eligible for assistance. Table L3 provides the maximum income for initial (applicant) eligibility for selected years from 1996 through 2017.

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

Benefits to recipients who give birth to a child while receiving aid may or may not be affected by the addition of the child to the assistance unit. A type of policy often referred to as a "family cap" prevents or limits an increase in a family's benefit when another child is born. In the states with this type of policy, the benefit increase an assistance unit would otherwise receive for adding another member to the unit is limited.

Family Cap Policies (Table IV.B.1)

Table IV.B.1 describes states' family cap policies. The table first indicates whether the state imposes a family cap, then provides the number of months following the case opening after which a newborn child is excluded from the assistance unit. The table also describes the impact on the benefit when an additional child is born (whether there is no increase in benefit or some increase smaller than what would occur in the absence of a family cap). In some cases, the amount of cash paid directly to the family does not increase, but the increment that would have been paid in the absence of the policy is instead paid to a third party or provided in the form of a voucher. That information is noted in the table as "none (voucher)" and is explained further in the footnotes. States with "none (disregard)" displayed in the table increase the earned income disregards for families that have a capped child; again, more details are provided in the footnotes. The table also indicates how long a cap, once applied, endures. The table indicates "always capped" if a family is never able to regain benefits for a capped child, even after the case has been closed for a period. Otherwise, the table provides the number of months a family must remain off the rolls for the cap to be removed—that is, for the child to be included in the benefit computation should the family apply for assistance again.

Policies for 2017 include:

- Fifteen states have a family cap policy.
- For the states with family cap policies, 12 states do not increase the cash benefit for an additional child born to the unit. Three states do increase the benefit, but at less than the normal increment.
- Ten states will not remove the special treatment of the capped child after the family's case has been closed for a specified number of months. Of the five states that discontinue special treatment after case closure, a family's case must have been closed anywhere between 1 month in Tennessee to 20 months in Massachusetts in order for the state to remove the family cap.

Related tables: See table L10 for information on states' family cap policies in selected years from 1996 through 2017.

C. How long can a family receive benefits?

Since the passage of PRWORA, assistance units that include adults have generally been able to receive no more than 60 months of federally-funded TANF aid. Therefore, most states have limited the number of months an assistance unit that includes adults may receive benefits. (Child-only units are not subject to time limits.)

States impose two basic types of limits on recipients: (1) lifetime limits (either the federal 60-month limit or a shorter state-determined limit), which permanently eliminate the entire benefit, or (2) other intermittent state time limits (periodic time limits, benefit waiting periods, or benefit reduction time limits), which interrupt or reduce benefits for a certain period but do not eliminate them entirely. Both types of time limits may terminate benefits to the entire unit or just the adults in the unit. In addition, while some states impose only the 60-month federal lifetime limits or only other state time limits, other states impose a combination of the two types.

Not all assistance units are subject to time limits. States may continue to provide federally-funded benefits to up to 20 percent of their caseload (referred to as the "hardship exemption") beyond the federal 60-month time limit.[40] Exactly which families are eligible to receive this

[40] Note that federal rules refer to this policy as a hardship "exemption," but the WRD definition would consider this policy an "extension," as it adds additional months of assistance after a family reaches the lifetime limit.

extension of benefits (which adds months of assistance after reaching the federal lifetime limit) varies by state. Families who receive a hardship exemption remain eligible as long as the circumstances that led to their extension continue to exist. In addition, states may use state-only funds to provide various exemptions (which stop the time limit clock from accruing months towards the 60-month lifetime limit) or extensions (which extend assistance beyond 60 months).

Time Limit Policies (Table IV.C.1)

Under TANF, the federal government imposed a maximum 60-month lifetime limit on receipt of TANF funds by families with an adult. Therefore, a family is generally no longer eligible for federal cash assistance if an adult family member has received federally-funded TANF assistance for 60 months, either consecutively or nonconsecutively.[41] Some states have adopted shorter lifetime limits, while others have chosen to fund recipients after the 60 months with state dollars. States may also choose to terminate benefits only for the adults in the unit, in which case all children in the assistance unit remain eligible for benefits after the lifetime limit expires, as a child-only unit.

The first four columns of table IV.C.1 describe states' lifetime limit policies. The first column indicates the total months in which the state allows benefits, and the second, third, and fourth columns identify whose benefits are terminated. Key policies for lifetime time limits in 2017 include:

- Thirty-seven states have a lifetime limit of 60 months.
- In states with time limits, 47 states terminate the benefit for the entire unit once the time limit is reached. Two states (California and Oregon) terminate the benefit for the adult only. Indiana terminates the benefit for the adult only once the benefit reduction time limit is reached and for the entire unit once the lifetime limit is reached. D.C. reduces the entire unit's benefit amount.

States have developed several other time limits that interrupt or reduce benefits. These limits are imposed instead of or in addition to the lifetime limits and include periodic limits and benefit waiting periods. Under a periodic limit, a unit (or the head of the unit) may receive benefits for only a specified number of months in a given period. For example, a state might

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

impose a 12-out-of-24-month periodic limit on the unit, in which the unit is eligible to receive only 12 months of benefits in any 24-month period. Under a benefit waiting period, a unit (or the head of the unit) is ineligible for benefits for a specified number of months after the unit has received benefits for another specified number of months. To use the 12 and 24 example again, a unit may receive 12 months of assistance and is then ineligible for 24 months. This means the unit may receive 12 months of benefits over any period, but after it receives its 12th month of assistance, it will be ineligible for benefits for the next 24 months. Both the periodic limit and the benefit waiting period limit may apply to the entire unit or just the adult head of the unit. The last three columns of table IV.C.1 describe other state time limit policies.[42] The first of the last three columns describes the type of other time limit imposed, and the second and third columns identify whose benefits are terminated. Policies for intermittent time limits in 2017 include:

- Ten states have time limit policies other than lifetime limit policies. Of those 10 states, half impose a periodic time limit and the other half impose a benefit waiting period.
- Nine states terminate the benefit for the entire unit once this non-lifetime time limit is reached and one state (Texas) terminates the benefit for the adult only.

Related tables: Tables IV.C.2(a) and (b) and IV.C.3(a) and (b) describe time limit exemption and extension policies.

Time Limit Exemption and Extension Policies (Tables IV.C.2(a) and (b) and IV.C.3(a) and (b))

Exemption and extension policies are important for understanding time limits in the states. Exemptions and extensions could significantly increase the number of months beyond the state or federal time limit that an assistance unit may receive benefits and, depending on the criteria, could impact a substantial portion of a state's caseload. As defined for the purposes of the WRD, exemptions are policies that stop a recipient's time-limit "clock" before it reaches the 60-month limit, and extensions are policies that prolong a recipient's eligibility once the unit has reached the 60-month time limit.

Tables IV.C.2(a) and (b) and IV.C.3(a) and (b) describe time limit exemption and extension policies, respectively. The exemption and extension policies for both lifetime limits and other limits are displayed in the tables. If the policies vary depending on the type of time limit, the differences in the policies are described in the tables' footnotes. The funding source for

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

benefits received under an exemption or extension may vary between federal and state funds. Families receiving an exemption from the time limit are assumed to be funded with state-only dollars. Families receiving an extension may be funded with federal dollars if they meet the federal “hardship exemption” criteria as described above; however, states may also use their own funding for other extensions. In some cases, a state may use its own funds to provide an exemption or extension in a manner not permitted by federal TANF rules. Any policies in the tables that conflict with federal TANF requirements are assumed to use other funding. Similarly, states that provide extensions for all families after reaching the 60-month federal time limit are assumed to be using non-federal funds. Time limit exemption and extension policies for 2017 include:

- Forty-three states provide time limit exemptions in at least some cases.
- Forty-eight states provide time limit extensions in at least some cases.

Related tables: Table IV.C.1 describes the time limit policies for each state.

D. Can families receive transitional cash assistance?

While some families might lose TANF eligibility after reaching a state or federal time limit, other families might become ineligible due to other circumstances, such as increased earnings. Several states elect to provide a transitional cash benefit to these families.

Transitional Cash Benefits (Table IV.D.1)

Table IV.D.1 describes state policies for providing continued cash benefits to families transitioning off the TANF program, usually due to increased work and earnings. The table captures only those transitional benefits paid as cash. (Some transitional benefits are in the form of increases in supplemental food benefits.) Also, the table only captures benefits provided to families who previously received TANF; it does not capture benefits directed more broadly at working families regardless of prior TANF receipt. The table first describes whether a state provides a transitional cash benefit and the hours of work required for participants to receive it. It also displays the monthly benefit amount and the length of time a family can receive this benefit.

Key policies for 2017 include:

- Twenty-two states provide transitional cash benefits with time limits that range from 1 month in South Dakota and Washington to 24 months in Arkansas, New Jersey, and New York.

Additional details on these rules and information on other transitional benefits—such as transitional child care benefits—can be found in the WRD.

Table IV.A.1. Eligibility Rules for Two-Parent, Nondisabled Recipient Units, July 2017 [1]	
State	Upper limit on monthly work hours [2]
Alabama	No limit
Alaska	No limit
Arizona	No limit
Arkansas	No limit
California	No limit
Colorado	No limit
Connecticut	No limit
Delaware	No limit
D.C.	No limit
Florida	No limit
Georgia	No limit
Hawaii	No limit [3]
Idaho	No limit
Illinois	No limit
Indiana	No limit
Iowa	No limit
Kansas	No limit
Kentucky	No limit
Louisiana	n.a. [4]
Maine	130
Maryland	No limit [5]
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	n.a. [4]
New Jersey	No limit
New Mexico	No limit
New York	No limit
North Carolina	No limit
North Dakota	n.a. [4]
Ohio	No limit
Oklahoma	No limit
Oregon	No limit
Pennsylvania	No limit
Rhode Island	No limit
South Carolina	No limit
South Dakota	100
Tennessee	No limit

Table IV.A.1. Eligibility Rules for Two-Parent, Nondisabled Recipient Units, July 2017 [1]

State	Upper limit on monthly work hours [2]
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: Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF.

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

[2] States with this policy generally allow eligibility for units with two nondisabled parents only if the principal earner in the couple works no more than a certain number of hours per month. However, in most states with this policy, eligibility may still be allowed when hours exceed the maximum, if work hours are usually at or below the maximum. See the full database for details.

[3] Two-parent families not eligible for Federal TANF are funded through a state program with the same eligibility rules as the state's TANF program.

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

[5] All two-parent families are funded through a state program with the same eligibility rules as the state's TANF program; however, no two-parent families are eligible for TANF funding.

Table IV.A.2. Treatment of Child Support Income for Recipients, July 2017 [1]

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

Table IV.A.2. Treatment of Child Support Income for Recipients, July 2017 [1]			
		Portion of child support collection transferred to the family:	
State	Amount of child support collection counted for recipients' eligibility determination [2]	Amount transferred [3]	Amount of transfer disregarded for benefit computation [4]
Rhode Island	n.a., no income eligibility test	$50	$50
South Carolina	All	Amount of unmet need [17]	All
South Dakota	n.a., no income eligibility test	None	n.a.
Tennessee	None	Amount of unmet need [10]	All
Texas	All but $75	None [18]	n.a.
Utah	All	None	n.a.
Vermont	n.a., no income eligibility test	All	$50
Virginia	All but $100	$100	$100
Washington	None	None	n.a.
West Virginia	All but $100/$200 [11]	$100/$200 [11]	$100/$200 [11]
Wisconsin	None	75% of child support collected	All
Wyoming	n.a., no income eligibility test	None	n.a.

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

[1] This table describes the treatment of child support collected by the state on behalf of a TANF recipient; it does not cover the treatment of child support received by the family directly from the absent parent. Child support collections may be counted as income for eligibility purposes regardless of whether they are transferred to the family; however, child support retained by the state is never counted for purposes of benefit computation. Although many states have created unique child support policies, some states still provide families with the traditional $50 transfer used under AFDC. The traditional transfer is represented in this table with "All but $50" in the first column, and "$50" in the second and third columns. This table does not cover the transfer of child support payments in excess of current or total TANF benefits.

[2] Some states with values displayed in this column do not have income eligibility tests for recipients, according to table IV.A.4. In table IV.A.4, we do not display net income tests if the calculation of the test and the disregards allowed for the test do not differ from those used to calculate the benefit. However, for families with child support income, the net income eligibility test may differ from the benefit computation. For purposes of calculating eligibility when the family receives child support income, the net income test for recipients is equivalent to the benefit calculation in the state (see tables II.A.1, II.A.2, and II.A.3). States that do not count any child support collections for calculating recipients' eligibility (shown as "None" in this column) generally use other methods to ensure that families with high and continuing child support amounts do not remain on the rolls indefinitely.

[3] When dollar amounts are shown, the amount of the transfer is the smaller of the amount shown or the amount of child support paid on behalf of the family.

[4] When dollar amounts are shown, the amount of the disregard is the smaller of the amount shown or the amount of child support paid on behalf of the family.

[5] Any child support collected on behalf of a child subject to a family cap is transferred to the family and treated as exempt income.

[6] If the average monthly child support collection over the prior six months exceeds $500, that average is counted in determining a recipient’s ongoing eligibility.

[7] For income eligibility for an extension, all child support income, including the disregard, is counted.

[8] In addition to the $50 transfer payment, Delaware provides a supplemental child support payment, which is calculated by subtracting a recipient's current disposable income from his or her disposable income as it would have been calculated in 1975.

[9] If the amount of child support paid by the noncustodial parent exceeds the monthly benefit by more than $150 for two consecutive months, the TANF case is closed.

[10] The amount of child support collected or the amount of unmet need, whichever is smaller, is transferred to the family as unearned income and disregarded for benefit determination. The unmet need, also called the gap payment, is calculated as the consolidated need standard for the unit's family size minus the maximum benefit for the unit's family size minus the unit's net income. For units affected by the family cap, the amount of unmet need is calculated using the standard of need for the family size that includes the capped child, but using the family maximum that excludes the capped child.

[11] The first amount applies to families with one child and the second amount applies to families with two or more children.

[12] If child support for a child in the assistance unit is paid directly to a recipient for any reason, $50 is disregarded and the remainder is counted as income. However, child support income that is received for a child who is not included in the assistance unit (for example, a child ineligible due to immigrant status, or a stepparent's child from a prior relationship when the stepparent is not included in the assistance unit) is not counted for TANF eligibility or benefits.

[13] After the initial $50 transfer, the state then transfers child support in the amount of the unmet need, also known as the gap payment, to the family as unearned income and disregards the child support for benefit determination. The unmet need is calculated as the consolidated need standard for the unit's family size minus the maximum benefit for the unit's family size minus the unit's net income.

[14] All child support collected on behalf of a child subject to the family cap is transferred to the family. For children subject to the family cap, the first $90 of unearned income, including child support, is disregarded for eligibility and benefit computation; the rest is counted.

[15] The first amount applies to families with one child and the second amount applies to families with two children.

[16] The transferred amount is considered to be an addition to the TANF payment.

[17] The unmet need, also called the gap payment, is calculated as 63.7 percent of the smaller of retained child support for the month or the maximum amount that would not make the family ineligible for TANF if counted as income. The state defines "retained child support" as the amount equal to the smaller of the current month's collection, the basic TANF award for the month, or the current monthly obligation excluding arrears.

[18] The state will add to the TANF payment the smaller of the court-ordered payment amount, the amount the Office of the Attorney General received during that month, or $75. This money is considered an addition to the TANF benefit, not a transfer of child support income, and is disregarded for eligibility purposes.

Table IV.A.3. Asset Limits for Recipients and Related Assets Policies, July 2017 [1]

State	Asset limit [2]	Vehicle exemption [3]	Restricted asset accounts: [4] Amount [5]	Restricted asset accounts: [4] Description	Restricted asset accounts: [4] Matching rate
Alabama	No limit	n.a.	$6,000 [6]	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business [6]	2 to 1 [6]
Alaska	$2,000/ $3,000 [7]	All vehicles owned by household [8]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Arizona	$2,000	All vehicles owned by household	$9,000 [9]	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or job training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	None
Arkansas	$3,000	One vehicle per household [10]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
California	$2,250/ $3,250 [11]	$9,500/one vehicle per licensed driver [E, 12]	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary Education or job training, purchase of a first home, a new business, homelessness prevention; Retirement accounts: IRAs, 401(k) plans, 403(b) plans, 457 plans; Education accounts: 529 college savings plans, Education Savings Accounts	None
Colorado	No limit	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Connecticut	$3,000	$9,500 [E, 13]	No limit	Education accounts: Postsecondary education; Retirement accounts: IRAs, Keogh pension plans, 401(k)s	None
Delaware	$10,000	All vehicles owned by household	$5,000	Postsecondary education, purchase of a first home, purchase of a vehicle, capitalization of a small business	None
D.C.	$2,000/ $3,000 [7]	All vehicles owned by household	$10,000	Opportunity accounts: Postsecondary education or job training, purchase of a first home, home repair or improvement, capitalization of a small business, medical emergencies; Retirement accounts: IRAs, general retirement expenses	2 to 1
Florida	$2,000	$8,500 [E]	Varies [14]	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business, assistive technology, transportation	1 to 1
Georgia	$1,000	$4,650 [E, 15]	$5,000	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	Varies [16]

Table IV.A.3. Asset Limits for Recipients and Related Assets Policies, July 2017 [1]

State	Asset limit [2]	Vehicle exemption [3]	Restricted asset accounts: [4] Amount [5]	Description	Matching rate
Hawaii	No limit	n.a.	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	None
Idaho	$5,000	One vehicle per adult [17]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Illinois	No limit	n.a.	No limit [18]	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education, purchase of a first home, purchase of a vehicle, capitalization of a small business	1 to 1
Indiana	$1,500	$5,000 of one vehicle per household [E, 19]	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education, purchase of a home, capitalization of a small business	3 to 1 [20]
Iowa	$5,000	One vehicle per household [21]	All deposits and interest	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or job training, purchase of a home, home repair or improvement, capitalization of a small business, medical emergencies	1 to 1 [22]
Kansas	$2,250	One vehicle per adult [23]	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	None
Kentucky	$2,000 [24]	All vehicles owned by household	$5,000	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	Varies [25]
Louisiana	No limit	n.a.	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business, work-related clothing or equipment	None
Maine	$2,000	One vehicle per household	$10,000	Family Development Accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a home, home repair or improvement, vehicle repair, capitalization of a small business	2 to 1 [26]
Maryland	No limit	n.a.	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education, purchase of a home, capitalization of a small business	None
Massachusetts	$2,500	$15,000 [F]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Michigan	$3,000	All vehicles owned by household	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	Varies [27]
Minnesota	$10,000 [28]	One vehicle per household member who is 16 or older [F, 29]	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education, purchase of a home, capitalization of a small business	3 to 1

Table IV.A.3. Asset Limits for Recipients and Related Assets Policies, July 2017 [1]

State	Asset limit [2]	Vehicle exemption [3]	Restricted asset accounts: [4] Amount [5]	Restricted asset accounts: [4] Description	Restricted asset accounts: [4] Matching rate
Mississippi	$2,000 [30]	All vehicles owned by household [E, 31]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Missouri	$5,000	First vehicle 100%/ Second vehicle $1,500 [E, 32]	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	None
Montana	$3,000	One vehicle per household [33]	No limit	IDA accounts: Purchases may not exceed $5,000. Matched Savings Program and IDA purchases must allow a recipient to meet an educational or employment goal, address a barrier, purchase a first home, or for business capitalization. Funds from one program may not be used to satisfy the matching requirement of another program. Funds may not be used in place of Pell Grants and cannot be rolled into Roth IRAs, 529 plans or to purchase Certificates of Deposit. Funds may not be used for reoccurring basic needs, medical expenses, or extracurricular activities.	3 to 1
Nebraska	$4,000/ $6,000 [34]	One vehicle per household [35]	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business; Trust funds for children in the unit; Cash value of life insurance policies	None
Nevada	$6,000	One vehicle per household [36]	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	None
New Hampshire	$2,000	One vehicle per licensed driver [37]	$4,500	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or the purchase of a first home	8 to 1
New Jersey	$2,000	All vehicles owned by household [38]	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	1 to 1
New Mexico	$3,500 [39]	All vehicles owned by household [40]	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education, purchase of a first home, home repair, purchase of a vehicle, capitalization of a small business	None

Table IV.A.3. Asset Limits for Recipients and Related Assets Policies, July 2017 [1]

State	Asset limit [2]	Vehicle exemption [3]	Restricted asset accounts: [4] Amount [5]	Description	Matching rate
New York	$2,000/$3,000 [41]	$11,000 [F, 42]	No limit [43]	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or job training, purchase of a home, capitalization of a small business	None
North Carolina	$3,000	All vehicles owned by household	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
North Dakota	$3,000/$6,000/ $6,000+$25 [44]	One vehicle per household	$2,000 [45]	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education, purchase of a first home, startup or expansion of a small business	2 to 1
Ohio	No limit	n.a.	$10,000	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education, purchase of a home, capitalization of a small business	Up to 4 to 1
Oklahoma	$1,000	$5,000 [E]	$4,000	IDA and SEED accounts: Postsecondary education, purchase of a home, capitalization of a small business [46]	None
Oregon					
All, except JOBS Plus	$10,000 [47]	$10,000 of all vehicles owned by household [E]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
JOBS Plus	$10,000 [48]	$10,000 of all vehicles owned by household [E]	No limit	Education Accounts: Continuing education or training	1 to hour worked [49]
Pennsylvania	$1,000	One vehicle per household [36]	No limit	Family Savings accounts: Postsecondary education, purchase of a home, capitalization of a small business, other individually approved plans; Education accounts: Postsecondary education	1 to 1 [50]
Rhode Island	$1,000	One vehicle per adult [51]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
South Carolina	$2,500	One vehicle per licensed driver [52]	$10,000	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, purchase of a vehicle, capitalization of a small business	None
South Dakota	$2,000	One vehicle per household [53]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Tennessee	$2,000	$4,600 [E]	$5,000	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business, transportation; Low Income Entrepreneurial Escrow accounts: profit and interest	Up to 9 to 1 [54]

Table IV.A.3. Asset Limits for Recipients and Related Assets Policies, July 2017 [1]

State	Asset limit [2]	Vehicle exemption [3]	Restricted asset accounts: [4] Amount [5]	Restricted asset accounts: [4] Description	Restricted asset accounts: [4] Matching rate
Texas	$1,000	$4,650 of each vehicle owned by household [E, 55]	No limit [56]	TANF certified and Assets for Independence Act IDA accounts: Postsecondary education, purchase of a home, capitalization of a small business, up to $11,896 in School-Based Savings Accounts	1 to 1
Utah	$2,000	All vehicles owned by household	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education, purchase of a home, capitalization of a small business	1 to 1
Vermont	$9,000 [57]	One vehicle per adult	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or job training, purchase of a home, capitalization of a small business, retirement accounts, education savings accounts	2 to 1
Virginia	No limit	n.a.	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education, purchase of a home, capitalization of a small business	2 to 1
Washington	$4,000 [58]	$5,000 [E, 59]	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	2 to 1 [60]
West Virginia	$2,000	One vehicle per adult [61]	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business; HUD Family Self-Sufficiency Escrow Accounts	None
Wisconsin	$2,500	$10,000 [E]	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or job training, purchase of a home, capitalization of a small business	Varies [62]
Wyoming	$5,000	Two vehicles per household [E]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

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

[1] "No Limit" indicates a state does not place a limit on the amount of assets that can be held by the unit. Additional details about policies for units with elderly or older adults, including the age definitions used by states, can be found in the full database.

[2] ABLE accounts are generally excluded from the asset limit. See the Welfare Rules Database for more information.

[3] Policies that distinguish between the equity value and fair-market value of vehicles are marked as follows: (E) equity value of the vehicle; (F) fair-market value of the vehicle.

[4] These columns capture programs that allow families to save money in a special account, often with no fees, sometimes with their savings matched with government funds, and with some requirements placed on the uses of the funds. These programs may be available to non-TANF as well as TANF families, but even those that are not explicitly connected with the TANF program are shown here to provide a more complete picture of asset-related policies affecting TANF families. In states that limit the countable assets that families may have and still be eligible for TANF, the funds in an account of this type are not counted against the asset limit.

[5] In states with asset maximums, this is the maximum amount in the restricted account that can be disregarded for the assets test. In states without asset maximums, this is the maximum amount that can be held in the restricted account, including both the individual's contribution and the state's contribution. Amounts in excess of this amount are countable for the state's asset test.

[6] Alabama has no assets test and therefore no limit on assets; the IDA accounts shown here reflect that the state offers this type of saving method, but it does not affect TANF benefits.

[7] Units including an elderly person may exempt $3,000; all other units exempt $2,000.

[8] Vehicles are exempt if used for one of the following: (1) to meet the family's basic needs, such as getting food and medical care or other essentials; (2) to go to and from work, school, training, or work activity (such as job search or community service); (3) as the family's house; (4) to produce self-employment income; or (5) to transport a disabled family member, whether or not he or she is a part of the assistance unit. If the vehicle does not meet one of these requirements, the equity value of the vehicle is counted in the determination of resources.

[9] Fifty percent of earned income that is deposited into an IDA is disregarded for eligibility and benefit computation. The monthly value of the disregard cannot exceed $100.

[10] If the family has more than one vehicle, then the market value of any additional vehicles will be considered in full.

[11] Units including an elderly or disabled person may exempt $3,250; all other units exempt $2,250.

[12] Each vehicle must be evaluated for its equity value. Before this calculation, a vehicle is excluded if it: (1) is used primarily for income-producing purposes; (2) is necessary for long-distance travel that is essential for employment; (3) is used as the family's home; (4) is necessary to transport a physically disabled household member; (5) would be exempt under previously stated exemptions but the vehicle is not in use because of temporary unemployment; (6) is used to carry fuel or water to the home and is the primary method of obtaining fuel or water; and (7) is a gift, donation, or family transfer. For each remaining vehicle, the state excludes one additional vehicle per adult and one additional vehicle per licensed child who uses the vehicle to travel to school, employment, or job search. For each remaining vehicle not completely excluded, the equity value that exceeds $9,500 counts against the family's asset limit.

[13] The unit may exempt up to $9,500 of the vehicle's equity value, or the entire value of one vehicle used to transport a handicapped person. The motor vehicle exclusion is applied to the registered vehicle with the highest fair market value.

[14] The amount depends on the savings goal agreed upon by the participant and the Regional Workforce Board. The Regional Workforce Board has the discretion to set the guidelines for contributions made to IDA accounts, which can vary by region.

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

[16] Funds in an IDA may also be matched on behalf of the individual by a qualified entity, which may be defined as one of the following: a specific not-for-profit organization, or Georgia state or local government acting in cooperation with a not-for-profit organization.

[17] If the unit owns any other vehicle that is non-exempt, the fair market value of the additional vehicle is applied to the resource limit.

[18] Deposits must come from earned income, and all deposits must be matched by state or local government, or through contributions made by a nonprofit entity. All withdrawals from the IDA account must be in the form of vendor payments made on behalf of the client for one or more of the intended purposes of the IDA.

[19] The exemption can only be applied to the value of one vehicle.

[20] Funds are matched up to the first $400 an individual deposited into the individual's account during the preceding 12 months for 4 years. If the amount appropriated is insufficient to make the deposits required by this section for accounts that have been established, the authority will proportionately reduce the amounts allocated to and deposited into each account.

[21] Additionally, $5,880 of the equity value of a vehicle is exempt for each adult and working teenager whose resources must be considered in determining eligibility.

[22] The state matches $0.50 for every dollar of a recipient's assets; federal funds match another $0.50.

[23] One licensed vehicle per adult household member is exempt. Additional vehicles may be exempt if they are used by a minor for employment, training, education, or seeking employment, used primarily for producing income, essential to employment, used as the household's home, necessary to transport a household member with a physical disability, used to carry the primary source of fuel and water for the home, or valued at $1,500 or less.

[24] Only liquid resources are considered for eligibility determinations. Liquid resources include cash, checking and savings accounts, CDs, stocks and bonds, and money market accounts.

[25] Matching funds must be provided by the non-profit organizations that establish the IDA agreements; the state does not provide the matching funds.

[26] Community agencies will contribute matching funds up to $2,000 a year.

[27] For IDAs, family contributions are matched by nonprofit organizations. The match rate is dependent on the agreement with the nonprofit organization.

[28] Withdrawals from ABLE accounts used to pay for a qualified disability expense are excluded.

[29] Any additional vehicle that is not exempt is counted toward the $10,000 asset limit and is valued at the amount of the vehicle's trade-in value as listed in the current NADA on-line car values and car prices guide.

[30] If the unit is considered broad-based categorically eligible, it is not subject to asset limits. Households that include a convicted drug felon or a member currently disqualified for an intentional program violation are not considered broad-based categorically eligible. When a TANF recipient marries while receiving assistance, the liquid resources of the new spouse are excluded for six months beginning the month after the date of the marriage.

[31] Determination of whether to count a vehicle is made case by case.

[32] $1,500 of the equity value of the unit's second vehicle is exempt.

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

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

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

[36] Vehicles other than the household's primary vehicle are evaluated for equity value.

[37] The equity value of all non-junk vehicles is counted in addition to any excluded vehicles.

[38] Recreational vehicles are not exempt and are evaluated for fair market value.

[39] The total limit is $3,500, but only $1,500 of that amount can be in liquid resources and only $2,000 can be in non-liquid resources.

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

[41] Units including a person age 60 years or older may exempt $3,000; all other units exempt $2,000.

[42] One automobile is exempt, up to $11,000 of the fair market value; local districts may adopt a higher vehicle exemption.

[43] In addition to the IDA account, recipients may exempt up to $4,650 for the purchase of a first or replacement vehicle that will be used to seek, obtain, or maintain employment. The funds must be kept in a separate bank account from the IDA savings. Recipients may also exempt up to $2,000 for trust funds for infants.

[44] 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.

[45] Recipients are allowed to save up to $2,000 in a two-year period in restricted asset accounts. Community action programs administer the program and provide a match rate of 2 to 1.

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

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

[48] The limit is reduced to $2,500 if the recipient does not cooperate with his or her case plan. JOBS Plus and JOBS participants must first be deemed eligible under normal rules.

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

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

[51] Exemptions for adult drivers cannot exceed two vehicles per household. Additionally, the entire value of a vehicle is exempt if it is used primarily to provide transportation for a disabled family member, used primarily to produce income, or used as the family’s home.

[52] Vehicles owned by or used to transport disabled individuals or that are essential to self-employment are also exempt. If the unit owns any other vehicle that is non-exempt, the equity value of the additional vehicle is applied to the resource limit.

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

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

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

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

[57] Other excluded resources include assets accumulated from earnings, interest earned on assets, non-liquid assets purchased with savings from earnings, retirement accounts (such as IRAs, 401(k)s, and other qualified accounts), and child education savings accounts (such as the Vermont Higher Education Investment Plan and other qualified plans).

[58] Recipients can have $1,000 in any type of assets and an additional $3,000 in a savings account or certificates of deposit.

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

[60] The state will match up to $2 for every $1 the recipient saves, up to maximum of $4,000 in matching funds.

[61] A person must be work-eligible to qualify for the vehicle exemption.

[62] The IDA program is matched with program funds from the Assets for Independence Act (AFIA), Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), or other TANF funds (TANF/CR). All match funds and accrued interest are disregarded as countable assets. The match rate is dependent on the agreement with one of the participating agencies.

Table IV.A.4. Income Eligibility Tests for Recipients, July 2017 [1]		
State	Type of test	Income must be less than [2]
Alabama	No explicit tests	n.a.
Alaska	Gross income	185% of Need Standard
	Net income	100% of Need Standard
Arizona	Gross income	185% of Need Standard
	Gross income	100% of the 2017 Federal Poverty Guidelines [3]
	Net income	100% of Need Standard
Arkansas	Net income	100% of Income Eligibility Standard
California	Net income	100% of Maximum Aid Payment
Colorado	Net income	100% of Need Standard
Connecticut	Gross earnings	100% of 2017 Federal Poverty Guidelines
	Unearned income	100% of Need Standard and then 100% of the Payment Standard
Delaware	Gross income	185% of Standard of Need
	Net income	100% of Standard of Need
D.C.	No explicit tests	n.a.
Florida	Gross income	185% of Consolidated Need Standard
Georgia	Gross income	185% of Standard of Need
Hawaii	Gross income	185% of Standard of Need
	Net income	100% of Standard of Assistance
Idaho	No explicit tests	n.a.
Illinois	No explicit tests	n.a.
Indiana	Net income	100% of 2017 Federal Poverty Guidelines
Iowa	Gross income	185% of Need Standard
Kansas	No explicit tests	n.a.
Kentucky [4]	Gross income	185% of Standard of Need
Louisiana	No explicit tests	n.a.
Maine	No explicit tests	n.a.
Maryland	No explicit tests	n.a.
Massachusetts	Net income	100% of Need Standard and Payment Standard
Michigan	No explicit tests	n.a.
Minnesota	No explicit tests	n.a.
Mississippi [4]	Gross income	185% of Need Standard and Payment Standard
Missouri	Gross income	185% of Need Standard
Montana	Gross income	100% of Gross Monthly Income Standard
	Net income	100% of Benefit Standard
Nebraska	No explicit tests	n.a.
Nevada	No explicit tests	n.a.
New Hampshire	No explicit tests	n.a.
New Jersey [5]	No explicit tests	n.a.
New Mexico	Gross income	85% of 2016 Federal Poverty Guidelines
New York	Gross income	185% of Need Standard
	Gross income [6]	100% of 2017 Federal Poverty Guidelines
North Carolina	No explicit tests	n.a.
North Dakota	No explicit tests	n.a.
Ohio	No explicit tests	n.a.
Oklahoma	Gross income	185% of Need Standard

Table IV.A.4. Income Eligibility Tests for Recipients, July 2017 [1]		
State	Type of test	Income must be less than [2]
Oregon		
All, except JOBS Plus, without earnings	Gross income	100% of Countable Income Limit
	Net income	100% of Adjusted Income Standard
All, except JOBS Plus, with earnings	Gross income	100% of Exit Limit Increase Standard
JOBS Plus	Gross income	100% of Food Stamp Countable Income Limit
Pennsylvania	No explicit tests	n.a.
Rhode Island	No explicit tests	n.a.
South Carolina	Gross income	185% of Need Standard
South Dakota	No explicit tests	n.a.
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	No explicit tests	n.a.
Virginia		
All, except VIEW	Gross income	185% of Standard of Assistance
VIEW	Gross earnings	100% of 2016 Federal Poverty Guidelines
	Unearned income [7]	100% of Standard of Assistance
Washington [8]	Gross earnings	100% of Maximum Gross Earned Income Limit
West Virginia	Gross income	100% of Standard of Need
Wisconsin	Gross income	115% of 2017 Federal Poverty Guidelines
Wyoming	No explicit tests	n.a.

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

[1] "No explicit tests" indicates either that the state imposes no income tests on recipients or that the state imposes an income test but the calculation of the test and disregards allowed for it do not differ from those used to calculate the benefit. See table II.A.2 for information on benefit computation policies. See table I.E.3 for information on eligibility standards.

[2] In some states, the test is passed if income is less than or equal to the amount shown; in other states, the test is passed only if income is less than the amount shown.

[3] This test, the needy family test, includes all family members of the adult caretaker for counting income and family size. When the adult caretaker is a non-parent relative of the dependent child receiving benefits for the child only, the income limit is 130 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

[4] The gross income test does not apply to earnings for recipients who are receiving the 100 percent benefit computation disregard.

[5] In households where the natural or adoptive parent is married to a non-needy stepparent, the gross household income may not exceed 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

[6] This test does not apply to recipients temporarily living in hotels or motels, domestic violence shelters, AIDS housing, congregate care facilities, etc.

[7] For two-parent units to be eligible, their gross earned income must be below 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines and their unearned income must be below 100 percent of the standard of assistance.

[8] Child-only units are eligible at up to 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Table IV.A.5. Earned Income Disregards for Continuing Income Eligibility Purposes, July 2017 [1]

State	Earned income disregard
Alabama	No explicit net income test
Alaska	$150 in all months, plus 33% of remainder in first 12 cumulative months of earnings, 25% of remainder in months 13-24, 20% of remainder in months 25-36, 15% of remainder in months 37-48, 10% of remainder in months 49-60
Arizona	$90 and 30% of remainder in all months
Arkansas	20% and 60% of remainder in all months
California	$225 and 50% of remainder in all months
Colorado	67% in all months
Connecticut	No explicit net income test
Delaware [2]	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings
D.C.	No explicit net income test
Florida	No explicit net income test
Georgia	No explicit net income test
Hawaii	20% and $200 of remainder in all months, plus 55% of remainder in first 24 months of cumulative assistance and 36% thereafter
Idaho	No explicit net income test
Illinois	No explicit net income test
Indiana	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings
Iowa	No explicit net income test
Kansas	No explicit net income test
Kentucky	No explicit net income test
Louisiana	No explicit net income test
Maine	No explicit net income test
Maryland	No explicit net income test
Massachusetts	$200
Michigan	No explicit net income test
Minnesota	No explicit net income test
Mississippi	No explicit net income test
Missouri	No explicit net income test
Montana	$200 and 25% of remainder in all months
Nebraska	No explicit net income test
Nevada	No explicit net income test
New Hampshire	No explicit net income test
New Jersey	No explicit net income test
New Mexico	No explicit net income test
New York	No explicit net income test
North Carolina	No explicit net income test
North Dakota	No explicit net income test
Ohio	No explicit net income test
Oklahoma	No explicit net income test
Oregon	
All, except JOBS Plus	No explicit net income test for earners
JOBS Plus	No explicit net income test
Pennsylvania	No explicit net income test
Rhode Island	No explicit net income test

Table IV.A.5. Earned Income Disregards for Continuing Income Eligibility Purposes, July 2017 [1]	
State	Earned income disregard
South Carolina	No explicit net income test
South Dakota	No explicit net income test
Tennessee	No explicit net income test
Texas	$120 in all months, plus 90% of remainder (up to $1,400) for 4 out of 12 months
Utah	$100 and 50% of remainder in all months
Vermont	No explicit net income test
Virginia	
All, except VIEW	No explicit net income test
VIEW	No explicit net income test
Washington	No explicit net income test
West Virginia	No explicit net income test
Wisconsin	No explicit net income test
Wyoming	No explicit net income test

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

[1] The table describes the disregards used for ongoing, recipient eligibility purposes. See table I.E.2 for disregards used for initial, applicant eligibility purposes. "No explicit net income test" indicates the state does not impose a net income test for determining ongoing eligibility. 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.

[2] If benefits or employment end before the fourth consecutive month of earnings, the recipient is eligible to receive the $30 and 33.3 percent disregard for four additional months upon reapplication or re-employment. When a recipient has received the $30 and 33.3 percent disregard for four consecutive months and the $30 disregard for an additional eight months, neither disregard may be applied again until the individual has not received any benefits for 12 months. When monthly wages are $90 or less, and net income equals zero before any part of the $30 and 33.3 percent disregard can be applied, the month does not count toward the four consecutive-month limit for receiving the $30 and 33.3 percent disregard and the recipient is eligible to receive the disregard for four additional months.

Table IV.A.6. Maximum Income for Ongoing Eligibility for a Family of Three, July 2017 [1]

State	Maximum amount a recipient can earn and still remain eligible for assistance in month:			
	2	7	13	25
Alabama	No maximum	No maximum	$268	$268
Alaska	$2,528	$2,528	$2,274	$2,141
Arizona	$585	$585	$585	$585
Arkansas	$696	$696	$696	$696
California [2]				
Non-exempt	$1,652	$1,652	$1,652	$1,652
Exempt	$1,822	$1,822	$1,822	$1,822
Colorado [2]	$1,275	$1,275	$1,275	$1,275
Connecticut [2]	$1,702	$1,702	$1,702	$1,702
Delaware	$2,009	$1,379	$1,349	$1,349
D.C.	$1,684	$1,684	$1,684	$1,684
Florida	$805	$805	$805	$805
Georgia	$755	$543	$513	$513
Hawaii	$2,369	$1,944	$1,944	$1,012
Idaho	$972	$972	$972	$972
Illinois [2]	$1,727	$1,727	$1,727	$1,727
Indiana	$1,151	$1,151	$1,151	$1,151
Iowa	$1,267	$1,267	$1,267	$1,267
Kansas [2]	$1,162	$1,162	$1,162	$1,162
Kentucky	No maximum	$645	$615	$615
Louisiana	$1,259	$359	$359	$359
Maine	$1,347	$1,347	$1,347	$1,347
Maryland	$1,079	$1,079	$1,079	$1,079
Massachusetts				
Exempt	$833	$833	$833	$833
Non-exempt	$818	$818	$818	$818
Michigan	$1,165	$1,165	$1,165	$1,165
Minnesota [3]	$2,243	$2,243	$2,243	$2,243
Mississippi	No maximum	$457	$457	$457
Missouri	$1,145	$1,145	$381	$381
Montana	$817	$817	$817	$817
Nebraska	$1,631	$1,631	$1,631	$1,631
Nevada	No maximum	$1,531	$478	$478
New Hampshire	$2,040	$2,040	$2,040	$2,040
New Jersey	$1,695	$1,695	$847	$847
New Mexico	$942	$942	$942	$942
New York [2]	$1,459	$1,459	$1,459	$1,459
North Carolina	$681	$681	$681	$681
North Dakota	$1,331	$1,024	$887	$665
Ohio	$1,197	$1,197	$1,197	$1,197
Oklahoma	$823	$823	$823	$823
Oregon	$1,011	$1,011	$1,011	$1,011
Pennsylvania [2]	$805	$805	$805	$805
Rhode Island	$1,277	$1,277	$1,277	$1,277
South Carolina	$1,554	$939	$939	$939
South Dakota	$857	$857	$857	$857

Table IV.A.6. Maximum Income for Ongoing Eligibility for a Family of Three, July 2017 [1]

	Maximum amount a recipient can earn and still remain eligible for assistance in month:			
State	2	7	13	25
Tennessee	$1,315	$1,315	$1,315	$1,315
Texas	$1,708	$308	$308 [4]	$308 [4]
Utah	$1,050	$1,050	$1,050	$1,050
Vermont [2]	$1,103	$1,103	$1,103	$1,103
Virginia [2]				
All, except VIEW	$677	$677	$677	$677
VIEW	$1,680	$1,680	$1,680	n.a. [5]
Washington	$1,040	$1,040	$1,040	$1,040
West Virginia	$565	$565	$565	$565
Wisconsin	n.a. [6]	n.a. [6]	n.a. [6]	n.a. [6]
Wyoming	$1,259	$1,259	$1,259	$1,259

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

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

[2] Dollar amount used to calculate benefit varies within the state, either by county or by region of the state. Calculations are based on the dollar amount that applies to the majority of the state. See the Welfare Rules Database for more information.

[3] This table captures the maximum earnings a recipient of the state's TANF assistance program may have. The state's four-month non-assistance diversion program uses different earned income disregards and benefit computation rules.

[4] Based on the assumption made for these calculations, the recipient is not receiving the state's 90 percent disregard. However, under different assumptions, it is possible that a recipient could receive the 90 percent disregard in the 13th or 25th month of combining work and welfare.

[5] VIEW recipients are subject to a 24-month limit on TANF benefits followed by a 24-month period of ineligibility. If a recipient participates in VIEW after his or her period of ineligibility is over, he or she may earn $1,680 and remain eligible.

[6] Units with earnings at application will not receive a cash benefit, except for units with earnings from unsubsidized employment who work less than 30 hours per week and face limitations to increasing their work hours. These units are eligible for a Community Service Job placement where they may receive a prorated benefit. Units with income less than $1,957 at application who find employment during up-front job search have their income disregarded for purposes of determining eligibility for nonfinancial assistance.

Table IV.B.1. Family Cap Policies, July 2017

State	Family cap policy [1]	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 [2]
Alabama	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Alaska	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Arizona	Yes	10 [3]	None (disregard) [4]	n.a., always capped [5]
Arkansas	Yes	No [6]	None	6
California	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Colorado	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Connecticut	Yes	10	$50 per child	n.a., always capped
Delaware	Yes [7]	10	None	n.a., always capped
D.C.	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Florida	Yes	10 [8]	Half of normal increase for adding first child; none for additional children	n.a., always capped
Georgia	Yes	10	An amount less than the maximum benefit calculated excluding the capped children [9]	n.a., always capped
Hawaii	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Idaho	No [10]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Illinois	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Indiana	Yes	10	None	n.a., always capped
Iowa	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Kansas	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Kentucky	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Louisiana	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Maine	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Maryland	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Massachusetts	Yes	10 [11]	None (disregard) [12]	20 [11]
Michigan	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Minnesota	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Mississippi	Yes	10	None	n.a., always capped
Missouri	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Montana	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Nebraska	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Nevada	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
New Hampshire	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
New Jersey	Yes [13]	10	None	12 [14]
New Mexico	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
New York	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
North Carolina	Yes	10 [15]	None	n.a., always capped
North Dakota	Yes	8	None	12
Ohio	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Oklahoma	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Oregon	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Pennsylvania	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Rhode Island	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Table IV.B.1. Family Cap Policies, July 2017

State	Family cap policy [1]	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 [2]
South Carolina	Yes	10	None (voucher) [16]	n.a., always capped
South Dakota	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Tennessee	Yes	10	None	1 [17]
Texas	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Utah	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Vermont	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Virginia	Yes	10	None	n.a., always capped
Washington	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
West Virginia	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Wisconsin	No [10]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Wyoming	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

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

[1] Some units may be exempt from the family cap policies. See the WRD for more details on exemption policies.

[2] This column describes the number of months a unit must remain off assistance to regain eligibility for a previously capped child. Some states permanently exclude capped children, even if the unit cycles on and off assistance, while other states may include previously capped children in benefit and eligibility calculations if the unit has not received assistance for a specified period.

[3] The child is generally considered benefit-capped until the month after the child's 18th birthday. A benefit-capped child may receive cash assistance prior to the child's 18th birthday if the child becomes a minor parent, is adopted, or lives with a caretaker adult due to a court decision, parental death, or parental abandonment and that adult applies for assistance on the child's behalf.

[4] Units subject to the family cap receive an additional earned income disregard equal to the lost benefit amount. This additional disregard is allowed for each month the member is excluded because of the cap.

[5] The child is considered benefit-capped until the month after the child's 18th birthday. A benefit-capped child may receive cash assistance prior to the child's 18th birthday if the child becomes a minor parent or is adopted.

[6] Any child born to a parent receiving assistance will not be included in the unit. This is applicable to both children conceived prior to a unit's certification as well as to those children conceived after a unit's certification.

[7] 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 noncash assistance services in the form of vouchers upon request, but he or she will not be automatically given vouchers each month. Receipt is based on need, and the total monthly value of the vouchers is capped at $69.

[8] If the family reapplies for assistance after a break of six or more continuous months, the family cap will apply again to any child born more than 10 months from the date of reapplication, and there will be no increase in the benefit.

[9] 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.

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

[11] A child is eligible if the child is born at least 20 months after the date that a grantee's eligibility for TAFDC has ended; the grantee remained ineligible for at least 12 consecutive months from the closing date; and the grantee received TAFDC for no more than 10 consecutive months immediately preceding the child's birth.

[12] Units subject to the family cap receive an additional earned income disregard equal to the first $90 of income received by or on behalf of a capped child in any month.

[13] Units in which at least one adult member of the unit is working (any number of hours) are not subject to the family cap.

[14] After case closure, if the recipient is employed for three months and loses the job by no fault of his or her own and then reapplies for assistance, the previously capped child is included in the unit. These units, however, do not receive a new 10-month grace period for any subsequent pregnancies.

[15] The family cap does not apply to adoptees or to parents receiving assistance from another state.

[16] Benefits are available in the form of vouchers up to the amount of increase in cash benefits the unit would have received for the child.

[17] The family cap will continue until the case is closed. If the case is reopened, the cap is discontinued unless the case was closed for noncooperation with child support requirements or noncompliance with the work activity requirement.

Table IV.C.1. Time Limit Policies, July 2017

State	Lifetime limit				Intermittent time limit		
		Consequences				Consequences	
	Limit (months) [1]	Loss of entire benefit [2]	Adult removed from unit	Other	Limit (months) [1]	Loss of entire benefit [2]	Adult removed from unit
Alabama	60	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Alaska	60	Yes [3]	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Arizona	12	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a. [4]	Yes	No
Arkansas	24	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
California	48	No	Yes	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Colorado	60	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Connecticut	21 [5]	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Delaware							
All, except TWP	36 [6]	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
TWP	n.a., no limit	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
D.C.	60 [7]	No	No	Benefit is reduced for entire unit [7]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Florida	48 [8]	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Georgia	48	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Hawaii	60	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Idaho	24 [9]	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Illinois	60	Yes [3]	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Indiana							
Lifetime limit	60	Yes [3]	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Benefit reduction limit	24 [10]	No	Yes	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Iowa	60 [11]	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Kansas	24	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Kentucky	60	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Louisiana	60	Yes	No	n.a.	24 of 60 months	Yes	No
Maine	60	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Maryland	60	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Table IV.C.1. Time Limit Policies, July 2017

State	Lifetime limit: Limit (months) [1]	Lifetime limit: Consequences: Loss of entire benefit [2]	Lifetime limit: Consequences: Adult removed from unit	Lifetime limit: Consequences: Other	Intermittent time limit: Limit (months) [1]	Intermittent time limit: Consequences: Loss of entire benefit [2]	Intermittent time limit: Consequences: Adult removed from unit
Massachusetts							
Exempt	n.a., no limit	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Non-exempt	n.a., no limit	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	24 of 60 months	Yes	No
Michigan	48	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Minnesota	60	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Mississippi	60	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Missouri	45	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Montana	60	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Nebraska							
Time-limited assistance	60	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Non-time-limited assistance	n.a., no limit	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Nevada	60	Yes	No	n.a.	24 months; followed by 12 months of ineligibility [12]	Yes	No
New Hampshire							
NHEP	60	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
FAP	n.a., no limit [13]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
New Jersey	60	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
New Mexico							
NMW	60	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
EWP	24	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
New York	60 [14]	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
North Carolina	60	Yes	No	n.a.	24 months; followed by 36 months of ineligibility	Yes	No
North Dakota	60	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Table IV.C.1. Time Limit Policies, July 2017

State	Lifetime limit: Limit (months) [1]	Lifetime limit: Consequences: Loss of entire benefit [2]	Lifetime limit: Consequences: Adult removed from unit	Lifetime limit: Consequences: Other	Intermittent time limit: Limit (months) [1]	Intermittent time limit: Consequences: Loss of entire benefit [2]	Intermittent time limit: Consequences: Adult removed from unit
Ohio	60 [15]	Yes	No	n.a.	36 months; followed by 24 months of ineligibility	Yes	No
Oklahoma	60	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Oregon	60	No	Yes	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Pennsylvania	60	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Rhode Island	48	Yes	No	n.a.	24 of 60 months	Yes	No
South Carolina							
All, except CARES	60	Yes	No	n.a.	24 of 120 months	Yes	No
CARES	n.a., no limit	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
South Dakota	60	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Tennessee	60 [16]	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Texas	60	Yes	No	n.a.	12, 24, or 36 months; followed by 60 months of ineligibility [17]	No	Yes
Utah	36	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a. [18]	n.a.	n.a.
Vermont	60	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a. [19]	n.a.	n.a.
Virginia							
All, except VIEW	60	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
VIEW	60	Yes	No	n.a.	24 months; followed by 24 months of ineligibility [20]	Yes	No
Washington	60	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
West Virginia	60	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Wisconsin	60	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Wyoming	60	Yes	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

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

[1] Families may qualify for exemptions from or extensions to the time limit. See tables IV.C.2(a), IV.C.2(b),IV.C.3(a), and IV.C.3(b) for details about state exemption and extension policies.

[2] In certain circumstances, a child may be able to continue receiving benefits after the 60 months. Because the time limit follows the adult, a child may enter a new household and become eligible in a new assistance unit.

[3] If the adult who has reached the 60-month lifetime limit is not the parent of any child in the assistance unit, only the adult is ineligible for benefits. Children who do not live with a parent can therefore continue to receive assistance after their caretaker reaches the 60-month limit.

[4] Two-parent families, in which neither parent is disabled, are eligible for only six months of assistance in any 12-month period.

[5] Recipients may apply for extensions after 21 months of benefits, but they may not receive more than 60 total months of assistance.

[6] The 36-month time limit applies to assistance units that applied for benefits on or after January 1, 2000. Units that received benefits before this date are eligible for 48 months of assistance.

[7] After 60 months, eligibility and benefits are computed using a Reduced Payment Level, which equals 30 percent of the standard Payment Level for the unit's size.

[8] An individual may request a hardship exemption to the lifetime time limit at any time before or after the time limit expires.

[9] When there is more than one adult in the family, the adult with the greatest number of months of participation must be used to determine when the family reaches the time limit.

[10] The income of the ineligible individual is still counted in determining the unit's benefits; however, the needs of the ineligible individual are not included when determining the unit's benefits.

[11] In addition to the 60-month lifetime limit, units must establish a time frame with a specific ending date, during which the recipient expects to become self-sufficient (i.e., when income will be above eligibility limits).

[12] After receiving 24 months of cumulative or consecutive assistance, the household is ineligible for TANF cash benefits for 12 consecutive months, unless a qualifying hardship exists. This continues until the household has received 60 months of TANF assistance from Nevada or any other state.

[13] Groups eligible for or receiving the Family Assistance Program (FAP) are automatically exempt from the 60-month time limit and must have eligibility continued beyond 60 months for as long as the family continues to meet FAP eligibility criteria.

[14] Units in compliance with TANF program rules may continue to receive benefits through a separate state program beyond 60 months.

[15] Ohio has a 36-month limit on assistance. However, units are eligible for additional assistance, up to the federal time limit of 60 months, through either a hardship or good cause extension. For good cause, a unit must have been ineligible for 24 months and show good cause for reapplying in order to receive additional assistance.

[16] If clients marry with different months of assistance, the number of months counted towards the time limit will be the higher of the two. If a marriage dissolves, the number of countable months of the two-parent unit will be the same if the parents reapply for assistance regardless of months earned prior to the marriage.

[17] The 12-month limit applies to nonexempt recipients who (1) did not complete the 11th grade and have 18 months or more of recent work experience or (2) have a high school diploma or GED, a certificate from a postsecondary school, or a certificate or degree from a vocational or technical school and any work experience. The 24-month limit applies to nonexempt recipients who (1) did not complete the 11th grade and have between 6 and 17 months of recent work experience or (2) completed the 11th grade but not the 12th grade or have a GED, and have completed 17 or fewer months of work experience. The 36-month limit applies to nonexempt recipients who have less than six months of recent work experience and did not complete the 11th grade.

[18] Families with two parents who are each capable of earning at least $500 per month are eligible for only seven months of assistance in any 13-month period.

[19] Recipients will be ineligible for assistance for two months if their grant has been terminated for either noncompliance or not fulfilling the work requirement, without good cause, after the 60th month of assistance.

[20] After receiving 24 months of assistance, the unit may receive up to 12 months of transitional benefits. The 24 months of ineligibility begins with the month in which the case was closed or in the month transitional benefits were terminated, whichever is later.

Table IV.C.2(a). Time Limit Exemption Policies, July 2017 [1]

State	Unit exempt for months in which the head was: Working (min. weekly hrs.) or had earned income (min. dollars)	Cooperating but unable to find employment	Ill, incapacitated, or has a disability	Caring for a person who is ill, incapacitated, or has a disability [2]
Alabama	No	No	No	No
Alaska	No	No	Yes	Yes
Arizona	No	No	No	No
Arkansas	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
California	No	No	Yes [3]	Yes
Colorado [4]	No	No	No	No
Connecticut	No	Yes [5]	Yes	Yes
Delaware	No	No	Yes [6]	Yes [7]
D.C.	No	No	Yes [8]	Yes [9]
Florida	No	No	No	Yes
Georgia	No	No	No	No
Hawaii	No	No	Yes	Yes
Idaho	No	No	No	No
Illinois	30 hrs. [10]	No	No	Yes [11]
Indiana	No	No	Yes [12]	Yes [12]
Iowa	No	No	No	No
Kansas	No	No	No	No
Kentucky	No	No	No	No
Louisiana	No	No	Yes [13]	No
Maine	No	No	No	No
Maryland	Any earned income	No	Yes [14]	No
Massachusetts				
Exempt [15]	n.a.	n.a.	Yes	Yes
Non-exempt	No	No	n.a. [16]	n.a. [16]
Michigan	No	No	Yes [17]	Yes [18]
Minnesota	No	No	No	No
Mississippi	No	No	No	No
Missouri	No	No	No [19]	No [19]

Table IV.C.2(a). Time Limit Exemption Policies, July 2017 [1]

State	Unit exempt for months in which the head was: Working (min. weekly hrs.) or had earned income (min. dollars)	Cooperating but unable to find employment	Ill, incapacitated, or has a disability	Caring for a person who is ill, incapacitated, or has a disability [2]
Montana	No	No	No	No
Nebraska				
Time-limited assistance	No	No	n.a. [16]	n.a. [16]
Non-time-limited assistance [20]	n.a.	n.a.	Yes	Yes
Nevada	No	No	No	No
New Hampshire				
NHEP	No	No	Yes [21]	Yes [22]
FAP [15]	n.a.	n.a.	Yes	Yes
New Jersey	No	No	Yes	Yes
New Mexico	No	No	No	No
New York [23]	No	No	No	No
North Carolina	No	No	Yes [24]	Yes [25]
North Dakota	No	No	Yes [26]	Yes
Ohio	No	No	No	No
Oklahoma	No	No	No	No
Oregon	No	No [27]	Yes	Yes
Pennsylvania	No	No	No	No
Rhode Island	No	No	No	No
South Carolina				
All, except CARES	No	No	n.a. [16]	Yes [28]
CARES [15]	n.a.	n.a.	Yes	n.a.
South Dakota	No	No	No	No
Tennessee	No	No	No	No
Texas	No	No	Yes [29]	Yes [29]
Utah	No	No	No	No
Vermont	No	No	Yes	Yes

Table IV.C.2(a). Time Limit Exemption Policies, July 2017 [1]

State	Unit exempt for months in which the head was: Working (min. weekly hrs.) or had earned income (min. dollars)	Cooperating but unable to find employment	Ill, incapacitated, or has a disability	Caring for a person who is ill, incapacitated, or has a disability [2]
Virginia				
All, except VIEW [30]	n.a.	n.a.	Yes [31]	Yes [32]
VIEW	No	No	n.a. [33]	n.a. [33]
Washington	No	No	No	No
West Virginia	No	No	No	No
Wisconsin	No	No	No	No
Wyoming	No	No	No	No

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

[1] Exemption policies apply to months in which the state does not count a month of assistance toward the state's time limit (or "stops the clock"). These policies are potential exemptions and may not be granted to all that are eligible. In most states, caseworkers have discretion in applying the exemptions. If a state has multiple time limits (for example, a periodic limit and a lifetime limit) and applies the exemption policies differently to the time limits, the differences are footnoted. Time limits apply only to months when adults receive what is considered TANF assistance, which includes all regular monthly cash aid and some other types of help. Some types of aid considered non-assistance are subsidized jobs programs and child care and transportation help for employed families. Months in which only non-assistance is received are always exempt from the TANF time limits. See section 260.31 of the final TANF rule for more information on assistance and non-assistance. The federal government requires that states disregard months during which an adult lived on a Native American reservation or in an Alaskan Native village with an adult unemployment rate of at least 50 percent. Furthermore, because time-limit calculations apply only to families that include adults (or minor heads of household), time limits do not apply to child-only units or to any month in which an adult received assistance as a dependent child. Many states exempt months in which a unit receives diversion payments. These policies are captured in table I.A.1. For information on whether months of receipt of transitional cash benefits (for families leaving TANF with employment) are counted or exempted, see the full database. This table focuses on the exemption rules in place as of July 2017. Rules may have differed for months of assistance received previously. Past policies are mentioned if they exempted a substantial part of the caseload for certain past time periods under TANF.

[2] States are shown as having an exemption if they exempt months in which a parent must care for a child or adult in the household who meets the state's definition for ill or incapacitated.

[3] Months in which the person has been incapacitated for at least 30 days are exempt.

[4] While state funds cannot be used to exempt units meeting these criteria, counties have the option to use county funds for exemptions.

[5] Certain recipients who have received 20 months of benefits and are determined unemployable (age 40 or older, unemployed, have not completed grade six, and have not been employed over six months in the past five years) may be exempt from the time limit.

[6] Disabled parents and caretakers will be referred to the Transitional Work Program for the duration of their disability.

[7] When the unit head has been deemed unemployable because he or she is caring for a disabled family member (only a spouse or child who must be living in the home), he or she is placed in the Children's Program, which is not time limited.

[8] Months in which the person is ill or incapacitated are exempt from the benefit reduction limit.

[9] Months in which the person is caring for someone who is ill or incapacitated are exempt from the benefit reduction limit.

[10] The head of a one-parent unit must work 30 hours a week, while both parents of a two-parent unit must work a combined total of 35 hours a week to receive the exemption.

[11] The ill, incapacitated, or disabled person must be a related child under age 18 or a spouse. Months in which the family has a disabled child in the home approved for a waiver under the Home and Community-Based Care Program are also exempt.

[12] This exemption applies to the benefit reduction limit.

[13] Months in which the person is ill or incapacitated are exempt from the periodic time limit.

[14] Persons who are ill or incapacitated must have a pending SSI application or appeal in process in order to be exempt from the time limit.

[15] Recipients in this component are exempt from time limits. The criteria for inclusion in this component may include some of the exemptions listed in this table. For exemptions that are not relevant to the criteria for inclusion in this component, n.a. is listed.

[16] Individuals with this characteristic are placed in an alternative component that is exempt from time limits.

[17] The recipient must be incapacitated for more than 90 days.

[18] The exemption applies when caring for a child or spouse.

[19] To meet this exemption, there must be no other satisfactory alternative plan or care available.

[20] Recipients in this component are exempt from time limits. The criteria for inclusion in this component may include some of the exemptions listed in this table. For exemptions that are not relevant to the criteria for inclusion in this component, n.a. is listed.

[21] The recipient must apply for disability benefits before a second six-month extension can be approved. Individuals who are unable to work due to physical or mental disability are later placed in the FAP which does not have time limits.

[22] After receiving the first six-month extension, the family may be transferred to the Family Assistance Program component and become permanently exempt from time limits and work requirements.

[23] This state continues to fund families beyond 60 months of benefit receipt using state funding. However, the state may exempt certain months in calculating the number of federally funded months of assistance.

[24] Months in which the person is ill or incapacitated are exempt from the benefit waiting period.

[25] Months in which the person is caring for someone who is ill or incapacitated are exempt from the benefit waiting period.

[26] People with a disability and receiving SSI are always exempted; people who are incapacitated who do not receive SSI may request an exemption.

[27] For a two-parent family, months of benefits received between October 1, 2007 and June 30, 2009 or between October 1, 2011 and April 30, 2012 are not counted if the reason for deprivation was unemployment or underemployment.

[28] Months in which the person is caring for someone who is ill or incapacitated are exempt from the periodic time limit.

[29] Months with this characteristic are exempt from work activities. When people are exempt from work activities (and do not volunteer to participate), those months are exempt from the benefit waiting period.

[30] Recipients in this component are exempt from the 24-month benefit waiting period but not the 60-month lifetime limit. The criteria for inclusion in this component may include some of the exemptions listed in this table. For exemptions that are not relevant to the criteria for inclusion in this component, n.a. is listed.

[31] Units with this characteristic are placed in this component and are therefore exempt from the benefit waiting period. Participants who have a temporary illness, incapacity, or disability are still subject to the lifetime time limit, while SSI recipients are exempt from the lifetime limit.

[32] Units with this characteristic are placed in this component and are therefore exempt from the benefit waiting period, but their months still count for the lifetime time limit.

[33] Individuals with this characteristic are placed in an alternative component.

Table IV.C.2(b). Time Limit Exemption Policies (continued), July 2017 [1]

State	Unit exempt for months in which the head was: Caring for a child under age X (months)	In month X or later of pregnancy	Minor parent	Age X or older (years)	Victim of domestic violence	Other
Alabama	No	No	No	No	No	n.a.
Alaska	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	n.a.
Arizona	No	No	No	No	No	Receiving less than a $100 benefit; Full amount of assistance is reimbursed by child support; Receiving assistance in another state; Receiving benefits in Arizona prior to October 2002
Arkansas	3 [2]	7	No	60	Yes	Not required to participate in work activities; Not receiving support services; Receiving assistance in another state (up to 36 months not counted)
California	24 [3]	No	Yes [4]	60	Yes	Sanctioned for noncompliance; Grant is less than $10; Individual is a caretaker of either a dependent child of the court, a kinship care program child, or a child at risk of placement in foster care
Colorado [5]	No [6]	No	No	No	No	n.a.
Connecticut	12 [7]	1 [8]	Yes [9]	60	No	n.a.
Delaware	No	No	No	No	No	Waiting on SSI/SSDI application; A non-needy, non-parent caretaker receiving benefits
D.C.	No	No	Yes [10]	60 [10]	Yes [10]	n.a.
Florida	No	No [11]	Yes [11]	No	No	Not job-ready; Receiving less than a $10 benefit; Not receiving support services
Georgia	No	No	No	No	No	Has an active case with Child Protective Services that creates a barrier to self-sufficiency
Hawaii	6	No	No	65	Yes [12]	n.a.
Idaho	No	No [11]	Yes [11]	No	Yes	Receiving a benefit payment in error; Sanctioned for noncompliance
Illinois	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	In a post-secondary education program [13]
Indiana	3	No	No	60	No	n.a.
Iowa	No	No	No	No	No	Receiving SSI

Table IV.C.2(b). Time Limit Exemption Policies (continued), July 2017 [1]

State	Unit exempt for months in which the head was: Caring for a child under age X (months)	In month X or later of pregnancy	Minor parent	Age X or older (years)	Victim of domestic violence	Other
Kansas	No	No	Yes	No	No	n.a.
Kentucky	No	No	Yes [14]	No	No	Receiving retroactive payments
Louisiana	No	7 [15]	No	No	No	Benefits were received in another state; the parent has earned income and is eligible to receive the $900 time-limited deduction [16]
Maine	No	No	No	No	No	Receiving SSI
Maryland	No	No	No	No	Yes	No own-children in the assistance unit
Massachusetts						
Exempt [17]	24 [18]	6 [19]	Yes	60	n.a.	n.a.
Non-exempt	n.a. [20]	n.a. [20]	n.a. [20]	n.a. [20]	Yes [15]	Not required to participate in work activities; Sanctioned for noncompliance [21]
Michigan	No	No	No	65	Yes	n.a.
Minnesota	No	No	Yes [22]	60	Yes [23]	Receiving only the food portion of the grant
Mississippi	No	No	No	No	No	n.a.
Missouri	No	No	Yes [4]	60	No	Sanctioned for noncompliance prior to October 1998
Montana	No	No	Yes [4]	No	No	n.a.
Nebraska						
Time-limited assistance	n.a. [24]	n.a. [20]	No [25]	n.a. [20]	n.a. [20]	Sanctioned for noncompliance
Non-time-limited assistance [17]	3 [26]	8 [27]	n.a.	65	Yes	n.a.
Nevada	No	No	No	No	No	n.a.
New Hampshire						
NHEP	No	No	No	n.a. [20]	No	n.a.
FAP [17]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	60	n.a.	n.a.
New Jersey	No	No	Yes	60	Yes	Not job-ready; Sanctioned for noncompliance

Table IV.C.2(b). Time Limit Exemption Policies (continued), July 2017 [1]

State	Unit exempt for months in which the head was: Caring for a child under age X (months)	In month X or later of pregnancy	Minor parent	Age X or older (years)	Victim of domestic violence	Other
New Mexico						
NMW	No	No	No	No	No	Participating in post-secondary education for up to 24 months
EWP	No	No	No	No	No	n.a.
New York [28]	No	No	No	No	No	Receiving an emergency, non- recurring payment
North Carolina	12 [29]	No	Yes	No	Yes [30]	Benefits were received in another state; Participating in drug, alcohol, or mental health treatment; Not receiving support services; Not required to participate in work activities; Sanctioned for noncompliance [31]
North Dakota	No	No	No	65	Yes	A caretaker subject to Pay after Performance whose needs are not yet included in the grant; Sanctioned for noncompliance; Receiving less than a $10 benefit
Ohio	No	No	No	No	No	Receiving assistance in a state with a time-limit waiver; Receiving support services when at least one assistance group member is employed
Oklahoma	No	No	No	No	No	n.a.
Oregon	No	No	No [32]	No	Yes	In drug, alcohol, or mental health treatment; Not job-ready; In a degree program; Receiving benefits before July 2003; Participating in JOBS Plus, Post-TANF, or State Family Pre-SSI/SSDI (SFPSS) programs after October 1, 2007; Participating in selected activities between July 2003 and September 2007; Receiving benefits between July 2008 and April 2012; Deprived of needed medical care [33]

Table IV.C.2(b). Time Limit Exemption Policies (continued), July 2017 [1]

State	Unit exempt for months in which the head was: Caring for a child under age X (months)	In month X or later of pregnancy	Minor parent	Age X or older (years)	Victim of domestic violence	Other
Pennsylvania	No	No	No	No	Yes	Receiving assistance in another state prior to March 1997; Sanctioned for noncompliance; No own-children in the assistance unit
Rhode Island	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	n.a.
South Carolina						
All, except CARES	No	No	Yes [15]	No	Yes [15]	Benefits were received in another state; Not receiving support services; An adult family member is providing a home for and caring for a child whom the state has determined to be abandoned and for whom the alternative placement is foster care; Benefit is less than $10 [34]
CARES [17]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
South Dakota	No	No	No	No	No	n.a.
Tennessee	No	No	No	No	No	n.a.
Texas	12 [35]	No	No	60 [35]	No	Sanctioned for noncompliance, Unemployed due to high local unemployment [36]
Utah	No	No	No	No	No	Receiving SSI; Receiving Transitional Cash Assistance payments after April 1, 2007
Vermont	24 [37]	No	Yes	60	Yes	Not required to participate in work activities
Virginia						
All, except VIEW [38]	12 [39]	n.a.	Yes [39]	60 [39]	n.a.	Receiving SSI; Sanctioned for noncompliance
VIEW	n.a. [40]	No	n.a. [40]	n.a. [40]	Yes	Not receiving support services [41]
Washington	No	No	Yes	No	No	n.a.
West Virginia	No	No	No	No	No	n.a.
Wisconsin	2	No	No	No	No	n.a.
Wyoming	No	No	Yes [4]	No	No	n.a.

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

[1] Exemption policies apply to months in which the state does not count a month of assistance toward the state's time limit (or "stops the clock"). These policies are potential exemptions and may not be granted to all that are eligible. In most states, caseworkers have discretion in applying the exemptions. If a state has multiple time limits (for example, a periodic limit and a lifetime limit) and applies the exemption policies differently to the time limits, the differences are footnoted. Time limits apply only to months when adults receive what is considered TANF assistance, which includes all regular monthly cash aid and some other types of help. Some types of aid considered non-assistance are subsidized jobs programs and child care and transportation help for employed families. Months in which only non-assistance is received are always exempt from the TANF time limits. See section 260.31 of the final TANF rule for more information on assistance and non-assistance. The federal government requires that states disregard months during which an adult lived on a Native American reservation or in an Alaskan Native village with an adult unemployment rate of at least 50 percent. Furthermore, because time-limit calculations apply only to families that include adults (or minor heads of household), time limits do not apply to child-only units or to any month in which an adult received assistance as a dependent child. Many states exempt months in which a unit receives diversion payments. These policies are captured in table I.A.1. For information on whether months of receipt of transitional cash benefits (for families leaving TANF with employment) are counted or exempted, see the full database. This table focuses on the exemption rules in place as of July 2017. Rules may have differed for months of assistance received previously. Past policies are mentioned if they exempted a substantial part of the caseload for certain past time periods under TANF.

[2] A parent is exempt if caring for a child under three months of age. If no child care is available, a parent is exempt if caring for a child under 12 months of age.

[3] Months spent as primary care provider for one child, birth to 23 months old, are exempt. The exemption does not apply to pregnant and parenting teens under age 20 who do not have a high school diploma or equivalent. For two-parent families, each parent has the option to receive the exemption, but only one exemption can be granted at a time. An individual may only be eligible for this exemption one time.

[4] Minor parents are exempt in months in which they are participating in designated activity requirements, such as high school, GED, or a state learning program.

[5] While state funds cannot be used to exempt units meeting these criteria, counties have the option to use county funds for exemptions.

[6] While the state does not allow for an explicit exemption for caring for a child under a specific age, if there is inadequate access to child care an exemption may be granted so the parent may stay home to care for the child.

[7] The exemption does not apply to children subject to a family cap.

[8] A woman who is pregnant may be granted an exemption if a physician certifies the woman's inability to work. A woman in postpartum is granted an exemption until the end of the month that includes the sixth week after the pregnancy has ended.

[9] Minor parents may be exempt from time limits when exempt from the requirements of living with an adult.

[10] This exemption applies to the benefit reduction limit.

[11] A minor is exempt from the time limit if he or she has a child or if she is pregnant.

[12] To be exempt, the individual must be unemployed, employed less than 20 hours a week, or attend school for no more than six credit hours per week, have had a relationship to the perpetrator of the violence, and have taken action as a result of the domestic violence (such as getting a court order protecting the individual from the perpetrator or living in a domestic violence shelter within the past 12 months).

[13] To be exempt, the caretaker relative must attend the postsecondary education program full time and retain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5. The exemption only applies to one-parent units.

[14] A minor parent who lives in an adult-supervised setting and is not considered a head of household may be exempt.

[15] This exemption applies to the periodic time limit.

[16] The assistance unit may receive an exemption to the periodic limit, but not the lifetime limit, for months in which the unit receives benefits in another state or the parent has earned income and is eligible to receive the $900 time-limited deduction.

[17] Recipients in this component are exempt from time limits. The criteria for inclusion in this component may include some of the exemptions listed in this table. For exemptions that are not relevant to the criteria for inclusion in this component, n.a. is listed.

[18] The unit is placed in this component if (1) the recipient is caring for a child under age 2 who is in the unit or would be in the unit except that the child receives SSI, foster care maintenance payments, or adoption assistance, or (2) the recipient is caring for a child under 3 months old who is not included in the unit.

[19] Units where the head is pregnant and the child is expected to be born within 120 days are placed in this component.

[20] Individuals with this characteristic are placed in an alternative component that is exempt from time limits.

[21] The assistance unit may receive an exemption to the periodic limit, but not the lifetime limit, for months in which either a sanction results in the ineligibility of the entire unit or the unit head does not have to participate in work activities.

[22] To be exempt, minor parents must be living in a supervised setting and complying with a social service plan or, if they are 18 or 19 years old, they must be complying with education requirements.

[23] To be exempt, the family must be complying with a safety plan.

[24] Individuals caring for a child under 12 weeks of age are placed in an alternative component that is exempt from time limits.

[25] A minor parent who meets the definition of a dependent child is exempt.

[26] The unit is placed in this component if caring for a child under 12 weeks of age.

[27] Pregnant women are placed in this component beginning the month before the month of their due date.

[28] This state continues to fund families beyond 60 months of benefit receipt using state funding. However, the state may exempt certain months in calculating the number of federally funded months of assistance.

[29] Single parents caring for a child under 12 months old are exempt from the benefit waiting period time limit.

[30] This exemption applies to the benefit waiting period.

[31] The assistance unit may receive an exemption for the benefit waiting period, but not the lifetime limit, for months in which the unit meets the following circumstances: benefits were received in another state; participating in drug, alcohol, or mental health treatment; not receiving support services; or not required to participate in work activities.

[32] If the minor parent is not the head of the assistance unit, the months do not count.

[33] A state-wide exemption was applied due to economic hardship for all participants between July 1, 2008 and April 30, 2012. Additionally participants were exempt for months they were not required to participate in work activities between July 2003 and September 2003.

[34] The assistance unit may receive an exemption for the periodic limit, but not the lifetime limit, for months in which the unit meets the following circumstances: benefits were received in another state; not receiving support services; an adult family member is providing a home for and caring for a child whom the state has determined to be abandoned and for whom the alternative placement is foster care; or the benefit is less than $10.

[35] Months with this characteristic are exempt from work activities. When people are exempt from work activities (and do not volunteer to participate), those months are exempt from the benefit waiting period.

[36] Individuals who are unemployed because of high local unemployment may be exempt as long as they contact an average of 40 employers a month. This exemption applies only to the benefit waiting period time limit.

[37] The first 12 months of a possible 24-month young-child time limit exemption do not count towards the state time limit. The child may be any age under 24 months.

[38] Recipients in this component are exempt from the 24-month benefit waiting period but not the 60-month lifetime limit. The criteria for inclusion in this component may include some of the exemptions listed in this table. For exemptions that are not relevant to the criteria for inclusion in this component, n.a. is listed.

[39] Units with this characteristic are placed in this component and are therefore exempt from the benefit waiting period, but their months still count for the lifetime time limit.

[40] Individuals with this characteristic are placed in an alternative component.

[41] Individuals not receiving support services may be exempt from the benefit waiting period time limit but not the lifetime limit.

Table IV.C.3(a). Time Limit Extension Policies, July 2017 [1]

State	Assistance extended to unit for months in which the head is:				
	Working (min. weekly hrs.) or had earned income (min. dollars)	Cooperating but unable to find employment	Unemployed due to high local unemployment	Ill, incapacitated, or has a disability [2]	Caring for a person who is ill, incapacitated, or has a disability [3]
Alabama	No	Yes [4]	Yes [5]	Yes	Yes
Alaska	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Arizona	No	No	No	Yes	Yes [6]
Arkansas	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
California	No	No [7]	No	Yes	Yes
Colorado [8]	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Connecticut [9]	No	Yes	No	No	No
Delaware [10]	No	No	Yes [11]	n.a. [12]	n.a. [13]
D.C.	No	No	No	Yes [14]	Yes [14]
Florida	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Georgia	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Hawaii	No	No	No	No	No
Idaho	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Illinois	No	No	No	Yes	Yes [15]
Indiana	1 month for every 6 worked [16]	Yes [14]	No	Yes [14]	No
Iowa	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Kansas	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Kentucky	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Louisiana	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maine	35 hrs.	No	No	Yes	Yes
Maryland	No	Yes	No	No	No
Massachusetts					
Exempt [17]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Non-Exempt	Case-by-case [18]	Yes [18]	Yes [18]	n.a. [19]	n.a. [19]
Michigan	No	No	No	No	No
Minnesota	30 hrs. [20]	No	No	Yes	Yes
Mississippi	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Table IV.C.3(a). Time Limit Extension Policies, July 2017 [1]

State	Assistance extended to unit for months in which the head is: Working (min. weekly hrs.) or had earned income (min. dollars)	Cooperating but unable to find employment	Unemployed due to high local unemployment	Ill, incapacitated, or has a disability [2]	Caring for a person who is ill, incapacitated, or has a disability [3]
Missouri	No	No	No	No	No
Montana	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Nebraska					
Time-limited assistance	No	No	No	n.a. [19]	n.a. [19]
Non-time-limited assistance [17]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Nevada	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
New Hampshire					
NHEP	30 hrs. [21]	Yes [22]	Yes [23]	Yes [24]	Yes [24]
FAP [17]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
New Jersey	40 hrs.	Yes	No	Yes	No
New Mexico					
NMW	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
EWP	No	No	No	No	No
New York [25]	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
North Carolina	No	Yes [26]	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Dakota	No	No	No	No	No
Ohio	No	No	No	No	No
Oklahoma	30 hrs.	No	No	Yes	Yes
Oregon	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Pennsylvania	30 hrs. [27]	Yes [28]	No	Yes	Yes
Rhode Island	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Carolina					
All, except CARES	30 hrs.	Yes [18]	No	n.a. [19]	No
CARES [17]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
South Dakota	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Tennessee	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

Table IV.C.3(a). Time Limit Extension Policies, July 2017 [1]

State	Assistance extended to unit for months in which the head is: Working (min. weekly hrs.) or had earned income (min. dollars)	Cooperating but unable to find employment	Unemployed due to high local unemployment	Ill, incapacitated, or has a disability [2]	Caring for a person who is ill, incapacitated, or has a disability [3]
Texas [29]	Earnings up to $168 per month	Yes [30]	Yes	Yes	Yes
Utah [31]	20 hrs. [32]	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Vermont [33]	Case-by-case	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Virginia					
All, except VIEW [34]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Yes	Yes
VIEW	No	No	Yes [35]	n.a. [36]	n.a. [36]
Washington	32 hrs. [37]	No	No	Yes	Yes
West Virginia [31]	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Wisconsin	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wyoming	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

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

[1] Extension policies apply to months in which the state provides additional benefits to families after they have reached their time limit. These policies are potential extensions and may not be granted to all that are eligible. In most states, caseworkers have discretion in applying the extensions. If a state has multiple time limits (for example, a periodic limit and a lifetime limit) and applies the extension policies differently to the time limits, the differences are footnoted. The federal government requires that states disregard months during which an adult lived on a Native American reservation or in an Alaskan Native village with an adult unemployment rate of at least 50 percent. Furthermore, because time limit calculations apply only to families that include adults (or minor heads of household), time limits do not apply to child-only units or to any month in which an adult received assistance as a dependent child.

[2] See the Welfare Rules Database for more information on how states define illness, incapacity, and disability.

[3] States are shown as having an exemption if they exempt months in which a parent must care for a child or adult in the household who meets the state's definition for ill or incapacitated. See the Welfare Rules Database for more information on how states define illness, incapacity, and disability.

[4] To receive an extension, the individual must cooperate with Child Support and comply with JOBS in each month past the 60th month. Failure to meet these criteria results in permanent loss of program eligibility regardless of family circumstances and recovery of all benefits received past month 60.

[5] The extension applies to those who live in SNAP ABAWD waiver counties, are compliant with JOBS, are not currently employed, and have not been disqualified due to noncompliance.

[6] This extension is limited to single-parent units where the caretaker provides care for a disabled child, parent, spouse, or domestic partner. The unit must receive respite care for less than 20 hours a week and the disabled person may not attend school or vocational rehabilitation more than 20 hours a week.

[7] An extension may be granted if the participant is considered likely to obtain employment within six months.

[8] These policies are for Denver County.

[9] Recipients may only receive two extensions unless they meet specific criteria. If recipients are sanctioned during the extension period, they are ineligible to receive benefits again. Units may receive only 60 total months of benefits, including extensions.

[10] Extensions will not be granted if the caretaker adult received and rejected offers of employment, quit a job without good cause, was fired for cause, or did not comply with the contract. Units that reapply after their time limit may receive assistance if circumstances exist for an extension to be granted.

[11] An extension may be available for caretakers who put forward their best effort but could not find a job due to a lack of suitable employment in the local economy; the maximum extension is 12 cumulative months.

[12] These parents may be placed in the Children's Program or the Transitional Work Program, which are not time-limited.

[13] Parents caring for a disabled child or spouse who is living in the same home are placed in the Children's Program, which is not time-limited.

[14] This extension applies to the benefit reduction limit.

[15] The ill, incapacitated, or disabled person must be a related child under age 18 or a spouse. Months in which the family has a disabled child in the home approved for a waiver under the Home and Community-Based Care Program are also exempt.

[16] An individual may earn one month for every six months he or she works in an unsubsidized job. This extension applies to the benefit reduction limit.

[17] Recipients in this component are exempt from time limits. The requirements for inclusion in this component may include some of the criteria listed in this table.

[18] This extension applies to the periodic time limit.

[19] Individuals with this characteristic are placed in the alternative component, which is exempt from time limits.

[20] The 30 hours a week applies to one-parent families. Two-parent families must participate in activities for 55 hours a week. For one-parent families, 25 of the 30 hours must be in employment; for two-parent families, 45 of the 55 hours must be in employment. Participants must be in compliance in the 60th month as well as for 10 of the last 12 months preceding the 61st month to be eligible for the extension.

[21] The extension is available only to assistance groups whose cases were closed because of time limits and who are reapplying for assistance.

[22] This extension cannot be used for cases that are reapplying for an extension after the case has been closed.

[23] Extensions may be granted to: (1) everyone if New Hampshire Employment Security has determined that the state is eligible for the federal/state cooperative extended benefit program, or if the state has an unemployment rate above 7 percent; (2) to families living in areas designated by the US Department of Labor as surplus areas.

[24] Recipients who are unable to work are moved into the alternative component, which is exempt from time limits. Recipients with a temporary incapacity remain in the time-limited component but may receive an extension.

[25] New York continues to provide noncash assistance to all units that have reached the 60-month federal time limit.

[26] Individuals who are substantially complying with their mutual responsibility agreement and are unable to obtain or maintain employment that provides a basic subsistence (defined as less than the state's maximum Work First payment minus 27.5 percent from each worker's income) may receive an extension up to a maximum of six months from the benefit waiting period.

[27] Two-parent families must work 55 hours a week to receive this extension. An individual may also receive this extension if he or she is working 20 hours a week and participating in approved work or training activities for at least 10 hours a week.

[28] To receive this extension, an individual must have completed the eight-week job search and, in the first 12 months of assistance, begun an approved employment and training program for 30 hours a week or a full-time postsecondary educational activity.

[29] To qualify for any extension, a caretaker must have fewer than 12 months of activities or child support sanctions since November 1, 1996.

[30] To be eligible for an extension, the recipient must have been unable to obtain sufficient employment during the last 12 consecutive months before the end of the 60-month limit and may not have had more than one sanction since November 1, 1996. The inability to obtain sufficient employment cannot be the result of voluntarily quitting a job. This applies to the lifetime limit but not the benefit waiting period.

[31] For two-parent households, both parents must be eligible to receive an extension for the unit to qualify for continued financial assistance. If either parent does not qualify for an extension, the household is not eligible for continued financial assistance.

[32] An extension is granted if the following two conditions are met: (1) during the previous two months, the parent was employed for no less than 20 hours a week, (2) the parent is expected to be employed for no less than 20 hours a week in the month for which financial assistance is being authorized.

[33] All participating adults must be either deferred from work requirements or engaged in countable work activities equal to the work hour requirement in order for the unit to receive benefits past 60 months.

[34] Recipients in this component are exempt from the 24-month benefit waiting period but not the 60-month lifetime limit. The requirements for inclusion in this component may include some of the criteria listed in this table.

[35] If local unemployment is greater than 10 percent for the six months prior to the client's request for hardship exception, an extension may be granted. This extension applies to the benefit waiting period.

[36] Individuals with this characteristic are placed in the alternative component.

[37] Households must participate full time (32 to 40 hours a week) in work-related activities, which may include a combination of working, job search, or preparing for work, in order to continue receiving assistance.

Table IV.C.3(b). Time Limit Extension Policies (continued), July 2017 [1]

State	Assistance extended to unit for months in which the head is: Caring for a child under age X (months)	In month X or later of pregnancy	Age X or older (years)	Victim of domestic violence	Other
Alabama	No	No	60	Yes	In drug, alcohol, or mental health treatment; Unemployed due to significant personal barrier
Alaska	No	No	No	Yes	Suffering from a hardship
Arizona	No	No	60 [2]	Yes	Not receiving support services; Suffering from a hardship
Arkansas	3 [3]	7	60	Yes	Not required to participate in work activities; In an education or training program within 6 months of ending; Not receiving support services; Likely to neglect his or her children as a result of loss of benefit
California	No	No	60	Yes	Sanctioned for noncompliance; Full amount of cash assistance is reimbursed by child support; Unable to maintain employment or participate in activity requirements; A caretaker of either a dependent child of the court, a kinship care program child, or a child at risk of placement in foster care; Excluded from the AU for reasons other than exceeding the time limit
Colorado [4]	No	No	No	Yes	Suffering from a hardship; Not receiving support services; Suffering from family instability; Has a member of the assistance unit involved in the judicial system
Connecticut [5]	No	No	No	Yes	n.a.
Delaware [6]	No	No	No	No	Not receiving support services
D.C.	No	No	60 [7]	Yes [7]	In drug, alcohol, or mental health treatment; Not required to participate in work activities [7]
Florida	No	No	No	Yes	Not job-ready; Not receiving support services; Waiting on SSI/SSDI application; Likely to require foster care or emergency shelter for children if benefits are ended
Georgia	No	No	No	Yes	Has an active case with Child Protective Services that creates a barrier to self-sufficiency
Hawaii	No	No	No	No	n.a.

Table IV.C.3(b). Time Limit Extension Policies (continued), July 2017 [1]

State	Assistance extended to unit for months in which the head is: Caring for a child under age X (months)	In month X or later of pregnancy	Age X or older (years)	Victim of domestic violence	Other
Idaho	No	No	No	No	n.a.
Illinois	No	No	No	Yes	In drug, alcohol, or mental health treatment; In services that prevent full-time work; In an approved education or training program within 6 months of completion
Indiana	No	No	No	Yes [8]	Not receiving support services [8]
Iowa	No	No	No	Yes	In drug, alcohol, or mental health treatment; Not job-ready; Not receiving support services
Kansas	No	No	No	Yes	In family services with an open social service plan which prevents full-time employment
Kentucky	No	No	No	Yes	In a unit in which a member lost his or her job within 30 days of reaching the 60-month time limit; A non-parent relative caretaker and is likely to place the child in foster care if benefits are terminated
Louisiana	No	No	No	Yes	In drug, alcohol, or mental health treatment; Not job-ready; Loses job as a result of factors not related to job performance; Experiencing a temporary family crisis; Not receiving support services
Maine	No	7	No	Yes	In an approved education or vocational program [9]
Maryland	No	No	No	No	Suffering from a hardship; Not receiving support services
Massachusetts					
Exempt [10]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Non-Exempt	n.a. [11]	n.a. [11]	n.a. [12]	No	Not receiving support services; In an approved education or training program [13]
Michigan	No	No	No	No	n.a.
Minnesota	No	No	No	Yes [14]	Assessed by a vocational specialist to be unemployable; mental illness or developmental disability that severely limits employability; An IQ below 80 or a learning disability that severely limits employability
Mississippi	No	No	60 [15]	No	Not receiving support services

Table IV.C.3(b). Time Limit Extension Policies (continued), July 2017 [1]

State	Assistance extended to unit for months in which the head is: Caring for a child under age X (months)	In month X or later of pregnancy	Age X or older (years)	Victim of domestic violence	Other
Missouri	No	No	No	Yes	In drug, alcohol, or mental health treatment; Experiencing a family crisis; Participating in children's services with an open case
Montana	No	No	No	Yes	Has other special circumstances as determined by the caseworker
Nebraska					
Time-limited assistance	n.a. [11]	n.a. [11]	n.a. [16]	n.a. [11]	n.a.
Non-time-limited assistance [10]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Nevada	12 [17]	No	60	Yes	In drug, alcohol, or mental health treatment; Suffering from a hardship; A minor parent; Participating in a program likely to lead to self-sufficiency
New Hampshire					
NHEP	No	No	n.a. [12]	Yes	In drug, alcohol, or mental health treatment; Lives in a household with an adult who has a learning disability; Loses employment and is actively seeking re-employment and unemployment compensation; Suffering from a hardship; Unable to find adequate child care
FAP [10]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
New Jersey	3	7	No	Yes	Terminated from full-time, unsubsidized employment through no fault of his or her own; Suffering from a hardship or likely to undergo hardship if benefits are terminated; Employed full time
New Mexico					
NMW	No	No	60	Yes [18]	Waiting on SSI/SSDI application
EWP	No	No	No	No	n.a.
New York [19]	No	No	No	Yes	In drug, alcohol, or mental health treatment; Not job-ready

Table IV.C.3(b). Time Limit Extension Policies (continued), July 2017 [1]

State	Assistance extended to unit for months in which the head is: Caring for a child under age X (months)	In month X or later of pregnancy	Age X or older (years)	Victim of domestic violence	Other
North Carolina	No	No	No	Yes	In drug, alcohol, or mental health treatment; Not job-ready; Suffering from a hardship; Not receiving support services; Participating in post-secondary education with a 2.5 minimum grade point average [20]
North Dakota	No	No	No	No	n.a.
Ohio	No	No	No	Yes	Likely to undergo hardship if benefits are terminated
Oklahoma	No	No	No	No	In drug, alcohol, or mental health treatment; Underemployed for an extended period because of documented barriers; In a training or education program during the 60th month that could be completed within 12 months; Waiting on SSI/SSDI application
Oregon	No	No	No	Yes	Is a minor parent; In drug, alcohol, or mental health treatment; Not job-ready; Has a mental health condition or learning disability; Enrolled in a degree program; Participating in JOBS Plus, Pre-TANF, Post-TANF, or State Family Pre-SSI/SSDI (SFPSS) programs after October 1, 2007; Deprived of needed medical care
Pennsylvania	12 [21]	No	No	Yes	n.a.
Rhode Island	No	No	No	Yes	Homeless; Unable to work due to a critical circumstance
South Carolina					
All, except CARES	12 [22]	7 [23]	No	Yes	In drug, alcohol, or mental health treatment; Has an open case with Child Protective Services; Participating in a county approved training program that will not be completed by the 24th month [24]
CARES [10]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
South Dakota	No	No	No	Yes	Not job-ready; Unable to work because of low intellectual function; Unable to work because of a family safety issue such as homelessness or family violence

Table IV.C.3(b). Time Limit Extension Policies (continued), July 2017 [1]

State	Assistance extended to unit for months in which the head is: Caring for a child under age X (months)	In month X or later of pregnancy	Age X or older (years)	Victim of domestic violence	Other
Tennessee	No	No	65	Yes	In drug, alcohol, or mental health treatment; Experiencing a significant life crisis [25]
Texas [26]	No	No	No	Yes	Not receiving support services
Utah [27]	No	No	No	Yes	Suffering from a hardship; Not receiving support services; Completed education or training in the 36th month and needs additional time to obtain employment; A minor parent; Participating in Next Generation Kids pilot program
Vermont [28]	24 [29]	No [30]	60	Yes	Not required to participate in work activities
Virginia					
All, except VIEW [31]	12 [32]	n.a.	60 [32]	n.a.	n.a.
VIEW	n.a. [33]	No	n.a. [34]	No	Experiencing a hardship; Enrolled in post-secondary education; Lost a job or cannot find a job; Participating in training or education at the end of the 24-month benefit period when training or education is expected to be completed within the next 12 months [35]
Washington	No	No	55 [36]	Yes [14]	Has an open child welfare case; Exempt from work requirements [37]
West Virginia [27]	6	7 [38]	No	Yes	In a training or education program in the 55th month and making satisfactory progress toward graduation
Wisconsin	2	No	No	Yes	Has significant barriers to employment [39]
Wyoming	No	No	No	Yes	In a post-secondary degree program and within one year of completion; Claiming abandonment

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

[1] Extension policies apply to months in which the state provides additional benefits to families after they have reached their time limit. These policies are potential extensions and may not be granted to all that are eligible. In most states, caseworkers have discretion in applying the extensions. If a state has multiple time limits (for example, a periodic limit and a lifetime limit) and applies the extension policies differently to the time limits, the differences are footnoted. The federal government requires that states disregard months during which an adult lived on a Native American reservation or in an Alaskan Native village with an adult unemployment rate of at least 50 percent. Furthermore, because time limit calculations apply only to families that include adults (or minor heads of household), time limits do not apply to child-only units or to any month in which an adult received assistance as a dependent child.

[2] This extension is limited to cases in which the unit head is a nonparent-specified relative and is included in the unit.

[3] The extension applies to parents who either have child care or do not have child care and have children less than 12 months old.

[4] These policies are for Denver County.

[5] Recipients may only receive two extensions unless they meet specific criteria. If recipients are sanctioned during the extension period, they are ineligible to receive benefits again. Units may receive only 60 total months of benefits, including extensions.

[6] Extensions will not be granted if the caretaker adult received and rejected offers of employment, quit a job without good cause, was fired for cause, or did not comply with the contract. Units that reapply after their time limit may receive assistance if circumstances exist for an extension to be granted.

[7] These extensions apply to the benefit reduction limit.

[8] This extension applies to the benefit reduction limit.

[9] An individual who is participating in good standing in an approved education program such as vocational education training may be eligible for an extension of up to six months. Three subsequent incremental extensions of up to six months are available.

[10] Recipients in this component are exempt from time limits. The requirements for inclusion in this component may include some of the criteria listed in this table.

[11] Individuals with this characteristic are placed in the alternative component, which is exempt from time limits.

[12] Individuals 60 years of age or older are placed in the alternative component, which is exempt from time limits.

[13] These extensions apply to the periodic limit.

[14] To receive the extension, the family must be complying with activities in an approved plan.

[15] Units with an elderly caretaker may have their benefits extended beyond 60 months by converting the case to child-only.

[16] Individuals over the age of 65 are placed in the alternative component, which is exempt from time limits.

[17] Months in which the parent was exempt from activities requirements because he or she was caring for a young child are deducted from the 12-month extension period. For example, if the unit head was previously exempted from activities requirements for 3 months and then reaches the 60-month time limit, he or she may only receive an additional 9-month extension, provided one of his or her children is under 12 months old.

[18] In addition to victims of domestic violence, individuals considered battered or subjected to extreme cruelty receive an extension. Battery and extreme cruelty occur when an individual has been physically attacked, sexually abused, raped, threatened with physical or sexual abuse, exposed to mental abuse, or deprived of medical care.

[19] New York continues to provide noncash assistance to all units that have reached the 60-month federal time limit. These extensions apply to the 60-month limit for receiving regular cash assistance.

[20] When a family reaches the end of their 60-month limit, they can request a hearing to qualify for a hardship extension based on 1) an inhibiting criminal record; 2) homelessness or sub-standard housing; 3) one or more children receiving child welfare services in the home; 4) lack of transportation; or 5) any other situation which makes employment unattainable. The assistance unit may receive an extension to the benefit waiting period, but not the lifetime limit, for months in which a recipient participates in post-secondary education and maintains a 2.5 minimum grade point average.

[21] Recipients caring for children under six years old may also receive an extension if an alternative child care arrangement is unavailable.

[22] This extension applies to the periodic time limit.

[23] A pregnant woman, who has not been participating in the work program because she is in the seventh month of her pregnancy, may receive an extension to the periodic limit but not the lifetime limit. The woman must begin participating in the work program to receive the extension.

[24] The assistance unit may receive an extension to the periodic time limit, but not the lifetime limit, for months the unit head is participating in a county approved training program that will not be completed by the 24th month.

[25] Examples of a significant life crisis include eviction from the home, natural disaster, family crisis, or complications from pregnancy or birth.

[26] To qualify for any extension, a caretaker must have fewer than 12 months of activities or child support sanctions since November 1, 1996.

[27] For two-parent households, both parents must be eligible to receive an extension for the unit to qualify for continued financial assistance. If either parent does not qualify for an extension, the household is not eligible for continued financial assistance.

[28] All participating adults must be either deferred from work requirements or engaged in countable work activities equal to the work hour requirement in order for the unit to receive benefits past 60 months.

[29] The extension is limited to 24 months in a recipient's lifetime. In addition, an extension may be allowed for 13 weeks following the birth of each additional child.

[30] A participant may request a modification or deferment of the work requirement on the basis of an unpaid leave of absence from employment (to which the participant is entitled under Vermont's Parental and Family Leave statute) and must provide verification that his or her employer has approved this leave of absence.

[31] Recipients in this component are exempt from the 24-month benefit waiting period but not the 60-month lifetime limit. The requirements for inclusion in this component may include some of the criteria listed in this table.

[32] Units with this characteristic are placed in this component and are therefore exempt from the benefit waiting period, but they are not eligible to receive an extension to the lifetime limit.

[33] Individuals with this characteristic are placed in an alternative component.

[34] Individuals 60 years of age or older are placed in an alternative component.

[35] These extensions apply to the benefit waiting period.

[36] This extension applies only to nonparent relative caretakers.

[37] Only a family's first child welfare case potentially qualifies the family for a time limit extension.

[38] Single, pregnant women (including emancipated minor parents under 18 years old) who are in their third trimester may receive an extension until their child is six months old. If the pregnancy does not end in a live birth, the extension continues for two months following the end of the pregnancy.

[39] Significant barriers include, but are not limited to, low achievement ability, learning disability, severe emotional problems, or family problems, which include legal problems, family crises, homelessness, domestic abuse, or children's school or medical activities that affect one of the members of the assistance unit.

Table IV.D.1. Transitional Cash Benefits, July 2017 [1]

State	Does the state provide transitional cash benefits?	Average work hour requirement for transitional benefits	Monthly benefit amount for transitional benefits	Time limit on transitional benefits
Alabama	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Alaska	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Arizona	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Arkansas	Yes	24 hours per week	$204	24 months
California	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Colorado [2]	No [3]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Connecticut	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Delaware	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
D.C.	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Florida	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Georgia	Yes	Varies [4]	$200	12 months [5]
Hawaii	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Idaho	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Illinois	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Indiana	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Iowa	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Kansas	Yes	None	$50	5 months
Kentucky	Yes	None [6]	$130	9 months
Louisiana	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Maine	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Maryland	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Massachusetts	Yes	None	Varies [7]	4 months
Michigan	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Minnesota	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Mississippi	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Missouri	Yes	30 hours per week [8]	$50 [8]	6 months
Montana	Yes	30 hours per week	Varies [9]	12 months
Nebraska	Yes	None	Varies [10]	5 months
Nevada	Yes	None [11]	$50	6 months
New Hampshire	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
New Jersey	Yes	20 hours per week	$200	24 months
New Mexico	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
New York	Yes	30 hours per week	Varies [12]	24 months [13]
North Carolina	Yes	None	$100	3 months
North Dakota	Yes	30 hours per week [14]	Varies [15]	6 months
Ohio	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Oklahoma	Yes	None	Varies [16]	3 months
Oregon	Yes	None	Varies [17]	3 months
Pennsylvania	Yes	Varies [18]	$100	3 months
Rhode Island [19]	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
South Carolina	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
South Dakota	Yes	20 hours per week	Varies [16]	1 month

Table IV.D.1. Transitional Cash Benefits, July 2017 [1]

State	Does the state provide transitional cash benefits?	Average work hour requirement for transitional benefits	Monthly benefit amount for transitional benefits	Time limit on transitional benefits
Tennessee	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Texas	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Utah	Yes	30 hours per week	Varies [20]	3 months
Vermont	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Virginia				
All, except VIEW	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
VIEW	Yes	30 hours per week	$50	12 months
Washington	Yes	None	Varies [21]	1 month
West Virginia	Yes	Varies [22]	Varies [16]	6 months
Wisconsin	No	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Wyoming	Yes	30 hours per week	Varies [23]	6 months

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

[1] This table captures cash benefits that are time-limited in some way, and that are restricted to some or all families who previously received TANF but who are no longer receiving TANF, for example, due to ineligibility from increased earnings. This table does not cover cases where states transition TANF participants into a solely state-funded program with no change in benefit levels. States may also provide other non-cash benefits to families transitioning off of TANF, such as child care assistance and Medicaid. See the WRD for more information.

[2] These policies are for Denver County.

[3] Denver's policies include a description of employment-related incentives that are paid to individuals who are employed 1 month after first getting an unsubsidized job ($200 payment), 6 months after first employment ($300), and 12 months after first employment ($500). This program is not currently being operated.

[4] Employment must be full time, stable, and permanent. Participants must maintain employment at the same number of hours that caused the TANF case closure.

[5] Recipients are eligible for Work Support Payment (WSP) twice in their lifetime.

[6] There is no minimum hour requirement, but recipients of transitional benefits must maintain employment.

[7] Transitional benefits are equal to $280 in the first month, $210 in the second month, $140 in the third month, and $70 in the fourth month.

[8] Single parents or two-parent households in which one parent is disabled, with children age six or older, must work 30 hours per week, or 20 hours if they have children under age six. Two-parent, nondisabled households must work 55 hours per week.

[9] Transitional benefits are equal to $100 in the first 6 months, $50 in the last 6 months, and an additional Work Pays incentive of $300 in each of the 1st, 7th, and 12th month.

[10] The transitional benefit is equal to one-fifth of the previous month's benefit.

[11] If employment terminates or income decreases to a dollar amount that is below the TANF payment income limit, the recipient is no longer eligible.

[12] The supplement must equal the monthly net loss of cash income that would occur if the supplement were not paid to the household.

[13] For families no longer eligible for TANF due to time limits, they may be eligible for state and locally-funded safety net assistance cash benefits for up to 24 months. After 24 months, payments are restricted to vendors. There is no time limit on payments restricted to vendors.

[14] If there is a child under age six in the household, the average work requirement is 20 hours a week.

[15] The monthly benefit amount consists of special allowances for child care, job retention, health insurance reimbursement, health tracks reimbursement, and a high school diploma or GED bonus.

[16] Transitional benefits are equal to the monthly benefit the unit received.

[17] Transitional benefits are equal to $100 in the first month, $75 in the second month, and $50 in the third month.

[18] A recipient must meet the work participation rate requirement, which is based on his or her circumstances.

[19] Rhode Island's policies include a description of a Post-Closure Employment Incentive Bonus to be paid for up to 12 months, for individuals who stop receiving regular cash aid while employed, and who remain employed. However, the program has not been implemented.

[20] Transitional benefits are equal to the unit's full benefit for the first two months and one half the benefit for the third month.

[21] Transitional benefits for the Consolidated Emergency Assistance Program work as an income deduction. The following expenses are deducted when determining the amount of transitional benefits: a $90 work expense, payments made by a member with earned income for care of a member child up to specified maximums, and expenses for members during the current month that include medical bills, emergency child care, dental care, employment expenses, and the disaster cash assistance program.

[22] Participants must maintain the employment level to remain eligible for transitional cash assistance.

[23] The transitional benefit is equal to half of the previous month's benefit.

V. Policies across Time, 1996–2017

This chapter of the Databook includes longitudinal tables for selected areas of policy from 1996, 2003, 2010, and 2017 (as of July of each year). (For years not shown in these tables, and for prior-year data for policies not covered in this section, see the full online WRD data.)

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

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

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 directly to the family or to a vendor for expenses incurred by the family. Other strategies that states may use to divert applicants from ongoing receipt of cash benefits (such as requiring an applicant to participate in job search or resource and referral services) are not identified as diversion programs in the table.

States did not have the option to divert units under AFDC. However, a few states experimented with diversion through waivers. Generally, diversion programs began as pilot projects in a few counties and, after TANF, were expanded statewide.[43]

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 applicants and recipients, a 6-out-of-13-quarter work history test, and a 30-day waiting period. "Standard AFDC" describes the states that impose the AFDC rules. "Modified" describes the states that no longer impose all the former AFDC requirements on units but still impose some additional requirements. The specific combination of modified rules is footnoted. States that no longer impose any special requirements on two-parent units are denoted by "none."

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

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

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

Earned income disregards for benefit computation: Table L4 describes the earned income disregards allowed in determining net income used for benefit computation. The disregards in this table apply to recipients.[44] Earned income disregards for benefit computation under AFDC were a standard $120 and 33.3 percent for the first four months, $120 for the next eight months, and $90 thereafter. Through waivers, many states began changing their disregard policies, which often allowed units to keep more of their income and remain eligible for aid. This broadening of disregards continued under TANF, which allows states to determine their own disregard policies.

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

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

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

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

Under AFDC, parents were exempt from the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training (JOBS) program if they had children younger than 36 months old.[45] Under waivers, many states began reducing the age of the child exemption. Then, with the passage of TANF, the federal government reduced the maximum age for the exemption to 12 months for the states' participation rate calculations. States can exempt units with children younger or older than 12 months, but units with children over 12 months old will be included in their work participation rate denominator. States with waivers were allowed to continue their previous exemption policy under TANF until the waivers expired.

Most severe sanction policy for noncompliance with work requirements for single-parent adults: Table L7 describes the most severe sanction policy for noncompliance with work requirements. Under AFDC, the worst-case sanction for not complying with work requirements was the removal of the adult for benefit computation purposes. The unit was sanctioned for six months or until compliance. By 1996, a few states had begun to impose more severe sanctions on noncompliant units. These policies continued and expanded under TANF. The federal government requires that all states sanction individuals for not complying with work requirements, but states are allowed to determine the severity of the sanction.

Asset tests: Tables L8 and L9 describe the asset limits and vehicle exemptions for recipients, respectively. If the tests differ for applicants, they are footnoted. States have liberalized asset tests over the past several years, and, since the beginning of TANF, states' asset limits (and the decision whether to impose limits) have generally trended toward fewer restrictions or higher asset thresholds. Under AFDC rules, the federal government set the maximum amount of assets a unit could retain and still remain eligible at $1,000 of countable assets, with an exclusion of $1,500 of the equity value of a vehicle. During the early 1990s, states began experimenting with higher asset limits and vehicle exemptions through waivers. Under TANF, states determine the maximum allowable level of assets.

Family caps: Table L10 indicates which states have implemented family cap policies. States did not have the option to cap additional children under AFDC. However, a few states experimented with family caps through waivers.[46] TANF neither requires nor prohibits family cap policies.

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[45] States had the option to require JOBS participation of parents with children as young as 12 months old.
[46] Years in which the state imposed a family cap as a pilot project in only a few counties are footnoted.

Table L1. Formal Diversion Payments, 1996–2017 (July) [1]				
State	1996	2003	2010	2017
Alabama	No	No	No	No
Alaska	No	**Yes**	Yes	**No** [2]
Arizona	No	**Yes**	**Yes** [3]	**Yes** [4]
Arkansas	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
California [5]	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Colorado [6]	No	**Yes**	**Yes** [7]	**Yes**
Connecticut	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Delaware	No	**Yes** [8]	Yes [8]	Yes [8]
D.C.	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Florida	No	**Yes** [9]	Yes [9]	**Yes** [10]
Georgia	No	No	**Yes** [11]	**No**
Hawaii	No	**Yes** [12]	**No**	No
Idaho	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Illinois	No	**Yes** [13]	**Yes** [14]	Yes [14]
Indiana	No	No	No	No
Iowa	No	**Yes** [15]	**No**	No
Kansas	No	No	No	**Yes**
Kentucky	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Louisiana	No	**Yes**	**No**	No
Maine	No	**Yes** [16]	**Yes**	Yes
Maryland	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Massachusetts	No	No	No	No
Michigan	No	No	**Yes**	**No**
Minnesota	No	No	**Yes** [17]	Yes [17]
Mississippi	No	No	No	No
Missouri	No	No	No	**Yes**
Montana	Yes [18]	**No**	No	No
Nebraska	No	No	No	No
Nevada	No	No	No	**Yes**
New Hampshire	No	No	No	No
New Jersey	No	**Yes** [19]	Yes [19]	Yes [19]
New Mexico	No	**Yes** [20]	**Yes** [21]	Yes [21]
New York	No	**Yes** [22]	Yes [22]	Yes [22]
North Carolina	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Dakota	No	No	**Yes**	Yes
Ohio	No	No	No	No
Oklahoma	No	**Yes** [20]	Yes [20]	**No**
Oregon	No	No	No	No
Pennsylvania	No	No	**Yes**	Yes
Rhode Island	No	No	No	No
South Carolina	No	No	No	No
South Dakota	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Tennessee	No	No	**Yes** [23]	**Yes** [24]

Table L1. Formal Diversion Payments, 1996–2017 (July) [1]				
State	1996	2003	2010	2017
Texas	No	**Yes** [25]	Yes [25]	Yes [25]
Utah	Yes [26]	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Vermont	No	No	**Yes** [27]	Yes [27]
Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Washington	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
West Virginia	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Wisconsin	No	**Yes** [28]	Yes [28]	Yes [28]
Wyoming	No	No	No	No
Total States with Any Diversion	**4**	**29**	**33**	**32**

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

[1] Bolded text indicates a change from the previous year shown. Data shown in the table for the year 1996 reflect states' AFDC policies; data shown in the table for all subsequent years reflect states' TANF policies. If a state's program includes mutually-exclusive components in some years but not others, then in the years without components, the state's information is shown on the statewide row and the component rows show "n.a.", and in the years with components, the state's information is shown on the component rows and the statewide row shows "n.a."

[2] Alaska's TANF program is not currently implementing the diversion payment option due to systematic and program integrity reasons. Alaska may re-implement the payment option when its new eligibility software is fully launched and state statutes/regulations have been updated to better define diversion-eligible households. According to the legislation authorizing the program, a recipient can receive a cash payment worth up to three months of TANF benefits. If a family applies for assistance during the three-month ineligibility period, the entire amount of the diversion payment is treated as unearned income to the family. The diversion payment is prorated equally over the three months, and the prorated amount is counted as monthly income. An individual can receive diversion payments up to four times in a lifetime but no more than once every 12 months.

[3] To be eligible, applicants must be employed full time, have an offer of full-time employment, or be likely to gain full-time employment based on education, skills, and work history. Applicants must also have a short-term verified financial need that is a barrier to achieving self-sufficiency, such as needing car repairs, child care, work clothes, overdue housing expenses, or transportation assistance.

[4] To be eligible, applicants must have employment or self-employment history in the application month or within the 12 months prior to the application month, have successfully completed an educational, vocational, or job training program in the application month or within the six months prior to the application month, or have a job offer for full-time employment that will begin within three calendar months of the grant diversion period.

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

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

[7] The individual must demonstrate a need for a specific item or type of assistance, such as cash, supportive services, housing, or transportation.

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

[9] Florida has three separate diversion programs. Up-front diversion is for individuals in need of assistance because of unexpected circumstances or emergency situations. Relocation assistance is available for individuals who reside in an area with limited employment opportunities and experience one of the following: geographic isolation, formidable transportation barriers, isolation from extended family, or domestic violence that threatens the ability of a parent to maintain self-sufficiency. Early exit diversion is available to TANF recipients if they meet the following criteria: they are employed and receiving earnings, they are able to verify their earnings, they will remain employed for at least six months, they have received cash assistance for at least six consecutive months since October 1996, and they are eligible for at least one more month of TANF.

[10] Florida has three separate diversion programs. Up-front diversion is for individuals in need of assistance because of unexpected circumstances or emergency situations. Relocation assistance is available for individuals who reside in an area with limited employment opportunities and experience one of the following: geographic isolation, formidable transportation barriers, isolation from extended family, or domestic violence that threatens the ability of a parent to maintain self-sufficiency. Cash severance is available to TANF recipients if they meet the following criteria: they are employed and receiving earnings, they are able to verify their earnings, they will remain employed for at least six months, they have received cash assistance for at least six consecutive months since October 1996, and they are eligible for at least one more month of TANF.

[11] The applicant is eligible for diversion assistance if she or he: (1) has a full-time job, but is on unpaid leave due to her or his temporary illness or the illness of a family member (under four months) and meets the gross income test, or (2) is employed and eligible for less than the maximum amount of cash assistance and declines it.

[12] To be eligible for diversion assistance, a household must include at least one work-eligible individual as defined by the state, include one adult who has a work history of at least six months in the 36 months before the month of request for diversion assistance, and be eligible for cash assistance in the month the diversion assistance was issued.

[13] An applicant who has found a job that will make him or her ineligible for cash assistance or who wants to accept the job and withdraw his or her application for assistance is eligible for a one-time payment to begin or maintain employment.

[14] Illinois operates its diversion program through local community partners.

[15] Diversion was offered through a limited pilot program.

[16] The caretaker relative or parent must be employed or looking for work.

[17] Minnesota's four-month Diversionary Work Program (DWP) is mandatory for all TANF applicants, unless exempt. Recipients receive financial assistance and must participate in four months of intensive employment services focused on helping the participant obtain an unsubsidized job before entering regular TANF. Failure to comply with the employment services, which may include a structured job search, results in ineligibility for both DWP and TANF until compliance. After completing the four-month program, participants who still require assistance may apply for TANF as applicants.

[18] Montana conducted a pilot project in eight counties that provided diversion assistance to its clients.

[19] New Jersey's diversion program, the Early Employment Initiative (EEI), is mandatory for applicants who have a work history that equals or exceeds four months of full-time employment in the past 12 months, appear to meet TANF eligibility requirements, are not in immediate need, and do not meet criteria for a deferral from work requirements. Participants receive a one-time, lump-sum payment and are required to pursue an intensive job search for 15 to 30 days while their application is processed. If participants obtain employment and withdraw their 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 Work First New Jersey (WFNJ)/TANF agency for cash assistance.

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

[21] The diversion payment is intended to assist the benefit group with accepting or retaining employment, remedying an emergency situation, or alleviating an unexpected short-term need.

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

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

[24] To be eligible, the applicant must have an identifiable one-time financial need, have been a resident of Tennessee for six months, have no identifiable barriers to employment, have earned a high school diploma or GED, and either be currently employed or have been steadily employed in six of the last 12 months, with at least three being consecutive. In two-parent units, both parents must meet the eligibility criteria to qualify for a diversion payment.

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

[26] Utah phased 50 percent of the caseload into the diversion program in 1996, and then the remainder in 1997.

[27] To be eligible for diversion assistance, an applicant family must meet cash assistance financial eligibility and diversion eligibility criteria and, if it has no members who are mandatory applicants, must choose to participate in the diversion program. Families who meet the following criteria are mandatory applicants: (1) at least one member of the family is work eligible, (2) work-eligible individuals in the family are neither disregarded from nor meeting their cash assistance work requirement, (3) none of the work-eligible individuals have received a diversion assistance payment in the 12 months before the application month, and (4) at least one work-eligible adult is part of a two-parent family, has recent and stable employment with earnings of at least 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, or has a marketable college degree or vocational education certificate.

[28] 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, 1996-2017 (July) [1]

State	1996	2003	2010	2017
Alabama	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Alaska	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Arizona	Modified [2]	Modified [2]	**None**	None
Arkansas	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
California	Modified [3]	**Modified [4]**	**Modified [5]**	Modified [5]
Colorado	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Connecticut	None	None	None	None
Delaware	None	None	None	None
D.C.	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	**None**	None
Florida	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Georgia	Standard AFDC	**Modified [6]**	Modified [6]	Modified [6]
Hawaii	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Idaho	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Illinois	None	None	None	None
Indiana	Modified [3]	Modified [3]	**None**	None
Iowa	Modified [7]	**None**	None	None
Kansas	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Kentucky	Standard AFDC	**Modified [8]**	Modified [8]	Modified [8]
Louisiana	Standard AFDC	**None**	**None**	**Not eligible [9]**
Maine	Standard AFDC	**Modified [10]**	Modified [10]	Modified [10]
Maryland	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Massachusetts	Modified [11]	**None**	None	None
Michigan	None	None	**None [12]**	None [12]
Minnesota	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Mississippi	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC
Missouri	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Montana	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Nebraska	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Nevada	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
New Hampshire	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	**Not eligible [9]**
New Jersey	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
New Mexico	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
New York	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
North Carolina	None	None	None	None
North Dakota	Standard AFDC	**Not eligible [9]**	Not eligible [9]	Not eligible [9]
Ohio	None	None	None	None
Oklahoma	Standard AFDC	**Modified [11]**	Modified [11]	Modified [11]
Oregon	None	None	None	None
Pennsylvania	Standard AFDC	**Modified [2]**	**None**	None
Rhode Island	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
South Carolina	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
South Dakota	Standard AFDC	**Modified [13]**	Modified [13]	Modified [13]
Tennessee	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	**None**
Texas	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None

Table L2. Types of Special Restrictions on Two-Parent, Nondisabled Units' Eligibility, 1996-2017 (July) [1]

State	1996	2003	2010	2017
Utah	Modified [11]	**None**	None	None
Vermont	None	None	None	None
Virginia	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Washington	Modified [14]	**None**	None	None
West Virginia	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Wisconsin	Modified [14]	**None**	None	None
Wyoming	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None

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

[1] Bolded text indicates a change from the previous year shown. 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. States with this policy generally allow eligibility for units with two nondisabled parents only if the principal earner in the couple works no more than a certain number of hours per month. However, in most states with this policy, eligibility may still be allowed when hours exceed the maximum, if work hours are usually at or below the maximum.)See the full database for details.) The special restrictions considered in this table include limits on work hours for applicants and recipients, work history requirements, and waiting period restrictions. The combination of restrictions does not, however, include any variation in state programs from special time limits that apply only to two-parent units. Data shown in the table for the year 1996 reflect states' AFDC policies; data shown in the table for all subsequent years reflect states' TANF policies. If a state's program includes mutually-exclusive components in some years but not others, then in the years without components, the state's information is shown on the statewide row and the component rows show "n.a.", and in the years with components, the state's information is shown on the component rows and the statewide row shows "n.a."

[2] Modified rules for two-parent units: no work limit for applicants or recipients, six of the last 13 quarters work history, and no waiting period.

[3] Modified rules for two-parent units: 100-hour work limit for applicants only, six of the last 13 quarters work history, and 30-day waiting period.

[4] Modified rules for two-parent units: applicants must have been employed less than 100 hours during the four weeks before the date of application, 100 hour work limit for recipients, six of the last 13 quarters work history, and no waiting period.

[5] Modified rules for two-parent units: applicants must have been employed less than 100 hours during the four weeks before the date of application, no work limit for recipients, no work history test, and no benefit waiting period.

[6] 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 have earned at least $500 within the six months before application; (4) receiving retirement benefits; or (5) received disability benefits based on 100 percent disability in any of the last six months.

[7] Modified rules for two-parent units: 30-day waiting period. The determination of primary earner was also eliminated, meaning although there is no limit to the number of hours either parent can work, they are still subject to unemployment classifications depending upon the number of hours they work. If one parent is working more than 100 hours then the family may not receive assistance for 30 days. If both parents are working less than 100 hours then the assistance begins 30 days from the date either one of the parents worked more than 100 hours. This applies to both applicants and recipients.

[8] Modified rules for two-parent units: 100-hour work limit for applicants only, applicant must have earned at least $1,000 during the 24-month period before the month of application, and 30-day waiting period. Two semesters of full-time attendance in a postsecondary institution may be substituted for $500 of the $1,000.

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

[10] Modified rules for two-parent units: 100-hour work limit for applicants, 130-hour work limit for recipients, six of the last 13 quarters work history, and 30-day waiting period.

[11] Modified rules for two-parent units: no work limit for applicants or recipients, six of the last 13 quarters work history, and 30-day waiting period.

[12] Applicants who refuse suitable employment without good cause while their application is pending, or up to 30 days before their application date, are not eligible for benefits until the 30th day after the refusal of employment.

[13] Modified rules for two-parent units: 100-hour work limit for applicants and 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).

[14] Modified rules for two-parent units: 100-hour work limit for applicants, no work limit for recipients, six of the last 13 quarters work history, and 30-day waiting period.

Table L3. Maximum Income for Initial Eligibility for a Family of Three, 1996-2017 (July) [1]

State	1996	2003	2010	2017
Alabama	$366	**$268**	$268	$268
Alaska	$1,118	**$1,291**	**$1,553**	**$1,683**
Arizona	$639	**$585**	$585	$585
Arkansas	$426	**$278**	$278	$278
California	$823	**$980** [2]	**$1,203** [2]	**$1,431** [2]
Colorado	$511	**$511** [2]	$511 [2]	$511 [2]
Connecticut [2]	$835	$835	**$790**	**$908**
Delaware	$428	$428	$428	$428
D.C.	$742	**$539**	**$588**	**$668**
Florida	$574	**$393**	$393	$393
Georgia	$514	$514	$514	$514
Hawaii	$1,187	**$1,640** [3]	**$1,740** [4]	**$1,740** [5]
Idaho	$1,081	**$972**	$972	$972
Illinois	$467	**$486** [2]	**$763** [2]	**$851** [2]
Indiana	$378	$378	$378	$378
Iowa	$1,061	$1,061	$1,061	$1,061
Kansas	$519	**$519** [2]	$519 [2]	$519 [2]
Kentucky	$616	**$908**	$908	$908
Louisiana	$405 [2]	**$360**	$360	$360
Maine	$643	**$1,023**	$1,023	$1,023
Maryland	$607	**$591**	**$717**	**$810**
Massachusetts	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Exempt	$655	**$1,069**	$1,069	**$833**
Non-exempt	$669	**$1,143**	$1,143	**$818**
Michigan	$774 [2]	**$773** [2]	**$814**	**$815**
Minnesota	$621 [2]	**$1,029**	**$1,225**	**$2,243**
Mississippi	$457	$457	$457	$457
Missouri	$557	$557	$557	$557
Montana	$631	**$875**	**$810**	**$817**
Nebraska	$454	**$732**	**$886**	**$1,020**
Nevada	$642	**$1,132**	**$1,430**	**$1,595**
New Hampshire	$943	**$781**	**$843**	**$1,276**
New Jersey	$783	**$636**	$636	$636
New Mexico	$479	**$1,060** [6]	**$1,017**	**$942**
New York [2]	$667	$667	**$843**	**$879**
North Carolina	$936	**$681**	$681	$681
North Dakota	$521	**$1,306**	$1,306	**$1,331**
Ohio	$631	**$980**	**$762**	**$851**
Oklahoma	$580	**$703**	**$823**	$823
Oregon	$550	**$616**	$616	$616
Pennsylvania [2]	$677	$677	$677	$677
Rhode Island	$644	**$1,277**	$1,277	$1,277
South Carolina	$614	**$1,156**	**$1,411**	**$1,554**
South Dakota	$597	**$705**	**$782**	**$857**
Tennessee	$767	**$1,029**	**$1,315**	$1,315
Texas	$400	**$401**	$401	$401
Utah	$525	**$668**	$668	$668

Table L3. Maximum Income for Initial Eligibility for a Family of Three, 1996-2017 (July) [1]				
State	1996	2003	2010	2017
Vermont [2]	$945	**$1,001**	**$1,053**	**$1,103**
Virginia [7]	$291	**$479**	**$626**	**$677**
Washington	$937	**$1,090**	**$1,122**	**$1,040**
West Virginia	$498	**$753**	**$565**	$565
Wisconsin	$895 [2]	**n.a.** [8]	**n.a.** [9]	**n.a.** [10]
Wyoming	$680	**$539**	**$760**	**$1,259**
Mean [11]	**$653**	**$768**	**$820**	**$881**
Median [11]	**$621**	**$704**	**$773**	**$828**

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

[1] Bolded text indicates a change from the previous year shown. The values in this table represent the maximum amount of earnings an applicant can have and still be technically eligible for assistance in each state. Technical eligibility does not mean that the unit will necessarily receive a cash benefit, but it will have passed all the eligibility tests and be eligible for some positive amount. Most states only distribute a cash benefit equaling $10 or more. 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, and pays for shelter. Data shown in the table for the year 1996 reflect states' AFDC policies; data shown in the table for all subsequent years reflect states' TANF policies. If a state's program includes mutually-exclusive components in some years but not others, then in the years without components, the state's information is shown on the statewide row and the component rows show "n.a.", and in the years with components, the state's information is shown on the component rows and the statewide row shows "n.a."

[2] Dollar amounts used for calculations vary within the state, either by county or by region of the state. This table shows the figures for the area of the state that is currently the most populous. See the Welfare Rules Database for more information.

[3] This threshold applies to units that have received assistance for no more than two months in a lifetime. For units applying for their third and subsequent months of benefits, the eligibility threshold for a family of three is $1,363.

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

[5] This threshold applies to units that have received assistance for no more than two months in a lifetime. For units applying for their third and subsequent months of benefits, the eligibility threshold for a family of three is $1,894.

[6] For purposes of the state's earned income disregard (allowing earnings from all hours past 34 per week to be disregarded), the adult head is assumed to be working 40 hours per week.

[7] Dollar amounts used for calculations vary within the state, either by county or by region of the state. This table shows the figures for the area of the state that is currently the most populous. See the Welfare Rules Database for more information. All applicants, including those who will subsequently participate in the VIEW program, must pass the same initial income eligibility tests.

[8] Units with earnings at application will not receive a cash benefit, except for units with earnings from unsubsidized employment who work less than 30 hours per week and face limitations to increasing their work hours. These units are eligible for a Community Service Job placement where they may receive a prorated benefit. Applicants earning $1,462 or less may be eligible for nonfinancial assistance.

[9] Units with earnings at application will not receive a cash benefit, except for units with earnings from unsubsidized employment who work less than 30 hours per week and face limitations to increasing their work hours. These units are eligible for a Community Service Job placement where they may receive a prorated benefit. Applicants earning $1,755 or less may be eligible for nonfinancial assistance.

[10] Units with earnings at application will not receive a cash benefit, except for units with earnings from unsubsidized employment who work less than 30 hours per week and face limitations to increasing their work hours. These units are eligible for a Community Service Job placement where they may receive a prorated benefit. Units with income less than $1,957 at application who find employment during up-front job search have their income disregarded for purposes of determining eligibility for nonfinancial assistance.

[11] In states for which this table shows more than one component, the amounts used to compute the means and medians are the amounts for the first component that is listed, which is the one affecting the largest portion of the caseload. Calculations for 2003, 2010, and 2017 do not include Wisconsin.

Table L4. Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, 1996-2017 (July) [1]				
State	1996	2003	2010	2017
Alabama	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**100% in first 3 consecutive months of earnings, 20% thereafter** [2]	**100% in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, 20% thereafter** [2]	100% in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, 20% thereafter [2]
Alaska	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**$150 in all months, plus 33% of remainder in first 12 cumulative months of earnings, 25% of remainder in months 13-24, 20% of remainder in months 25-36, 15% of remainder in months 37-48, 10% of remainder in months 49-60**	$150 in all months, plus 33% of remainder in first 12 cumulative months of earnings, 25% of remainder in months 13-24, 20% of remainder in months 25-36, 15% of remainder in months 37-48, 10% of remainder in months 49-60	$150 in all months, plus 33% of remainder in first 12 cumulative months of earnings, 25% of remainder in months 13-24, 20% of remainder in months 25-36, 15% of remainder in months 37-48, 10% of remainder in months 49-60
Arizona	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**$90 and 30% of remainder in all months**	$90 and 30% of remainder in all months	$90 and 30% of remainder in all months
Arkansas	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**No disregards - flat grant amount**	No disregards - flat grant amount	No disregards - flat grant amount
California	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in all months	**$225 and 50% of remainder in all months**	$225 and 50% of remainder in all months	**$225 and 50% of remainder in all months** [3]
Colorado	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**66.6% in first 12 cumulative months of earnings, $120 and 33.3% of remainder in months 13-16, $120 in months 17-24, $90 thereafter** [4]	66.6% in first 12 cumulative months of earnings, $120 and 33.3% of remainder in months 13-16, $120 in months 17-24, $90 thereafter [4]	**67% in all months**
Connecticut	100% up to federal poverty guideline in all months [5]	100% up to federal poverty guideline in all months [5]	100% up to federal poverty guideline in all months [5]	100% up to federal poverty guideline in all months [5]

Table L4. Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, 1996-2017 (July) [1]				
State	1996	2003	2010	2017
Delaware	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings** [6]	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings [6]	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings [6]
D.C.	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**$160 and 66.7% of remainder in all months** [7]	$160 and 66.7% of remainder in all months [7]	$160 and 66.7% of remainder in all months [7]
Florida	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**$200 and 50% of remainder in all months**	$200 and 50% of remainder in all months	$200 and 50% of remainder in all months
Georgia	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings
Hawaii	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**20%, $200, and 36% of remainder in all months**	**20% and $200 of remainder in all months, plus 55% of remainder in first 24 cumulative months of assistance and 36% of remainder thereafter**	20% and $200 of remainder in all months, plus 55% of remainder in first 24 cumulative months of assistance and 36% of remainder thereafter
Idaho	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**60% in all months**	60% in all months	60% in all months
Illinois	67% in all months	**66.7% in all months**	**75% in all months**	75% in all months

Table L4. Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, 1996-2017 (July) [1]

State	1996	2003	2010	2017
Indiana	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**75% in all months**	75% in all months	75% in all months
Iowa	20% and 50% of remainder in all months [8]	**20% and 50% of remainder in all months**	**20% and 58% of remainder in all months**	20% and 58% of remainder in all months
Kansas	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**$90 and 40% of remainder in all months**	**$90 and 60% of remainder in all months**	$90 and 60% of remainder in all months
Kentucky	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**100% in first 2 months earnings would affect eligibility; $120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings, $120 in months 5-12, $90 thereafter [9]**	100% in first 2 months earnings would affect eligibility; $120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings, $120 in months 5-12, $90 thereafter [9]	100% in first 2 months earnings would affect eligibility; $120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings, $120 in months 5-12, $90 thereafter [9]
Louisiana	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**$120 in all months, plus $900 in any 6 months over a recipient's lifetime [10]**	$120 in all months, plus $900 in any 6 months over a recipient's lifetime [10]	$120 in all months, plus $900 in any 6 months over a recipient's lifetime [10]
Maine	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**$108 and 50% of remainder in all months**	$108 and 50% of remainder in all months	$108 and 50% of remainder in all months
Maryland	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**40% in all months**	40% in all months	40% in all months

Table L4. Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, 1996-2017 (July) [1]				
State	1996	2003	2010	2017
Massachusetts	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Exempt	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in all months	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in all months	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in all months	**$200 and 50% of remainder in all months**
Non-Exempt	$120 and 50% of remainder in all months	$120 and 50% of remainder in all months	$120 and 50% of remainder in all months	**$200 and 50% of remainder in all months**
Michigan	$200 and 20% of remainder in all months	$200 and 20% of remainder in all months	$200 and 20% of remainder in all months	**$200 and 50% of remainder in all months**
Minnesota	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**38% in all months**	**37% in all months**	**$65 and 50% of remainder in all months**
Mississippi	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**$90 in all months** [11]	**$90 in all months** [12]	$90 in all months [12]
Missouri	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**66.7% and $90 of remainder in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, $90 thereafter** [13]	66.7% and $90 of remainder in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, $90 thereafter [13]	**100% in first 6 consecutive months of earnings, 66.7% and $90 of remainder in months 7-18, $90 thereafter** [13]
Montana	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**$200 and 25% of remainder in all months**	$200 and 25% of remainder in all months	$200 and 25% of remainder in all months
Nebraska	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**20% in all months**	20% in all months	**50% in all months**

Table L4. Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, 1996-2017 (July) [1]

State	1996	2003	2010	2017
Nevada	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**100% in first 3 cumulative months of earnings, 50% in months 4-12, $90 or 20% whichever is greater thereafter**	**100% in first 3 cumulative months of earnings, 85% in months 4-6, 75% in months 7-9, 65% in months 10-12, greater of $90 or 20% thereafter [14]**	100% in first 3 cumulative months of earnings, 85% in months 4-6, 75% in months 7-9, 65% in months 10-12, greater of $90 or 20% thereafter [14]
New Hampshire	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**50% in all months**	50% in all months	50% in all months
New Jersey	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**100% in first month of earnings, 50% thereafter**	**100% in first month of earnings, 75% in months 2-7, 50% thereafter [15]**	100% in first month of earnings, 75% in months 2-7, 50% thereafter [15]
New Mexico	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**$125 and 50% of remainder in all months, plus 100% of earnings in excess of 34 hours a week in first 24 months of receiving benefits [16]**	**$125 and 50% of remainder in all months [17]**	$125 and 50% of remainder in all months [17]
New York	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**$90 and 51% of remainder in all months**	**$90 and 52% of remainder in all months**	**$90 and 51% of remainder in all months**
North Carolina	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**100% in first 3 consecutive months of earnings, 27.5% thereafter [18]**	100% in first 3 consecutive months of earnings, 27.5% thereafter [18]	**27.5% in all months**

Table L4. Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, 1996-2017 (July) [1]				
State	1996	2003	2010	2017
North Dakota	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**Greater of $180 and 27% in all months, plus 50% of remainder in first 6 consecutive months of earnings, 35% of remainder in months 7-9, and 25% of remainder in months 10-13 [19]**	**Greater of $180 and 27% in all months, plus 50% of remainder in first 6 consecutive months of earnings, 35% of remainder in months 7-9, and 25% of remainder in months 10-13 [20]**	Greater of $180 and 27% in all months, plus 50% of remainder in first 6 consecutive months of earnings, 35% of remainder in months 7-9, and 25% of remainder in months 10-13 [20]
Ohio	$250 and 50% of remainder in first 18 consecutive months of earnings, no disregards thereafter [21]	**$250 and 50% of remainder in all months**	$250 and 50% of remainder in all months	$250 and 50% of remainder in all months
Oklahoma	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**$120 and 50% of remainder in all months**	**$240 and 50% of remainder in all months [22]**	**100% in first 3 consecutive months of earnings, $240 and 50% of remainder thereafter [23]**
Oregon	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**50% in all months**	50% in all months	50% in all months
Pennsylvania	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**50% in all months**	50% in all months	50% in all months
Rhode Island	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**$170 and 50% of remainder in all months**	$170 and 50% of remainder in all months	$170 and 50% of remainder in all months
South Carolina	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**50% in first 4 months earned income is budgeted, $100 thereafter [24]**	50% in first 4 months earned income is budgeted, $100 thereafter [24]	50% in first 4 months earned income is budgeted, $100 thereafter [24]

Table L4. Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, 1996-2017 (July) [1]				
State	1996	2003	2010	2017
South Dakota	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**$90 and 20% of remainder in all months**	$90 and 20% of remainder in all months	$90 and 20% of remainder in all months
Tennessee	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**$150 in all months**	**$250 in all months**	$250 in all months
Texas	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**$120 in all months, plus 90% of remainder (up to $1,400) for 4 out of 12 months [25]**	$120 in all months, plus 90% of remainder (up to $1,400) for 4 out of 12 months [25]	$120 in all months, plus 90% of remainder (up to $1,400) for 4 out of 12 months [25]
Utah	$100 and 50% of remainder in all months	$100 and 50% of remainder in all months	$100 and 50% of remainder in all months	$100 and 50% of remainder in all months
Vermont	$150 and 25% of remainder in all months	$150 and 25% of remainder in all months	**$200 and 25% of remainder in all months [26]**	**$250 and 25% of remainder in all months [26]**
Virginia	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**Varies by unit size [27]**	**Varies by unit size [28]**
Washington	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**50% in all months**	50% in all months	50% in all months
West Virginia	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**40% in all months**	40% in all months	40% in all months

Table L4. Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, 1996-2017 (July) [1]				
State	1996	2003	2010	2017
Wisconsin	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**No disregards - flat grant amount**	No disregards - flat grant amount	No disregards - flat grant amount
Wyoming	$90 in all months, plus $30 in first 12 consecutive months of earnings, plus 33.3% of remainder in first 4 consecutive months of earnings	**$200 in all months** [29]	$200 in all months [29]	**$600 in all months** [30]

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

[1] Bolded text indicates a change from the previous year shown. 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, and earned income disregards that apply to new marriages or in cases of deeming--are not included in this table. The table describes benefit computation disregards for recipients. If the disregards differ for applicants, it is footnoted. Data shown in the table for the year 1996 reflect states' AFDC policies; data shown in the table for all subsequent years reflect states' TANF policies. If a state's program includes mutually-exclusive components in some years but not others, then in the years without components, the state's information is shown on the statewide row and the component rows show "n.a.", and in the years with components, the state's information is shown on the component rows and the statewide row shows "n.a."

[2] The earned income disregard cannot be applied to the earnings of an individual receiving assistance beyond the 60th month under an extension. The disregard can only be applied to earnings reported within 10 days of receipt.

[3] If a recipient applies for TANF benefits within three calendar months of his or her subsidized employment placement ending, he or she will be considered for the recipient earned income disregard rather than the applicant $90 income disregard.

[4] Individuals who have received the $120 disregard and the 33.3 percent disregard for the maximum numbers of months cannot qualify to receive those disregards again until they have not received basic cash assistance for 12 consecutive months.

[5] A unit that has not received cash assistance in one of the four prior months will disregard $90 of earned income for purposes of benefit computation.

[6] If benefits or employment end before the fourth consecutive month of earnings, the recipient is eligible to receive the $30 and 33.3 percent disregard for four additional months upon reapplication or re-employment. When a recipient has received the $30 and 33.3 percent disregard for four consecutive months and the $30 disregard for an additional eight months, neither disregard may be applied again until the individual has not received any benefits for 12 months.

[7] The unit may disregard $160 per employed member.

[8] One hundred percent of income is exempt for the first four consecutive months of earnings under the following conditions: (1) the new job must start after the date of household application, (2) earnings must be timely reported, and (3) the person with the new job must have earned less than $1,200 in the 12 calendar months before the month that the new job begins.

[9] Recipients are eligible for the one-time, two-month 100 percent disregard if they become newly employed or report increased wages acquired after approval. Recipients are eligible to receive the 33.3 percent disregard during the first four consecutive months of earnings if they have not received benefits for at least 12 consecutive months.

[10] The six months in which the extra $900 is disregarded need not be consecutive, but the recipient may use this extra disregard in no more than six months over the course of his or her lifetime.

[11] Recipients are eligible for a one-time 100 percent disregard for the first six consecutive months of earnings if they find employment of 35 hours a week within the first 30 days of their initial approval for TANF. If work is not found within 30 days, the recipient is ineligible to ever receive the disregard again. An additional 100 percent disregard is available to units for three months when the unit's case is subject to closure because of increased earnings and the individual is employed for at least 25 hours a week at the federal minimum wage or higher. The recipient may not have already received the six-month disregard, unless there has been at least a 12-month break in receipt of TANF benefits. The three-month disregard may be received more than once during the 60-month TANF benefit period provided 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 are also eligible to receive the six-month and three-month disregards. Once a two-parent unit is ineligible for the six-month disregard, they may disregard $120 and 33.3 percent of the remainder for 12 consecutive months and $90 thereafter.

[12] Recipients are eligible for a one-time 100 percent disregard for the first six consecutive months of earnings if they find employment of 35 hours a week within the first 30 days of their initial approval for TANF. If work is not found within 30 days, the recipient is ineligible to ever receive the disregard again. An additional 100 percent disregard is available to units for three months when the unit's case is subject to closure because of increased earnings and the individual is employed for at least 25 hours a week at the federal minimum wage or higher. The recipient may not have already received the six-month disregard, unless there has been at least a 12-month break in receipt of TANF benefits. The three-month disregard may be received more than once during the 60-month TANF benefit period provided 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.

[13] These disregards apply to recipients who gained employment while receiving TANF. Recipients who gained employment before receiving TANF may disregard $120 and 33.3 percent of the remainder in the first 4 consecutive months of earnings, $120 in months 5-12, and $90 thereafter.

[14] The first 12 months of disregards are available to recipients again if they have been off TANF for at least 12 months.

[15] These disregards apply to individuals working 20 or more hours a week. Individuals employed fewer than 20 hours a week may disregard 100 percent in the first month of employment and 50 percent thereafter; however, if an individual's hours increase to 20 hours during the first six months, he or she may disregard 75 percent for the remainder of the six-month period. The 100 percent disregard is applicable only once every 12 months, even if employment is lost and then regained.

[16] Two-parent units may disregard all earnings in excess of 35 hours a week for one parent and 24 hours a week for the other parent, $225, and 50 percent of the remainder in the first 24 consecutive months of benefit receipt. Thereafter, they may disregard $225 and 50 percent of the remainder.

[17] Two-parent units may disregard $225 and 50 percent of the remainder in all months.

[18] The 100 percent disregard is available only 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.

[19] Each recipient has a lifetime limit of one 13-month cycle of the extra disregards, unless the recipient is employed for less than four consecutive months, in which case the 13-month cycle starts over upon re-employment.

[20] Each recipient has a lifetime limit of one 13-month cycle of the extra disregards, unless the recipient is employed for less than six consecutive months, in which case the 13-month cycle starts over upon re-employment.

[21] The unit is not eligible to receive the disregard again until the unit has been off of AFDC for at least 12 consecutive months.

[22] These disregards apply to individuals working full time, defined as 20 hours a week for recipients caring for a child under age 6 and 30 hours a week for all other recipients. Individuals working less than full time may disregard $120 and 50 percent of the remainder.

[23] These disregards apply to individuals working full time, defined as 20 hours a week for recipients caring for a child under age 6 and 30 hours a week for all other recipients. Individuals working less than full time may disregard 100 percent in the first three consecutive months of earnings and $120 and 50 percent of the remainder thereafter. Regardless of the number of hours worked, the 100 percent disregard only applies to recipients who reside in units where all members have a combined monthly income less than or equal to $2,064 and remain eligible for cash assistance after all other disregards are applied to the payment standard.

[24] The 50 percent disregard is available only once in a lifetime.

[25] Once the recipient has received four months (they need not be consecutive) of the 90 percent disregard, he or she is not eligible to receive the disregard again until the TANF case has been denied and remains denied for one full month, and 12 calendar months have passed since the denial. The 12-month ineligibility period begins with the first full month of denial after the client used the fourth month of the 90 percent disregard.

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

[27] The disregard is calculated by excluding varying earned income amounts based on the unit size, followed by a 20 percent disregard of the remainder regardless of unit size in all months. The dollar amounts excluded are: $141 for one to three unit members, $153 for four unit members, $179 for five unit members, and $205 for six or more unit members. A recipient who is participating in unsubsidized employment is eligible for an enhanced earned income disregard, provided the TANF recipient's income does not exceed 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for TANF-UP households.

[28] The disregard is calculated by excluding varying earned income amounts based on the unit size, followed by a 20 percent disregard of the remainder regardless of unit size in all months. The dollar amounts excluded are: $155 for one to three unit members, $168 for four unit members, $197 for five unit members, and $226 for six or more unit members. A recipient who is participating in unsubsidized employment is eligible for an enhanced earned income disregard, provided the TANF recipient's income does not exceed 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for TANF-UP households.

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

[30] Married couples with a child in common may disregard $1,200.

Table L5. Maximum Monthly Benefit for a Family of Three with No Income, 1996-2017 (July) [1]

State	1996	2003	2010	2017
Alabama	$164	**$215**	$215	$215
Alaska	$923	$923	$923	$923
Arizona	$347	$347	**$278**	$278
Arkansas	$204	$204	$204	$204
California	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Non-exempt	$594	**$704** [2]	**$694** [2]	**$714** [2]
Exempt	$663	**$786** [2]	**$776** [2]	**$799** [2]
Colorado	$356	**$356** [2]	**$462** [2]	$462 [2]
Connecticut [2]	$543	$543	**$576**	**$597**
Delaware	$338	$338	**$416**	**$338**
D.C.	$415	**$379**	**$428**	**$508**
Florida	$303	$303	$303	$303
Georgia	$280	$280	$280	$280
Hawaii	$570 [3]	$570 [3]	**$610** [4]	$610 [4]
Idaho	$317	**$309**	$309	$309
Illinois	$377	**$396** [2]	**$432** [2]	$432 [2]
Indiana	$288	$288	$288	$288
Iowa	$426	$426	$426	$426
Kansas	$429	**$429** [2]	$429 [2]	$429 [2]
Kentucky	$262	$262	$262	$262
Louisiana	$190 [2]	**$240**	$240	$240
Maine	$418	**$485**	$485	$485
Maryland	$373	**$473**	**$574**	**$648**
Massachusetts	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Exempt	$565	**$633**	$633	$633
Non-exempt	$579	**$618**	$618	$618
Michigan	$459 [2]	$459 [2]	**$492**	$492
Minnesota	$532 [2]	**$532**	$532	$532
Mississippi	$120	**$170**	$170	$170
Missouri	$292	$292	$292	$292
Montana	$425	**$507**	**$504**	**$588**
Nebraska	$364	$364	$364	**$450**
Nevada	$348	$348	**$383**	$383
New Hampshire	$550	**$625**	**$675**	**$1,021**
New Jersey	$424	$424	$424	$424
New Mexico	$389	$389	**$447**	**$409**
New York [2]	$577	$577	**$753**	**$789**
North Carolina	$272	$272	$272	$272
North Dakota	$431	**$477** [5]	$477 [5]	**$486** [5]
Ohio	$341	**$373**	**$434**	**$474**
Oklahoma	$307	**$292**	$292	$292
Oregon	$460	**$497**	**$528**	**$506**
Pennsylvania [2]	$403	$403	$403	$403
Rhode Island	$554	$554	$554	$554
South Carolina	$200	**$205**	**$270**	**$283**
South Dakota	$430	**$493**	**$555**	**$615**
Tennessee	$185	$185	$185	$185

Table L5. Maximum Monthly Benefit for a Family of Three with No Income, 1996-2017 (July) [1]				
State	1996	2003	2010	2017
Texas	$188	**$213**	**$260**	**$286**
Utah	$426	**$474**	**$498**	$498
Vermont [2]	$597 [6]	**$639 [7]**	**$640 [7]**	$640 [7]
Virginia [2]	$354	**$389**	$389	**$419**
Washington	$546	$546	**$562**	**$521**
West Virginia	$253	**$453**	**$340**	$340
Wisconsin	$518 [2]	**n.a.**	n.a.	n.a.
W-2T	n.a.	**$628**	$628	**$608**
CSJ	n.a.	**$673**	$673	**$653**
TEMP	n.a. [8]	n.a. [8]	n.a. [8]	**n.a. [9]**
UE	n.a.	**n.a. [10]**	n.a. [10]	n.a. [10]
Wyoming	$360	**$340**	**$561**	**$660**
Mean [11]	**$392**	**$416**	**$438**	**$454**
Median [11]	**$377**	**$396**	**$429**	**$432**

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

[1] Bolded text indicates a change from the previous year shown. 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. Only earned income disregards are described in the table. Child care disregards and other special disregards, such as deductions for units subject to a time limit or a family cap, are not included. The figures include the impact of earned income disregards for recipients. If the disregards differ for applicants, it is footnoted. Data shown in the table for the year 1996 reflect states' AFDC policies; data shown in the table for all subsequent years reflect states' TANF policies. If a state's program includes mutually-exclusive components in some years but not others, then in the years without components, the state's information is shown on the statewide row and the component rows show "n.a.", and in the years with components, the state's information is shown on the component rows and the statewide row shows "n.a."

[2] Dollar amounts used for calculations vary within the state, either by county or by region of the state. This table shows the figures for the area of the state that is currently the most populous. See the Welfare Rules Database for more information.

[3] The benefit amount applies to units who have already received assistance for at least two months in their lifetime. For units applying for their first or second months of benefits, the maximum monthly benefit for a family of three is $712.

[4] The benefit amount applies to units who have already received assistance for at least two months in their lifetime. For units applying for their first or second months of benefits, the maximum monthly benefit for a family of three is $763.

[5] The amount shown includes an additional $50 payment for units that pay their own shelter costs.

[6] This amount applies to units paying at least $371 for housing. Benefits are lower if housing expenses are lower.

[7] This amount applies to units paying $400 per month for housing. Benefits are lower if housing expenses are lower. For units with higher expenses, the benefit may be higher by up to $90 times the ratio of the payment standard to need standard.

[8] The TEMP component was not in place in this year.

[9] Recipients in TEMP receive wages from the TEMP employer; they do not receive cash payments from TANF. The wage is determined by the employer, but is at least the federal minimum wage; the agency subsidizes a portion of the wages. Most TEMP jobs are 40 hours per week.

[10] Recipients participating in unsubsidized employment receive wages and do not receive TANF cash assistance.

[11] In states for which this table shows more than one component, the amounts used to compute the means and medians are the amounts for the first component that is listed, which is the one affecting the largest portion of the caseload.

Table L6. Work-Related Exemption When Caring for a Child under X Months, 1996–2017 (July) [1]

State	1996	2003	2010	2017
Alabama	24	**3**	3	**12**
Alaska	36	**12** [2]	12 [2]	12 [2]
Arizona	24	**No exemption**	No exemption	No exemption
Arkansas	No exemption	**3** [3]	3 [3]	3 [3]
California	36 [4]	**12** [5]	**24** [6]	**24** [7]
Colorado [8]	12	**No exemption** [9]	No exemption [9]	No exemption [9]
Connecticut [10]	12	12	12	12
Delaware	36	**3**	**12**	**12** [11]
D.C.	36	**12**	12	12
Florida	36	**3** [12]	3 [12]	3 [12]
Georgia	36	**12** [13]	**12** [14]	12 [14]
Hawaii	36	**6**	**6** [11]	6 [11]
Idaho	36	**No exemption**	No exemption	No exemption
Illinois	36 [15]	**12**	**12** [12]	12 [12]
Indiana	36 [10]	**3**	3	3
Iowa	3	**3** [16]	**3** [17]	3 [17]
Kansas	36	**12**	**6** [18]	**3**
Kentucky	36	**12** [11]	12 [11]	12 [11]
Louisiana	12	**12** [11]	**No exemption**	No exemption
Maine	36	**12** [11]	12 [11]	12 [11]
Maryland	36	**12** [19]	12 [19]	**12** [20]
Massachusetts	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Exempt [21]	24	24	24	24
Non-exempt [22]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Michigan	No exemption	**3**	**3** [23]	**2** [24]
Minnesota	36	**12**	12	12
Mississippi	36	**12** [11]	12 [11]	12 [11]
Missouri	36	**12**	12	**3**
Montana	12	**No exemption**	**No exemption** [25]	**No exemption** [26]
Nebraska	12	**n.a.**	n.a.	n.a.
Time-limited assistance	n.a.	**n.a.** [27]	n.a. [27]	n.a. [27]
Non-time-limited assistance [28]	n.a.	**3** [29]	3 [29]	**3** [30]
Nevada	36	**12**	**12** [14]	12 [14]
New Hampshire	36	**n.a.**	n.a.	n.a.
NHEP	n.a.	**24** [31]	**12** [32]	12 [32]
FAP [28]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
New Jersey	24 [12]	**3**	3	3
New Mexico	36	**12** [11]	12 [11]	**No exemption**
New York	36	**3** [33]	3 [33]	3 [33]
North Carolina	60 [34]	**12** [11]	12 [11]	12 [11]

Table L6. Work-Related Exemption When Caring for a Child under X Months, 1996–2017 (July) [1]				
State	1996	2003	2010	2017
North Dakota	24	**4**	4	**2**
Ohio	12	12	12	12
Oklahoma	12	**3** [11]	**4** [11]	4 [11]
Oregon	3	3	**6**	6
Pennsylvania	36	**12** [11]	12 [11]	12 [11]
Rhode Island	36	**12**	12	12
South Carolina	36	**12**	**n.a.**	n.a.
All, except CARES	n.a.	**n.a.** [35]	**12** [36]	12 [36]
CARES [28]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
South Dakota	12	**3**	3	3
Tennessee	12	**4**	4	**12**
Texas	36	**12**	12	12
Utah	No exemption	No exemption	No exemption	**No exemption** [37]
Vermont	18 [38]	**24** [39]	24 [39]	24 [39]
Virginia	36	**n.a.**	n.a.	n.a.
All, except VIEW [28]	n.a.	**18** [40]	**12** [40]	12 [40]
VIEW	n.a.	**n.a.** [41]	n.a. [41]	n.a. [41]
Washington	36	**4** [42]	**12** [42]	12 [42]
West Virginia	36	**12** [43]	**No exemption** [44]	No exemption [44]
Wisconsin	12	**3**	3	**2**
Wyoming	12	**3** [11]	3 [11]	3 [11]

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

[1] Bolded text indicates a change from the previous year shown. This table refers to single-parent unit heads over 21 years old. In some cases, recipients meeting certain criteria are placed in alternative components; see appendix 1 for more information on components. Data shown in the table for the year 1996 reflect states' AFDC policies; data shown in the table for all subsequent years reflect states' TANF policies. If a state's program includes mutually-exclusive components in some years but not others, then in the years without components, the state's information is shown on the statewide row and the component rows show "n.a.", and in the years with components, the state's information is shown on the component rows and the statewide row shows "n.a."

[2] The exemption is limited to 12 cumulative months in the recipient's lifetime. While the caretaker is exempt from work activities requirements, the recipient will still be required to develop a Family Self-Sufficiency Plan outlining the self-sufficiency activities in which he or she will participate.

[3] A parent loses this exemption after retaining it for 12 cumulative months. Months in which the parent is exempt because child care is unavailable for a child less than 12 months old also count toward the 12-month lifetime limit.

[4] This exemption is limited to one child during a period of continuous TANF eligibility, where continuous is defined as receiving welfare without a break of at least six consecutive months.

[5] This exemption may be granted only one time and as a limited exemption for a second or subsequent child under 6 months old.

[6] Persons caring for one child 12 to 23 months old or two or more children under six years old are exempt from work requirements. An individual may only be eligible for this exemption one time. An exemption for care of an additional child six months of age or under is also available.

[7] Months spent as a primary care provider for one child, birth to 23 months old, are exempt. For two-parent families, each parent has the option to receive the exemption but only one exemption can be granted at a time. An individual may only be eligible for this exemption one time. An exemption for care of an additional child six months of age or under is also available.

[8] Counties have the option to vary some activities exemptions. These policies refer to Denver County.

[9] A recipient caring for a child under the age of six who is unable to obtain child care may be exempt from work activities or sanctions.

[10] The exemption applies only if the child is not subject to a family cap.

[11] The exemption is limited to 12 cumulative months in the recipient's lifetime.

[12] Recipients may be required to attend classes or other activities.

[13] The exemption is limited to once in the recipient's lifetime.

[14] Single custodial parents can have one three-month exemption per child up to a cumulative total of 12 months.

[15] This exemption does not apply to units in which the youngest related child is age 13 or older.

[16] Although recipients are not exempt, they may be absent from work without sanction if they have a newborn child. Absence from activities is determined using the standards of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993. The maximum time available for one parent is 12 work weeks during any 12-month period, and for two parents, the maximum is the aggregate of 12 work weeks of leave for both parents.

[17] Although recipients are not exempt, they may be absent from work without sanction if they have a newborn child. Absence from activities is determined using the standards of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993. The maximum time available for one parent is 12 work weeks during any 12-month period.

[18] The exemption cannot be claimed by any adult in the unit when at least one adult has reached the 48th month of cash assistance.

[19] This is a one-time exemption for the first child only. A single parent caring for a child under the age of six who is unable to obtain child care may be exempt.

[20] The exemption is limited to 12 cumulative months in the recipient's lifetime. A recipient caring for a child under the age of six who is unable to obtain child care may be exempt from work activities or sanctions.

[21] Recipients who are in the Exempt component are automatically exempt from activities requirements.

[22] Individuals caring for a child under two years old are placed in an alternative component.

[23] Women are exempt from activities requirements for three months after giving birth when the newborn is in the home or for postpartum recovery when the newborn is not in the home.

[24] Women are exempt from activities requirements for two months after giving birth when the newborn is in the home or for postpartum recovery when the newborn is not in the home.

[25] Although it is technically not an exemption, individuals caring for a newborn child may count this activity toward participation requirements for two full months following the child's birth. The lifetime limit for this activity is 12 months.

[26] Individuals caring for a newborn child may count this activity toward participation requirements for three full months following the child's birth, up to a total of 12 months in an individual's lifetime. Individuals can choose not to participate in other work activities during this time.

[27] Recipients caring for children under three months old are placed in an alternative component.

[28] Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from activities requirements.

[29] Although recipients caring for children between three and six months old are in the non-time-limited assistance component, they are expected to participate in limited work activities. Recipients caring for a child under three months old are exempt.

[30] Recipients caring for a child under 3 months old are exempt and would be non-time-limited for the period of time they qualify for this exemption. This exemption can be extended under special circumstances.

[31] Recipients who have received 39 or more months of assistance cannot receive this exemption, unless the youngest child in the assistance group is under 12 weeks of age.

[32] The exemption is limited to 12 cumulative months in the recipient's lifetime. If the recipient has exhausted this 12 month limit or has received 39 or more months of assistance prior to the birth of an additional child, the unit must participate in NHEP when the youngest child turns 12 weeks old.

[33] 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.

[34] The exemption does not apply to parents who are working more than 30 hours a week. These parents are automatically enrolled into the Work First component and are subject to activities requirements.

[35] The exemption does not apply to individuals under the age of 25 without high school diplomas or GEDs.

[36] A parent personally providing care for his or her child under age one will be expected to participate in the work program but cannot be sanctioned for failure to do so.

[37] If parents are unable to find care for a child under age 13, the state may exempt the parents from activity requirements while it provides assistance in finding child care.

[38] The parent is exempt from working but must participate in the Reach Up program.

[39] The exemption is limited to 24 months in a recipient's lifetime. In addition, recipients may be exempt for 13 weeks following the birth of each additional child.

[40] The exemption is limited to 12 cumulative months in the recipient's lifetime. The caretaker can be exempt for a maximum of six additional weeks if he or she has another child after the limit expires. Recipients caring for a child subject to a family cap are only exempt while the child is under six weeks old. Individuals with this characteristic are placed in the All, except VIEW component. All individuals in this component are exempt from activities requirements.

[41] Individuals with this characteristic are placed in an alternative component.

[42] The exemption is limited to 12 cumulative months in the recipient's lifetime. Participants may be required to participate in mental health or chemical dependency treatment if it is indicated in their assessment.

[43] The exemption applies only to the birth of a first child. The recipient is exempt 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).

[44] The state does not consider these groups technically exempt; however, they may meet the state's criteria for good cause for noncompliance or deferral. This may be taken any time while the child is under 12 months for up to 12 months in the recipient's lifetime. In addition, all mothers are eligible for a 12-week postpartum exemption good cause period following the birth of any additional child.

Table L7. Most Severe Sanction Policy for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Adults, 1996-2017 (July) [1]								
	1996		2003		2010		2017	
State	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)
Alabama	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**Entire benefit**	**6 months**	Entire benefit	**12 months**	Entire benefit	12 months
Alaska	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**Case is closed** [2]	**Must reapply**	Case is closed [2]	Must reapply	Case is closed [2]	Must reapply
Arizona	n.a.	n.a.	**Entire benefit**	**Until compliance or 1 month, whichever is longer**	Entire benefit	Until compliance or 1 month, whichever is longer	Entire benefit	Until compliance or 1 month, whichever is longer
All, except JOBSTART	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
JOBSTART	50% [3]	Until compliance or 1 month, whichever is longer	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Arkansas	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**50% or case is closed** [4]	**Until in compliance for 2 weeks and must reapply**	**Case is closed**	Until in compliance for 2 weeks and must reapply	Case is closed	Until in compliance for 2 weeks and must reapply
California	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	Adult portion of benefit	**Until compliance**	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance
Colorado [5]	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**Entire benefit**	**Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer**	Entire benefit	Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer	Entire benefit	Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer
Connecticut	Case is closed	3 months and must reapply	**Case is closed** [6]	3 months and must reapply	**Case is closed**	3 months and must reapply	Case is closed	3 months and must reapply

Table L7. Most Severe Sanction Policy for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Adults, 1996-2017 (July) [1]

State	1996		2003		2010		2017	
	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)
Delaware	Case is closed	Permanent	Case is closed	Permanent	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	n.a.	n.a.
All, except TWP	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	**Case is closed**	**One month plus 4 consecutive weeks of participation**	Case is closed	**Until compliance**
TWP	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	**Case is closed**	**Until compliance**	Case is closed	Until compliance
D.C.	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**Entire benefit**	**Until in compliance for 4 weeks**
Florida	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**Entire benefit** [7]	**Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer**	Entire benefit [7]	Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer	Entire benefit [7]	Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer
Georgia	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance, until granted an exemption, or 6 months, whichever is longer	**Case is closed**	**12 months**	Case is closed	12 months	Case is closed	12 months
Hawaii	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**Entire benefit**	**Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer**	Entire benefit	Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer	Entire benefit	Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer
Idaho	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**Case is closed**	**Permanent**	Case is closed	Permanent	Case is closed	Permanent
Illinois	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**Case is closed**	**Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer and must reapply**	Case is closed	Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer and must reapply	Case is closed	Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer and must reapply

Table L7. Most Severe Sanction Policy for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Adults, 1996-2017 (July) [1]								
	1996		2003		2010		2017	
State	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)
Indiana	n.a.	n.a.	**Case is closed**	**Until compliance**	Case is closed	Until compliance	Case is closed	**Permanent**
Non-placement track	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Placement Track	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 36 months, whichever is longer	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Iowa	Case is closed	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer and must reapply	Case is closed	**Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer and must reapply** [8]	Case is closed	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer and must reapply [8]	Case is closed	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer and must reapply [8]
Kansas	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**Entire benefit**	**Until compliance or 2 months, whichever is longer**	Entire benefit	**Until compliance**	**Case is closed**	**10 years and must reapply**
Kentucky	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**Entire benefit**	**Until compliance**	Entire benefit	Until compliance	Entire benefit	Until compliance
Louisiana	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**Case is closed**	**Until compliance or becomes exempt**	Case is closed	**Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer**	Case is closed	Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer
Maine	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**Entire benefit**	**Until compliance**
Maryland	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**Entire benefit**	**Until in compliance for 1 month**	Entire benefit	Until in compliance for 1 month	Entire benefit	Until in compliance for 1 month

Table L7. Most Severe Sanction Policy for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Adults, 1996-2017 (July) [1]

State	1996		2003		2010		2017	
	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)
Massachusetts	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Exempt [9]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Non-exempt [10]	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	**Case is closed**	**1 month**	Case is closed	**12 months**	Case is closed	**Permanent**
Minnesota	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**Case is closed**	**Until compliance or 1 month, whichever is longer**	Case is closed	Until compliance or 1 month, whichever is longer	Case is closed	Until compliance or 1 month, whichever is longer
Mississippi	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**Case is closed**	**Permanent**	Case is closed	Permanent	Case is closed	Permanent
Missouri	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**25%**	**Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer**	25%	Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer	**Case is closed**	**Until in compliance for 1 week and must reapply**
Montana	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**Adult portion of benefit [11]**	**Until compliance or 1 month, whichever is longer**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	n.a.	n.a.
All, except PAS	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	**Case is closed**	**6 months and must reapply**	Case is closed	6 months and must reapply
PAS	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	**Case is closed [12]**	**6 months and must reapply**	**Case is closed [13]**	6 months and must reapply
Nebraska	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**Entire benefit**	**12 months or remainder of 48-month potential benefit period, whichever is shorter**	Entire benefit	**Until compliance or 12 months, whichever is longer**	Entire benefit	Until compliance or 12 months, whichever is longer

Table L7. Most Severe Sanction Policy for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Adults, 1996-2017 (July) [1]								
	1996		2003		2010		2017	
State	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)
Nevada	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**Case is closed**	**Permanent**	Case is closed	**Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer and must reapply**	Case is closed	Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer and must reapply
New Hampshire	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
NHEP	n.a.	n.a.	**67% of Adjusted Payment Standard [14]**	**Until compliance or 1 month, whichever is longer**	**Case is closed [15]**	**Until in compliance for 2 weeks**	**Case is closed [16]**	Until in compliance for 2 weeks
FAP [9]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
New Jersey	20%; Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer	**Case is closed [17]**	**Must reapply**	**Case is closed**	**1 month and must reapply**	Case is closed	1 month and must reapply
New Mexico	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
NMW	n.a.	n.a.	**Case is closed**	**6 months and must reapply**	Case is closed	6 months and must reapply	Case is closed	6 months and must reapply
EWP	n.a.	n.a.	**Case is closed [18]**	**Until compliance**	**Case is closed [19]**	Until compliance	Case is closed [19]	Until compliance
New York	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**Pro rata portion of the benefit**	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	Pro rata portion of the benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	Pro rata portion of the benefit	**Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer [20]**

Table L7. Most Severe Sanction Policy for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Adults, 1996-2017 (July) [1]								
	1996		2003		2010		2017	
State	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)
North Carolina	n.a.	n.a.	**Case is closed** [21]	**Must reapply**	Case is closed [21]	Must reapply	**Case is closed**	**3 months and must reapply**
Work First Active	$75	12 months	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Pre-Work First and Work First Preparatory	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
North Dakota	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer	**Case is closed**	**Until compliance or 12 months, whichever comes first**	**Case is closed** [22]	**1 month**	Case is closed [22]	1 month
Ohio	Entire benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	Entire benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	Entire benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	Entire benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer
Oklahoma	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**Entire benefit**	**Until compliance**	Entire benefit	Until compliance	Entire benefit	Until compliance
Oregon	Case is closed	Until compliance and must reapply	Case is closed	Until compliance and must reapply	Case is closed	Until compliance and must reapply	Case is closed	**Until compliance or 2 months, whichever is shorter, and must reapply**
Pennsylvania	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**Case is closed** [23]	**Permanent**	Case is closed [23]	Permanent	**Entire benefit**	Permanent
Rhode Island	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**Pro rata portion of the benefit** [24]	**Until in compliance for 2 weeks**	**Case is closed** [25]	**Must reapply**	Case is closed [25]	Must reapply

Table L7. Most Severe Sanction Policy for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Adults, 1996-2017 (July) [1]

State	1996		2003		2010		2017	
	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)
South Carolina	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**Case is closed**	**Until in compliance for 1 month and must reapply**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	n.a.	n.a.
All, except CARES	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	**Case is closed**	**Until in compliance for 1 month**	Case is closed	Until in compliance for 1 month
CARES [9]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
South Dakota	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**Case is closed**	**Until compliance or 1 month, whichever is longer and must reapply**	Case is closed	Until compliance or 1 month, whichever is longer and must reapply	Case is closed	Until compliance or 1 month, whichever is longer and must reapply
Tennessee	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**Entire benefit**	**Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer**	Entire benefit	**Until in compliance for 5 days**	Entire benefit	**12 months**
Texas	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**$78 [26]**	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**Case is closed**	**Until compliance or 2 months, whichever is longer and must reapply**	Case is closed	Until compliance or 2 months, whichever is longer and must reapply
Utah	Entire benefit [27]	Until compliance	Entire benefit [27]	Until compliance	**Case is closed**	**2 months and must reapply**	Case is closed	**1 month and must reapply [28]**
Vermont	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**$225**	**Until in compliance for 2 weeks**	$225	Until in compliance for 2 weeks	**$150**	Until in compliance for 2 weeks

Table L7. Most Severe Sanction Policy for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Adults, 1996-2017 (July) [1]								
	1996		2003		2010		2017	
State	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)
Virginia	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
All, except VIEW [9]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
VIEW	n.a.	n.a.	**Entire benefit**	**Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer**	Entire benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	Entire benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer
Washington	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**Adult portion of benefit or 40%, whichever is greater**	**Until in compliance for 4 weeks** [29]	Adult portion of benefit or 40%, whichever is greater	**Until in compliance for 4 weeks**	**Case is closed**	**Permanent**
West Virginia	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**Entire benefit**	**Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer**	Entire benefit	Until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer	Entire benefit	**Until compliance or 12 months, whichever is longer**
Wisconsin	Entire benefit	Until compliance	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
W-2T and CSJ	n.a.	n.a.	**Case is closed**	**Permanent** [30]	Case is closed	Permanent [30]	Case is closed	**Until compliance**
Trial Jobs	n.a.	n.a.	**Case is closed**	**Permanent** [30]	Case is closed	Permanent [30]	**n.a.**	**n.a.**
TEMP	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	**Case is closed** [31]	**Permanent** [31]
UE [9]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Wyoming	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 6 months, whichever is longer	**Entire benefit**	**Until compliance**	Entire benefit	Until compliance	Entire benefit	Until compliance

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

[1] Bolded text indicates a change from the previous year shown. "Adult portion of benefit" describes the portion of the benefit the sanctioned individual would have received. Because the table only represents sanctions for single-parent adults, in all cases the sanctioned individual is an adult. Data shown in the table for the year 1996 reflect states' AFDC policies; data shown in the table for all subsequent years reflect states' TANF policies. If a state's program includes mutually-exclusive components in some years but not others, then in the years without components, the state's information is shown on the statewide row and the component rows show "n.a.", and in the years with components, the state's information is shown on the component rows and the statewide row shows "n.a."

[2] Case closure follows eight months of non-compliance.

[3] The participant will be removed from the JOBSTART program but will be eligible to participate in the non-JOBSTART component.

[4] For the seventh and subsequent months of noncompliance, the caseworker has discretion to either reduce the unit's benefits by 50 percent or close the case. If the case is closed, the unit may reapply for its full benefits, but the application will be pending until the unit complies with requirements for two weeks.

[5] Counties have the option to determine the amount and duration of sanctions. These policies refer to Denver County.

[6] For recipients who have not reached the time limit, the entire assistance unit loses benefit eligibility for three months and must reapply for assistance after the sanction period. For recipients who have had their time limit extended, the entire assistance unit loses benefit eligibility for the remainder of the extension and does not qualify for additional extensions.

[7] Assistance may still be provided to children under age 16 in the unit; these benefits are issued to a protective payee (after the second and subsequent sanction).

[8] The sanctioned parent must sign a new Family Investment Agreement and complete 20 hours of eligible education or work activities to become eligible again.

[9] Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they are not subject to sanctions.

[10] An individual who demonstrates good cause will not be sanctioned for noncompliance with work requirements.

[11] When a recipient fails to comply for the fourth or subsequent time, the needs of the individual are removed and the benefit is paid to a protective payee. The individual is sanctioned for 12 months. If a new contract has not been negotiated by one month after the end of the sanction period, the case is closed for noncompliance. The unit may reapply for benefits after a one-month period of ineligibility.

[12] The participant loses eligibility for the PAS program and the household loses benefits for one month.

[13] The participant loses eligibility for the PAS program and the household loses benefits for up to six months.

[14] The adjusted payment standard refers to the new benefit amount once the adult portion is removed.

[15] After eight weeks of continuous noncompliance, or three non-consecutive months of noncompliance within a 12-month period, the case is closed. To have the case reopened, the sanctioned individual must fully participate in activities requirements for at least two consecutive weeks before eligibility can be redetermined.

[16] If a unit accrues three months of sanctions in any 12-month period, the case may be closed. Any portion of a month counts as one full month.

[17] This sanction applies to noncompliance that continues for three or more months. If the adult is noncompliant for less than three months, the pro rata share is removed, but the case remains open.

[18] The benefit group will transition back into the NMW program and appropriate sanctions and benefit reductions will be applied.

[19] The program participant is placed on probation if he or she has not met program requirements. At the end of the probationary period, if standards have not been met or an overall GPA of 2.5 has not been achieved, the department may take action to terminate an individual's participation in the Education Works program, and the individual is transitioned back to the New Mexico Works Program.

[20] This policy applies to individuals who do not reside in a city with a population of one million or more individuals. For individuals in a city with a population of one million or more individuals, the length of the sanction is until compliance with employment requirements, as assigned by the local district.

[21] This sanction applies to noncompliance that continues for three or more months. If the adult is noncompliant for less than three months, the entire benefit is removed, but the case remains open.

[22] If the adult is noncompliant for one month or less, only the adult portion of the benefit is removed. If noncompliance continues after one month of reduced benefits, the case is closed.

[23] This sanction applies to noncompliance that occurs after the first 24 months of assistance. For instances of noncompliance occurring within the first 24 months of assistance, the needs of the sanctioned individual are permanently excluded for benefit calculation purposes.

[24] If the individual is noncompliant for one to six months, 110 percent of the parent's benefits is reduced from the unit's benefit. For 7 to 12 months of noncompliance, 120 percent of the parent's benefits is reduced from the unit's benefit. For months 13–18, there is a 130 percent reduction. For months 19–24, there is a 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.

[25] If a person is penalized and then becomes exempt, the benefits will be restored in the first full month following the month in which the state received documentation of the exemption.

[26] A financial penalty is imposed on the household benefits for six months or until the unit complies with requirements and signs form 2580, whichever is later, up to the financial penalty cap limit. The monthly penalty amount for noncompliance is $78 when only one parent fails to comply and $125 when both parents fails to comply with JOBS requirements.

[27] 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.

[28] The unit must also complete a two-week trial participation period before it is eligible to receive benefits again.

[29] The sanction remains in effect until the individual is compliant for four weeks; after four weeks of compliance, benefits are restored to their pre-sanction level and the individual is paid retroactively for the four weeks of compliance.

[30] Wisconsin has multiple components. If a recipient refuses to participate in an activity, he or she is permanently ineligible for benefits in that component. The unit may receive benefits again if it becomes eligible for one of the other components. There is no permanent sanction for individuals in unsubsidized employment.

[31] Recipients in the Trial Employment Match Program component are not subject to hourly reductions because they are paid wages directly by the employer. The TEMP employer and participant work together to allow for planned and excused absences. However, unplanned and unexcused absences by the participant will be reflected by a decrease in wages as determined by the employer. If unplanned and unexcused absences continue, the recipient will be ineligible for benefits in the TEMP program for life but may be eligible to receive benefits in another component.

Table L8. Asset Limits for Recipients, 1996–2017 (July) [1]				
State	1996	2003	2010	2017
Alabama	$1,000	**$2,000/$3,000 [2]**	**No limit**	No limit
Alaska	$1,000	**$2,000/$3,000 [2]**	$2,000/$3,000 [2]	$2,000/$3,000 [2]
Arizona	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	$2,000
Arkansas	$1,000	**$3,000**	$3,000	$3,000
California	$2,000 [3]	**$2,000/$3,000 [2]**	$2,000/$3,000 [2]	**$2,250/$3,250 [4]**
Colorado	$1,000	**$2,000**	**$15,000**	**No limit**
Connecticut	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000
Delaware	$1,000	$1,000	**$10,000**	$10,000
D.C.	$1,000	**$2,000/$3,000 [2]**	$2,000/$3,000 [2]	$2,000/$3,000 [2]
Florida	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	$2,000
Georgia	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
Hawaii	$1,000	**$5,000**	$5,000	**No limit**
Idaho	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	**$5,000**
Illinois	$1,000	**$2,000/$3,000/$3,000 +$50 [5]**	$2,000/$3,000/$3,000 +$50 [5]	**No limit**
Indiana	$1,000	**$1,500 [3]**	$1,500 [3]	$1,500 [3]
Iowa	$5,000 [6]	**$5,000 [7]**	$5,000 [7]	$5,000 [7]
Kansas	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	**$2,250**
Kentucky	$1,000	**$2,000 [8]**	$2,000 [8]	$2,000 [8]
Louisiana	$1,000	**$2,000**	**No limit**	No limit
Maine	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	$2,000
Maryland	$1,000	**$2,000**	**No limit**	No limit
Massachusetts	$2,500	$2,500	$2,500	$2,500
Michigan	$1,000	**$3,000**	$3,000	$3,000
Minnesota	$1,000	**$5,000 [6]**	$5,000 [6]	**$10,000 [9]**
Mississippi	$1,000	**$2,000 [10]**	**$2,000 [11]**	$2,000 [11]
Missouri	$5,000 [3]	$5,000 [3]	$5,000 [3]	$5,000 [3]
Montana	$1,000	**3,000**	**$3,000**	$3,000
Nebraska	$1,000	**$4,000/$6,000 [12]**	$4,000/$6,000 [12]	$4,000/$6,000 [12]
Nevada	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	**$6,000**
New Hampshire	$1,000	**$2,000 [3]**	$2,000 [3]	$2,000 [3]
New Jersey	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	$2,000
New Mexico	$1,000	**$3,500 [13]**	$3,500 [13]	$3,500 [13]
New York	$1,000	**$2,000/$3,000 [14]**	$2,000/$3,000 [14]	$2,000/$3,000 [14]
North Carolina	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000
North Dakota	$1,000	**$3,000/$6,000/$6,000 +$25 [15]**	$3,000/$6,000/$6,000 +$25 [15]	**$3,000/$6,000/$6,000 +$25 [15]**
Ohio	$1,000	**No limit**	No limit	No limit
Oklahoma	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
Oregon	$10,000 [16]	$10,000 [16]	$10,000 [16]	$10,000 [16]
Pennsylvania	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
Rhode Island	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
South Carolina	$1,000	**$2,500**	$2,500	$2,500
South Dakota	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	$2,000

Table L8. Asset Limits for Recipients, 1996–2017 (July) [1]				
State	1996	2003	2010	2017
Tennessee	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	$2,000
Texas	$1,000	**$2,000/$3,000** [2]	**$1,000** [17]	**$1,000**
Utah	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000
Vermont	$1,000 [18]	$1,000 [18]	**$2,000** [19]	**$9,000** [20]
Virginia	n.a.	n.a.	**No limit**	No limit
All, except VIEW	$1,000	$1,000	**n.a.**	n.a.
VIEW	$1,000	$1,000	**n.a.**	n.a.
Washington	$1,000	$1,000	**$1,000** [21]	**$4,000** [22]
West Virginia	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	$2,000
Wisconsin	$1,000	**$2,500**	$2,500	$2,500
Wyoming	$1,000	**$2,500**	$2,500	**$5,000**

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

[1] Bolded text indicates a change from the previous year shown. This table describes the asset limits for recipients. If the exemptions differ for applicants, it is footnoted. "No Limit" indicates a state does not place a limit on the amount of assets that can be held by the unit. Data shown in the table for the year 1996 reflect states' AFDC policies; data shown in the table for all subsequent years reflect states' TANF policies. ABLE accounts are generally excluded from the asset limit. See the Welfare Rules Database for more information. If a state's program includes mutually-exclusive components in some years but not others, then in the years without components, the state's information is shown on the statewide row and the component rows show "n.a.", and in the years with components, the state's information is shown on the component rows and the statewide row shows "n.a."

[2] Units including an elderly person may exempt $3,000; all other units exempt $2,000.

[3] The asset limit for applicants is $1,000.

[4] Units including an elderly or disabled person may exempt $3,250; all other units exempt $2,250.

[5] The asset limit is based on unit size; the limit is $2,000 for one person, $3,000 for two people, and $3,000 for three or more people plus $50 for each additional person.

[6] The asset limit for applicants is $2,000.

[7] The asset limit is $5,000 for households that have at least one member who was a program recipient in the month before the month of application. The asset limit for applicants is $2,000.

[8] Only liquid resources are considered for eligibility determinations. Liquid resources include cash, checking and savings accounts, CDs, stocks and bonds, and money market accounts.

[9] Withdrawals from ABLE accounts used to pay for a qualified disability expense are excluded.

[10] When a TANF recipient marries for the first time while receiving assistance, the resources of the new spouse are disregarded for six consecutive months. This is a one-time, lifetime disregard.

[11] If the unit is considered broad-based categorically eligible, it is not subject to asset limits. Households that include a convicted drug felon or a member currently disqualified for an intentional program violation are not considered broad-based categorically eligible. When a TANF recipient marries while receiving assistance, the liquid resources of the new spouse are excluded for six months beginning the month after the date of the marriage.

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

[13] The total limit is $3,500, but only $1,500 of that amount can be in liquid resources and only $2,000 can be in non-liquid resources.

[14] Units including a person age 60 years or older may exempt $3,000; all other units exempt $2,000.

[15] 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.

[16] The limit is reduced to $2,500 if the recipient does not cooperate with his or her case plan. JOBS Plus and JOBS participants must first be deemed eligible under normal rules. The asset limit for applicants is $2,500.

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

[18] In addition to the $1,000 asset limit, assets accumulated from earnings, interest earned on those assets, and non-liquid assets purchased with savings from earnings and other excluded income or resources are excluded as a resource.

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

[20] Other excluded resources include assets accumulated from earnings, interest earned on assets, non-liquid assets purchased with savings from earnings, retirement accounts (such as IRAs, 401(k)s, and other qualified accounts), and child education savings accounts (such as the Vermont Higher Education Investment Plan and other qualified plans).

[21] $3,000 in a savings accounts or certificates of deposit may also be excluded.

[22] Recipients can have $1,000 in any type of assets and an additional $3,000 in a savings account or certificates of deposit.

Table L9. Asset Limit Vehicle Exemptions for Recipients, 1996–2017 (July) [1]

State	1996	2003	2010	2017
Alabama	$1,500 [E]	**All vehicles owned by household**	**n.a., no assets test**	n.a., no assets test
Alaska	$1,500 [E]	**All vehicles owned by household** [2]	All vehicles owned by household [2]	All vehicles owned by household [2]
Arizona	One vehicle per household [3]	**All vehicles owned by household**	All vehicles owned by household	All vehicles owned by household
Arkansas	$1,500 [E]	**One vehicle per household**	One vehicle per household	**One vehicle per household** [4]
California	$4,500 [E, 3]	**$4,650** [E]	**$4,650/one vehicle per licensed driver** [F, 5]	**$9,500/one vehicle per licensed driver** [E, 6]
Colorado	$1,500 [E]	**$4,500** [F, 7]	**One vehicle per employed adult**	**n.a., no assets test**
Connecticut	$9,500 [E]	**$9,500** [E, 8]	$9,500 [E, 8]	$9,500 [E, 8]
Delaware	$4,650 [E]	$4,650 [E]	**All vehicles owned by household**	All vehicles owned by household
D.C.	$1,500 [E]	**All vehicles owned by household**	All vehicles owned by household	All vehicles owned by household
Florida	$1,500 [E]	**$8,500** [E]	$8,500 [E]	$8,500 [E]
Georgia	$1,500 [E]	**$4,650** [E, 9]	$4,650 [E, 9]	$4,650 [E, 9]
Hawaii	$1,500 [E]	**All vehicles owned by household**	All vehicles owned by household	**n.a., no assets test**
Idaho	$1,500 [E]	**$4,650** [F, 10]	**One vehicle per adult**	**One vehicle per adult** [11]
Illinois	$1,500 [E]	**One vehicle per household** [12]	One vehicle per household [12]	**n.a., no assets test**
Indiana	$1,000 [E, 13]	**$5,000 of one vehicle per household** [E, 13]	$5,000 of one vehicle per household [E, 13]	$5,000 of one vehicle per household [E, 13]
Iowa	$3,889 [E]	**$4,115 per vehicle for each adult and working teenager** [E]	**One vehicle per household** [14]	**One vehicle per household** [15]
Kansas	$1,500 [E]	**All vehicles owned by household** [16]	All vehicles owned by household [16]	**One vehicle per adult** [17]
Kentucky	$1,500 [E]	**All vehicles owned by household**	All vehicles owned by household	All vehicles owned by household
Louisiana	$1,500 [E]	**All vehicles owned by household**	**n.a., no assets test**	n.a., no assets test
Maine	One vehicle per household	One vehicle per household	One vehicle per household	One vehicle per household
Maryland	$1,500 [E]	**All vehicles owned by household**	**n.a., no assets test**	n.a., no assets test
Massachusetts	$5,000 [F]	**$5,000/$10,000** [E/F, 18]	$5,000/$10,000 [E/F, 18]	**$15,000** [F]
Michigan	One vehicle per household [19]	**All vehicles owned by household**	All vehicles owned by household	All vehicles owned by household
Minnesota	$1,500 [E]	**$7,500** [F, 20]	**$15,000** [F, 20]	**One vehicle per household member who is 16 or older** [F, 21]

Table L9. Asset Limit Vehicle Exemptions for Recipients, 1996–2017 (July) [1]

State	1996	2003	2010	2017
Mississippi	$1,500 [E]	**All vehicles owned by household**	**All vehicles owned by household [22]**	**All vehicles owned by household [E, 23]**
Missouri	First vehicle 100%/ Second vehicle $1,500 [E, 24]	First vehicle 100%/ Second vehicle $1,500 [E, 24]	First vehicle 100%/ Second vehicle $1,500 [E, 24]	First vehicle 100%/ Second vehicle $1,500 [E, 24]
Montana	$1,500 [E]	**One vehicle per household [25]**	One vehicle per household [25]	One vehicle per household [25]
Nebraska	$1,500 [E]	**One vehicle per household [26]**	One vehicle per household [26]	One vehicle per household [26]
Nevada	$1,500 [E]	**One vehicle per household**	One vehicle per household	**One vehicle per household [27]**
New Hampshire	$1,500 [E]	**One vehicle per licensed driver**	One vehicle per licensed driver	**One vehicle per licensed driver [28]**
New Jersey	$1,500 [E]	**$9,500 [F, 29]**	**All vehicles owned by household**	**All vehicles owned by household [30]**
New Mexico	$1,500 [E]	**All vehicles owned by household [31]**	**All vehicles owned by household [32]**	All vehicles owned by household [32]
New York	$1,500 [E]	**$4,650 [F, 33]**	$4,650 [F, 33]	**$11,000 [F, 34]**
North Carolina	$5,000 [F]	**One vehicle per adult**	**All vehicles owned by household [35]**	**All vehicles owned by household**
North Dakota	$1,500 [E]	**One vehicle per household**	One vehicle per household	One vehicle per household
Ohio	$4,600 [F]	**n.a., no assets test**	n.a., no assets test	n.a., no assets test
Oklahoma	$1,500 [E]	**$5,000 [E]**	$5,000 [E]	$5,000 [E]
Oregon	$10,000 of one vehicle [E]	$10,000 of one vehicle [E]	**$10,000 of all vehicles owned by household [E]**	$10,000 of all vehicles owned by household [E]
Pennsylvania	$1,500 [E]	**One vehicle per household**	One vehicle per household	**One vehicle per household [27]**
Rhode Island	$1,500 [E]	**$1,500/$4,650 [E/F, 36]**	**One vehicle per adult [37]**	One vehicle per adult [37]
South Carolina	$1,500 [E]	**One vehicle per licensed driver [38]**	One vehicle per licensed driver [38]	**One vehicle per licensed driver [39]**
South Dakota	$1,500 [E, 40]	**One vehicle per household [41]**	One vehicle per household [41]	**One vehicle per household [42]**
Tennessee	$1,500 [E]	**$4,600 [E]**	$4,600 [E]	$4,600 [E]
Texas	$1,500 [E]	**$4,650 of each vehicle owned by household [F, 43]**	**$4,650 of each vehicle owned by household [F, 44]**	**$4,650 of each vehicle owned by household [E, 44]**
Utah	$8,000 [E, 10]	$8,000 [E, 10]	**All vehicles owned by household**	All vehicles owned by household
Vermont	One vehicle per household [E]	**One vehicle per adult**	One vehicle per adult	One vehicle per adult

Table L9. Asset Limit Vehicle Exemptions for Recipients, 1996–2017 (July) [1]

State	1996	2003	2010	2017
Virginia	n.a.	n.a.	**n.a., no assets test**	n.a., no assets test
All, except VIEW	$1,500 [E]	**One vehicle per household [E, 45]**	**n.a.**	n.a.
VIEW	One vehicle per household [F/E, 46]	**One vehicle per household [E/F, 46]**	**n.a.**	n.a.
Washington	$1,500 [E]	**$5,000 [E, 10]**	$5,000 [E, 10]	**$5,000 [E, 47]**
West Virginia	$1,500 [E]	**One vehicle per household**	One vehicle per household	**One vehicle per adult [48]**
Wisconsin	$2,500 [E]	**$10,000 [E]**	$10,000 [E]	$10,000 [E]
Wyoming	$1,500 [E]	**$12,000 [F, 49]**	**One vehicle per household [E, 49]**	**Two vehicles per household [E]**

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

[1] Bolded text indicates a change from the previous year shown. This table describes the vehicle exemptions for recipients. If the exemptions differ for applicants, it is footnoted. Policies that distinguish between the equity value and fair-market value of vehicles are marked as follows: (E) equity value of the vehicle; (F) fair-market value of the vehicle. Data shown in the table for the year 1996 reflect states' AFDC policies; data shown in the table for all subsequent years reflect states' TANF policies. If a state's program includes mutually-exclusive components in some years but not others, then in the years without components, the state's information is shown on the statewide row and the component rows show "n.a.", and in the years with components, the state's information is shown on the component rows and the statewide row shows "n.a."

[2] Vehicles are exempt if used for one of the following: (1) to meet the family's basic needs, such as getting food and medical care or other essentials; (2) to go to and from work, school, training, or work activity (such as job search or community service); (3) as the family's house; (4) to produce self-employment income; or (5) to transport a disabled family member, whether or not he or she is a part of the assistance unit. If the vehicle does not meet one of these requirements, the equity value of the vehicle is counted in the determination of resources.

[3] Applicants may only exempt $1,500 of the equity value of a vehicle.

[4] If the family has more than one vehicle, then the market value of any additional vehicles will be considered in full.

[5] Each vehicle must be evaluated for both its equity and fair-market values; the higher of the two values counts against the family's asset limit. Before this calculation, all the following vehicles are completely excluded: (1) vehicles used primarily for income-producing purposes, (2) vehicles that produce annual income consistent with their fair-market value, (3) vehicles necessary for long-distance travel that is essential for employment, (4) vehicles used as the family's residence, (5) vehicles necessary to transport a physically disabled household member, (6) vehicles that would be exempt under previously stated exemptions but are not in use because of temporary unemployment, (7) vehicles used to carry fuel or water to the home and are the primary method of obtaining fuel or water, and (8) vehicles of which the equity value is $1,501 or less. To determine the countable fair-market value of each remaining vehicle, $4,650 is excluded from the vehicle's fair-market value. To determine the countable equity value of each remaining vehicle, one additional vehicle per adult and one additional vehicle per licensed child who uses the vehicle to travel to school, employment, or job search are excluded. The full equity value of each remaining vehicle is counted. For each vehicle not completely excluded, the higher of the fair-market value or the equity value counts against the family's asset limit.

[6] Each vehicle must be evaluated for its equity value. Before this calculation, a vehicle is excluded if it: (1) is used primarily for income-producing purposes; (2) is necessary for long-distance travel that is essential for employment; (3) is used as the family's home; (4) is necessary to transport a physically disabled household member; (5) would be exempt under previously stated exemptions but the vehicle is not in use because of temporary unemployment; (6) is used to carry fuel or water to the home and is the primary method of obtaining fuel or water; and (7) is a gift, donation, or family transfer. For each remaining vehicle, the state excludes one additional vehicle per adult and one additional vehicle per licensed child who uses the vehicle to travel to school, employment, or job search. For each remaining vehicle not completely excluded, the equity value that exceeds $9,500 counts against the family's asset limit.

[7] One vehicle per household may be exempt if used to transport a person with a disability, used to obtain medical treatment, or used for employment.

[8] The unit may exempt up to $9,500 of the vehicle's equity value, or the entire value of one vehicle used to transport a handicapped person. The motor vehicle exclusion is applied to the registered vehicle with the highest fair market value.

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

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

[11] If the unit owns any other vehicle that is non-exempt, the fair market value of the additional vehicle is applied to the resource limit.

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

[13] The exemption can only be applied to the value of one vehicle.

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

[15] Additionally, $5,880 of the equity value of a vehicle is exempt for each adult and working teenager whose resources must be considered in determining eligibility.

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

[17] One licensed vehicle per adult household member is exempt. Additional vehicles may be exempt if they are used by a minor for employment, training, education, or seeking employment, used primarily for producing income, essential to employment, used as the household's home, necessary to transport a household member with a physical disability, used to carry the primary source of fuel and water for the home, or valued at $1,500 or less.

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

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

[20] For the fair market value, Minnesota uses the loan value of the vehicle as listed in the current NADA Used Car Guide, Midwest edition.

[21] Any additional vehicle that is not exempt is counted toward the $10,000 asset limit and is valued at the amount of the vehicle's trade-in value as listed in the current NADA online car values and car prices guide.

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

[23] Determination of whether to count a vehicle is made case by case.

[24] $1,500 of the equity value of the unit's second vehicle is exempt.

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

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

[27] Vehicles other than the household's primary vehicle are evaluated for equity value.

[28] The equity value of all non-junk vehicles is counted in addition to any excluded vehicles.

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

[30] Recreational vehicles are not exempt and are evaluated for fair market value.

[31] Vehicles used for transportation to work, work activities, or daily living requirements are not considered in eligibility determination. All vehicles that are equipped for the handicapped are also exempt.

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

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

[34] One automobile is exempt, up to $11,000 of the fair market value; local districts may adopt a higher vehicle exemption.

[35] Boats are included in the definition of motor vehicles. Exclusion does not apply to mobile homes other than the primary physical residence.

[36] A unit may choose to exempt $4,650 of the fair-market value of each vehicle or $1,500 of the equity value of each vehicle. In addition, the value of vehicles used primarily for income-producing purposes or to transport a person with a disability is excluded.

[37] Exemptions for adult drivers cannot exceed two vehicles per household. Additionally, the entire value of a vehicle is exempt if it is used primarily to provide transportation for a disabled family member, used primarily to produce income, or used as the family’s home.

[38] 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.

[39] Vehicles owned by or used to transport disabled individuals or that are essential to self-employment are also exempt. If the unit owns any other vehicle that is non-exempt, the equity value of the additional vehicle is applied to the resource limit.

[40] 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.

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

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

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

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

[45] Any additional vehicles owned by the assistance unit with an equity value of $1,500 or less are excluded.

[46] 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.

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

[48] A person must be work-eligible to qualify for the vehicle exemption.

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

Table L10. Family Cap Policies, 1996-2017 (July) [1]

State	1996	2003	2010	2017
Alabama	No	No	No	No
Alaska	No	No	No	No
Arizona	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arkansas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
California	No	**Yes**	Yes	**No**
Colorado	No	No	No	No
Connecticut	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Delaware	Yes	**Yes** [2]	Yes [2]	**Yes** [3]
D.C.	No	No	No	No
Florida	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Georgia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hawaii	No	No	No	No
Idaho	No	**No** [4]	No [4]	No [4]
Illinois	Yes	Yes	**No** [5]	**No**
Indiana	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Iowa	No	No	No	No
Kansas	No	No	No	No
Kentucky	No	No	No	No
Louisiana	No	No	No	No
Maine	No	No	No	No
Maryland	Yes	Yes	**No**	No
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michigan	No	No	No	No
Minnesota	No	**Yes**	Yes	**No**
Mississippi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Missouri	No	No	No	No
Montana	No	No	No	No
Nebraska	No [6]	**Yes**	**No**	No
Nevada	No	No	No	No
New Hampshire	No	No	No	No
New Jersey	Yes	Yes	Yes	**Yes** [7]
New Mexico	No	No	No	No
New York	No	No	No	No
North Carolina	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Dakota	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Ohio	No	No	No	No
Oklahoma	No	**Yes**	**No**	No
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

Table L10. Family Cap Policies, 1996-2017 (July) [1]				
State	1996	2003	2010	2017
West Virginia	No	No	No	No
Wisconsin	Yes	**No** [4]	No [4]	No [4]
Wyoming	No	**Yes**	**No**	No
Total States with Any Cap	**14**	**22**	**17**	**15**

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

[1] Bolded text indicates a change from the previous year shown. Data shown in the table for the year 1996 reflect states' AFDC policies; data shown in the table for all subsequent years reflect states' TANF policies.

[2] 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.

[3] 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 noncash assistance services in the form of vouchers upon request, but he or she will not be automatically given vouchers each month. Receipt is based on need, and the total monthly value of the vouchers is capped at $69.

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

[5] Illinois no longer has a family cap; however, the state applied a cap to children born more than 10 months after case opening between January 1, 1996, and January 1, 2004. Children who were capped during this period continue to be capped. The cap may be removed for these children if the unit does not receive benefits for a minimum of nine months and has not previously experienced an increase in the payment standard as the result of a birth while receiving TANF.

[6] Nebraska conducted a demonstration project in five counties in 1996 that subjected units to a family cap.

[7] Units in which at least one adult member of the unit is working (any number of hours) are not subject to the family cap.

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, appendix table 1 describes how recipients are divided among the components, how long recipients can remain in the various components, and any interaction between the components in the state.

Appendix 1: Component Description [2]

State	Name	Duration	Description	Maximum time in component [3]	Interaction
California	Non-exempt	07/97 - Present	Recipients who do not meet any of the exemption requirements described under the Exempt Description of Component.	Indefinite, unless recipient becomes exempt	Recipients change components only when something happens to change their exemption status.
	Exempt	07/97 - Present	Recipients who meet one of the following are considered exempt for purposes of MAP amounts (payment standard): is a parent or relative, an aided parent of an unaided child, a pregnant woman, or an adult in a Refugee Cash Assistance Unit and receives SSI, In-Home Support Services, State Disability Insurance, or Temporary Worker's Compensation. Unaided non-parent caretakers are also exempt.	Until recipient no longer meets exemption characteristics	
Delaware	All, except TWP	09/09 - Present	Those who are not disabled and therefore do not qualify for the Transitional Work Program.	Indefinite, unless recipient becomes disabled	Disabled participants in the non-time-limited TANF program are assessed for participation in the Transitional Work Program. Those who can work with accommodation or have temporary disabilities are placed into TWP. When a temporarily disabled TWP participant is determined to be rehabilitated, the participant will be referred to the time-limited Employment and Training program (All, except TWP component).
	Transitional Work Program (TWP)	09/09 - Present	The Transitional Work Program serves disabled caretakers and parents in the TANF program who are unable to participate fully in required work activities. Through TWP, each client develops an individualized plan that suits his or her needs and capabilities. Through the plan, clients can work to gain employment, enter training, or be accepted to a program better suited to meet their long term needs, such as SSI.	Until recipient is no longer disabled; Inclusion of persons with temporary disability can last up to six months without medical documentation.	

Appendix 1: Component Description [2]

State	Name	Duration	Description	Maximum time in component [3]	Interaction
Massachusetts	Exempt [4]	11/95 - Present	Recipient must meet one of the following exemptions: child only unit; receiving SSI; disabled; caring for a disabled child, spouse, child's other parent, recipient's parents, or grandparent; pregnant women whose child is expected to be born within 120 days; child under the age of 2 who is either in the assistance unit or would be in the assistance unit except that the child receives SSI, state or federal foster care maintenance payments, or state or federal adoption assistance; a child under 3 months old living in the home and not included in the assistance unit; teen parent under age 20 meeting living arrangement requirements and attending school; or recipient age 60 or older. This component is exempt from the reduced Need and Payment Standards, time limits, and work requirements.	Until recipient no longer meets exemption characteristics	Recipients change components only when something happens to change their exemption status.
	Non-exempt	11/95 - Present	Recipients who do not meet any of the exemption requirements described under the Exempt Description of Component.	Indefinite, unless recipient becomes exempt	
Montana	All, except PAS	08/11 - Present	Recipients participating in all other allowable activities not included under the PAS program.	No limit	Recipients who have exhausted the 12-month limit on vocational education may apply for a slot in the Parents as Scholars component. PAS participants are selected by lottery. Participants selected for PAS will be moved back into the regular work program upon graduation or upon receiving their second activities sanction.
	Parents as Scholars (PAS)	08/11 - Present	Full-time students enrolled in an approved educational program leading toward a high school diploma, GED, associate's degree or baccalaureate degree who have exhausted the 12 month limit on vocational education. A limited number of PAS slots are available and are awarded through a lottery. PAS participants face different activities requirements and sanctions.	Until graduation or until the 60 month lifetime limit is reached	

Appendix 1: Component Description [2]					
State	Name	Duration	Description	Maximum time in component [3]	Interaction
Nebraska	Time-limited assistance	11/95 - Present	Intended for families where the adult family member is able to work.	60 months	As part of the reevaluation of the Self-Sufficiency Contract, a family in the non-time-limited program may be reassigned to time-limited assistance if the adult family member becomes able to work. Likewise, a family in the time-limited program may be reassigned to the non-time-limited program if the adult family member becomes disabled or otherwise unable to work.
	Non-time-limited assistance	11/95 - Present	Units where the adult member(s) are mentally, emotionally, or physically unable to work. Includes recipients who are one of the following: (1) ill or incapacitated, (2) caring for an ill or incapacitated household member, (3) over 65, (4) pregnant women beginning the month before the month of her due date, (5) caring for a child under 12 weeks old, (6) a single custodial parent who is unable to find child care for a child under the age of 5, (7) victims of domestic violence.	An individual can become non-time-limited for up to six months; exemption must be reassessed at least every six months or sooner depending on the service plan, and may be extended beyond six months, if necessary.	

Appendix 1: Component Description [2]

State	Name	Duration	Description	Maximum time in component [3]	Interaction
New Hampshire	New Hampshire Employment Program (NHEP)	03/97 - Present	The NHEP Program provides financial assistance for families with dependent children who receive assistance and who are cared for by a parent or relative who is able bodied for employment; includes a work program and work sanctions.	60 months, may request 6 month extension of eligibility based on hardship, there is no limit on the number of extensions for which a NHEP group may qualify	---[1]
	Family Assistance Program (FAP)	03/97 - Present	The FAP Program provides financial assistance for families with dependent children who receive assistance and who are cared for by a parent or relative who is unable to work due to a physical or mental disability, or are cared for by a relative other than a parent who is not receiving assistance. The program also includes individuals age 60 and older. Families who have reached their sixty-month time limit and have received at least one six-month extension for caring for a disabled relative, assistance unit member, or spouse may be permanently transferred to the Family Assistance Program. FAP does not include a work program and, therefore, does not include work sanctions.	Unlimited, as long as FAP eligibility requirements are met	

Appendix 1: Component Description [2]

State	Name	Duration	Description	Maximum time in component [3]	Interaction
New Mexico	New Mexico Works Program (NMW)	10/00 - Present	The NMW Program provides financial assistance for families with dependent children who receive assistance and who are cared for by a parent or relative who is able bodied for employment; includes a work program and work sanctions.	60 months	During the initial application or recertification process, the Family Assistance analyst will screen an applicant for eligibility for the EWP. Recipients who are actively participating in NMW and who meet the requirements for EWP, shall be given first opportunity to switch programs. Benefit groups may not participate in both NMW and EWP simultaneously. Participants who leave EWP for a good cause may resume participation when the individual is able and ready to return to the EWP. An individual who leaves the EWP without establishing good cause, is not eligible to resume participation in the EWP.
	Education Works Program (EWP)	10/00 - Present	EWP is a state-funded post-secondary educational program offered as an alternative to the New Mexico Works program. The eligibility criteria for the Educational Works and the New Mexico Works Programs are the same except for the following: applicants for EWP must be in good standing with the NMW Program (this means the applicant can have no activities, child support or reporting sanctions), the applicant must provide proof of enrollment in a two or four year post-secondary education, graduate or post-graduate program, and the applicant must apply for all financial aid available.	Participation in the Education Works Program is limited to twenty-four months, whether or not consecutive; Months of participation in the EWP cannot be applied towards the 60 month lifetime limit.	
Oregon	All, except JOBS Plus	01/96 - Present	Recipients participating in all other allowable activities not included under the JOBS Plus program.	Until case closure	A person in JOBS Plus may participate up to 6 months, but participation in JOBS Plus can be extended by 30 days if the participant meets the exception process.
	JOBS Plus	01/96 - Present	Recipients volunteer for the JOBS Plus program (under the Oregon Option waiver) that provides recipients with on-the-job training, while paying their benefits as wages from a work-site assignment.	Until case closure	

Appendix 1: Component Description [2]

State	Name	Duration	Description	Maximum time in component [3]	Interaction
South Carolina	All, except CARES-eligible participants	02/08 - Present	Recipients who do not meet any of the eligibility criteria of the CARES component.	Indefinite, unless recipient becomes exempt	Adult recipients are screened as part of the family evaluation and assigned to CARES when they meet the program requirements. No restrictions are placed on the number of times a client can move between the CARES program and other activities.
	Challenging Adults Through Rehabilitation, Education, and Services (CARES)	02/08 - Present	CARES is a state funded program that serves TANF-eligible individuals who face a health-related problem expected to last 90 days or more that prevents their participation in TANF work activities. The incapacity may be physical or mental, and must be verified by a physician or other health professional. Individuals accepted for treatment by Vocational Rehabilitation, DDSN, or Mental Health are eligible for cares as long as their treatment was not due to a criminal record or drug addiction. The following characteristics identify those participants placed in Track 1 case management activities: a) participants experience a disability severe enough to prevent full-time participation in the cash assistance Work Program, but not to the extent that all work and training activities are prevented; b) participants may show an indication of a learning disability, diagnosed as Learning Disabled (LD) by a licensed psychologist, and the learning disability prevents full-time cash assistance work participation for a period of 90 days or more; c) recipients may participate in any cash assistance Work Program activities for which they qualify even though special accommodations may be needed. The following characteristics identify those participants placed in Track 2 case management activities: recipients experience a permanent and total disability severe enough to prevent full- or part-time employment or participation in training activities and is expected to last more than 90 days.	Until recipient is no longer incapacitated for a period of 90 days or longer	

Appendix 1: Component Description [2]

State	Name	Duration	Description	Maximum time in component [3]	Interaction
Virginia	All, except VIEW	07/95 - Present	Recipients who are exempt from VIEW; they do not have activities requirements. Component is funded by the state.	No limit	Units are assigned to VIEW after initial eligibility determination. If a recipient meets the VIEW exemption criteria, they are placed in the All Except for VIEW component.
	Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare Program (VIEW)	07/95 - Present	Employment activities (unsubsidized, subsidized, community service) are required for all non-exempt recipients.	24 months	
Wisconsin	W-2 Transition (W-2T)	03/97 - 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 [5]	Recipients should always be placed at the highest level of employment participation possible. Therefore, recipients move between components as appropriate.
	Community Service Jobs (CSJ)	03/97 - 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 [5]	
	Trial Employment Match Program (TEMP)	03/16 - Present	TEMP is available in Dane, Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Racine counties, and in the city of Beloit. TEMP is for W-2 applicants or recipients who are not yet ready for unsubsidized employment. Participants are placed in subsidized jobs, usually 40 hours per week, paying at least the minimum wage. A job can last up to six months with a possible three-month extension; total participation in TEMP is limited to 24 months. In Dane, Marathon, and Milwaukee counties, non-custodial parents who qualify for W-2 case management may qualify for one TEMP job.	24 months	

Appendix 1: Component Description [2]

State	Name	Duration	Description	Maximum time in component [3]	Interaction
Wisconsin	Unsubsidized Employment (UE)	01/98 - Present	Individuals who are employed at the time of application or who have a strong employment history and skills. Includes individuals who are determined to be capable of obtaining employment, are currently in an unsubsidized job, or were previously assigned to a subsidized employment position. These recipients are not subject to either federal or W-2 time limits. Individuals in this component do not receive cash benefits but some case management services are available.	Participation in the Case Management Underemployed (CMU) and Case Management Job Ready (CMJ) placements is not limited, but recipients may only receive services in the Case Management Follow-up (CMF) placement for 12 months (unless they are placed in CMF again, in which case the 12 months starts over).	

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

[1] Information not found in state's manual.

[2] Only those states that have clearly delineated components are included in this table. Historical details about components no longer in use can be found in the Welfare Rules Database.

[3] Where "no limit" is listed for "maximum time in component," it is assumed that units in this component are bound by state time limits. See table IV.C.1 for information on the maximum amount of time recipients are allowed to receive assistance in the state. For more information on work exemptions and time limit exemptions, see tables III.B.1, IV.C.2(a) and (b), and IV.C.3(a) and (b). Or for more detail, see the WRD.

[4] In Massachusetts, the exempt component makes up the majority of the caseload.

[5] From March 1997 until October 2009, participants were limited to 24 months in a component. Wisconsin discontinued the time limit from November 2009 through December 2011, and reinstated the time limit in January 2012.

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