Welfare Rules Databook

Welfare Rules Databook:
State TANF Policies
as of July 2005

Gretchen Rowe
with
Mary Murphy
and Meghan Williamson

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Introduction and Background

This publication, *The Welfare Rules Databook*, provides tables containing key Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) policies for each state as of July 2005, as well as longitudinal tables describing selected state policies from 1996 through 2005. The tables are based on the information in the Welfare Rules Database (WRD), a publicly available, online database originally developed under the Urban Institute's *Assessing the New Federalism* project.

The *Databook* is divided into five groups of tables: initial eligibility in 2005; benefits in 2005; requirements in 2005; ongoing eligibility in 2005; and policies across time, 1996–2005. Each chapter begins with an overview of the policies, followed by details relating to specific tables.

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

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

The Welfare Rules Database

The Welfare Rules Database is a comprehensive, sophisticated resource for comparing cash assistance programs across all 50 states and the District of Columbia, researching changes across time in cash assistance rules within a single state, or determining the rules governing cash assistance in one state at a point in time. The WRD is longitudinal, and currently provides information on state Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and TANF policies from 1996 through 2005. The WRD was initially developed to meet the needs of researchers under the

Urban Institute's *Assessing the New Federalism* project and was made publicly available in August 1999. The Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (DHHS/ACF) and the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (DHHS/ASPE) are currently funding the maintenance and development of the WRD.

The Development of the WRD

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

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

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

Contents of the WRD

The WRD provides detailed information on a wide range of policy topics. These topics are currently organized into 29 categories that together describe most of the significant dimensions of state policies. While the categories may be ordered in various ways, it is useful to consider the rules in the sequence in which individuals seeking and receiving assistance will likely encounter them. The 29 categories are listed below, organized into five sections, beginning with initial eligibility.

I. **Initial Eligibility**

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

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

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

E. **How much income can a family have and still be eligible?**
Income Eligibility Tests
Dollar Amounts[1]

II. **Benefits**

A. **If a family passes all eligibility tests, what is received?**
Benefit Computation[2]

III. **Requirements**

A. **Once determined eligible, what must a recipient family do to maintain benefits?**
Contracts and Agreements
School Policies for Dependent Children
Immunization and Health Screening Requirements
Child Support Sanctions[3]

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

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

[3] The child support requirements for which a recipient may be sanctioned are included in the Child Support category

B. What work activities are required?
Activities Exemptions
Activities Requirements
Activities Sanctions
Minor Parent Activities Requirements and Bonuses
Components

IV. Ongoing Eligibility

A. How long can a family receive benefits?
Time Limits

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

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

V. Transition to Self-Support

A. What happens after cash assistance ends?
Transitional Benefits

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

The primary sources of information for the WRD (and thus for the tables in the *Databook*) are the caseworker manuals and/or regulations used in each state and the District of Columbia.[4] The Urban Institute has a subscription with each state to obtain the manuals or regulations as well as the ongoing updates to those manuals or regulations. These documents provide a consistent source of detailed information on policy changes and implementation dates across states and time.

listed under section I.D.
[4] 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.

States were given the opportunity to verify the key polices in the 2005 *Databook* tables. The 46 states that reviewed the *Databook* tables are:

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

A similar verification process was performed in the last five years for the 1999–2004 data. In those rounds of verification, 44 states reviewed the complete 1999 data or the 1999 tables, 46 states reviewed the complete 2000 data or the 2000 tables, 45 states reviewed the 2001 tables, 46 states reviewed the 2002 tables, 45 states reviewed the 2003 tables, and 46 states reviewed the 2004 tables. Portions of the 1996–98 data in the WRD have been verified against selected secondary sources but have not been fully reviewed by state TANF staff because of their historic nature.

General Points about the WRD

The WRD

- contains information on the cash assistance rules *in effect* in each state across time. It does not include information on proposals or legislation that has not been implemented.

- focuses on welfare *rules*. The database does not contain information regarding caseloads, budgets, outcomes, or administrative practices.

- contains at least one "record" (a set of coded variables) for each state, year, and category of rules.

- contains additional records when the state changes a policy during the year or when the state's policies vary by geographic regions of the state, demographic characteristics of the assistance units, or "component" groups across the state. (The term "component" is used when the state's caseload is divided into mutually exclusive groups based on multiple characteristics.)

- indicates when states vary policies by county. For those policies determined at the county level, the WRD captures the policies for the largest county in the state.[5]

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

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

[5] 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 Databook

Content of the Databook

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

The tables included in this book are designed to provide readers with easy access to key TANF policies across states as of July 2005. The first four chapters of the *Databook* provide information as of July 2005 across four broad policy areas: initial eligibility, benefits, requirements, and ongoing eligibility. For selected policies, longitudinal tables include data from 1996 through 2005.

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

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

Structure of the Tables

Each table follows the same general structure and was created using the same set of rules. Typically, the body of each table includes one row per state, which represents the policies that affect the majority of the caseload as of July 2005. Units composing the majority of the caseload tend to be nonexempt, single-parent units with children.

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

- Additional data as a second row: A second row is added to the body of the table if a state divides its entire caseload into mutually exclusive groups that are treated differently across more than one policy. These groups—termed "components" in the WRD—are usually defined by more than one characteristic, such as "units containing a child under 13 years old whose unit head is job ready." Descriptions of states' components are located in appendix 1.
- Additional data as a footnote: Several types of variations may appear as footnotes in the tables. These include variation by type of assistance unit (two-parent units versus one-parent units or applicants versus recipients) or geographic areas (demonstration projects in a few counties versus the rest of the state). In some, but not all, tables these types of policies are footnoted. The tables do not capture all the variation in policies across regions and types of units, but the WRD contains this information. In addition, states that allow counties to vary policy are footnoted. The footnote indicates the name of the county (the largest in the state) to which the policy applies.

Each 2005 table is numbered by chapter and section. For example, table III.A.1 refers to the first table in chapter III, section A. The longitudinal tables are numbered L1 through L10. The numbering of the tables in this book corresponds to the numbering of the tables in the 1999 through 2004 books.

Policies as of July 2005

Initial Eligibility

I. Initial Eligibility

The tables in this chapter of the *Databook* describe key aspects of the rules imposed on families and individuals in order to determine initial eligibility for TANF cash assistance, as of July 2005. Rules for initial eligibility apply to individuals who are newly applying or reapplying for assistance. To be eligible, an applicant family must pass both nonfinancial tests based on the demographic characteristics of the family and its members, and financial tests based on the income and asset holdings available to the family. This chapter is divided into five sections covering initial eligibility rules related to diversion, family composition, assets, income definitions, and income tests.

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

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

Two policies intended to encourage self-sufficiency are diversion and job search at application. By July 2005, almost two-thirds of states had created a formal diversion program. Under formal diversion programs, families may choose to receive a lump-sum cash payment to deal with immediate needs instead of receiving a monthly TANF benefit. Generally, the benefits are provided to families to alleviate short-term problems that interfere with either keeping or finding employment. Families that accept diversion payments are typically barred from applying for monthly TANF benefits for some period.

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

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

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

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

The amount of a diversion payment varies greatly across the states. Currently, 11 states (including 2 states with variable lump-sum payments) provide families a flat lump-sum amount of diversion, regardless of the family's size. These payments range from $1,000 to $4,000, depending on the state. Most states with diversion programs, however, determine the lump-sum diversion payment amount based on a multiple of the benefit the family would receive if it were eligible and received monthly TANF payments. The diversion payments range from two to eight months' worth of monthly benefits, depending on the state. The majority offer up to three months of the maximum benefit the family would receive if receiving assistance. Note that the maximum diversion amount in these states is also affected by the variation in the states' maximum monthly benefit levels and the family size.

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

Related tables: Table L1 indicates whether each state had a formal diversion program in 1996 through 2005.

Mandatory job search at application: Table I.A.2 indicates which states require applicants to search for a job before application as a condition of eligibility. Presently, 18 states require an applicant to seek employment either before or while the application is processed. The job search requirements vary by state, but in all cases the family is not eligible for assistance if the applicant does not comply with the requirement.

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

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

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

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

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

Two-parent eligibility for applicants: For states providing benefits to two-parent families, table I.B.2 describes any special eligibility rules imposed on two-parent applicant units where neither parent is disabled ("UP," or unemployed-parent families, in the former AFDC program).[6] Traditionally, states have imposed three types of tests: limits on hours of work, work history tests, and waiting periods. Under an "hours test," the unit is ineligible if the principal wage earner is working more than a specified number of hours a month. Note that 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 where the principal wage earner worked during a certain number of calendar quarters over a specified

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

number of years, or where the principal wage earner satisfies other criteria related to labor force attachment.

Waiting periods restrict the eligibility of two-parent families until a certain number of days or weeks after the family would otherwise have been eligible.[7] In other words, under a 30-day waiting period, if the principal wage earner becomes unemployed and the family would not have been eligible when the parent was working, the family would not become eligible to apply for assistance until one month after the parent lost his or her job.

Related tables: See table IV.A.1 for details on the hours test for recipients and table L2 for information on the rules for two-parent units in 1996 through 2005.

Minor parent eligibility: Table I.B.3 describes special eligibility rules for families where the parent is a minor (usually defined as under age 18 and never married). The first column indicates whether a minor parent can ever head a TANF unit and receive the benefit check in his or her own name. The second column indicates whether the state requires the minor parent to live with a parent or in another state-approved setting (referred to in the table as a living arrangement restriction). In nearly all states, unless exempt due to good cause, a minor parent must live with her own parent(s) or in some other state-approved setting.[8]

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

Eligibility of stepparents: Table I.B.4 describes whether a stepparent is included in the TANF assistance unit. Depending on the state policy, stepparents may be required to be part of the unit, may be prohibited from being part of the unit, or may be included in the unit at the

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[7] Historically, waiting periods were only imposed on two-parent units. However, under TANF, some states have begun to apply waiting periods to all types of units. The WRD does not currently capture waiting periods that apply to all units.

[8] In general, states may not provide federally funded assistance to minor parents who are not living in an adult-supervised setting. However, there are some exceptions to this requirement.

option of the family. This table focuses on rules for stepparents who have no child in common with their spouses and who have no biological children of their own in the assistance unit. State rules for stepparents not meeting these criteria may vary and are discussed in the WRD.

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

Eligibility of noncitizens: After the passage of PRWORA, noncitizens' access to federal TANF benefits was significantly restricted. PRWORA created the "qualified alien" distinction, which more narrowly defined the group of noncitizens potentially eligible for most federally funded TANF assistance.[9] Apart from a few exempted groups, the federal law further limited qualified aliens' access to assistance based on their date of entry into the country.[10] Qualified aliens who entered the United States before August 22, 1996, (the date PRWORA was passed) are potentially eligible for assistance without any waiting period, whereas certain qualified aliens who arrive in the country on or after August 22, 1996, are subject to a five-year bar on federal TANF assistance.[11] (If the alien enters the United States on or after August 22, 1996, but is not qualified when he or she enters, the five-year clock begins on the date his or her immigrant status becomes qualified.) After the five-year bar, qualified aliens are again potentially eligible for federally funded TANF assistance. Although federal law determines which aliens are potentially eligible for benefits and during which periods, states have some flexibility. States can provide or

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[9] Qualified aliens include legal permanent residents, asylees, refugees, aliens paroled into the United States for at least one year, aliens whose deportations are being withheld, aliens granted conditional entry, certain battered alien spouses and their children, battered alien children and their parents, Cuban/Haitian entrants, and aliens granted conditional entry before April 1, 1980.

[10] The federal law exempts several groups of aliens from the five-year bar. They are refugees and asylees, individuals who had their deportation withheld, veterans or individuals in active duty along with their spouses and unmarried dependent children, Cuban/Haitian entrants, and certain Amerasians.

[11] The five-year bar 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 became a legal permanent resident in 2000. As long as that person has been continuously present in the United States, the bar would not apply to him 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).

deny assistance to certain qualified aliens who the federal government has indicated are potentially eligible for benefits.[12] States can also provide state-funded assistance to certain aliens ineligible for federally funded assistance—such as qualified aliens during the five-year bar or certain unqualified aliens.

States have made three types of decisions about the eligibility of aliens: (1) Will some or all qualified aliens who arrived before PRWORA (pre-PRWORA) be eligible for benefits?; (2) Will some or all aliens who arrived on or after PRWORA (post-PRWORA) be eligible for benefits during the five-year bar?; and (3) Will some or all post-PRWORA aliens be eligible for benefits after the five-year bar? As of 2005, all states provide TANF benefits to at least some, if not all, pre-PRWORA qualified aliens. But states vary considerably in their decisions concerning post-PRWORA aliens. Tables I.B.5, I.B.6, and I.B.7 describe the variation in state policies concerning pre-PRWORA and post-PRWORA aliens.[13]

Table I.B.5 describes whether states consider pre-PRWORA qualified aliens eligible for federally funded assistance. The table provides eligibility rules for several different categories of qualified aliens, including legal permanent residents, asylees/refugees, aliens with deportation withheld, aliens paroled in the country for at least one year, and battered aliens. Even if a state

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[12] 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 in active duty along with their spouses and unmarried dependent children, and legal permanent residents with 40 qualified quarters of work who have not received any federal means-tested benefits during any quarters beginning after December 1996 (40 quarters is approximately 10 years for one person; however, an alien may be credited with quarters of coverage worked by a parent or a spouse under certain circumstances). The five-year bar on federal benefits, however, does apply to legal permanent residents even if they accumulate 40 quarters.

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

does not provide assistance to all qualified aliens, those qualifying for special exceptions based on work history or veteran or military status are still eligible for federally funded benefits.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Related tables: The limits may vary for determining the initial eligibility of applicants versus the continuing eligibility of recipients. For information on the asset test for recipients, see table IV.A.3. Tables L8 and L9 provide information on asset limits for recipients and the vehicle exemption for recipients, respectively, from 1996 through 2005.

D. How is income counted in determining eligibility?

Once a family has passed the state's asset tests, its available income is computed for eligibility purposes. States have discretion in determining the portion and types of earned and unearned income they will count, in addition to whose income will count, for eligibility purposes.

Generally, states count most of the earned income from each assistance unit member toward the unit's gross income (total income of the unit); however, states vary greatly in their treatment of unearned income. There are several types of unearned income; this book only addresses unearned income in the form of child support payments (in chapter IV, Ongoing Eligibility). For more details on the treatment of other unearned income, including interest income, EITC income, and lump-sum income, see the WRD.

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

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

<u>Treatment of grandparent income:</u> When a minor parent is potentially eligible to head her own assistance unit, a portion of her parents' income may be "deemed available" to the minor's unit when determining eligibility and benefits. Typically, income is deemed from the minor's parents (referred to as "grandparents") only if the minor is living in the home with her parents;

however, in one state—New Jersey—the income is deemed even if the minor is not living with her parents.

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

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

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

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

deemed available to the stepparent's spouse and the spouse's dependents and is counted as unearned income for eligibility and benefit computation purposes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

<u>Income eligibility tests for applicants:</u> Table I.E.1 describes states' income eligibility tests for determining whether an applicant can begin receiving benefits. The table indicates which state income standard is used for each test. To determine the value of the particular standard for a three-person family, see table I.E.3, discussed below. States that impose a net income test generally disregard a portion of the unit's earned income before comparing the income to the state's income standard. These earnings disregards are captured in table I.E.2.

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

Related tables: As mentioned above, table I.E.3 provides the eligibility standard(s) used to determine eligibility for a three-person family. Tables I.D.1 and I.D.2 describe policies concerning the deeming of income from grandparents and stepparents that may be used when determining gross income for income eligibility tests. Table I.E.2 describes the earned income disregards that may be used for net income tests. Table I.E.4 combines information on the income eligibility tests applied to applicants with information on the earned income disregards and eligibility standards to show the maximum earnings a family can have and still be eligible for TANF. Table L3, in the last section of this book, provides the same information as in table I.E.4 for 1996 through 2005.

<u>Earned income disregards for income eligibility:</u> Table I.E.2 describes the earned income disregards applied to applicants' and recipients' income in determining net income for the income eligibility tests. Additional disregards for child care expenses paid by a family or special disregards for units affected by a family cap or time limit are not included in this table; however, this information is included in the WRD.

The body of the table focuses on the earned income disregards used to establish net income when determining an applicant's initial eligibility. In some cases, states also use net income tests to determine a recipient's continuing eligibility. If that is the case, and if different earned income disregards are used in applying net income tests for recipients versus applicants, the rules for recipients are footnoted.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Related tables: Table L3 provides the maximum income for initial eligibility from 1996 through 2005. Table IV.A.5 provides information on the amount of earnings a recipient may receive and remain eligible for assistance.

Table I.A.1 Formal Diversion Payments, July 2005

State	Diversion program	Maximum diversion payment[1]	Form of payment	How often recipient can receive maximum payment	Period of TANF ineligibility without penalty after payment	Payment counts toward the time limit
Alabama	No	—	—	—	—	—
Alaska	Yes	3 months	Vendor or cash payment	Four times in a lifetime, but no more than once every 12 months	3 months[2]	No
Arizona	Yes[3]	3 months	Cash payment	Once every 12 months	3 months[4]	No
Arkansas	Yes	3 months	Cash loan[5]	Once in a lifetime	100 days	No[5]
California[6]	Yes[7]	Varies[8]	Cash payment or services[9]	As often as needed, up to $4,000 annual and $10,000 lifetime	Immediately eligible[10]	Varies[10]
Colorado[11]	Yes	$1,000 [12]	Vendor or cash payment	Twice in a lifetime[13]	Determined by caseworker and client	No[14]
Connecticut	Yes	3 months	Cash payment	Three times in a lifetime, but no more than once every 12 months	3 months	Yes
Delaware	Yes[15]	$1,500	Vendor payment	Once every 12 months	Varies[16]	No
D.C.	Yes	3 months	Vendor or cash payment	Once every 12 months	Diversion payment divided by the monthly benefit the unit would receive	No
Florida	Yes[17]	Varies[17]	Cash payment	Varies[17]	Varies[17]	Varies[17]
Georgia	No	—	—	—	—	—
Hawaii	Yes	8 months	Cash payment	Once in 60 months	Varies[18]	No
Idaho	Yes	3 months[19]	Cash payment	Once in a lifetime	Twice the number of months included in the payment	Yes
Illinois	Yes[20]	*	Cash payment	*	*	No
Indiana	No	—	—	—	—	—
Iowa	Yes[21]	$2,000	Vendor payment	Once every 12 months[22]	Twice the number of days included in the payment[23]	No
Kansas	No	—	—	—	—	—
Kentucky	Yes	$1,300	Vendor payment	Twice in a lifetime, but no more than once every 24 months	12 months	No
Louisiana	No[24]	—	—	—	—	—
Maine	Yes[25]	3 months	Vendor payment	Once in a lifetime	3 months[26]	No
Maryland	Yes	3 months	Cash payment	As often as needed	The number of months included in the payment	No
Massachusetts	No	—	—	—	—	—
Michigan	No	—	—	—	—	—
Minnesota	Yes[27]	Varies[28]	Vendor and cash payments[29]	Once every 12 months[30]	4 months[30]	No
Mississippi	No	—	—	—	—	—
Missouri	No	—	—	—	—	—
Montana	No	—	—	—	—	—
Nebraska	No	—	—	—	—	—
Nevada	No	—	—	—	—	—
New Hampshire	No	—	—	—	—	—

Table I.A.1 Formal Diversion Payments, July 2005

State	Diversion program	Maximum diversion payment[1]	Form of payment	How often recipient can receive maximum payment	Period of TANF ineligibility without penalty after payment	Payment counts toward the time limit
New Jersey	Yes[31]	$1,550 [32]	Cash payment	As often as needed[32]	Immediately eligible[33]	No
New Mexico	Yes[34]	$1,500	Cash payment	Twice in a lifetime	12 months[35]	No
New York	Yes[36]	Varies[37]	Vendor or cash payment[37]	Once in a lifetime	Immediately eligible	No
North Carolina	Yes	3 months	Cash payment	Once every 12 months	Immediately eligible	No
North Dakota	No	—	—	—	—	—
Ohio	No	—	—	—	—	—
Oklahoma	Yes[34]	3 months	Vendor payment	Once in a lifetime	12 months	No
Oregon	No	—	—	—	—	—
Pennsylvania	No	—	—	—	—	—
Rhode Island	Yes[38]	3 months	Cash payment	Once in a lifetime	6 months[39]	No
South Carolina	No	—	—	—	—	—
South Dakota	Yes	2 months	Vendor or cash payment	As often as needed[40]	3 months[4]	No
Tennessee	No	—	—	—	—	—
Texas	Yes[41]	$1,000	Cash payment	Once every 12 months	12 months	No
Utah	Yes	3 months	Cash payment	As often as needed	3 months[4]	Yes[42]
Vermont	No	—	—	—	—	—
Virginia	Yes	4 months	Vendor or cash payment	Once every 60 months	Diversion payment divided by the daily benefit the unit would receive	No
Washington	Yes	$1,500	Cash payment	Once every 12 months	12 months[43]	No
West Virginia	Yes	3 months	Cash payment	Once in a lifetime	3 months	No[44]
Wisconsin	Yes[45]	$1,600	Cash loan	As often as needed[46]	Immediately eligible	No
Wyoming	No	—	—	—	—	—

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

* Data not obtained.

[1] The Maximum Diversion Payment is either a flat payment, regardless of the family's size and the state's maximum benefit (represented in the table by a dollar amount), or a multiple of the maximum benefit the family would have received if it were receiving monthly TANF benefits (represented in the table by a number of months of benefits the family could receive). Note that if the state provides diversion payments based on a multiple of the maximum benefit, the amount will vary by the family size and the generosity of the state's maximum benefits.
[2] The entire payment is prorated over three months and counted as income if the unit applies for benefits within three months of receiving a payment.
[3] Eligibility for diversion assistance includes obtaining employment or an offer of employment. 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. In select local offices participating in a pilot program, individuals must be referred to a Jobs Program Assessment for job search assistance before approval for diversion assistance. Once assistance is approved, all child support payments received on behalf of the children in the unit are passed through to the unit during the diversion period.
[4] If the unit applies for benefits during the three-month ineligibility period, the unit must repay the diversion payment. The payment will be prorated over a three-month period, and the amount of the repayment will be deducted from the unit's monthly assistance payment.
[5] The diversion payment is considered a loan; therefore, the recipient must pay back any amount borrowed. Any amount paid back will not count toward the time limit; if all or a portion of the amount has not been repaid, the months will count.
[6] Counties have the option to vary their diversion programs. These policies refer to Los Angeles County.
[7] Diversion assistance is only offered to applicants.
[8] The maximum diversion cash payment is the greater of $2,000 or three times the Maximum Aid Payment for the family size. In cases of 'compelling need,' where an applicant has a one-time expense, payments up to $4,000 may be issued if necessary to retain self-sufficiency.
[9] Diversion services may be made in the form of cash, vendor, or noncash services. Diversion has been used to provide payments and services for child and dependent care, clothing, housing deposit, medical expenses, work supports pending receipt of employment income, tools or other items for employment, transportation, payments for automobile repairs, and payment of utility bills.
[10] 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 60-month time limit is calculated by dividing the total diversion payment by the Maximum Aid Payment for the apparently eligible assistance unit at the time the diversion payment was made. The month(s) resulting from the calculation less any partial month, is (are) counted toward the 60-month time limit.

[11] Counties have the option to vary their diversion programs. These policies refer to Denver County.
[12] If assistance greater than $1,000 is requested, it must be approved by a designated staffing team. If an individual is seeking employment and training services through the mayor's Office of Workforce Development, there will be no limit to the amount of money issued.
[13] If an individual is seeking employment and training services through the mayor's Office of Workforce Development, there will be no limit to the number of diversion applications approved.
[14] If the payment is intended to cover greater than 120 days worth of need, the additional time counts toward the time limit. If an individual is seeking employment and training services through the mayor's Office of Workforce Development, there will be no time frame for how long services can be provided.
[15] The state's diversion program is related to retaining or obtaining employment and is only for parents living with natural or adopted children.
[16] 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.
[17] Florida has three separate diversion programs. An assistance unit may receive a one-time payment of up to $1,000 in Up-Front Diversion or Relocation Assistance, up to the amount needed to relocate, or a one-time $1,000 payment of Cash Severance Diversion. The unit is ineligible to receive assistance for three months after receiving Up-Front Diversion and for six months after receiving Relocation Assistance or Cash Severance Diversion. Up-Front Assistance is for individuals in need of assistance due to unexpected circumstances or emergency situations. Relocation Assistance is available for individuals who reside in an area with limited employment opportunities and experience one of the following: geographic isolation, formidable transportation barriers, isolation from extended family, or domestic violence that threatens the ability of a parent to maintain self-sufficiency. Cash Severance Diversion is available to TANF recipients if they meet the following criteria: are employed and receiving earnings, are able to verify their earnings, will remain employed for at least six months, have received cash assistance for at least six consecutive months since October 1996, and are eligible for at least one more month of TANF. Up-Front Diversion and Relocation Assistance do not count toward time limits. Cash Severance Diversion does not count toward time limits if the payment is made in a month in which the unit 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.
[18] The period of ineligibility depends on the amount of the diversion payment. Units receiving a payment equaling three months of benefits are ineligible for five consecutive months, units receiving a payment equaling six months of benefits are ineligible for nine consecutive months, and units receiving a payment equaling eight months of benefits are ineligible for twelve consecutive months.
[19] All the unit's income is disregarded for benefit computation, so it will always receive three times the Maximum Benefit.
[20] An applicant who has found a job that will make him or her ineligible for cash assistance or who wants to accept a job and withdraw his or her application for assistance is eligible for a one-time payment in order to begin or maintain employment.
[21] Applicants must either be in danger of losing employment or have evidence of barriers to accepting a verified offer of employment. Countable income must be at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
[22] Additional benefits may be available to a candidate who has already received diversion funds if (1) the candidate has not already received the $2,000 maximum allowed in the program period, (2) the candidate is still in the period of TANF ineligibility, (3) the candidate is employed at the time, and (4) the expense is for an unforeseen job-related expense.
[23] Iowa calculates the period of TANF ineligibility in days rather than months. The total period of ineligibility is equal to two times the diversion payment divided by (maximum benefit for family size divided by 30 days).
[24] Although it still exists in the law, Louisiana's diversion program has not received funding since September 2002. According to that law, the recipient can receive a cash payment worth up to four months of TANF benefits, the same amount of time they are ineligible for TANF if they do opt for diversion. They can receive it twice in a lifetime but no more than once every 12 months.
[25] Diversion payments are only provided to caretaker relatives or parents who are employed or looking for work.
[26] 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.
[27] Minnesota's four-month Diversionary Work Program (DWP) is mandatory for all TANF applicants except for the following units: (1) child-only cases, (2) one-parent families that include a child under 12 weeks old, (3) minor caregivers without a high school diploma or GED, (4) caregivers age 18 or 19 without a high school diploma or GED who choose to have an employment plan with an education option, and (5) caregivers age 60 or over. Two-parent families must participate in DWP unless both parents meet the exemption criteria listed above. In addition to receiving financial assistance, recipients participate in four months of intensive employment services focused on helping the participant obtain an unsubsidized job before entering welfare. 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 the four months are complete, participants still requiring assistance may apply for TANF as applicants.
[28] DWP benefits are provided monthly and are equal to the difference between the unit's countable income and the sum of its actual housing costs, utility costs, $35 a month for telephone services, and up to $70 per unit member for personal needs. The total monthly grant amount cannot exceed the cash portion of the TANF Transitional Standard (see table II.A.3). Once the recipient is enrolled in DWP, any unexpected increases in income will be disregarded. 100 percent of the earnings from a new job obtained while participating in DWP will be disregarded for the remainder of the four-month program.
[29] Vendor payments are made to cover housing, utility, and telephone costs. The remainder of the grant is issued as a monthly cash payment.
[30] The unit may apply for TANF at the completion of the four-month diversion program. If a unit applies to 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.
[31] Applicants for WFNJ/TANF must participate in New Jersey's diversion program, Early Employment Initiative (EEI), if they (1) have a work history that equals or exceeds four months of full-time employment in the last 12 months, (2) have at least one child, (3) appear to meet TANF eligibility requirements, (4) are not in immediate need, and (5) do not meet criteria for a deferral from work requirements. Participants receive a one-time, lump-sum payment and are required to pursue an intensive job search for 15 to 30 days while their WFNJ/TANF application is processed. If participants obtain employment and withdraw their applications, they are eligible to receive a second lump-sum payment to assist in the transition to employment. If no employment is secured, the applicant is referred back to the WFNJ/TANF agency for cash assistance.
[32] The maximum amount a family would receive is relative to the number of people in the unit. The amount included in the table is for a unit of eight or more people. The maximum diversion payment for a family of three is $750. If the agency feels an individual may benefit, he or she may be considered suitable for repeated participation in EEI when determining subsequent eligibility for the program.
[33] If a participant is unable to find a job through the diversion program or loses employment, and reapplies for TANF benefits within 60 days of the original application, TANF benefits will be retroactive to the date of application. Any lump-sum payment received under the EEI is prorated from the date of the original application to the date of the reactivation and subtracted from the monthly grant amount for which the assistance unit

is eligible. If this lump sum exceeds the family's monthly grant amount, the excess is counted as unearned income when calculating the monthly assistance benefits for any subsequent month. If the applicant loses his or her employment after 60 days from the application date, the family will need to reapply for TANF.

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

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

[36] 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).

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

[38] Diversion assistance is only available to applicants. The unit must not have received assistance payments during the 12 months before the date of application and the adult member of the unit must not have terminated employment within 60 days of application for benefits.

[39] The six-month period begins at the date of application. The six-month waiver period may be reduced by up to three months if it is determined that the family will suffer undue and unforeseeable hardship during all or any portion of months four through six of the waiver period.

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

[41] To 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 due to death, divorce, separation, abandonment, or termination of child support AND the caretaker was employed within 12 months of the application or process month; (3) the caretaker or second parent graduated from a university, college, junior college, or technical training school within 12 months of the application or process month AND was underemployed or unemployed; or (4) the caretaker and/or second parent was employed but faced the loss or potential loss of transportation and/or shelter OR faced a medical emergency temporarily preventing them from continuing to work.

[42] The first diversion payment in a 12-month period will not count as a month of financial assistance against the 36-month time limit; the second and subsequent diversion payments in a 12-month period will count.

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

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

[45] 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).

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

Table I.A.2 Mandatory Job Search at Application, July 2005

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

Table I.A.2 Mandatory Job Search at Application, July 2005

State	Job search required
West Virginia	No
Wisconsin	Yes[9]
Wyoming	No
Total states with requirements	**18**

Note: Generally, states exempt some individuals from the job search at application requirement. See the WRD for more information on these exemptions.

[1] In local offices participating in a pilot program, individuals are required to participate in work activities before initial cash assistance approval. Case managers assist recipients with job search, offer supportive employment services, and provide immediate child care assistance.
[2] If transportation and/or child care are not available at application, the state delays the job search requirement until after the application is approved and supportive services can be provided.
[3] The job search requirement was originally intended for the entire state, it but was only implemented in Gibson County.
[4] As a condition of eligibility, applicants must participate in the four-month Diversionary Work Program (DWP), during which they receive benefits and intensive employment services focused on helping them obtain unsubsidized jobs before entering welfare. Although it is possible to participate in a variety of activities that address barriers to employment, most applicants are placed in a structured job search. After the DWP is complete, participants still needing assistance may apply for TANF as applicants.
[5] Both parents in two-parent households are required to participate in job search while their application for assistance is pending. If child care is necessary, one parent can participate in a search to find child care.
[6] Job search is a mandatory part of the state's diversion program. Applicants are automatically placed in the Early Employment Initiative (diversion) program if they (1) have a work history that equals or exceeds four months of full-time employment in the past 12 months, (2) have at least one child, (3) appear to meet TANF eligibility requirements, (4) are not in immediate need, and (5) do not meet criteria for a deferral from work requirements. Once in the program, participants receive an activity payment and are required to search for a job during the TANF application process. If they are not successful in securing employment, they are eligible for TANF benefits.
[7] Job search is not an eligibility requirement, but many applicants are assigned to job search and receive a labor market test (a labor market test consists of a structured and assisted job search designed to assess the applicant's employability).
[8] The job search requirement only applies to the following applicants: (1) the primary caretaker in two-parent able-to-work families; (2) both adults in two-parent able-to-work families where the adults choose to share the work requirement; and (3) adults in all other unit types who have no barriers to obtaining and maintaining a job, have a recent and stable work history, and received annualized wages for their most recent job that equal or exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty level.
[9] Only applicants who are considered job ready and who can benefit from job search may be assigned unpaid, up-front job search as a condition of eligibility.

Table I.B.1 Eligibility of Pregnant Women with No Other Children, July 2005

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

Table I.B.1 Eligibility of Pregnant Women with No Other Children, July 2005

State	Eligible for cash benefits	Eligible in what month of pregnancy
Wisconsin	No[18]	—
Wyoming	No	—
Total states providing benefits	**32**	—

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

[1] The needs, resources, and income of all members who would be required to be in the mandatory filing unit if the child were born must be considered in determining eligibility. If eligibility exists, the payment is determined based only on the pregnant woman's needs and income.
[2] A pregnant teen who has not graduated from high school is eligible from the date the pregnancy is verified.
[3] A pregnant woman must meet the eligibility requirements as if her child were already born and living with her.
[4] A pregnant woman's financial eligibility in the month that her child is due is determined by comparing her gross income to 185 percent of the Standard of Need for one person. If she lives with the father of her unborn child, financial eligibility is determined by comparing the sum of the pregnant woman's income and the father's income to the Standard of Need for three people (the number of people who would be included in the family unit when the child is born). If income exceeds the standard, the application is denied. If income is less than the standard, only the mother's income and needs are considered in determining the amount of the grant.
[5] A pregnant woman is eligible on the first day of the month in which her child is expected.
[6] A pregnant woman is eligible in the ninth month, unless her doctor verifies that she is unable to work; then she is eligible in the seventh month.
[7] A pregnant woman is eligible only if she is in her last trimester and is unable to work for medical reasons.
[8] A pregnant woman and her spouse, if living with her, are eligible for assistance.
[9] A pregnant woman, her unborn child, and the father of the unborn child are eligible for assistance.
[10] A pregnant woman must meet the eligibility requirements as if her child were already born and living with her. The father of the unborn child or the spouse of the pregnant woman, if living with her, is also eligible.
[11] A pregnant woman and her unborn child are eligible for assistance.
[12] A pregnant woman and the father of the unborn child, if living with her, are eligible for assistance.
[13] A pregnant woman who is at risk of or has a safety concern due to domestic violence may be eligible for benefits earlier.
[14] 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.
[15] A pregnant woman can begin to receive assistance within three months of her medically verified due date.
[16] A pregnant woman may be eligible in the seventh month if she is a minor or is documented as having a high-risk pregnancy.
[17] A pregnant woman may only receive benefits once a licensed medical practitioner has verified the pregnancy and expected date of delivery.
[18] A pregnant woman is not eligible for benefits but can obtain employment training, job search assistance, and case management services. After the child is born, the mother and child may receive the Community Service Jobs level of benefits for the first 12 weeks.

Table I.B.2 Eligibility Rules for Two-Parent, Nondisabled Applicant Units,[1] July 2005

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

Table I.B.2 Eligibility Rules for Two-Parent, Nondisabled Applicant Units,[1] July 2005

State	Limit on hours	Other Rules for Applicants	
		Work history [2]	Waiting period
Virginia	No limit	No	0
Washington	No limit	No	0
West Virginia	No limit	No	0
Wisconsin	No limit	No	0
Wyoming	No limit	No	0

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

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

[1] Eligibility rules for two-parent, nondisabled families are special categorical rules in addition to the other state rules that all units must pass. Under the AFDC program, states imposed rules on two-parent families' work effort, including limits on hours of work, work history tests, and waiting periods. Some states have continued to impose these policies under TANF.

[2] Applicants have to demonstrate previous attachment to the workforce; under AFDC, applicants were required to work at least 6 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.

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

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

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

[6] North Dakota does not provide benefits to two-parent, nondisabled units.

[7] The parents in the unit must have a combined gross income in the past six months of at least $1,500 and must not have voluntarily terminated employment, reduced hours worked, or refused a job offer within the previous six months (without good cause).

Table I.B.3 Special Rules Imposed on Minor Parent Eligibility, July 2005

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

Table I.B.3 Special Rules Imposed on Minor Parent Eligibility, July 2005

State	Can be head of unit	Living arrangement restriction[1]
West Virginia	No	Yes
Wisconsin	No	Yes
Wyoming	Yes	Yes
Total states with policy	**41**	**49**

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

[1] This variable indicates whether the state requires unmarried minor parents, who have not been legally emancipated, to live with their parent(s) or in another state-approved setting. If "Yes" is coded, a minor is not eligible to receive assistance unless living with a parent or in an approved setting.
[2] 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 child(ren) upon request, but 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.
[3] Minor parents may receive benefits for up to six nonconsecutive months without complying with the residency requirement.
[4] A minor parent can head his or her own unit if he or she meets an exemption to the residency requirement.
[5] To receive assistance, the minor parent must be at least 16 years old.
[6] When the residency requirements are imposed, the benefit is paid to a protective payee whenever possible.
[7] To receive assistance, the minor parent must be at least 15 years old.

Table I.B.4 Stepparent Eligibility, July 2005

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

Table I.B.4 Stepparent Eligibility, July 2005

State	Inclusion in the assistance unit
West Virginia	Mandatory
Wisconsin	Mandatory[5]
Wyoming	Prohibited

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

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

* Data not obtained.
[1] The stepparent may be included in the unit if he or she is incapacitated.
[2] The stepparent is a mandatory participant in the unit unless the stepparent's income causes the assistance unit to become ineligible, in which case the stepparent is not required to be included in the unit. If the stepparent chooses not to receive assistance, the unit becomes a child-only unit (the spouse is also excluded from the unit) and his or her income is used to determine eligibility but not the benefit amount. For more information regarding deeming, see table I.D.2.
[3] An Indian stepparent in Indian country who is under exclusive jurisdiction of a tribe for the purposes of determining the domestic relations rights of the family has the option of being included in the assistance unit.
[4] If a parent marries while receiving assistance, the stepparent may be included in the unit if his or her gross income less court-ordered child support is less than 185 percent of the family's Consolidated Needs Standard. The stepparent's resources and needs will be considered, but his or her income is disregarded. For additional information, see table II.A.2.
[5] The stepparent is included in the W-2 group for income purposes but cannot be the mandatory work program participant.

Table I.B.5 State Practices Regarding Eligibility of Nonexempt, Pre-PRWORA, Qualified Aliens, July 2005[1]

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

Table I.B.5 State Practices Regarding Eligibility of Nonexempt, Pre-PRWORA, Qualified Aliens, July 2005[1]

State	Lawful permanent residents[2]	Asylees/Refugees[3]	Deportees[4]	Parolees[5]	Battered noncitizens[6]
Vermont	All	All	All	All	All
Virginia	All	All	All	All	All
Washington	All	All	All	All	Some[7]
West Virginia	All	All	All	All	None
Wisconsin	All	All	All	All	All
Wyoming	All	All	All	All	All

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

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

[1] This table only identifies eligibility for federally funded TANF assistance of certain groups of qualified aliens that entered the country before August 22, 1996. It does not provide information on the eligibility of other nonqualified aliens who may be eligible for state-funded assistance. Aliens are categorized by their current immigrant status (rather than their initial status upon entry into the United States, if different).
[2] Lawful permanent residents are defined as individuals who have been admitted into the United States permanently.
[3] Asylees and refugees are immigrants who flee their countries owing to persecution because of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a social group. Refugees request permission to enter the country, while asylees are already in the United States and request permission to stay.
[4] Deportees are individuals granted a stay of deportation or who have had their deportation withheld.
[5] Parolees are individuals permitted entry into the United States in cases of emergency or because of an overriding public interest. The table only discusses the eligibility of aliens paroled into the United States for at least one year. Aliens paroled into the United States for less than a year are not "qualified" aliens according to the immigrant definition in PRWORA.
[6] Battered noncitizens refer to those individuals who meet the statutory definition of a battered alien pursuant to 8 USC 1641 (c).
[7] Some battered noncitizens who meet the qualified alien definition.
[8] All immigrant units are funded through a state program with the same eligibility rules as the state's PONO/TANF program. No immigrant units, however, are eligible for federal TANF funding.
[9] Qualified aliens with this status are only eligible for benefits for seven years beginning on the date they entered the United States.
[10] Battered noncitizens who are the spouse or minor unmarried dependent child of a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident and do not live with the family member who battered them are eligible.

Table I.B.6 States Using State Funds to Help Noncitizens Who Entered after Enactment and Are Ineligible for Federal TANF Assistance, July 2005

State	Qualified Aliens during their First Five Years in the Country[1]			
	Lawful permanent residents[2]	Parolees[3]	Battered noncitizens[4]	Nonqualified aliens[5]
Alabama	—	—	—	—
Alaska	—	—	—	X[6]
Arizona	—	X	—	—
Arkansas	—	—	—	—
California	X	X	X	X[7]
Colorado	—	—	—	X[6]
Connecticut	X	X	X	X[8]
Delaware	—	—	X	—
D.C.	—	—	—	—
Florida	—	—	—	—
Georgia	X	X	X	—
Hawaii	X	X	X	X[7]
Idaho	—	—	—	—
Illinois	—	—	X	X[6]
Indiana	—	—	—	—
Iowa	—	—	X	—
Kansas	—	—	—	—
Kentucky	—	—	—	—
Louisiana	—	—	—	—
Maine	X	X	X	—
Maryland	X	X	X	—
Massachusetts	—	—	—	—
Michigan	—	—	—	—
Minnesota	—	—	—	X[9]
Mississippi	—	—	—	—
Missouri	—	—	—	—
Montana	—	—	—	—
Nebraska	X	X	X	—
Nevada	—	—	—	—
New Hampshire	—	—	—	—
New Jersey	—	—	X	—
New Mexico	X	X	X	—
New York	X	X	X	X[10]
North Carolina	—	—	—	—
North Dakota	—	—	—	X[6]
Ohio	—	—	—	—
Oklahoma	—	—	—	—
Oregon	X	X	X	X[6]
Pennsylvania	X	X	X	—
Rhode Island	X	X	X	—
South Carolina	—	—	—	—
South Dakota	—	—	—	—
Tennessee	X	X	X	X[10]
Texas	—	—	—	—
Utah	X	X	X	—
Vermont	X	X	X	X[11]
Virginia	—	—	—	—

Table I.B.6 States Using State Funds to Help Noncitizens Who Entered after Enactment and Are Ineligible for Federal TANF Assistance, July 2005

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

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

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

1 Qualified aliens are defined under PRWORA as lawful permanent residents (includes Amerasians), refugees, asylees, individuals who have had their deportation withheld, parolees admitted for one or more years, certain battered aliens, Cuban/Haitian entrants, and aliens granted conditional entry before April 1, 1980.
2 Lawful permanent residents are defined as individuals who have been admitted into the United States permanently.
3 Parolees are individuals permitted entry into the United States in cases of emergency or because of an overriding public interest. The table only discusses the eligibility of aliens paroled into the United States for at least one year. Aliens paroled into the United States for less than a year are not "qualified" aliens according to the immigrant definition in PRWORA.
4 Battered noncitizens refer to those individuals who meet the statutory definition of a battered alien pursuant to 8 USC 1641 (c).
5 The groups of noncitizens listed here are not qualified aliens as defined by federal law; therefore, these groups would never be eligible for most federally funded TANF benefits.
6 Certain American Indians born in Canada and individuals permanently residing in the United States under color of law (PRUCOL).
7 All nonqualified aliens who are not one of the following: (1) nonimmigrant aliens lawfully admitted for a temporary purpose or temporary residence, or (2) undocumented aliens.
8 Noncitizens with mental retardation are eligible for benefits. Additionally, individuals permanently residing in the United States under color of law (PRUCOL) and who were receiving benefits before July 1, 2003, may continue to do so.
9 Individuals with Temporary Protective Status, and some legal immigrants age 18–70 who have been in the state for four years and are participating in literacy or citizenship classes.
10 Individuals permanently residing in the United States under color of law (PRUCOL) as defined by the state.
11 All nonqualified noncitizens who are legally in the country are eligible for assistance.

Table I.B.7 State Practices Regarding Eligibility of Nonexempt, Post-PRWORA, Qualified Aliens after Five Years, July 2005[1]

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

Table I.B.7 State Practices Regarding Eligibility of Nonexempt, Post-PRWORA, Qualified Aliens after Five Years, July 2005[1]

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

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

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

[1] This table identifies the eligibility for federally funded TANF assistance of certain groups of qualified aliens after the expiration of the five-year bar. It does not provide information on the eligibility of other nonqualified aliens who may be eligible for state-funded assistance. Aliens are categorized by their current immigrant status (rather than their initial status upon entry into the United States, if different).
[2] Lawful permanent residents are defined as individuals who have been admitted into the United States permanently.
[3] Asylees and refugees are immigrants who flee their countries owing to persecution because of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a social group. Refugees request permission to enter the country, while asylees are already in the United States and request permission to stay.
[4] Deportees are individuals granted a stay of deportation or who have had their deportation withheld.
[5] Parolees are individuals permitted entry into the United States in cases of emergency or because of an overriding public interest. The table only discusses the eligibility of aliens paroled into the United States for at least one year. Aliens paroled into the United States for less than a year are not “qualified” aliens according to the immigrant definition in PRWORA.
[6] Battered noncitizens refer to those individuals who meet the statutory definition of a battered alien pursuant to 8 USC 1641 (c).
[7] Some battered immigrants who meet the qualified alien definition.
[8] Qualified aliens with this status are only eligible for benefits for seven years beginning on the date they entered the United States.
[9] All immigrant units are funded through a state program with the same eligibility rules as the state’s PONO/TANF program. No immigrant units, however, are eligible for federal TANF funding.
[10] Battered noncitizens who are the spouse or minor unmarried dependent child of a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident and do not live with the family member who battered them are eligible.
[11] 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.C.1 Asset Limits for Applicants, July 2005

State	Asset limit	Vehicle exemption
Alabama	$2,000/$3,000[1]	All vehicles owned by household
Alaska	$2,000/$3,000[1]	All vehicles owned by household[2]
Arizona	$2,000	All vehicles owned by household[3]
Arkansas	$3,000	One vehicle per household
California	$2,000/$3,000[1]	$4,650[F]/One vehicle per licensed driver[4E]
Colorado	$2,000	One vehicle per household
Connecticut	$3,000	$9,500[5E]
Delaware	$1,000	$4,650[E]
D.C.	$2,000/$3,000[1]	All vehicles owned by household
Florida	$2,000	$8,500[E]
Georgia	$1,000	$1,500/$4,650[6E]
Hawaii	$5,000	All vehicles owned by household
Idaho	$2,000	$4,650[7F]
Illinois	$2,000/$3,000/+$50[8]	One vehicle per household[9]
Indiana	$1,000	$5,000[E]
Iowa	$2,000	One vehicle per household[10]
Kansas	$2,000	All vehicles owned by household[11]
Kentucky	$2,000[12]	All vehicles owned by household
Louisiana	$2,000	All vehicles owned by household
Maine	$2,000	One vehicle per household
Maryland	$2,000	All vehicles owned by household
Massachusetts	$2,500	$10,000[E]/$5,000[13F]
Michigan	$3,000	All vehicles owned by household
Minnesota	$2,000	$7,500[14E]
Mississippi	$2,000	All vehicles owned by household[15]
Missouri	$1,000	One vehicle per household[16]
Montana	$3,000	One vehicle per household[17]
Nebraska	$4,000/$6,000[18]	One vehicle per household[19]
Nevada	$2,000	One vehicle per household
New Hampshire	$1,000	One vehicle per licensed driver
New Jersey	$2,000	$9,500[20F]
New Mexico	$3,500[21]	All vehicles owned by household[22]
New York	$2,000/$3,000[1]	$4,650[23F]
North Carolina	$3,000	One vehicle per adult
North Dakota	$3,000/$6,000/+$25[24]	One vehicle per household
Ohio	No limit[25]	All vehicles owned by household
Oklahoma	$1,000	$5,000[E]
Oregon	$2,500[26]	$10,000[E]
Pennsylvania	$1,000	One vehicle per household
Rhode Island	$1,000	One vehicle per adult[27]
South Carolina	$2,500	One vehicle per licensed driver[28]
South Dakota	$2,000	One vehicle per household[29]
Tennessee	$2,000	$4,600[E]
Texas	$1,000	$4,650[30F]
Utah	$2,000	$8,000[31E]
Vermont	$1,000	One vehicle per adult
Virginia	No limit[25]	All vehicles owned by household
Washington	$1,000	$5,000[31E]
West Virginia	$2,000	One vehicle per household
Wisconsin	$2,500	$10,000[E]
Wyoming	$2,500	$15,000[32F]

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

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

[1] Units including an elderly person may exempt $3,000; all other units exempt $2,000.
[2] Vehicle 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 they are 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] Recreational vehicles are not exempt.
[4] Each vehicle must be evaluated for both its equity and fair-market value; the higher of the two values counts against the family's asset limit. Before this calculation, all the following vehicles are completely excluded: (1) is used primarily for income-producing purposes; (2) produces annual income that is consistent with its fair-market value; (3) is necessary for long-distance travel that is essential for employment; (4) is used as the family's residence; (5) is necessary to transport a physically disabled household member; (6) would be exempt under previously stated exemptions but the vehicle is not in use because of temporary unemployment; (7) used to carry fuel or water to the home and is the primary method of obtaining fuel or water; and (8) the equity value of the vehicle is $1,501 or less. To determine the countable fair-market value of each remaining vehicle, exclude $4,650 from the vehicle's fair-market value. To determine the countable equity value of each remaining vehicle, exclude one additional vehicle per adult and one additional vehicle per licensed child who uses the vehicle to travel to school, employment, or job search. The full equity value of each remaining vehicle is counted. For each vehicle not completely excluded, the higher of the fair-market value or the equity value counts against the family's asset limit.
[5] The unit may exempt $9,500 of the equity value of a vehicle or the entire value of one vehicle used to transport a handicapped person.
[6] $4,650 of the value of vehicles used to look for work, or to travel to work or education and training is excluded. $1,500 of the equity value is excluded for vehicles not used for these purposes. Vehicles used over 50 percent of the time to produce income or as a dwelling are excluded.
[7] The value of one specially equipped vehicle used to transport a disabled family member is exempt. Also, all vehicles with a fair-market value under $1,500 are exempt.
[8] The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $2,000, two people receive $3,000, and three or more people receive another $50 for every additional person.
[9] 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.
[10] Additionally, $4,164 of the equity value of an additional vehicle is exempt for each adult and working teenager whose resources must be considered in determining eligibility.
[11] Campers and trailers are also considered excludable vehicles.
[12] Only liquid resources are considered for eligibility determinations. Liquid resources include cash, checking and savings accounts, CDs, stocks and bonds, and money market accounts.
[13] 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.
[14] Minnesota uses the loan value of the vehicle as listed in the current NADA Used Car Guide, Midwest edition instead of the fair-market value. The loan value is generally slightly less than the estimated fair-market value.
[15] Recreational vehicles (unless used as a home), all-terrain vehicles, and other off-road vehicles are not exempt. Additionally, industrial vehicles (i.e., 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.
[16] $1,500 of the equity value of the unit's second vehicle is exempt.
[17] All income-producing vehicles are also exempt.
[18] The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $4,000, two or more people receive $6,000.
[19] The entire vehicle is exempt only if used for employment, training, or medical transportation; any motor vehicle used as a home is also exempt. If a unit has more than one vehicle that meets the exemption criteria, only the vehicle with the greatest equity value will be exempt.
[20] 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.
[21] The total limit is $3,500; however, only $1,500 of that amount can be in liquid resources, and only $2,000 can be in nonliquid resources. Liquid resources include the (convertible) cash value of life insurance policies, cash, stocks, bonds, negotiable notes, purchase contracts, and other similar assets. Nonliquid resources include nonexempt vehicles, equipment, tools, livestock (with the exception of nonsalable domestic pets), one-time sale asset conversion, and lump-sum payments.
[22] The entire vehicle is exempt only if used for transportation to work, work activities, or daily living requirements.
[23] If the vehicle is needed to seek or retain employment, $9,300 of the vehicle is exempt.
[24] The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $3,000, two receive $6,000, and $25 is added for each additional person thereafter.
[25] The asset test has been eliminated.
[26] There is more than one phase of the application process in Oregon. The asset limit for applicants first applying for TANF is $2,500. If the applicant makes it through the first stage of application, he or she must participate in the "Assessment Program," in which he or she is assessed and given a case plan to follow. If the applicant does not follow the case plan, he or she maintains the $2,500 asset limit as long as he or she is in the Assessment Program. If the applicant complies with the case plan, he or she is allowed a $10,000 asset limit.
[27] Exemptions for adult drivers cannot exceed two vehicles per household. Additionally, the entire value of a vehicle used primarily for income-producing purposes, used as a family home, or used to provide transportation for a disabled family member is exempt.
[28] Vehicles used to transport disabled individuals, for self-employment, to produce income, and as a home are also exempt.
[29] In addition to one primary vehicle, an assistance unit may totally exclude a vehicle used to transport water or fuel to the home when it is not piped in, a vehicle used to transport a disabled member or SSI recipient in household, or a vehicle used in producing income or as a home; an assistance unit may also exclude $4,650 of the fair-market value of a vehicle used to transport members of the unit for education or employment.
[30] $4,650 is exempt for each vehicle owned by a TANF-certified or disqualified household member. All licensed vehicles used for income-producing purposes or for transporting a disabled household member are exempt.
[31] The entire equity value of a vehicle used to transport a disabled household member is also exempt.
[32] The $15,000 exemption applies to one vehicle for a single-parent unit. A married couple may split the exemption between two cars.

Table I.D.1 Treatment of Grandparent Income,[1] July 2005

State	Deeming	Earned income disregard	Other income disregard
Alabama	Yes	20%	100% of countable income divided by the number of persons in the household (inside and outside the unit that the grandparent is responsible for) times the family size[2]
Alaska	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for the family size
Arizona	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for the family size
Arkansas	No	—	—
California	Yes	$90 [3]	100% of Minimum Basic Standard of Adequate Care for the family size
Colorado	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for the family size
Connecticut	Yes	—	100% of Federal Poverty Level for the family size
Delaware	No[4]	—	—
D.C.	Yes	$90	100% of Standard of Assistance for the family size
Florida	Yes	$90	100% of Federal Poverty Level for the family size
Georgia	Yes	$90	100% of Standard of Need for the family size
Hawaii	Yes	20%	100% of Standard of Need for the family size
Idaho	No[+]	—	(Grandparent is always included in unit)
Illinois	Yes	$90	300% of Payment Standard for the family size
Indiana	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for the family size
Iowa	Yes	20%	100% of Need Standard for the family size and 50% of the remaining earnings
Kansas	No[+]	—	(Grandparent is always included in unit)
Kentucky	Yes	$90	100% of Standard of Need for the family size
Louisiana	No[+]	—	(Grandparent is always included in unit)
Maine	Yes	$108, 50%	100% of Gross Income Test for the family size
Maryland	No[+]	—	(Grandparent is always included in unit)
Massachusetts	Yes	—	200% of Federal Poverty Level for the family size
Michigan	No[+]	—	(Grandparent is always included in unit)
Minnesota	Yes	18%	200% of Federal Poverty Level for the family size
Mississippi	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard and Payment Standard for the family size
Missouri	Yes	—[5]	100% of Need Standard for the family size
Montana	No[+]	—	(Grandparent is always included in unit)
Nebraska	Yes	—	300% of Federal Poverty Level for the family size
Nevada	Yes	Greater of $90 or 20%	100% of Need Standard for the family size
New Hampshire	Yes	20%	100% of Standard of Need for the family size
New Jersey	Yes[6]	50%	—
New Mexico	Yes	—	130% of Federal Poverty Level for the family size
New York	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for the family size
North Carolina	No[+]	—	(Grandparent is always included in unit)
North Dakota	Yes	Greater of $180 or 27%	100% of Standard of Need for the family size
Ohio	Yes	$90	100% of Allocation Allowance Standard for the family size
Oklahoma	Yes	$120, 50%	100% of Need Standard for the family size
Oregon	Yes	$90	100% of Adjusted Income/Payment Standard for the family size
Pennsylvania	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for the family size
Rhode Island	Yes	$90	100% of Cash Assistance Monthly Standard for the family size
South Carolina	Yes	—	185% of Need Standard for the family size
South Dakota	Yes	$90, 20%	100% of Payment Standard for the family size

Table I.D.1 Treatment of Grandparent Income,[1] July 2005

State	Deeming	Earned income disregard	Other income disregard
Tennessee	Yes	$150	100% of Consolidated Need Standard for the family size
Texas	Yes	$120	100% of Budgetary Needs Standard for the family size
Utah	Yes	$100	100% of Adjusted Standard Needs Budget for the family size
Vermont	No	—	—
Virginia	Yes	$90	100% of Standard of Need for the family size
Washington	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for the family size
West Virginia	No[+]	—	(Grandparent is always included in unit)
Wisconsin	No[+]	—	(Grandparent is always included in unit)
Wyoming	Yes	$200	100% of Maximum Benefit for the family size

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

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

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

[+] There is no deeming because the grandparent must be included in the unit for the minor to receive benefits. Therefore, all the grandparent's income is included for eligibility purposes.

[1] In this table the term "grandparent" refers to the parent of a minor parent. This table describes whether a portion of the grandparent's (a parent of a minor parent's) income is deemed available to the minor and her child when the grandparent is not part of the assistance unit but living in the household with the minor. The table describes the disregards that the grandparent and his or her dependents are allowed to claim for their own needs. The remaining income after these disregards are deducted from the grandparent's income is the amount available, or "deemed," to the minor parent and her children.

[2] The grandparent's remaining income after deductions is divided by the total number of dependents who do not receive assistance plus the grandparent and her child applying for assistance (the minor child's child is not included in this calculation). This amount is deemed and the remainder is allocated to the grandparent.

[3] Recipient units may disregard $225 and 50 percent of the remainder.

[4] Children born after December 31, 1998, to minors are ineligible for cash assistance. The minor may still be eligible for assistance as part of her parent's assistance unit. In these cases, there is no deeming. For minors with children born before December 31, 1998, their parents must apply on behalf of the minor parent and the minor parent's child. If the grandparent does not want to be included in the unit, the state does not include the grandparent's needs for eligibility or benefit computation; however, a deemed portion of the grandparent's income is counted for eligibility and benefit computation. The grandparent must also act as the head of the unit and receive the payments for his or her child and grandchild. Grandparents subject to deeming policies may allocate 100 percent of the federal poverty level for themselves and any dependents outside the unit (recipient units may allocate 200 percent of the federal poverty level).

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

[6] 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.

Table I.D.2 Treatment of Stepparent Income, July 2005			
State	Deeming	Earned income disregard	Other income disregards
Alabama	No+	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
Alaska	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for family size
Arizona	Yes[1]	$90	100% of Need Standard for family size
Arkansas	No+	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
California	Yes	—[2]	—[2]
Colorado	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for family size
Connecticut	Yes	—	100% of Federal Poverty Level for family size
Delaware	Yes	$90	100% of Standard of Need for family size
D.C.	No	—	—
Florida	Yes	$90	100% of Federal Poverty Level for family size
Georgia	Yes	$90	100% of Standard of Need for family size
Hawaii	Yes	20%	100% of Standard of Need for family size
Idaho	Yes	—	50% of stepparent's earned and unearned income
Illinois	Yes[3]	—	(Per person share of Payment Standard for family size) times (the stepparent plus any dependents of either spouse living in the home but not in the unit)[4]
Indiana	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for family size
Iowa	Yes	20%	100% of Need Standard for family size and 50% of remaining earnings[5]
Kansas	No+	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
Kentucky	Yes	$90	100% of Standard of Need for family size
Louisiana	No+	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
Maine	Yes	$108, 50%	100% of Gross Income Test for family size
Maryland	Yes[6]	20%	100% of Allowable Payment for family size[7]
Massachusetts	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard and Payment Standard for family size
Michigan	No+	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
Minnesota	No+	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
Mississippi	Yes[8]	$90	100% of Need Standard and Payment Standard for family size
Missouri	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for family size
Montana	No+	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
Nebraska	No+	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
Nevada	Yes	Greater of $90 or 20%	100% of Need Standard for family size
New Hampshire	No+	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
New Jersey	Yes	—[9]	—[9]
New Mexico	No+	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
New York	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for family size
North Carolina	No+	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
North Dakota	Yes[10]	Greater of $180 or 27%	100% of Standard of Need for family size
Ohio	Yes	$90	100% of Allocation Allowance Standard for family size
Oklahoma	Yes	$120, 50%	100% of Need Standard for family size
Oregon	No+	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
Pennsylvania	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for family size
Rhode Island	No+	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
South Carolina	No+	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
South Dakota	No+[11]	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
Tennessee	Yes[12]	$150	100% of Consolidated Need Standard for family size
Texas	Yes[13]	$120	100% of Budgetary Needs Standard for family size

Table I.D.2 Treatment of Stepparent Income, July 2005

State	Deeming	Earned income disregard	Other income disregards
Utah	No[+]	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
Vermont	No[+]	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
Virginia	Yes[3]	$90	100% of Standard of Need for family size
Washington	No[+]	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
West Virginia	No[+]	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
Wisconsin	No[+]	—	(Stepparent is always included in the unit)
Wyoming	Yes	$200	100% of Maximum Benefit for the family size

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

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

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

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

[+] There is no deeming because the stepparent must be included in the unit. Therefore, all the stepparent's income is included for eligibility purposes.
[1] The stepparent's income is deemed only to the stepchild(ren) in the unit.
[2] If the stepparent is not included in the unit, all his or her income minus disregards ($90 of earned income is deducted for eligibility purposes, and $225 and 50 percent are deducted for benefit computation) is deemed available for eligibility and benefit computation.
[3] The stepparent's income is deemed only to the spouse.
[4] When computing the Payment Standard, the family size includes the TANF unit, the stepparent, and all dependents of either spouse.
[5] Deduct all child support payments and payments made to dependents outside the household before applying the 50 percent disregard.
[6] The stepparent's countable income is tested against 50 percent of the federal poverty level for a household size that includes the stepparent, the members of the assistance unit, and any other dependents not in the unit. When the income is below 50 percent of the federal poverty level, no income is deemed to the unit. When the income is over 50 percent of the federal poverty level, all the stepparent's income minus deductions is deemed to the unit.
[7] Deduct all child support, alimony, and child care paid to someone outside the household up to a maximum of $200 per child if employed full time and up to $100 per child if employed part time (full time is defined as 100 hours or more a month) before applying this disregard.
[8] If a recipient marries for the first time, his or her new spouse may receive a one-time, 100 percent disregard for six consecutive months.
[9] The stepparent is not required to be a member of the unit if his or her income makes the unit ineligible for benefits. If the stepparent chooses not to receive assistance, the unit becomes a child-only unit and the stepparent's income is treated as follows: (1) For determining the eligibility of the unit, the income of all household members, including the natural parent, his or her children, the stepparent, and any children the stepparent can claim as dependents, is used to determine the children's eligibility for assistance. If total household income is below 150 percent of the federal poverty level, the assistance unit is eligible for benefits. (2) For determining the benefits, all the income of the stepparent is excluded. However, the natural parent's earned income is reduced by the 50 percent earnings disregard and by the payment benefit level for a unit of one. All remaining income of the natural parent is used in determining the benefits for the children.
[10] For the first six months of a new marriage, all stepparent income is disregarded, provided the parent was previously receiving benefits.
[11] An Indian stepparent in Indian country who is under the exclusive jurisdiction of a tribe for the purposes of determining the domestic relations rights of the family has the option of being included in the assistance unit.
[12] When a caretaker marries while receiving assistance, a different set of deeming rules can apply to the assistance unit. The spouse's gross income less any court-ordered child support is first tested against the gross income limit (185 percent of the Consolidated Need Standard) for the entire assistance unit plus the spouse. If the spouse's income exceeds this standard, regular deeming, eligibility, and benefit computation policies are used. If the spouse's income is below that standard, the unit has two choices: (1) The unit may include the spouse in the unit but disregard his income. His income is excluded for eligibility and benefit computation, but his needs and resources are included. (2) The unit may exclude the spouse from the unit. 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. These policies continue until the case is closed for any reason. This policy applies even if the spouse is the father of one of the assistance group children.
[13] For the first six months of a new marriage, all stepparent income is disregarded, provided the family's total gross income is less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Table I.E.1 Income Eligibility Tests for Applicants, July 2005

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

Table I.E.1 Income Eligibility Tests for Applicants, July 2005

State	Type of test	Income must be less than
North Carolina	No explicit tests	—-
North Dakota	No explicit tests	—-
Ohio	Net income	100% of Allocation Allowance Standard
Oklahoma	Gross income	185% of Need Standard
	Net income	100% of Need Standard
Oregon		
All, except JOBS Plus	Gross income	100% of Countable Income Limit
JOBS Plus	Gross income	100% of Food Stamp Countable Income Limit
Pennsylvania	Net income	100% of Need Standard
Rhode Island	No explicit tests	—-
South Carolina	Gross income	185% of Need Standard
	Net income	100% of Need Standard
South Dakota	No explicit tests	—-
Tennessee	Gross income	185% of Consolidated Need Standard
Texas	Net income	100% of Budgetary Needs Standard[2]
	Net income	100% of Recognizable Needs[3]
Utah	Gross income	185% of Adjusted Standard Needs Budget
	Net income	100% of Adjusted Standard Needs Budget
Vermont	Gross income	185% of Need Standard
	Net income	100% of Need Standard
Virginia		
VIEW[4]	Gross earnings	100% of Federal Poverty Level
	Unearned income	100% of Standard of Assistance
All, except VIEW	Gross income	185% of Standard of Need
	Net income	100% of Standard of Need
Washington	Gross earnings	100% of Maximum Gross Earned Income
West Virginia	Gross income	100% of Standard of Need
Wisconsin	Gross income	115% of Federal Poverty Level
Wyoming	No explicit tests	—-

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

Note: “No explicit test” indicates that either the state imposes no income tests on applicants or the state imposes an income test, but the calculation of the test and disregards allowed for the test are no different from those used to calculate the benefit.

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

[1] In households where the natural or adoptive parent is married to a non-needy stepparent, the gross household income may not exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty level.
[2] Apply only the $120 disregard for this test.
[3] Apply both the $120 disregard and the 33.3 percent disregard for this test.
[4] Two-parent units’ gross earned income must be below 150 percent of the federal poverty level and their unearned income must be below 100 percent of Standard of Assistance.

Table I.E.2 Earned Income Disregards for Income Eligibility Purposes, July 2005

State	Earned income disregard
Alabama	20% [1]
Alaska	$90 [2]
Arizona	
All, except JOBSTART	$90, 30% of remainder
JOBSTART	100% of subsidized wages[3]
Arkansas	20%[4]
California	$90
Colorado	$90 [5]
Connecticut	$90
Delaware	$90 [6]
D.C.	$160
Florida	$90 [7]
Georgia	$90
Hawaii	20%, $200, and 36% of remainder
Idaho	No explicit net income test
Illinois	$90
Indiana	$90 [6]
Iowa	20%
Kansas	$90
Kentucky	No explicit net income test
Louisiana	$120
Maine	No explicit net income test
Maryland	20%
Massachusetts	$90
Michigan	No explicit net income test
Minnesota	18%
Mississippi	$90 [8]
Missouri	$90
Montana	No explicit net income test
Nebraska	No explicit net income test
Nevada	$90 or 20%, whichever is greater
New Hampshire	20%
New Jersey	No explicit net income test
New Mexico	No explicit net income test
New York	$90
North Carolina	No explicit net income test
North Dakota	No explicit net income test
Ohio	No disregards allowed
Oklahoma	$120
Oregon	No explicit net income test
Pennsylvania	$90
Rhode Island	No explicit net income test
South Carolina	No disregards allowed
South Dakota	No explicit net income test
Tennessee	No explicit net income test
Texas	$120 and 33.3% of remainder[9]
Utah	$100 [10]

Table I.E.2 Earned Income Disregards for Income Eligibility Purposes, July 2005	
State	Earned income disregard
Vermont	$90
Virginia	
VIEW	No explicit net income test
All, except VIEW	$134 and 20% of remainder[11]
Washington	No explicit net income test
West Virginia	No explicit net income test
Wisconsin	No explicit net income test
Wyoming	No explicit net income test

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

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

“No explicit net income test” indicates that either the state imposes no net income test at application or the state imposes a net income test, but the calculation of the test and disregards allowed for the test are no different from those used to calculate the benefit.

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

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

[1] The earned income disregard cannot be applied to the earnings of an individual receiving assistance beyond the 60th month under an exemption or an extension.
[2] Recipients may disregard $150 and 33 percent of remainder in first 12 months, $150 and 25 percent of remainder in months 13–24, $150 and 20 percent of remainder in months 25–36, $150 and 15 percent of remainder in months 37–48, $150 and 10 percent of remainder in months 49–60, and $150 thereafter. Recipients include any units that have received assistance in one of the previous four months.
[3] In addition to the 100 percent disregard of all subsidized JOBSTART wages, recipients can also disregard the standard $90 and 30 percent of the remainder for any non-JOBSTART earned income.
[4] Recipients may disregard 20 percent and 60 percent of the remainder.
[5] The $90 disregard only applies after the first 12 cumulative months of earnings.
[6] Recipients may disregard $120 and 33.3 percent of remainder for the first four months, $120 for the next eight months, and $90 thereafter.
[7] Applicant units receiving assistance in one of the last four months may disregard $200 and 50 percent.
[8] Two-parent units may disregard $120 and 33.3 percent for the first 12 months and $90 thereafter. If a recipient marries for the first time, his or her new spouse may receive a one-time, 100 percent disregard for six consecutive months.
[9] Recipients may disregard $120 and 90 percent of remainder (up to $1,400) for 4 of 12 months. The four months need not be consecutive. Once the recipient has received four months of the 90 percent disregard, he or she is not eligible to receive the disregard again until the TANF case has been denied and remains denied for one full month, and 12 calendar months have passed since the denial. The 12-month ineligibility period begins with the first full month of denial after the client used the fourth month of the 90 percent disregard. In all other months, recipients may disregard $120. The earnings of a TANF recipient’s new spouse are excluded for six months after the date of the marriage if the total gross income of the budget group does not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level for the family size.
[10] Recipients may disregard $100 and 50 percent of remainder. However, to be eligible for the 50 percent disregard, the unit must have received benefits in at least one of the previous four months.
[11] The dollar amount of the initial disregard varies by family size. For one to four unit members, the disregard is $134. For five members, it is $153; for six or more members, it is $175.

Table I.E.3 Eligibility Standards, July 2005

State	State name	Amount for family of three
Alabama	Payment Standard	$215
Alaska	Need Standard	$1,260
Arizona	Need Standard	$964
Arkansas	Income Eligibility Standard	$223
California	Minimum Basic Standard of Adequate Care	$891
Colorado	Need Standard	$421
Connecticut	Federal Poverty Level	$1,341
	Need Standard	$745
	Payment Standard	$543
Delaware	2004 Federal Poverty Level	$1,306
	Standard of Need	$979
	Payment Standard	$338
D.C.	Standard of Assistance	$712
	Payment Level	$379
Florida	Federal Poverty Level	$1,341
	Payment Standard	$303
Georgia	Standard of Need	$424
Hawaii	Standard of Need	$1,140
Idaho	—-	—-
Illinois	Payment Standard	$396
Indiana	Federal Poverty Level	$1,341
	Need Standard	$320
	Net Income Standard	$288
Iowa	Need Standard	$849
Kansas	Budgetary Standards	$429
Kentucky	Standard of Need	$526
Louisiana	Flat Grant Amount	$240
Maine	Gross Income Test	$1,023
Maryland	Allowable Payment	$482
Massachusetts		
Exempt	Federal Poverty Level	$1,341
	Need Standard and Payment Standard	$633
Nonexempt	Federal Poverty Level	$1,341
	Need Standard and Payment Standard	$618
Michigan	—-	—-
Minnesota	Federal Poverty Level	$1,341
	Transitional Standard	$876
Mississippi	Need Standard and Payment Standard	$368
Missouri	Federal Poverty Level	$1,341
	Need Standard	$846
Montana	Net Monthly Income Standard	$478
Nebraska	Federal Poverty Level	$1,341
Nevada	Need Standard	$948
New Hampshire	Standard of Need	$2,754
	Payment Standard	$625
New Jersey	Maximum Benefit Payment Schedule	$424
	Federal Poverty Level	$1,341
New Mexico	Federal Poverty Level	$1,341

Table I.E.3 Eligibility Standards, July 2005

State	State name	Amount for family of three
New York	Federal Poverty Level	$1,341
	Need Standard	$691
North Carolina	----	----
North Dakota	Standard of Need	$477
Ohio	Allocation Allowance Standard	$980
Oklahoma	Need Standard	$645
Oregon		
All, except JOBS Plus	Countable Income Limit	$616
	Adjusted Income/Payment Standard	$460
JOBS Plus	Food Stamp Countable Income Limit	$1,698
	Adjusted Income/Payment Standard	$460
Pennsylvania	Need Standard	$587
Rhode Island	Cash Assistance Monthly Standard	$554
South Carolina	Need Standard	$652
South Dakota	Payment Standard	$508
Tennessee	Consolidated Need Standard	$942
Texas	Budgetary Needs Standard	$751
	Recognizable Needs	$188
Utah	Adjusted Standard Needs Budget	$568
Vermont	Need Standard	$1,291
Virginia		
VIEW	Standard of Need	$322
	Federal Poverty Level	$1,341
All, except VIEW	Standard of Need	$322
Washington	Maximum Gross Earned Income	$1,092
	Need Standard	$1,619
West Virginia	Standard of Need	$991
Wisconsin	Federal Poverty Level	$1,341
Wyoming	Maximum Benefit	$340

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

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

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

Table I.E.4 Maximum Income for Initial Eligibility for a Family of Three,[1] July 2005

State	Maximum earnings an applicant can receive and still be eligible for assistance
Alabama	$269
Alaska	$1,350
Arizona	$586
Arkansas	$279
California	$981
Colorado	$511
Connecticut	$835
Delaware	$428
D.C.	$539
Florida	$393
Georgia	$514
Hawaii	$1,641 [2]
Idaho	$648
Illinois	$486
Indiana	$378
Iowa	$1,061
Kansas	$519
Kentucky	$909
Louisiana	$360
Maine	$1,023
Maryland	$603
Massachusetts	
Exempt	$723
Nonexempt	$708
Michigan	$774
Minnesota	$1,067
Mississippi	$458
Missouri	$558
Montana	$700
Nebraska	$802
Nevada	$1,185
New Hampshire	$781
New Jersey	$636
New Mexico	$1,056 [3]
New York	$781
North Carolina	$681
North Dakota	$1,252
Ohio	$980
Oklahoma	$704
Oregon	$616
Pennsylvania	$677
Rhode Island	$1,278
South Carolina	$652
South Dakota	$724
Tennessee	$1,091
Texas	$401
Utah	$573
Vermont	$1,003

Table I.E.4 Maximum Income for Initial Eligibility for a Family of Three,[1] July 2005

State	Maximum earnings an applicant can receive and still be eligible for assistance
Virginia	
VIEW	$1,341
All, except VIEW	$496
Washington	$1,090
West Virginia	$565
Wisconsin	—[4]
Wyoming	$540

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

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

[1] The values in this table represent the maximum amount of earnings an applicant can have and still be "technically" eligible for assistance in each state. Technical eligibility does not mean that the unit will necessarily receive a cash benefit, but it will have passed all the eligibility tests and is eligible for some positive benefit. Most states only distribute a cash benefit equaling $10 or more.
[2] 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.
[3] For purposes of the state's earned income disregard, the adult head is assumed to be working 40 hours a week.
[4] Units with earnings at application will not receive a cash benefit in the state. However, applicants may earn up to $1,542 and still be eligible for nonfinancial assistance

Benefits

II. Benefits

The tables in this chapter of the *Databook* describe key aspects of the rules for calculating the assistance unit's benefit as of July 2005.

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

If a family passes all eligibility tests, both nonfinancial and financial, a benefit is computed. Although states use many different formulas to determine benefits, most states apply some general rules. All but two states allow recipients to disregard a portion of their earned income before benefit computation and then use the unit's total net income to calculate the benefit.[14] In the more straightforward calculations, net income is subtracted from a state-determined standard (often called the payment standard), which varies by family size, and the benefit paid is the difference—sometimes referred to as the income deficit. Some states have, however, developed more complex calculations. For instance, some states impose a statutory maximum benefit. In these states, the benefit is either the income deficit or the statutory maximum, whichever is less. Still other states multiply the income deficit by a percentage, which is sometimes referred to as the benefit reduction rate. This percentage of the income deficit is the benefit provided to the unit. Some states combine both a statutory maximum and benefit reduction rate into their calculation. The following section describes these policies in greater detail.

Earned income disregards for benefit computation: Table II.A.1 describes the earned income disregards allowed in determining net income for benefit computation. If a state does not apply any earned income disregards to compute net income for benefit computation (so all of a

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

family's earnings are included as income for benefit computation), "No disregards allowed" appears in the table.

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

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

Related tables: Disregards for benefit computation and income eligibility may differ. For information on the earned income disregards used for income eligibility, see table I.E.2. Table L4, in the last section of this book, describes the earned income disregards used for benefit computation from 1996 through 2005.

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

Related tables: Table II.A.3 provides the benefit standard(s) used to compute benefits for a three-person family. To compute the net income used for benefit computation, table II.A.1 describes the earned income disregards allowed and tables I.D.1, I.D.2, and IV.A.2 include policies on treatment of unearned income (amounts deemed from grandparent units and stepparent units, and child support income). Table II.A.4 combines information from tables

II.A.2 and II.A.3 and presents the benefit paid to a three-person assistance unit with no net income. Table L5, in the last section of this book, provides those maximum benefits for 1996 through 2005.

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

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

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

Related tables: These standards by themselves are not necessarily comparable across states since the benefit computation procedures might differ. To determine how the standards are used in practice, see table II.A.2. Also, table II.A.4 provides the benefit paid to a three-person unit with no other income, and table L5 provides that information for 1996 through 2005.

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

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

Related tables: Table L5 provides the benefit paid to a three-person assistance unit with no net income for 1996 through 2005.

Table II.A.1 Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, July 2005

State	Earned income disregards
Alabama	100% in first 3 months, 50% in next 6 months, 20% thereafter[1]
Alaska	$150 and 33% of remainder in first 12 months, $150 and 25% of remainder in months 13–24, $150 and 20% of remainder in months 25–36, $150 and 15% of remainder in months 37–48, $150 and 10% of remainder in months 49–60, $150 thereafter
Arizona	
All, except JOBSTART	$90 and 30% of remainder
JOBSTART	100% of subsidized wages[2]
Arkansas	No disregards—flat grant amount
California	$225 and 50% of remainder
Colorado	66.7% in first 12 months, $120 and 33.3% of remainder in next 4 months, $120 in next 8 months, $90 thereafter
Connecticut	100% up to the Federal Poverty Level
Delaware	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 in next 8 months, $90 thereafter
D.C.	$160 and 66.7% of remainder
Florida	$200 and 50% of remainder
Georgia	$120 and 33.3% of remainder in first 4 months, $120 in next 8 months, $90 thereafter
Hawaii	20%, $200, and 36% of remainder
Idaho	40%
Illinois	66.7%
Indiana	75%
Iowa	20% and 50% of remainder
Kansas	$90 and 40% of remainder
Kentucky	100% in first 2 months,[3] $120 and 33.3% of remainder in next 4 months, $120 in next 8 months, $90 thereafter
Louisiana	$1,020 in first 6 months,[4] $120 thereafter
Maine	$108 and 50% of remainder
Maryland	40%
Massachusetts	
Exempt	$120 and 33.3% of remainder
Nonexempt	$120 and 50% of remainder
Michigan	$200 and 20% of remainder
Minnesota	36% [5]
Mississippi	100% in first 6 months, $90 thereafter[6]
Missouri	66.7% and $90 of remainder in first 12 months, $90 thereafter[7]
Montana	$200 and 25% of remainder
Nebraska	20%
Nevada	100% in first 3 months, 50% in months 4–12, $90 or 20% (whichever is greater) thereafter
New Hampshire	50%
New Jersey	100% in first month,[8] 50% thereafter
New Mexico	All earnings in excess of 34 hours a week, $125, and 50% of remainder in first 24 months; $125 and 50% of remainder thereafter[9]
New York	$90 and 45% of remainder
North Carolina	100% in first 3 months of employment,[10] 27.5% thereafter
North Dakota	$180 or 27% (whichever is greater) and 50% of remainder in first 6 months, $180 or 27% (whichever is greater) and 35% of remainder in months 7–9, $180 or 27% (whichever is greater) and 25% of remainder in months 10–13, and $180 or 27% (whichever is greater) thereafter[11]
Ohio	$250 and 50% of remainder
Oklahoma	$120 and 50% of remainder
Oregon	50%
Pennsylvania	50%

Table II.A.1 Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, July 2005

State	Earned income disregards
Rhode Island	$170 and 50% of remainder
South Carolina	50% in first 4 months, $100 thereafter
South Dakota	$90 and 20% of remainder
Tennessee	$150 [12]
Texas	$120 and 90% of remainder (up to $1,400) for 4 out of 12 months, $120 thereafter[13]
Utah	$100 and 50% of remainder[14]
Vermont	$150 and 25% of remainder
Virginia	$134 [15] and 20% of remainder
Washington	50%
West Virginia	40%
Wisconsin	No disregards—flat grant amount
Wyoming	$200 [16]

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

Notes: Only earned income disregards are described in the table. Child care disregards and other special disregards, such as deductions for units subject to time limits and family caps, are not included.
The table describes the earned income disregards used to compute a recipient's benefit. If different disregards are used to compute an applicant's benefit in the first month, they are footnoted.
When no duration is specified for the disregards, they remain for the entire period of receipt.

[1] The earned income disregard is not applied to earnings of an individual receiving assistance after 60 months under an exemption or extension.
[2] In addition to the 100 percent disregard of all subsidized JOBSTART wages, recipients can disregard the standard $90 and 30 percent of the remainder for any non-JOBSTART earned income.
[3] Recipients are eligible for the one-time 100 percent disregard if they become newly employed or report increased wages after approval.
[4] The six months in which the extra $900 is disregarded need not be consecutive, but the recipient may use this extra disregard in no more than six months over the course of his or her lifetime.
[5] The disregard applies to TANF recipients with earned income. Different disregards apply during the four-month mandatory diversion program. See table I.A.1 for details.
[6] Recipients are eligible for the one-time 100 percent disregard if they find employment of 35 hours a week within 30 days of either their initial approval for TANF or the beginning of job readiness training. If work is not found, the recipient will never be eligible to receive the disregard again. An additional 100 percent disregard is available to units for three months when the unit's case is subject to closure due to 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 6-month disregard unless there has been at least a 12-month break in receipt of TANF benefits. The 3-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 may disregard 100 percent of earnings for the first 6 months, $120 and 33.3 percent of remainder in the next 12 months, and $90 thereafter. If a recipient marries for the first time, his or her new spouse may receive a one-time, 100 percent disregard for six consecutive months.
[7] The disregards only apply to recipients who become employed while receiving TANF. Applicants and recipients who gained employment before receiving TANF may disregard $120 and 33.3 percent of remainder for the first four months, $120 the next eight months, and $90 thereafter.
[8] The 100 percent disregard is only applicable once every 12 months, even if employment is lost and then regained. Also, applicants are not eligible for the 100 percent disregard in the first month of benefit computation; they may disregard 50 percent of earnings only.
[9] Two-parent units may disregard all earnings in excess of 35 hours a week for one parent and 24 hours a week for the other parent and $225 and 50 percent in the first 24 months. Thereafter, they may disregard $225 and 50 percent of the remainder. The disregard for earnings in excess of the participation requirement only applies to recipients for the first 24 months of benefit receipt, for both single- and two-parent units.
[10] The 100 percent disregard is only available once in a lifetime and may be received only if the recipient is newly employed at a job that is expected to be permanent for more than 20 hours a week.
[11] If a parent marries while receiving assistance, the income of his or her new spouse is disregarded for the first six months. The disregard for the new spouse only applies if his or her needs were not previously included in the unit.
[12] If a parent marries while receiving assistance, and the new spouse's gross income (minus any court-ordered child support) is less than 185 percent of the Consolidated Need Standard for the entire assistance unit including the spouse, the unit may choose to include the new spouse in the unit. If the spouse is included, all his or her income is excluded for eligibility purposes and benefit computation. If he or she is not in the unit, all the spouse's income and resources are excluded for eligibility and benefit computation.
[13] Once the recipient has received 4 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 1 full month and 12 calendar months have passed since the denial. The 12-month ineligibility period begins with the first full month of denial after the client used the fourth month of the 90 percent disregard. The earnings of a TANF recipient's new spouse are disregarded for six months if the total gross income of the budget group does not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
[14] To be eligible for the 50 percent disregards, the recipient must have received benefits in at least one of the previous four months.
[15] The disregard varies by family size; for one to four family members, the disregard is $134. For five members, the disregard is $153; for six or more family members, $175 may be disregarded.
[16] Married couples with a child in common may disregard $400.

Table II.A.2 Benefit Determination Policies, July 2005

State	Benefit equals
Alabama	Payment Standard minus net income
Alaska	Lesser of (73.5% of (Need Standard minus net income)) or Maximum Payment[1]
Arizona	
All, except JOBSTART	Payment Standard minus net income
JOBSTART	The cash value of the unit's food stamp and TANF benefit minus earnings after taxes[2]
Arkansas	Maximum Payment Level or 50% of Maximum Payment Level (a flat grant amount)[3]
California	Maximum Aid Payment minus net income[4]
Colorado	84.75% of (Need Standard minus net income)
Connecticut	Payment Standard minus net income
Delaware	Lesser of (50% of (Standard of Need minus net income)) or Payment Standard
D.C.	Payment Level minus net income
Florida	Payment Standard minus net income
Georgia	Lesser of (Standard of Need minus net income) or Family Maximum
Hawaii	Standard of Assistance minus net income
Idaho	Lesser of (Work Incentive Payment minus net income) or Maximum Benefit
Illinois	Payment Standard minus net income
Indiana	Net Income Standard minus net income
Iowa	Payment Standard minus net income
Kansas	Budgetary Standards minus net income
Kentucky	Lesser of (55% of (Standard of Need minus net income)) or Maximum Benefit
Louisiana	Flat grant amount minus net income
Maine	Lesser of (Standard of Need minus net income) or Maximum Benefit
Maryland	Allowable Payment minus net income
Massachusetts	Need Standard and Payment Standard minus net income
Michigan	Payment Standard minus net income
Minnesota	Lesser of (Family Wage Level minus net income) or Transitional Standard[5]
Mississippi	Lesser of (60% of (Need Standard and Payment Standard minus net income)) or Maximum Benefit
Missouri	Payment Standard minus net income
Montana	Benefit Standard minus net income; add the Heating Supplement[6]
Nebraska	Lesser of (Standard of Need minus net income) or Payment Maximum
Nevada	Payment Allowance minus net income
New Hampshire	Payment Standard minus net income
New Jersey	Maximum Benefit Payment Schedule minus net income
New Mexico	Need Standard minus net income
New York	Need Standard minus net income
North Carolina	50% of (Need Standard minus net income)
North Dakota	Standard of Need minus net income
Ohio	Payment Standard minus net income
Oklahoma	Payment Standard minus net income
Oregon	
All, except JOBS Plus	Adjusted Income/Payment Standard minus net income; add the Cooperative Incentive Payment if in compliance[7]
JOBS Plus	The cash value of the unit's food stamp and TANF benefit 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	Lesser of (Need Standard minus net income) or Maximum Benefit
South Dakota	Payment Standard minus net income
Tennessee	Lesser of (Consolidated Need Standard minus net income) or Maximum Benefit[9]
Texas	Maximum Grant minus net income
Utah	Maximum Financial Assistance Payment minus net income
Vermont	Payment Standard minus net income

Table II.A.2 Benefit Determination Policies, July 2005

State	Benefit equals
Virginia	
VIEW	Lesser of (Federal Poverty Level minus net income) or (Payment Standard minus gross unearned income) or Maximum Benefit[10]
All, except VIEW	Lesser of (Payment Standard minus net income) or Maximum Benefit
Washington	Lesser of (Payment Standard minus net income) or Maximum Benefit[11]
West Virginia	Payment Standard minus net income
Wisconsin	
W-2 Transition/Community Service Jobs	Benefit Amount (a flat grant amount)
Trial Jobs	Varies by hours worked[12]
Unsubsidized Employment	None[13]
Wyoming	Maximum Benefit minus net income

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

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

[1] Two-parent units in which both parents are able to perform gainful activities will have their benefits reduced by 50 percent for July, August, and September.
[2] JOBSTART recipients receive wages from their subsidized employer. However, the state provides a supplemental payment for units whose adjusted gross income (earnings net of FICA and federal and state taxes) is less than the cash value of the food stamp and TANF benefits they would have otherwise received. The supplemental payment is determined by subtracting the unit's adjusted gross income from the cash value of its food stamp and TANF benefit.
[3] The benefit is equal to the Maximum Payment Level for the unit size if the unit's gross income is less than $446. 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] The calculation applies to recipients with earned income only. The calculation for recipients without earned income is Transitional Standard minus net income. The calculation for recipients with earned and unearned income is the following: if the Family Wage Level minus earned income is less than the Transitional Standard, the benefit equals the Family Wage Level minus total net income (earned and unearned income). If the Family Wage Level minus earned income is greater than the Transitional Standard, the benefit equals the Transitional Standard minus unearned income. Also, the MFIP payment standards include the state's food stamp (FS) allotment. MFIP recipients' cash and FS grants are computed with the same calculation. A flat amount (based on family size) for the FS allotment is subtracted from the benefit amount, and any remaining amount is provided to the unit in cash. To calculate the TANF grant amount without FS, subtract the Food Portion of the MFIP standard from the benefit. Unless otherwise exempt, all applicants must first participate in a mandatory, four-month diversion program before receiving TANF. See table I.A.1 for benefit determination policies that apply during this period.
[6] Montana adds $30 to the benefit, regardless of family size, to offset the high cost of heating.
[7] If the benefit is positive and the unit is complying with all requirements, the Cooperative Incentive Payment is added to the benefit. (Most of the caseload receives the Incentive Payment.) However, if the unit is not complying with requirements, it only receives the difference between the Adjusted Income/Payment Standard and net income.
[8] The benefit is equal to the maximum of (A − C or B − D), where A equals the full benefit equivalent, the sum of welfare and food stamp benefits, calculated using normal rules. B equals the minimum benefit equivalent, A minus the difference between Adjusted Income/Payment Standard for the unit including the JOBS Plus participant and Adjusted Income/Payment Standard for the unit not including the JOBS Plus participant. C equals the JOBS Plus participant's wage times his or her available hours (all scheduled hours, regardless of whether the participant worked those hours), minus $90, $50 pass-through, $102 earned income credit refund, and any garnishment withheld. D equals the JOBS Plus participant's wage times hours actually worked, minus $90, $50 pass-through, $102 earned income credit refund, and any garnishment withheld.
[9] When a caretaker marries while receiving assistance, a different set of benefit computation rules can apply to the assistance unit. The spouse's gross income less any court-ordered child support is first tested against the gross income limit (185 percent of the Consolidated Need Standard) for the entire assistance unit plus the spouse. If the spouse's income exceeds this standard, regular deeming, eligibility, and benefit computation policies are used. If the spouse's income is below that standard, the unit has two choices: (1) The unit may include the spouse in the unit but disregard his income. His income is excluded for eligibility and benefit computation, but his needs and resources are included. (2) The unit may exclude the spouse from the unit. 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. These policies continue until the case is closed for any reason. This policy applies even if the spouse is the father of one of the assistance group children.
[10] The benefit for two-parent units equals the lesser of (150 percent of (the federal poverty level minus net income)), or (Payment Standard minus gross unearned income), or Maximum Benefit. For all units, the Maximum Benefit only limits benefits for units with six or more members.
[11] The Maximum Benefit only limits benefits for units with nine or more members.
[12] Recipients in the Trial Jobs component participate in subsidized employment. These recipients do not receive benefits from the state. However, they do receive earnings from their employer. Employers are required to pay at least minimum wage for every hour worked. The employer receives a maximum subsidy of $300 per employee a month.
[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 Benefit Standards, July 2005

	Payment Standard		Statutory Maximum Benefit	
State	State name	Amount for family of three	State name	Amount for family of three
Alabama	Payment Standard	$215	—	—
Alaska	Need Standard	$1,260	Maximum Payment	$923
Arizona				
All, except JOBSTART	Payment Standard	$347	—	—
JOBSTART	Payment Standard and Food Stamps[1]	—	—	—
Arkansas	Maximum Payment Level	$204	—	—
California				
Nonexempt	Maximum Aid Payment	$704	—	—
Exempt	Maximum Aid Payment	$786	—	—
Colorado	Need Standard	$421	—	—
Connecticut	Payment Standard	$543	—	—
Delaware	Standard of Need	$979	Payment Standard	$338
D.C.	Payment Level	$379	—	—
Florida	Payment Standard	$303	—	—
Georgia	Standard of Need	$424	Family Maximum	$280
Hawaii	Standard of Assistance	$570 [2]	—	—
Idaho	Work Incentive Payment	$389	Maximum Benefit	$309
Illinois	Payment Standard	$396	—	—
Indiana	Net Income Standard	$288	—	—
Iowa	Payment Standard	$426	—	—
Kansas	Budgetary Standards	$429	—	—
Kentucky	Standard of Need	$526	Maximum Benefit	$262
Louisiana	Flat Grant Amount	$240	—	—
Maine	Standard of Need	$620	Maximum Benefit	$485
Maryland	Allowable Payment	$482	—	—
Massachusetts				
Exempt	Need Standard and Payment Standard	$633	—	—
Nonexempt	Need Standard and Payment Standard	$618	—	—
Michigan	Payment Standard	$459 [3]	—	—
Minnesota	Transitional Standard	$876 (532)[4]	Transitional Standard	$876
	Family Wage Level	$964	—	—
	Food Portion of MFIP	$344	—	—
Mississippi	Need Standard and Payment Standard	$368	Maximum Benefit	$170
Missouri	Payment Standard	$292	—	—
Montana	Benefit Standard	$375	—	—
	Heating Supplement	$30		
Nebraska	Standard of Need	$643	Payment Maximum	$364
Nevada	Payment Allowance	$348	—	—
New Hampshire	Payment Standard	$625	—	—
New Jersey	Maximum Benefit Payment Schedule	$424 [5]	—	—
New Mexico	Need Standard	$389	—	—
New York	Need Standard	$691	—	—
North Carolina	Need Standard	$544	—	—

Table II.A.3 Benefit Standards, July 2005

State	Payment Standard: State name	Payment Standard: Amount for family of three	Statutory Maximum Benefit: State name	Statutory Maximum Benefit: Amount for family of three
North Dakota	Standard of Need	$477	—	—
Ohio	Payment Standard	$373	—	—
Oklahoma	Payment Standard	$292	—	—
Oregon				
All, except JOBS Plus	Adjusted Income/Payment Standard	$460	—	—
	Cooperative Incentive Payment[6]	$43	—	—
JOBS Plus	Adjusted Income/Payment Standard Food Stamps[1]		—	—
Pennsylvania	Family Size Allowance	$403	—	—
Rhode Island	Cash Assistance Monthly Standard	$554	—	—
South Carolina	Need Standard	$652	Maximum Benefit	$240
South Dakota	Payment Standard	$508	—	—
Tennessee	Consolidated Need Standard	$942	Maximum Benefit	$185 [7]
Texas	Maximum Grant	$223	—	—
Utah	Maximum Financial Assistance Payment	$474	—	—
Vermont	Payment Standard	$640	—	—
Virginia				
VIEW	Federal Poverty Level	$1,341	—[8]	—
	Payment Standard	$320	—	—
All, except VIEW	Payment Standard	$320	—[8]	—
Washington	Payment Standard	$546	—[9]	—
West Virginia	Payment Standard	$340	—	—
Wisconsin			—	—
W-2 Transition	Benefit Amount	$628	—	—
Community Service Jobs	Benefit Amount	$673 [10]	—	—
Trial Jobs/Unsubsidized Employment	No cash benefit[11]	—	—	—
Wyoming	Maximum Benefit	$340	—	—

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

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

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

[1] See the footnote in table II.A.2 for a description of the standard.
[2] Applies to units that have received assistance for at least two months in a lifetime. For units receiving their first and second months of benefits, the Standard of Assistance for a family of three is $712.
[3] Applies to units that have at least one employable adult. For units where all adults either receive SSI or are exempt from work requirements for reasons other than caring for a child under 3 months old, the Payment Standard for a family of three is $477.
[4] Minnesota's Transitional Standard includes the food stamp allotment for each unit size. The food stamp and cash benefit are computed together for welfare recipients. The food stamp allotment is a flat benefit, based on family size, 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.
[5] An additional $150 is added to the benefit amount for exempt units receiving assistance beyond the 60th month.
[6] If the unit is complying with all requirements, the Cooperative Incentive Payment is added to the benefit; if the unit is not complying with requirements, the benefit is computed using only the Adjusted Income/Payment Standard. The majority of the caseload receives the Cooperation Incentive Payment.
[7] For units where the caretaker is over age 60, disabled, caring full time for a disabled family member, or excluded from the assistance unit, the Maximum Benefit for a family of three is $232.
[8] The Maximum Benefit only impacts payments for units with six or more members.

[9] The Maximum Benefit only impacts payments for units with nine or more members.
[10] Community Service Jobs participants can receive a prorated payment if they are working 40 hours a week in a combination of unsubsidized employment, work training, and educational activities. Education may never fulfill more than 10 hours of the requirement. Participants working 20 to 29 hours a week in an unsubsidized job may receive $230, those working 15 to 19 hours receive $341, and individuals working 10 to 14 hours a week receive $452. Individuals who are working fewer than nine hours are eligible for the full payment. Individuals employed full time are not considered to have barriers to work and are therefore ineligible for payments.
[11] The benefits in these components are based on the wages earned by individual participants.

Table II.A.4 Maximum Monthly Benefit for a Family of Three with No Income, July 2005

State	Maximum benefit
Alabama	$215
Alaska	$923
Arizona	$347
Arkansas	$204
California	
Nonexempt	$704
Exempt	$786
Colorado	$356
Connecticut	$543
Delaware	$338
D.C.	$379
Florida	$303
Georgia	$280
Hawaii	$570 [1]
Idaho	$309
Illinois	$396
Indiana	$288
Iowa	$426
Kansas	$429
Kentucky	$262
Louisiana	$240
Maine	$485
Maryland	$482
Massachusetts	
Exempt	$633
Nonexempt	$618
Michigan	$459 [2]
Minnesota	$532
Mississippi	$170
Missouri	$292
Montana	$375
Nebraska	$364
Nevada	$348
New Hampshire	$625
New Jersey	$424
New Mexico	$389
New York	$691
North Carolina	$272
North Dakota	$477
Ohio	$373
Oklahoma	$292
Oregon	$503
Pennsylvania	$403
Rhode Island	$554
South Carolina	$240
South Dakota	$508
Tennessee	$185 [3]
Texas	$223
Utah	$474

Table II.A.4 Maximum Monthly Benefit for a Family of Three with No Income, July 2005

State	Maximum benefit
Vermont	$640
Virginia	$320
Washington	$546
West Virginia	$340
Wisconsin	
W-2 Transition	$628
Community Service Jobs	$673
Trial Jobs/Unsubsidized Employment	—[4]
Wyoming	$340

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

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

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

Requirements

III. Requirements

The tables in this chapter of the *Databook* describe the requirements for the individual members of an assistance unit as of July 2005. Numerous requirements may be imposed on a family in order for it to become and/or remain eligible for TANF. To receive benefits, most states require recipients to negotiate and sign contracts that detail what is required of individuals within the unit. These requirements vary considerably by state but can include requirements for dependent children, such as immunization and school attendance requirements, as well as requirements for the adult head of the household, such as work-related requirements.

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

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

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

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

- *School:*

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

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

- *Immunization:*

  These policies require parents to have their children immunized.

- *Health screening:*

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

- *Other health requirements:*

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

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

B. What work activities are required?

Under the TANF block grant, the federal government requires states to (1) meet the annual work participation rate determined by the federal government;[15] and (2) ensure that every recipient is working (as defined by the state) as soon as the state determines he or she is able or after 24 months of benefit receipt, whichever is earlier. Therefore, states require most adult heads of an assistance unit to perform some type of work-related activity after a given period. The activities available and the timing of the requirement vary greatly by state. Who is required to participate can also vary considerably. States may, and most do, exempt (or excuse) groups of recipients from participating in activities based on some demographic or individual characteristic. In cases where the recipient is not exempt but also not complying with activity requirements, the state may sanction the family by reducing or eliminating the unit's benefit. Below is a further discussion of these topics and the tables included in this section.

The policies included in the tables are effective as of July 2005. However, it should be noted that in early 2006 the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, which reauthorized the TANF program, become law and substantially changed work-related policies. The law narrows the definitions of work activities, counts more groups of individuals in the states' participation calculations, recalibrates the caseload reduction credit (using FY 2005 as the base year instead of 1995), and tightens states' accountability, including imposing new penalties for noncompliance with work verification plans.[16] Although the basic work-related rules—who is exempt from work, how many hours of work are required, and what is the minimum sanction for

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[15] The work participation rate indicates what percentage of the state TANF caseload must be participating in work activities. Both the number of hours required to qualify for the rate and the percentage itself have increased semiannually since 1996. According to legislation, as of 2005, 50 percent of a state's single-parent caseload was required to participate a minimum of 30 hours a week. Two-parent families were required to participate at a rate of 90 percent for a minimum of 35 hours a week.

[16] For more information about the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, see http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/ofa/tfinrule.htm.

noncompliance—did not change under the new legislation, states will likely respond to the new legislation by changing these policies in the coming years.

Work-related exemptions: States may, but are not required to, exempt certain individuals or groups from participating in work-related activities. Such an exemption does not, however, remove the individuals from the calculation of the state's federal work participation rate. The only category of recipient that may be removed from the denominator of the participation rate calculation is single parents of a child under 12 months old; such parents may or may not be exempted from participation requirements.

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

Related tables: Table L6 provides the exemption for a parent caring for a young child from 1996 through 2005.

Work-related activities: Work programs vary widely from state to state based on several factors, including who must work, how much work is required, and what activities are considered work. Table III.B.2 provides a general overview of state activities requirements. The table describes when the recipient must begin participating, allowable activities the recipient could participate in, and how many hours the recipient must participate a week, including what share of those hours can be spent in education and training programs. Not all assistance units have the same work requirements. For simplicity, this table only includes the activities requirements for units headed by a single parent over age 20.

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

Work-related sanctions: If adults required to participate in activities do not comply with requirements, the state can sanction the unit. States have discretion to define what constitutes noncompliance and what will result from the noncompliance. Typically, if a recipient does not participate in his or her assigned activities for the specified number of hours, he or she is not complying and could be sanctioned. A sanction generally results in the removal of the noncomplying individual from the unit for benefit computation, a percent reduction in the entire unit's benefit, or a full benefit sanction.[17] Often states increase the severity of the sanction based on the number of times or the amount of time the individual is noncompliant.

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

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

Related tables: Table L7 describes the most severe sanction for 1996 through 2005.

Table III.A.1 Behavioral Requirements, July 2005

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

Table III.A.1 Behavioral Requirements, July 2005

State	School requirements[1]	School bonuses[2]	Immunization requirements[3]	Health screening requirements[4]	Other health requirements[5]
Washington	Yes	No	No	No	No
West Virginia	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Wisconsin	Yes	No	No	No	No
Wyoming	Yes	No	No	No	No
Total states with policy	**33**	**8**	**27**	**8**	**1**

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

[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, to achieve at least a minimal grade point average, or require parents to be involved in their children's education in some way.
[2] This variable captures financial incentives for assistance units whose children meet specific attendance or achievement standards. Unless otherwise noted, school bonuses apply to both dependent children and minor parents.
[3] Immunization requirements include information on standard immunizations for children. A requirement is coded "Yes" only if the state explicitly mentions it as a requirement for cash assistance or if it is included as a requirement in the recipient's contract and noncompliance results in a sanction.
[4] Health screening requirements include information on regular checkups for both children and adults, although the requirements usually apply only to children. A requirement is coded "Yes" only if the state explicitly mentions it as a requirement for cash assistance or if it is included as a requirement in the recipient's contract and noncompliance results in a sanction.
[5] Other health requirements include information on other health-related requirements such as Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT). A requirement is coded "Yes" only if the state explicitly mentions it as a requirement for cash assistance or if it is included as a requirement in the recipient's contract and noncompliance results in a sanction.
[6] School bonuses only apply to teen parents age 16 through 19.
[7] New Jersey state law requires all dependent children to be immunized regardless of whether they receive TANF benefits. Welfare recipients' benefits may be sanctioned if they do not immunize their dependent children. Recipients are required to sign an IRP contract to receive benefits; an immunization requirement may be included in the IRP. If the recipient fails to immunize his or her children, he or she breaches the contract and receives a financial sanction.

Table III.B.1 Work-Related Activity Exemptions for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2005[1]

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

Table III.B.1 Work-Related Activity Exemptions for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2005[1]

State	Unit Head Exempt If:					
	Working in unsubsidized job for (hours)	Ill or incapacitated	Caring for an ill or incapacitated person	Age (or older) (years)	In which month of pregnancy (or later)	Caring for child under age (months)
Ohio	30	No	No	No exemption	No exemption	12
Oklahoma	No exemption	No	No	No exemption	No exemption	3 [7]
Oregon	No exemption	No	No	60	9	3
Pennsylvania	20 [53]	Yes	Yes[20]	No exemption	No exemption	12 [7]
Rhode Island	No exemption	Yes	Yes	60	7	12
South Carolina						
All, except STAR	No exemption	—[36]	—[36]	No exemption	7	No[54]
STAR (A)	No exemption	—[36]	No	No exemption	No exemption	No exemption
STAR (B and C)[34]	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Dakota	No exemption	Yes[20]	Yes[20]	No exemption	No exemption	3
Tennessee	No exemption	Yes	Yes[55]	60	No exemption	12
Texas	30 [56]	Yes[57]	Yes	60	No exemption[2]	12 [58]
Utah	No exemption	No	No	No exemption	No exemption	No exemption
Vermont	No exemption	Yes	Yes	60	No exemption	24 [59]
Virginia	No exemption	Yes[60]	Yes	60	4	18 [61]
Washington	No exemption	Yes	Yes	55	No exemption	4 [7]
West Virginia	No exemption	Yes	Yes	60	No exemption[2]	12 [62]
Wisconsin	No exemption	No	No[16]	No exemption	No exemption	3
Wyoming	No exemption	No	No	65	No exemption	3 [7]

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

[1] This table refers to single-parent unit heads over 21 years old.
[2] A pregnant woman may qualify for an exemption if the pregnancy is disabling and prohibits her from participating in work or training programs.
[3] An incapacitated person may be fully or partially exempt from work requirements, but he or she is still required to participate in self-sufficiency activities.
[4] If the incapacitated person is an adult, the caretaker is exempt only if he or she is related to the person and providing 24-hour care.
[5] The exemption is limited to 12 cumulative months in the recipient's lifetime. While the caretaker is exempt, he or she may be required to participate in job-readiness activities.
[6] To be exempt, the job must pay at least the minimum wage and be expected to last at least 30 days.
[7] The exemption is limited to 12 cumulative months in the recipient's lifetime.
[8] Counties have the option to vary some activities exemptions. Statewide exemptions are noted; all other exemptions apply to Los Angeles County only.
[9] Statewide exemption.
[10] The recipient may only receive this exemption once; however, he or she may also receive a limited exemption for a second or subsequent child under 6 months old.
[11] Counties have the option to vary some activities exemptions. Statewide exemptions are noted; all other exemptions apply to Denver County only.
[12] While not technically exemptions, severe mental or physical disability and family emergencies such as the serious or terminal illness of an immediate family member may, on a case-by-case basis, be considered good cause for nonparticipation.
[13] This statewide exemption does not apply to recipients who have received benefits for 24 or more cumulative months.
[14] A pregnant recipient may qualify for an exemption if her physician indicates that she is unable to work. She may also be exempt from work requirements for six weeks postpartum.
[15] The exemption only applies if the child under 12 months old is not subject to a family cap.
[16] A recipient's care for an ill or incapacitated family member may qualify as his or her participation requirement.
[17] The hours apply to recipients with children age 6 or older. Recipients with children under 6 years old are required to work 20 hours in order to be exempt.
[18] The exemption applies only if no alternative care is available.
[19] Recipients may be required to attend classes or other activities.
[20] The state does not consider these groups technically exempt, but they may meet the state's criteria for good cause for noncompliance or deferral.
[21] The exemption is limited to once in the recipient's lifetime.

[22] To be exempt, the recipient must have had the condition for at least 30 days. A mental or physical impairment must be certified by a board of doctors, who shall also determine the appropriate treatment, vocational rehabilitation, or employment activities the individual can reasonably engage in. Failure to participate in recommended activities may result in sanction.
[23] Recipients meeting these criteria are not exempt, but the state does recognize that they may not be able to participate fully. The amount of participation required from each recipient is determined on a case-by-case basis.
[24] Pregnant women are not exempt, but they are considered to have a barrier to full-time employment for the 6 weeks before the due date and the 12 weeks after birth. The amount of participation required is determined on a case-by-case basis.
[25] Although exempt from activities requirements, people caring for children under 12 months old could be asked to participate in the following activities: counseling, health-related education, group activities, and attending forums with information about child care and educational opportunities.
[26] 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 Leave Act of 1993. The maximum time available for one parent is 12 workweeks during any 12-month period and for two parents is the aggregate of 12 workweeks of leave for both parents.
[27] The individual is exempt through the month the child turns 1 year old. The exemption cannot be claimed by any adult in the unit when at least one adult has reached the 48th month of cash assistance.
[28] Parents with a child less than 1 year old are not required to participate in regular work activities, but they may be required to participate in Parenting Skills Training.
[29] To be exempt, the head of household must be caring for a spouse who is receiving SSI.
[30] In Maryland, exemptions do not apply to individuals who have received 24 cumulative months of federal cash assistance. The only exemption that may be available after 24 months is to single parents who are caring for a child under age 6 and who are unable to obtain appropriate child care.
[31] To be exempt, the job must pay minimum wage or higher.
[32] The exemption is limited to 12 months unless the individual has applied for SSI and the application is approved, pending, or in appeal.
[33] This is a one-time exemption for the first child only.
[34] Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from activities requirements. See appendix 1 for more information on the composition of the component.
[35] This exemption applies to parents whose youngest child is between mandatory school age and 9 years old. If the youngest child in the assistance unit is at least 9 years old, 30 hours a week are required. If the youngest child is between age 2 and mandatory full-time school age, 20 hours a week are required. (Parents with children less than 2 years old are placed in the Exempt component and do not have work requirements.)
[36] Individuals with this characteristic are placed in an alternative component. See appendix 1 for more information on components.
[37] The caretaker is exempt only when caring for a child who is an SSI recipient, an SSI applicant, or suffers from a physical or mental impairment that meets federal SSI disability standards. The caretaker may be required to participate in activities requirements for a limited number of hours if assessment shows it would not be an undue burden on the care of the disabled family member.
[38] 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.
[39] A recipient over age 60 is not exempt, but the state does recognize that he or she may not be able to participate fully. The amount of participation required is determined on a case-by-case basis.
[40] A pregnant woman is not exempt, but if the pregnancy has resulted in a professionally certified disability that prevents the woman from obtaining or retaining employment, the state does recognize that she may not be able to participate fully. The amount of participation required is determined on a case-by-case basis.
[41] The exemption only applies once in a lifetime. It does not apply if the child is subject to the family cap.
[42] The recipient is only exempt from job training requirements.
[43] A pregnant woman may qualify for an exemption from job training requirements if a physician determines she is unable to work.
[44] Recipients who are temporarily ill or incapacitated are exempt from work requirements until their illness or incapacity improves. If an individual is permanently disabled and unable to work, he or she is placed in the Family Assistance Program component.
[45] Recipients who have received 39 or more months of assistance will not receive an exemption for pregnancy.
[46] Recipients who have received 39 or more months of assistance will not receive a child care exemption. Recipients who conceive a child while on assistance are exempt only until the child is 12 months old.
[47] Before the third trimester, recipients may be exempt if a physician certifies that a medical reason exists.
[48] The exemption may be extended if a physician certifies it is medically necessary for the parent or child.
[49] This exemption only applies if the care provided prevents the institutionalization of the disabled individual.
[50] The exemption can be extended for up to six weeks beyond the end of the pregnancy.
[51] The exemption is limited to three months.
[52] The exemption may last for no more than 12 months in a recipient's lifetime and no 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.
[53] Although not technically exempt, caretakers who work at least 20 hours a week and provide care to a child less than 6 years old meet the state's criteria for good cause for noncompliance or deferral.
[54] A parent personally providing care for his or her child under age 1 will be expected to participate in the work program but cannot be sanctioned for failure to do so.
[55] To qualify for the exemption, the caretaker must prove that he or she is needed in the home full time to care for a related disabled child or adult who lives in the home.
[56] To be exempt, the recipient must be earning at least $700 a month.
[57] The exemption applies only if a recipient has a mental or physical disability that is expected to last more than 180 days. A temporary illness qualifies as good cause for nonparticipation and no sanction is imposed.
[58] This exemption only applies for children who were less than 12 months old at initial application.
[59] If the recipient cares for a child under 24 months old, work requirements may be modified or deferred. A participant's work requirement cannot be deferred for this reason for more than 24 months during a lifetime. If the participant has exhausted the 24 months of deferment and has a child under 13 weeks old, then the caretaker is automatically exempt from all work requirements.

[60] 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 eight hours of activities a week. If the individual can participate in at least eight hours of activities a week, he or she must participate in VIEW activities that take into consideration the individual's limitations.
[61] Recipients caring for a child subject to a family cap are only exempt while the child is less than six weeks old.
[62] The exemption is limited to six months for each child and may be taken at any time while the child is less than 12 months old.

Table III.B.2 Work-Related Activity Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2005[1]

State	Timing of requirement to benefit receipt	Allowable activities listed[2]	Minimum hour requirement	Limit on hours allowed for education and training
Alabama	Immediately	All	32 [3]	7 [4]
Alaska	Immediately	All	30	—
Arizona				
All, except JOBSTART	Immediately	Job-related, E&T, and CWEP	Case-by-case basis	—
JOBSTART	Immediately	Subsidized employment	40	—
Arkansas	Immediately	All	30	—
California	Immediately	All except postsecondary education[5]	32	—
Colorado[6]	*	All[5]	22	—
Connecticut	Immediately	All except postsecondary education and subsidized employment	Case-by-case basis	—
Delaware	Immediately	Job-related and CWEP[7]	Case-by-case basis[7]	—
D.C.	Immediately	All	30 [3]	10 [8]
Florida	Immediately	All except postsecondary education	30 [9]	10
Georgia	Immediately	All	30 [10]	10
Hawaii	Immediately	All except postsecondary education	32	—
Idaho	Immediately	All except postsecondary education[11]	30	—
Illinois	After assessment	All	30	—
Indiana	Immediately	All except postsecondary education	Case-by-case basis	—
Iowa	Immediately	All except subsidized employment	Full-time employment[12]	—
Kansas	Immediately	All	30	10
Kentucky	Immediately	All	30	10
Louisiana	Immediately	All[5]	30	10
Maine	Immediately	All	30 [3]	10 [13]
Maryland	Immediately	All	40	16
Massachusetts				
Exempt[14]	—	—	—	—
Nonexempt	60 days	All	24 [15]	—
Michigan	Immediately	All	40	10 [16]
Minnesota	Immediately	All	30 [3]	10 [17]
Mississippi	24 months	All except subsidized employment	30 [18]	5
Missouri	24 months	All	30 [3]	—
Montana	Immediately	All except subsidized employment	30	10
Nebraska				
Time limited assistance	Immediately	All	30	—
Non-time limited assistance	Immediately	Job-related	20	—
Nevada	Immediately	All	30 [3]	10 [8]
New Hampshire				
New Hampshire Employment Program	Immediately	All except subsidized employment[5]	25 [19]	—
Family Assistance Program[14]	—	—	—	—
New Jersey	Immediately	All	40	—

Table III.B.2 Work-Related Activity Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2005[1]

State	Timing of requirement to benefit receipt	Allowable activities listed[2]	Minimum hour requirement	Limit on hours allowed for education and training
New Mexico				
New Mexico Works Program	3 months after approval	All	34 [20]	In excess of 20 hours
Educational Works Program	*	All[21]	20	—
New York	30 days after orientation	High school not complete: E&T	Full-time as defined by school	—
	30 days after orientation	High school complete: All	30 [3]	10 [13]
North Carolina	12 weeks	All	35 [3]	15 [13]
North Dakota	Immediately	All	Case-by-case basis	—
Ohio	Immediately	All	20	—
Oklahoma	Immediately	All except postsecondary education	30	—
Oregon				
JOBS	Immediately	All except unsubsidized employment[5]	Case-by-case basis	—
JOBS Plus[22]	*	E&T and employment	40	—
Pennsylvania	Immediately	All except postsecondary education[5]	20	—
Rhode Island	Immediately	All[5]	30 [3]	30 [23]
South Carolina				
All, except STAR	Immediately	All except subsidized employment	30 [3]	—
STAR (A)	Immediately	All	Case-by-case basis	—
STAR (B and C)[14]	—	—	—	—
South Dakota	Immediately	All	30 [3]	10 [24]
Tennessee	After assessment	All except subsidized employment	40	20
Texas	After orientation	All[5]	30 [3]	10 [8]
Utah	Immediately	All except subsidized employment	Case-by-case basis	—
Vermont	Immediately	All[5]	30 [3]	—
Virginia				
VIEW	Immediately	All	30	—
All, except VIEW[14]	—	—	—	—
Washington	Immediately	All	32	—
West Virginia	24 months	All	30 [3]	—
Wisconsin				
W-2 Transition	After assessment	Job-related, E&T, and community service	40	12
Unsubsidized Employment	After assessment[25]	Job-related and employment	40	—
Trial Jobs	After assessment	Subsidized employment	40	—
Community Service	After assessment	Job-related and E&T	40	10
Wyoming	Immediately	All	30 [26]	In excess of 20 hours

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

* Data not obtained.

[1] The table contains the activity requirements for single-parent recipients 21 years old or older.
[2] All possible activities include:
(a) Job-related activities include one or more of the following: job skills training, job readiness activities, job development and placement, job search.

(b) Education and training (E&T) activities include one or more of the following: basic or remedial education, high school/GED, English as a second language, postsecondary education, on-the-job training.
(c) Employment activities include one or more of the following: unsubsidized job, work supplement/subsidized job, CWEP/AWEP, community service.
[3] The hours apply to recipients with children age 6 or older. Recipients with children under 6 years old are required to work 20 hours.
[4] Generally, recipients are required to participate in either job-related or employment activities for at least 25 hours a week. However, on a case-by-case basis, the caseworker may determine that educational activities are necessary for a recipient to overcome barriers to employment. In these cases, the limit on the number of hours that may be spent in education may be waived.
[5] According to the state manuals, recipients move from one set of activities to another after a set period. Generally, they begin with job-related activities and end with employment; see the WRD for details.
[6] Counties have the option to vary their activity requirements. These policies refer to Denver County.
[7] The hours requirement is 10 hours a week of job search plus participation in CWEP up to the number of hours equal to the benefit amount divided by the minimum wage. If the recipient is working 20 hours or more a week in an unsubsidized job, no additional work requirements apply.
[8] These hours apply to recipients with children age 6 or older. Recipients with children under 6 years old must spend all required hours in non-education-related activities.
[9] On-the-job training and work supplementation require a full-time (32- to 40-hour) commitment.
[10] When the agency determines it possible, the recipient must participate for a minimum of 40 hours a week.
[11] Recipients with children under the age of 12 weeks are only required to participate in life skills training.
[12] Participation must be either equivalent to the level of commitment required for full-time employment or deemed significant enough to move the recipient toward the level of full-time employment.
[13] These hours apply to recipients with children age 6 or older. The number of hours which may be spent in education and training is not capped for parents of children under 6 years old.
[14] Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities (see appendix 1 for a description of components).
[15] This requirement applies to parents whose youngest child is between mandatory school age and 9 years old. If the youngest child in the assistance unit is at least 9 years old, 30 hours a week are required. If the youngest child is between age 2 and mandatory full-time school age, 20 hours a week are required. (Parents with children less than 2 years old are placed in the Exempt component and do not have work requirements.)
[16] High school and GED education is available for up to 10 hours a week if the remaining participation hours come from unsubsidized employment. Postsecondary education or training is available for 10 hours if at least 10 hours a week are spent in unsubsidized employment. Otherwise, participation in educational activities is limited to 5 hours a week.
[17] To be eligible for education and training, the recipient must be working at least 20 hours a week in unsubsidized employment.
[18] The hours apply to recipients with children age 6 or older. Recipients with children under age 6 are required to work 20 hours. An individual must participate in educational programs (including vocational training) full time as defined by the school, and in job search/job readiness (combined) for 40 hours a week.
[19] The hours apply to recipients with children age 6 or older. Recipients with children under 6 years old are required to work 20 hours. Beginning in month 40, the hours requirement is increased to 30 hours a week for all recipients with children age 6 or older.
[20] Recipients with children under age 6 may not be required to work more than 24 hours a week.
[21] Educational Works Program activities are focused on education and training; however, with program approval, participants may also participate in any other activity relevant to their education and pursuant to the New Mexico Works Cash Assistance Program.
[22] Recipients volunteer for the JOBS Plus program. This program provides on-the-job training while paying benefits as wages from a work-site assignment.
[23] For the first 24 months of benefit receipt, recipients may spend all required activity hours in education or training. For parents with children under the age of 6, this is 20 hours. After 24 months of assistance, educational activities no longer count toward the participation requirement.
[24] These hours apply to recipients with children age 6 or older. The number of hours that may be spent in education and training is not capped for parents of children under 6 years old. Individuals who have earned a high school diploma may participate in postsecondary education for up to 15 hours a week.
[25] Recipients participating in unsubsidized jobs receive wages and are ineligible for a cash benefit
[26] The state stressed that recipients are required to work 40 hours a week, but in cases where the recipient is unable to work the full 40 hours, caseworkers can scale back the number of hours to a minimum of 30 hours a week. For recipients with children under age 6, the minimum is 20 hours a week.

Table III.B.3 Sanction Policies for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2005

State	Initial Sanction: Reduction in benefit	Initial Sanction: Length of sanction (months)	Most Severe Sanction: Reduction in benefit	Most Severe Sanction: Length of sanction (months)
Alabama	25%[1]	3 months[+1]	Entire benefit	6 months
Alaska	40%[2]	4 months[+]	Case is closed	Must reapply
Arizona	25%	1 month	Entire benefit	1 month[+] and must reapply
Arkansas	25%	Until in compliance for 2 weeks	Case is closed[3]	Until in compliance for 2 weeks
California	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]
Colorado[4]	25%	1 month	Entire benefit	3 months[+]
Connecticut	25%	3 months[+]	Case is closed	3 months and must reapply
Delaware	33.3%	Until compliance or 2 months (whichever is shorter)	Entire benefit	Permanent
D.C.	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]
Florida	Entire benefit	10 days[+]	Entire benefit	3 months[+5]
Georgia	25%	Until compliance or 3 months (whichever is shorter)	Entire benefit	Permanent
Hawaii	Entire benefit	Until compliance	Entire benefit	3 months[+]
Idaho	Entire benefit	1 month[+]	Entire benefit	Permanent
Illinois	50%[6]	Until compliance	Entire benefit	3 months[+]
Indiana	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance or 2 months (whichever is shorter)	Case is closed	Until compliance
Iowa	Entire benefit	Until compliance	Entire benefit	6 months[+7]
Kansas	Entire benefit	Until compliance	Entire benefit	2 months[+]
Kentucky	Pro rata portion of benefit[8]	Until compliance[9]	Entire benefit	Until compliance
Louisiana	Case is closed	1 month[+]	Case is closed	3 months[+]
Maine	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]
Maryland	Entire benefit	Until compliance	Entire benefit	Until in compliance for 30 days
Massachusetts				
Exempt[10]	—	—	—	—
Nonexempt	None[11]	None[11]	Entire benefit	Until in compliance for 2 weeks
Michigan	Entire benefit	1 month[+]	Entire benefit	1 month[+]
Minnesota	10%[12]	1 month[+]	Case is closed	1 month[+]
Mississippi	Entire benefit	2 months[+]	Entire benefit	Permanent
Missouri	25%	Until compliance	25%	3 months[+]
Montana	Adult portion of benefit[13]	1 month	Case is closed	1 month
Nebraska	Entire benefit	1 month[+]	Entire benefit	12 months or the remainder of 48 months (whichever is shorter)
Nevada	Entire benefit	Until compliance	Entire benefit	Until compliance

Table III.B.3 Sanction Policies for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2005

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)
New Hampshire				
New Hampshire Employment Program	Adult portion of benefit	1 payment period[+]	66% of Adjusted Payment Standard[14]	1 payment period[+]
Family Assistance Program[10]	—	—	—	—
New Jersey	Pro rata portion of benefit[15]	1 month[+]	Case is closed[15]	3 months
New Mexico				
New Mexico Works Program	25%	Until compliance	Case is closed	6 months[+]
Educational Works Program	None[16]	None[16]	Participation is terminated[17]	*
New York	Pro rata portion of benefit	Until compliance	Pro rata portion of benefit	6 months[+]
North Carolina	Entire benefit	1 month[+]	Case is closed[15]	Must reapply
North Dakota	Adult portion of benefit[18]	1 month	Case is closed[19]	12 months
Ohio	Entire benefit	1 month[+]	Entire benefit	6 months[+]
Oklahoma	Entire benefit	Until compliance	Entire benefit	Until compliance
Oregon	$50	Until compliance or 2 months (whichever is shorter)	Entire benefit	Until compliance
Pennsylvania	Adult portion of benefit[20]	30 days[+]	Entire benefit[21]	Permanent
Rhode Island	Adult portion of benefit[22]	Until in compliance for 2 weeks	Entire benefit	Until in compliance for 2 weeks
South Carolina				
All, except STAR	Case is closed	Must reapply and comply for 30 days	Case is closed	Must reapply and comply for 30 days
STAR (A)	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance	Adult portion of benefit	Until compliance
STAR (B and C)[10]	—	—	—	—
South Dakota	None[11]	None[11]	Case is closed	1 month[+] and must reapply
Tennessee	Entire benefit	Until in compliance for 2 weeks	Entire benefit	3 months[+]
Texas	Entire benefit	1 month[+]	Case is closed	Must reapply and comply for 30 days
Utah	$100 [23]	Until compliance	Entire benefit[24]	Until compliance
Vermont	$75	Until in compliance for 2 weeks	$225	Until in compliance for 2 weeks
Virginia				
VIEW	Entire benefit	1 month[+]	Entire benefit	6 months[+]
All, except VIEW[10]	—	—	—	—
Washington	Adult portion of benefit or 40% (whichever is greater)	Until in compliance for 4 weeks	Adult portion of benefit or 40% (whichever is greater)	Until in compliance for 4 weeks
West Virginia	33.3%	3 months	Entire benefit	3 months[+]

Table III.B.3 Sanction Policies for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2005

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)
Wisconsin				
W-2 Transition and Community Service Jobs	Minimum wage times the number of hours of nonparticipation	Until compliance	Entire benefit	Permanent[25]
Unsubsidized	—	—	—	—
Trial Jobs	Decrease in wages[26]	Until compliance[26]	Entire earnings	Permanent[25]
Wyoming	Entire benefit	Until compliance	Entire benefit	Until compliance

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

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

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

* Data not obtained.

[1] This sanction applies to noncompliance that occurs during the first 24 months of assistance. For noncompliances that occur after the first 24 months, the entire unit is ineligible for benefits for one month.
[2] The initial sanction reduces the benefit by 40 percent of the Maximum Payment for the family size, not 40 percent of the current grant amount.
[3] For the seventh and subsequent months of noncompliance, the caseworker has discretion to either reduce the unit's benefits by 50 percent or close the case. If the case is closed, the unit may reapply for its full benefits, but the application will be pending until the unit has complied with requirements for two weeks.
[4] Counties have the option to determine the amount and duration of sanctions. These policies refer to Denver County.
[5] Cash assistance may still be provided to the children in the unit who are under age 16; these benefits are issued to a protective payee.
[6] If noncompliance continues after three months of reduced benefits, the entire unit is ineligible for benefits until compliance.
[7] The sanctioned parent must also sign a family investment agreement and complete 20 hours of eligible education or work activities to become eligible again. The sanction continues until the parent fully complies.
[8] The pro rata portion of the benefit equals the total monthly benefit divided by the number of members in the unit.
[9] A caseworker's judgment may be used to determine whether the unit must be in compliance for two weeks before regaining benefits.
[10] Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they have no sanctions (see appendix 1 for a description of components).
[11] The initial sanction does not reduce benefits. Recipients are given a written warning detailing the consequences of subsequent failures to comply.
[12] The initial sanction reduces the benefit by 10 percent of the Transitional Standard, not 10 percent of the current grant amount.
[13] If noncompliance continues for more than a 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.
[14] The Adjusted Payment Standard refers to the new benefit amount once the adult portion is removed. Additionally, the recipient must participate in an assessment of barriers to participation. If barriers are found, the recipient's training and support program is revised accordingly. If no barriers are found, financial assistance is terminated for the entire unit.
[15] If noncompliance continues after three months, the case is closed and the unit must reapply for further assistance.
[16] The individual is placed on probationary status for the following school term to improve GPA or meet the educational institution's standards.
[17] 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 Educational Works Program.
[18] If noncompliance continues after one month of reduced benefits, the case is closed.
[19] If the adult is noncompliant for one month or less, only the adult portion of the benefit is removed. If noncompliance continues after one month of reduced benefits, the case is closed.
[20] This sanction applies to noncompliance that occurs during the first 24 months of assistance. For noncompliances that occur after the first 24 months, the entire unit is ineligible for benefits for 30 days or until compliance, whichever is longer.
[21] This sanction applies to noncompliance that occurs after the first 24 months of assistance. For noncompliances that occur within the first 24 months of assistance, the needs of the sanctioned individual are permanently excluded for benefit calculation.
[22] 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.
[23] If noncompliance continues after two months of reduced benefits, the entire unit is ineligible for benefits until compliance.
[24] The entire unit is ineligible if the adult is in noncompliance for two or more months. If the adult is noncompliant for less than two months, only $100 of the benefit is removed.

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

[26] If a recipient has an unplanned and/or unexcused absence, the Trial Jobs employer has the discretion to decrease the recipient's wages. If a Trial Jobs recipient completely refuses to participate in the Trial Jobs component, he or she receives two warnings from the TANF agency and then becomes ineligible for the Trial Jobs component for life.

Ongoing Eligibility

IV. Ongoing Eligibility

The tables in this chapter of the *Databook* describe key aspects of the rules that affect recipients' ongoing eligibility as of July 2005. After a family applies for assistance and passes all eligibility tests, its members become recipients and a benefit is calculated. However, the recipient unit still faces eligibility requirements that affect its ability to continue receiving benefits. Most states impose income and asset tests on recipients, which generally differ from the initial eligibility tests for applicants. When the requirements differ, states typically allow recipients more generous eligibility thresholds.

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

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

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

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

Two-parent eligibility for recipients: For states providing benefits to two-parent families, table IV.A.1 describes special eligibility rules imposed on two-parent recipients where neither parent is disabled ("UP," or unemployed-parent families, in the former AFDC program).[18] In addition to the standard eligibility tests that all recipient units must pass, some states impose "hours tests" on two-parent units. Under an hours test, the unit is not eligible if the principal wage earner is working more than a specified number of hours a month. States may apply this rule when determining the initial and/or continuing eligibility of two-parent families.

Related tables: See table I.B.2 for details on the hours test for applicants and table L2 for information on the rules for two-parent units from 1996 through 2005.

Treatment of child support income: Table IV.A.2 describes each state's treatment of child support income for recipients. TANF recipients are required to assign their child support income to the state. The state then decides what portion, if any, of the child support collected is returned to the family as unearned income and how much of that income counts as income for eligibility and benefit computation.[19] The amount of income transferred and disregarded may differ for eligibility calculations and benefit computation.

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

[18] North Dakota no longer provides TANF benefits to two-parent, nondisabled units. Also, in some states, benefits are provided to two-parent units under a "separate state program" funded by state monies rather than the TANF grant. The table includes those states as providing benefits to two-parent families regardless of the funding source.
[19] States are required to pay a share (equal to the state's Medicaid match rate) of all child support collected on behalf of TANF recipients to the federal government. States may still provide all child support collected to the recipient; in that case, the state must use other funds to pay the federal share.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Related tables: See tables L8 and L9 for information on asset rules in effect from 1996 through 2005. See table I.C.1 for the asset tests applied at application.

Income eligibility tests for recipients: Table IV.A.4 describes states' rules for the income eligibility tests that determine whether a recipient (whose income may have increased since initial eligibility) is eligible to continue receiving benefits. The table indicates which state income standard is used for each test. To determine the value of the particular standard for a family size of three, see table I.E.3.

This table describes the income tests imposed in addition to the implicit income test imposed by benefit computation. 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."

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

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

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

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

Related tables: Table I.E.4 provides information on the amount of earnings an applicant may have and become eligible for assistance. Table L3 provides this information for 1996 through 2005.

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. Under AFDC, when a child was born to a member of an assistance unit, the benefit increased to meet the needs of the new child; however, many states have changed this policy. Family cap policies, as most states refer to them, prevent or limit an increase in a family's benefit when another child is born. In these states, the benefit increase an assistance unit would otherwise receive for adding another member to the unit will be limited. Some states provide a percentage of the increase to the unit, while others provide no additional funds to the unit for the addition of a child.

<u>Family caps</u>: Table IV.B.1 describes states' family cap policies. The table first indicates whether the state imposes a family cap, and then provides the number of months following the case opening after which a newborn child is excluded from the assistance unit. The table also describes the impact on the benefit when an additional child is born (whether there is no increase in benefit, or some increase smaller than what would occur in the absence of a family cap). In some cases, the amount of cash paid directly to the family does not increase, but the increment that would have been paid in the absence of the policy is instead paid to a third party or provided in the form of a voucher. That information is noted in the table as "third-party payment" or "voucher" and is explained further in the footnotes. States with "disregard" displayed in the table increase the earned income disregards for families that have a capped child; again, more details are provided in the footnotes. The table also indicates how long a cap, once applied, endures. The

table indicates “always capped” if a family is never able to regain benefits for a capped child, even after the case has been closed for a period. Otherwise, the table provides the number of months a family must remain off the rolls for the cap to be removed—that is, for the child to be included in the benefit computation should the family apply for assistance again. States conducting demonstration projects that subject units to a family cap in a few counties, but not statewide, are footnoted.

Related tables: Table L10 indicates the presence of family cap policies in 1996 through 2005.

C. How long can a family receive benefits?

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

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

Lifetime time limit: Under TANF, the federal government imposed a maximum 60-month lifetime limit on receipt of TANF funds. Therefore, after 60 months of receiving federally funded TANF benefits, either consecutively or nonconsecutively, an assistance unit is generally no longer eligible for federal cash assistance.[20] Some states have adopted shorter lifetime limits, while others have chosen to fund recipients after the 60 months with state dollars. A few states have also chosen to terminate benefits only for the adults in the unit, in which case all children in the assistance unit remain eligible for benefits after the lifetime limit expires.

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

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

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

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

Table IV.C.2 describes other state time limit policies.[21] The first column describes the type of other time limit imposed, while the second and third columns identify whose benefits are terminated.

Exemptions and extensions: Exemption and extension policies are important for understanding time limits in the states. Exemptions and extensions could significantly increase the number of months, beyond the state and/or federal time limit, that an assistance unit may receive benefits and, depending on the criteria, a substantial portion of the caseload could be exempted or extended.

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

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

Table IV.A.1 Eligibility Rules for Two-Parent, Nondisabled Recipient Units, July 2005

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

Table IV.A.1 Eligibility Rules for Two-Parent, Nondisabled Recipient Units, July 2005

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

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

Note: In some states, benefits are provided to two-parent units under a state-funded program instead of through federal TANF. The table describes the treatment of two-parent units regardless of the funding source.
[1] North Dakota does not provide benefits to two-parent, nondisabled units.

Table IV.A.2 Treatment of Child Support Income for Recipients, July 2005[1]			
	Amount of child support collection counted for recipients' eligibility determination[2]	Portion of Child Support Collection Transferred to the Family:	
State		Amount transferred	Amount of transfer disregarded for benefit computation
Alabama	None[3]	—	—
Alaska	All but $50	$50	$50
Arizona	None[3]	—[4]	—[4]
Arkansas	All	—	—
California	All but $50	$50 [4]	$50 [4]
Colorado	All	—	—
Connecticut	All but $50	$50	$50
Delaware	All but $50	$50 plus Child Support Supplement[5]	All
D.C.	No income eligibility tests	—	—
Florida	All	—	—
Georgia	None[3]	Amount of unmet need[6]	All [6]
Hawaii	All	State Supplement[7]	All
Idaho	No income eligibility tests	—	—
Illinois	All but $50	$50	$50
Indiana	*	—	—
Iowa	None[3]	—	—
Kansas	All	—	—
Kentucky	All but $50	—	—
Louisiana	No income eligibility tests	—	—
Maine	All but $50	$50 plus amount of unmet need[8]	All
Maryland	All	—	—
Massachusetts	All but $50	$50 [9]	$50 [9]
Michigan	*	$50	$50
Minnesota	All	All	0
Mississippi	All	—	—
Missouri	All	—	—
Montana	None[3]	No transfer, up to $100 added to TANF payment[10]	—
Nebraska	No income eligibility tests	—	—
Nevada	All	—	—
New Hampshire	No income eligibility tests	—	—
New Jersey	All but $50	$50	$50
New Mexico	All but $50	$50	$50
New York	All but $50	$50	$50
North Carolina	All	—	—
North Dakota	All	—	—
Ohio	All	—	—
Oklahoma	All	—	—
Oregon	All	—	—
Pennsylvania	All but $50	$50 [11]	$50 [11]
Rhode Island	All but $50	$50	$50
South Carolina	All	Gap payment[12]	All
South Dakota	All	—	—
Tennessee	None[3]	Amount of unmet need[13]	All[13]
Texas	All but $50	No transfer, up to $50 added to TANF payment[14]	—
Utah	All	—	—
Vermont	All but $50	All	$50
Virginia	All but $50	$50 transfer, plus TANF Match Payment[15]	All
Washington	All	—	—

Table IV.A.2 Treatment of Child Support Income for Recipients, July 2005[1]

State	Amount of child support collection counted for recipients' eligibility determination[2]	Portion of Child Support Collection Transferred to the Family: Amount transferred	Portion of Child Support Collection Transferred to the Family: Amount of transfer disregarded for benefit computation
West Virginia	All but $50	No transfer, $25 Child Support Incentive[16]	—
Wisconsin	None[3]	All	All
Wyoming	No income eligibility tests	—	—

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

* Data not obtained.

[1] This table describes the treatment of child support collected by the state on behalf of a TANF recipient, and does not cover the treatment of child support received by the family directly from the absent parent. Child support collections may be counted as income for eligibility purposes regardless of whether they are transferred to the family, but child support retained by the state is never counted for purposes of benefit computation. Although many states have created unique child support policies, some states still provide families with the traditional $50 "pass-through" used under AFDC. The traditional pass-through is represented in this table with "All but $50" in the first column, and "$50" in the second and third columns. Also, this table does not cover the transfer of child support payments in excess of current or total TANF benefits.
[2] Some states with values displayed in this column do not have income eligibility tests for recipients according to table IV.A.4. 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).
[3] States that do not count any child support collections for calculating recipients' eligibility generally use other methods to ensure that families with high and continuing child support amounts do not remain on the rolls indefinitely.
[4] Any child support collected on behalf of a child subject to a family cap is transferred to the family and treated as exempt income.
[5] In addition to the $50 pass-through payment, Delaware provides a supplemental child support payment. This payment is calculated by subtracting a recipient's current disposable income from his or her disposable income as it would have been calculated in 1975.
[6] The amount of child support collected or the amount of unmet need, whichever is smaller, is transferred to the family as unearned income and disregarded for benefit determination. The unmet need, also called the gap payment, is calculated as the Standard of Need for the unit's family size minus the Family Maximum for the unit's family size minus the unit's net income. For units affected by the family cap, the amount of unmet need is calculated using the Standard of Need for the family size that includes the capped child but using the Family Maximum that excludes the capped child.
[7] The State Supplement is equal to the amount of child support received times (one minus Hawaii's Medicaid Match Rate). In 2005, the portion of child support passed-through to each recipient was 41.53 percent.
[8] In addition to the $50 pass-through, the amount of unmet need, also known as the gap payment, is transferred to the family as unearned income and disregarded for benefit determination. The unmet need is the Standard of Need for the unit's family size minus the Maximum Benefit for the unit's family size minus the unit's net income. After the pass-through, the state transfers child support in the amount of the unmet need for the family, up to the amount of child support collected.
[9] All child support collected on behalf of a child subject to the family cap is transferred to the family. For children subject to the family cap, the first $90 of unearned income, including child support, is disregarded for eligibility and benefit computation; the rest is counted.
[10] The state will add any child support collected up to $100 to the TANF payment. This money is considered an addition to the TANF payment, not a pass-through of child support income, and is disregarded for eligibility purposes.
[11] The total pass-through amount is equal to the amount of child support received times (one minus Pennsylvania's Medicaid Match Rate), up to a maximum of $50. In 2005, the portion of child support passed through was 46.16 percent.
[12] The gap payment equals 63.7 percent of the smaller of retained child support for the month or the maximum amount that would not make the family ineligible for TANF if counted as income. The state defines the term "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.
[13] The amount of child support collected or the amount of unmet need, whichever is smaller, is transferred to the family as unearned income and disregarded for benefit determination. In Tennessee, the unmet need, also known as the gap payment, is calculated as the Consolidated Need Standard for the unit's family size minus the unit's TANF grant minus the unit's net income.
[14] 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 $50. This money is considered an addition to the TANF benefit, not a pass-through of child support income, and is disregarded for eligibility purposes.
[15] The TANF Match Payment equals all the child support collected in excess of the $50 pass-through. It is added to the TANF payment and is considered an addition to the TANF benefit, not a pass-through of child support income.
[16] A $25 Child Support Incentive Payment is added to the monthly TANF benefit whenever any child support is collected, regardless of the amount. It is considered an addition to the TANF benefit, not a pass-through of child support income.

Table IV.A.3 Asset Limits for Recipients, July 2005

			Restricted Asset Accounts:		
State	Asset limit	Vehicle exemption	Amount	Description	Matching rate
Alabama	$2,000/$3,000[1]	All vehicles owned by household	—-	—-	—
Alaska	$2,000/$3,000[1]	All vehicles owned by household[2]	—-	—-	—
Arizona	$2,000	All vehicles owned by household[3]	$9,000 [4]	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	None
Arkansas	$3,000	One vehicle per household	—-	—-	—
California	$2,000/$3,000[1]	$4,650[F]/One vehicle per licensed driver[5E]	$5,000	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	None
Colorado	$2,000	One vehicle per household	Amount determined by county	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	*
Connecticut	$3,000	$9,500[6E]	No limit	Postsecondary education of a dependent child, IRAs, Keoghs, 401(k) plans	None
Delaware	$1,000	$4,650[E]	$5,000	Dependent care expenses, security deposit for a home, purchase or repair of a vehicle, educational expenses, business expenses or investments	None
D.C.	$2,000/$3,000[1]	All vehicles owned by household	—-	—-	—
Florida	$2,000	$8,500[E]	Varies[7]	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	Up to $1,500 a year[8]
Georgia	$1,000	$1,500/$4,650[9E]	$5,000	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	*
Hawaii	$5,000	All vehicles owned by household	*	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	*
Idaho	$2,000	$4,650[10F]	—-	—-	—
Illinois	$2,000/$3,000/+$50[11]	One vehicle per household [12]	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business; purchase of a vehicle[13]	2 to 1
Indiana	$1,500	$5,000[E]	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	*
Iowa	$5,000	One vehicle per household [14]	All deposits and interest	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business; home improvement, medical emergencies	1 to 1[15]

Table IV.A.3 Asset Limits for Recipients, July 2005

State	Asset limit	Vehicle exemption	Restricted Asset Accounts: Amount	Restricted Asset Accounts: Description	Restricted Asset Accounts: Matching rate
Kansas	$2,000	All vehicles owned by household[16]	*	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	*
Kentucky	$2,000 [17]	All vehicles owned by household	$5,000	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	*
Louisiana	$2,000	All vehicles owned by household	$6,000	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business; payments for work-related clothing, tools, or equipment	None
Maine	$2,000	One vehicle per household	$10,000 [18]	Family development accounts: Education, purchase of a home, repairs to a vehicle or home, business startup	2 to1[19]
Maryland	$2,000	All vehicles owned by household	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	*
Massachusetts	$2,500	$5,000[E]/$10,000[20F]	—-	—-	—
Michigan	$3,000	All vehicles owned by household	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	*
Minnesota	$5,000	$7,500[21E]	—-	—-	—
Mississippi	$2,000 [22]	All vehicles owned by household[23]	—-	—-	—
Missouri	$5,000	One vehicle per household[24]	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[25]	—-	—-	—
Nebraska	$4,000/$6,000[26]	One vehicle per household[27]	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	None
Nevada	$2,000	One vehicle per household	*[28]	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	*
New Hampshire	$2,000	One vehicle per licensed driver	$2,000	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	3 to 1
New Jersey	$2,000	$9,500 [29F]	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business; purchase of a vehicle	*

Table IV.A.3 Asset Limits for Recipients, July 2005

State	Asset limit	Vehicle exemption	Restricted Asset Accounts: Amount	Restricted Asset Accounts: Description	Restricted Asset Accounts: Matching rate
New Mexico	$3,500 [30]	All vehicles owned by household[31]	No limit[32]	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	None
New York	$2,000/$3,000[1]	$4,650[33F]	No limit[34]	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	None
North Carolina	$3,000	One vehicle per adult	—-	—-	—
North Dakota	$3,000/$6,000/+$25[35]	One vehicle per household	—-	—-	—
Ohio	No limit[36]	All vehicles owned by household	$10,000	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	2 to 1
Oklahoma	$1,000	$5,000[E]	$2,000	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	None
Oregon					
All, except JOBS	$10,000 [37]	$10,000[E]	—	—	—
JOBS/JOBS Plus	$10,000 [37]	$10,000[E]	No limit	Education account	1 to hr. worked[38]
Pennsylvania	$1,000	One vehicle per household	No limit	Postsecondary education savings account, IDA accounts	1 to 1 [39]
Rhode Island	$1,000	One vehicle per adult[40]	—-	—-	—
South Carolina	$2,500	One vehicle per licensed driver[41]	$10,000	IDA accounts: Lump-sum income deposited within 30 days of receipt	None
South Dakota	$2,000	One vehicle per household[42]	—-	—-	—
Tennessee	$2,000	$4,600[E]	$5,000	Profits from a business enterprise in escrow in a Low-Income Entrepreneurial Escrow Account	None
Texas	$1,000 [43]	$4,650 [44F]	No limit[45]	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	1 to 1[46]
Utah	$2,000	$8,000 [47E]	—-	—-	—
Vermont	$1,000 [48]	One vehicle per adult	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	*
Virginia	No limit[36]	All vehicles owned by household	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	2 to 1
Washington	$1,000 [49]	$5,000 [47E]	No limit	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business	*

Table IV.A.3 Asset Limits for Recipients, July 2005

			Restricted Asset Accounts		
State	Asset limit	Vehicle exemption	Amount	Description	Matching rate
West Virginia	$2,000	One vehicle per household	—	—	—
Wisconsin	$2,500	$10,000[E]	$3,000 [50]	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education or training, purchase of a first home, capitalization of a small business[51]	2 to 1[50]
Wyoming	$2,500	$15,000 [51F]	—	—	—

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

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

* Data not obtained.

[1] Units including an elderly person may exempt $3,000; all other units exempt $2,000.
[2] Vehicle 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 they are 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] Recreational vehicles are not exempt.
[4] In addition, 50 percent of earned income that is deposited into an IDA is disregarded for eligibility and benefit computation. The monthly value of the disregard cannot exceed $50.
[5] Each vehicle must be evaluated for both its equity and fair-market value; the higher of the two values counts against the family's asset limit. Before this calculation, all the following vehicles are completely excluded: (1) used primarily for income-producing purposes; (2) produces annual income consistent with its fair-market value; (3) is necessary for long-distance travel that is essential for employment; (4) used as the family's residence; (5) is necessary to transport a physically disabled household member; (6) would be exempt under previously stated exemptions but the vehicle is not in use because of temporary unemployment; (7) used to carry fuel or water to the home and is the primary method of obtaining fuel or water; and (8) the equity value of the vehicle is $1,501 or less. To determine the countable fair-market value of each remaining vehicle, exclude $4,650 from the vehicle's fair-market value. To determine the countable equity value of each remaining vehicle, exclude one additional vehicle per adult and one additional vehicle per licensed child who uses the vehicle to travel to school, employment, or job search. The full equity value of each remaining vehicle is counted. For each vehicle not completely excluded, the higher of the fair-market value or the equity value counts against the family's asset limit.
[6] The unit may exempt $9,500 of the equity value of a vehicle or the entire value of one vehicle used to transport a handicapped person.
[7] Amount depends upon the savings goal agreed upon by the participant and the Regional Work Board.
[8] The match rate is determined on a case-by-case basis and cannot exceed $1,500 a year.
[9] If the vehicle is used to look for work, or to travel to work or education and training, the unit may exclude $4,650 of the value. If the vehicle is not used for these purposes, $1,500 of the equity value will be excluded. If the vehicle is used more than 50 percent of the time to produce income or as a dwelling, it is totally excluded.
[10] The value of one specially equipped vehicle used to transport a disabled family member is also exempt, and vehicles with a fair-market value under $1,500 are exempt.
[11] The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $2,000, two people receive $3,000, and three or more receive another $50 for each additional person.
[12] 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] 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.
[14] Additionally, $4,164 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] The state matches $0.50 for every dollar of a recipient's assets. In addition, $0.50 of federal funds are added to the recipient's IDA account.
[16] Campers and trailers are also considered excludable vehicles.
[17] Only liquid resources will be considered for eligibility determinations. Liquid resources include cash, checking and savings accounts, CDs, stocks and bonds, and money market accounts.
[18] Up to $10,000 of nonrecurring lump-sum income may be disregarded if used within 30 days.
[19] Community agencies will contribute matching funds up to $2,000 a year.
[20] 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; however, if the value of the vehicle exceeds both limits, only the excess of the greater amount counts toward the asset limit.
[21] Minnesota uses the loan value of the vehicle as listed in the current NADA Used Car Guide, Midwest edition instead of the fair-market value. The loan value is generally slightly less than the estimated fair-market value.
[22] When a TANF recipient marries while receiving assistance, the resources of the new spouse are disregarded for six months.
[23] Recreational vehicles (unless used as a home), all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), and other off-road vehicles are not exempt. Additionally, industrial vehicles (i.e., 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.
[24] $1,500 of the equity value of the unit's second vehicle is exempt.
[25] All income-producing vehicles are also exempt.
[26] The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $4,000; two or more people receive $6,000.
[27] The entire vehicle is exempt only if used for employment, training, or medical transportation; any motor vehicle used as a home is also exempt. If a unit has more than one vehicle that meets the exemption criteria, only the vehicle with the greatest equity value will be exempt.
[28] Individuals can only deposit earned income into the IDA; the amount of earned income will be considered an earned income disregard in determining eligibility and benefit amounts.
[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] The total limit is $3,500, but only $1,500 of that amount can be in liquid resources and only $2,000 can be in nonliquid resources. Liquid resources include the (convertible) cash value of life insurance policies, cash, stocks, bonds, negotiable notes, purchase contracts, and other similar assets. Nonliquid resources include nonexempt vehicles, equipment, tools, livestock (with the exception of nonsalable domestic pets), one-time sale asset conversion, and lump-sum payments.
[31] The entire vehicle is exempt only if used for transportation to work, work activities, or daily living requirements.
[32] The state does not limit the amount of money a unit may save for postsecondary education or business capitalization, but the unit may only save $1,500 toward the purchase of a new home.
[33] If the vehicle is needed to seek or retain employment, $9,300 of its fair-market value is exempt.
[34] In addition to the IDA account, recipients may exempt up to $4,650 for the purchase 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.
[35] The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $3,000, two people receive $6,000, and three or more people receive an additional $25 for each additional person.
[36] The asset test has been eliminated.
[37] The limit is reduced to $2,500 if the recipient does not cooperate with his or her case plan.
[38] The participant's employer contributes $1 for every hour the participant works.
[39] The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development will match 100 percent of deposits into a Family Savings Account (IDA) up to $1,000 a year. Non-IDA postsecondary education savings accounts are not subject to a match rate.
[40] Exemptions for adult drivers cannot exceed two vehicles per household. Additionally, the entire value of a vehicle used primarily for income-producing purposes, that is used as a family home, or that is used to provide transportation for a disabled family member is exempt.
[41] 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.
[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, a vehicle used to transport a disabled member or SSI recipient in household, or a vehicle used in producing income or as a home; an assistance unit may also exclude $4,650 of the fair-market value of a vehicle used to transport members of the unit for education or employment.
[43] When a TANF recipient marries while receiving assistance, the liquid resources of the new spouse are excluded for six months beginning the month after the date of the marriage. To receive the disregard, the resources must result from the new spouse's earnings and total gross income must not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
[44] $4,650 is exempt for each vehicle owned by a TANF-certified or disqualified household member. All licensed vehicles used for income-producing purposes or for transporting a disabled household member are exempt. Leased vehicles are exempt as long as the title is in the leasing company's name.
[45] Only deposits from earnings or EITCs are disregarded. Any withdrawals from an IDA account made for non-allowable purposes are counted as resources.
[46] IDAs are generally matched dollar for dollar with funds from private citizens, corporations, banks, communities, or charitable organizations.
[47] The entire equity value of a vehicle used to transport a disabled household member is also exempt.
[48] In addition to the $1,000 asset limit, up to 100 percent of the unit's total gross earnings from the previous month, if placed in a savings account, will not count toward its asset limit.
[49] $3,000 held in a savings account or certificate of deposit may also be excluded.
[50] The information in the table refers to the WISCAP IDA program. There are two other IDA programs in Wisconsin for which data on limits, uses, and matching were unavailable.
[51] The $15,000 exemption applies to one vehicle for a single-parent unit. A married couple may split the exemption between two cars.

Table IV.A.4 Income Eligibility Tests for Recipients, July 2005

State	Type of test	Income must be less than
Alabama	No explicit tests	---
Alaska	Gross income	185% of Need Standard
	Net income	100% of Need Standard
Arizona	Gross income	185% of Need Standard
	Net income	100% of Need Standard
Arkansas	Net income	100% of Income Eligibility Standard
California	No explicit tests	---
Colorado	Gross income	185% of Need Standard[1]
Connecticut	Gross earnings	100% of Federal Poverty Level
	Unearned income	100% of Need Standard and 100% of Payment Standard
Delaware	Gross income	185% of Standard of Need
	Net income	100% of Standard of Need
D.C.	No explicit tests	---
Florida	Gross income	185% of Federal Poverty Level
Georgia	Gross income	185% of Standard of Need
Hawaii	Gross income	185% of Standard of Need
	Net income	100% of Standard of Need
Idaho	No explicit tests	---
Illinois	No explicit tests	---
Indiana	Net income	100% of Federal Poverty Level
Iowa	Gross income	185% of Need Standard
Kansas	No explicit tests	---
Kentucky	Gross income	185% of Standard of Need[2]
Louisiana	No explicit tests	---
Maine	Gross income	100% of Gross Income Test
Maryland	No explicit tests	---
Massachusetts	Gross income	185% of Need Standard and Payment Standard
Michigan	No explicit tests	---
Minnesota	No explicit tests	---
Mississippi	Gross income	185% of Need Standard and Payment Standard[2]
Missouri	Gross income	185% of Need Standard
Montana	Gross income	185% of Net Monthly Income Standard
Nebraska	No explicit tests	---
Nevada	Gross income	185% of Need Standard[2]
New Hampshire	No explicit tests	---
New Jersey[3]	No explicit tests	---
New Mexico	Gross income	85% of Federal Poverty Level
New York	Gross income	185% of Need Standard and 100% of Federal Poverty Level
North Carolina	No explicit tests	---
North Dakota	No explicit tests	---
Ohio	No explicit tests	---
Oklahoma	Gross income	185% of Need Standard
Oregon		
All, except JOBS Plus	Gross income	100% of Countable Income Limit
JOBS Plus	Gross income	100% of Food Stamp Countable Income Limit
Pennsylvania	No explicit tests	---
Rhode Island	No explicit tests	---
South Carolina	Gross income	185% of Need Standard

Table IV.A.4 Income Eligibility Tests for Recipients, July 2005

State	Type of test	Income must be less than
South Dakota	No explicit tests	—
Tennessee[4]	Gross income	185% of Consolidated Need Standard
Texas	Net income	100% of Recognizable Needs
Utah	Gross income	185% of Adjusted Standard Needs Budget
	Net income	100% of Adjusted Standard Needs Budget
Vermont	Gross income	185% of Need Standard
	Net income	100% of Need Standard
Virginia		
VIEW[5]	Gross earnings	100% of Federal Poverty Level
	Unearned income	100% of Standard of Assistance
All, except VIEW	Gross income	185% of Standard of Need
Washington	Gross earnings	100% of Maximum Gross Earned Income
West Virginia	Gross income	100% of Standard of Need
Wisconsin	Gross income	115% of Federal Poverty Level
Wyoming	No explicit tests	—

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

Note: "No explicit tests" indicates either that the state either 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 I.E.3 for information on eligibility standards.

[1] The gross income test does not apply to earnings for recipients who are receiving the 66.7 percent benefit computation disregard.
[2] The gross income test does not apply to earnings for recipients who are receiving the 100 percent benefit computation disregard.
[3] In households where the natural or adoptive parent is married to a non-needy stepparent, the gross household income may not exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty level.
[4] When a caretaker marries while receiving assistance, the spouse's income is also subject to the gross income test (185 percent of the Consolidated Need Standard for the current assistance group plus the spouse). The outcome of this test determines whether the spouse can be included in the assistance unit and whether his income is deemed. For additional information, see table II.A.2.
[5] For two-parent units to be eligible, their gross earned income must be below 150 percent of the federal poverty level and their unearned income must be below 100 percent of the Standard of Need.

Table IV.A.5 Maximum Income for Ongoing Eligibility for a Family of Three,[1] July 2005

	Maximum Earnings a Recipient Can Retain and Still Remain Eligible for Assistance in Month:			
State	2	7	13	25
Alabama	No maximum	$430	$269	$269
Alaska	$2,030	$2,030	$1,829	$1,724
Arizona	$586	$586	$586	$586
Arkansas	$697	$697	$697	$697
California				
Nonexempt	$1,633	$1,633	$1,633	$1,633
Exempt	$1,797	$1,797	$1,797	$1,797
Colorado	$1,264	$1,264	$751	$511
Connecticut	$1,341	$1,341	$1,341	$1,341
Delaware	$1,588	$1,099	$1,069	$1,069
D.C.	$1,297	$1,297	$1,297	$1,297
Florida	$806	$806	$806	$806
Georgia	$756	$544	$514	$514
Hawaii	$1,363	$1,363	$1,363	$1,363
Idaho	$648	$648	$648	$648
Illinois	$1,185	$1,185	$1,185	$1,185
Indiana	$1,151	$1,151	$1,151	$1,151
Iowa	$1,065	$1,065	$1,065	$1,065
Kansas	$805	$805	$805	$805
Kentucky	No maximum	$646	$646	$616
Louisiana	$1,260	$360	$360	$360
Maine	$1,023	$1,023	$1,023	$1,023
Maryland	$803	$803	$803	$803
Massachusetts				
Exempt	$1,069	$1,069	$1,069	$1,069
Nonexempt	$1,143	$1,143	$1,143	$1,143
Michigan	$774	$774	$774	$774
Minnesota[2]	$968	$968	$968	$968
Mississippi	No maximum	$458	$458	$458
Missouri	$1,146	$1,146	$382	$382
Montana	$700	$700	$700	$700
Nebraska	$802	$802	$802	$802
Nevada	No maximum	$696	$435	$435
New Hampshire	$1,248	$1,248	$1,248	$1,248
New Jersey	$848	$848	$848	$848
New Mexico	$1,056 [3]	$1,056 [3]	$1,056 [3]	$901
New York	$1,272	$1,272	$1,272	$1,272
North Carolina	No maximum	$681	$681	$681
North Dakota	$1,252	$963	$835	$626
Ohio	$994	$994	$994	$994
Oklahoma	$704	$704	$704	$704
Oregon	$616	$616	$616	$616
Pennsylvania	$806	$806	$806	$806
Rhode Island	$1,278	$1,278	$1,278	$1,278
South Carolina	$1,206	$752	$752	$752
South Dakota	$724	$724	$724	$724
Tennessee	$1,091	$1,091	$1,091	$1,091

Table IV.A.5 Maximum Income for Ongoing Eligibility for a Family of Three,[1] July 2005

	Maximum Earnings a Recipient Can Retain and Still Remain Eligible for Assistance in Month:			
State	2	7	13	25
Texas	$1,708	$308	$308	$308 [4]
Utah	$1,046	$1,046	$1,046	$1,046
Vermont	$1,002	$1,002	$1,002	$1,002
Virginia				
VIEW	$1,341	$1,341	$1,341	$1,341
All, except VIEW	$134	$134	$134	$134
Washington	$1,090	$1,090	$1,090	$1,090
West Virginia	$565	$565	$565	$565
Wisconsin	—[5]	—[5]	—[5]	—[5]
Wyoming	$540	$540	$540	$540

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

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

[1] The values in this table represent the maximum amount of earnings a recipient in various months of combining work and TANF can retain and still be "technically" eligible for assistance in each state. Technical eligibility does not mean the unit will necessarily receive a cash benefit, but it will have passed all the eligibility tests and is eligible for some positive amount. Most states only distribute a cash benefit equaling $10 or more.
[2] This table captures the maximum amount a recipient can earn and remain technically eligible for a MFIP grant. Families earning more than $968 are only eligible for the food portion of the grant. For these families, TANF time limits do not apply and the families no longer assign child support to the state. They remain eligible for child care and employment services.
[3] For purposes of the state's earned income disregard, the adult head is assumed to be working 40 hours a week.
[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 the recipient may receive the 90 percent disregard in the 25th month of combining work and welfare.
[5] Units with earnings at application will not receive a cash benefit in the state. However, applicants may earn up to $1,542 and still be eligible for nonfinancial assistance.

Table IV.B.1 Family Cap Policies, July 2005

State	Special treatment of additional children	Special treatment if child born more than X months after case opening	Increase in cash benefit for an additional child (and special provisions)	Special treatment discontinued if case closed X months[1]
Alabama	No	—	—	—
Alaska	No	—	—	—
Arizona	Yes	10	None (disregard)[2]	Always capped
Arkansas	Yes	1	None	6
California	Yes	10 [3]	None	24
Colorado	No	—	—	—
Connecticut	Yes	10	$50	Always capped
Delaware	Yes[4]	10	None	Always capped
D.C.	No	—	—	—
Florida	Yes	10	Half of normal increment for first child subject to cap[5]	Always capped
Georgia	Yes	10	Varies[6]	Always capped
Hawaii	No	—	—	—
Idaho	No[7]	—	—	—
Illinois	No[8]	—	—	—
Indiana	Yes	10	None	Always capped
Iowa	No	—	—	—
Kansas	No	—	—	—
Kentucky	No	—	—	—
Louisiana	No	—	—	—
Maine	No	—	—	—
Maryland	Yes[9]	10	None (third-party payment)[10]	Always third-party payment
Massachusetts	Yes	10	None (disregard)[11]	Always capped
Michigan	No	—	—	—
Minnesota	Yes	10	None[12]	10
Mississippi	Yes	10	None	Always capped
Missouri	No	—	—	—
Montana	No	—	—	—
Nebraska	Yes	10	None	6
Nevada	No	—	—	—
New Hampshire	No	—	—	—
New Jersey	Yes	10	None (earner exemption)[13]	12 [14]
New Mexico	No	—	—	—
New York	No	—	—	—
North Carolina	Yes	10	None	Always capped
North Dakota	Yes	8	None	12
Ohio	No	—	—	—
Oklahoma	Yes	10	None (voucher)[15]	Always capped
Oregon	No	—	—	—
Pennsylvania	No	—	—	—
Rhode Island	No	—	—	—
South Carolina	Yes	10	None (voucher)[16]	Always capped
South Dakota	No	—	—	—
Tennessee	Yes	10	None	3 [17]
Texas	No	—	—	—
Utah	No	—	—	—

Table IV.B.1 Family Cap Policies, July 2005

State	Special treatment of additional children	Special treatment if child born more than X months after case opening	Increase in cash benefit for an additional child (and special provisions)	Special treatment discontinued if case closed X months[1]
Vermont	No	—	—	—
Virginia	Yes	10	None	Always capped
Washington	No	—	—	—
West Virginia	No	—	—	—
Wisconsin	No[18]	—	—	—
Wyoming	Yes	10 [19]	None	Always capped

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

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

[1] This column describes the number of months a unit must remain off assistance to regain eligibility for a previously capped child. Some states permanently exclude capped children even if the unit cycles on and off assistance, while other states may include previously capped children in benefit and eligibility calculations if the unit has not received assistance for a specified period.
[2] Units subjected to the family cap receive an additional disregard equal to the lost benefit amount. This additional disregard is allowed for each month the member is excluded due to a cap. The capped child will be included in the Standard of Need. Additionally, the entire amount of child support collected for a benefit capped child is passed through to the unit and is not counted for eligibility determination or benefit computation.
[3] Children born less than 10 months after case opening are not subject to the family cap provided the unit leaves assistance for two months during the 10-month period leading up to the birth.
[4] 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 they will not be automatically given each month. Receipt is based on need, and the total monthly value of the vouchers is capped at $69.
[5] The normal increment is the additional amount a unit receives for adding a person to the unit. For instance, a two-person unit that adds a child may receive another $30 each month since it is now a three-person unit. There is no increase in cash benefits for the second child or subsequent children subject to the cap.
[6] The additional child increases the Standard of Need but not the Family Maximum. If the family has no income, the cash benefit will not increase. However, if the family has income, the benefit may increase but cannot increase higher than the maximum payment for the family size excluding the capped child.
[7] The state provides a flat maximum benefit, regardless of family size. However, the Work Incentive Payment increases with family size, so the benefit for a unit with income may increase with an additional child but never beyond the maximum benefit level.
[8] Illinois no longer has a family cap, but 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.
[9] Although the family cap still exists in state law, all local offices have implemented waivers and do not apply the cap. Formerly capped children are no longer subject to the cap.
[10] The money the unit would have received for the additional child will instead go to a third party (e.g., church, charitable organization, relative) to purchase necessary care requirements for the affected child.
[11] Units subject to the family cap receive an additional disregard equal to the first $90 of income received by or on behalf of a capped child in any month.
[12] The family cap only applies to the cash assistance portion of MFIP the additional child would receive. The child will still be eligible for the food portion of MFIP.
[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, the previously capped child is included in the unit. These units do not receive a new 10-month grace period for any subsequent pregnancies.
[15] The unit will not receive cash for an additional child, but it will receive a voucher for the amount it would have received during the first 36 months to pay for expenses associated with the child. Vouchers are similar to cash. The capped portion of the benefit is distributed every month, divided into two vouchers that can be used at any store to purchase things necessary for the capped child.
[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] This period only applies if the family has previously reached the periodic limit of 18 months and the case was closed without a sanction. If the unit reapplies and has not previously reached the periodic limit, or the case was previously closed for a sanction, then the child who was previously subject to a family cap will remain capped until the unit has completed whatever time is left on its 18-month assistance period.
[18] The state provides a flat benefit, regardless of family size.
[19] The state does not allow any individual, including adult relatives, to be added to the unit's payment 10 months after the initial qualification for assistance. A new individual's income and resources will be counted for eligibility and benefit determination.

Table IV.C.1 State Lifetime Time Limit Policies, July 2005

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

Table IV.C.1 State Lifetime Time Limit Policies, July 2005

		Whose Benefits Are Terminated	
State	Lifetime limit	Entire unit	Adult only
Tennessee	60 months	X	—
Texas	60 months	X	—
Utah	36 months	X	—
Vermont	—	—	—
Virginia			
VIEW	60 months	X	—
All, except VIEW	—	—	—
Washington	—[12]	—	—
West Virginia	60 months	X	—
Wisconsin	60 months	X	—
Wyoming	60 months	X	—

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

[1] California's TANF funding began December 1996, but recipients' benefit months did not begin to count against units' 60-month limit until January 1998. Using state funds, California will extend recipients' benefits beyond 60 months if the units received assistance between December 1996 and January 1998. The length of the extension equals the number of months the unit received benefits during this period.
[2] Recipients may apply for extensions after 21 months of benefits, but they may not receive more than 60 total months of assistance. See table IV.C.4 for more information on extensions.
[3] The 36-month time limit applies to assistance units that apply for benefits on or after January 1, 2000. Units that received benefits before this date are eligible for 48 months of assistance.
[4] The District of Columbia uses local money to fund assistance units that have reached the 60-month federal lifetime time limit. All units that are either in compliance with program requirements or are exempt from requirements are automatically eligible for continued assistance. If the unit is not in compliance upon reaching the 60-month mark, the noncompliant adult(s) will be removed from the grant, while other unit members will continue to receive assistance.
[5] 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.
[6] In addition to the 60-month lifetime limit, units must establish a time frame, with a specific ending date, during which the recipient expects to become self-sufficient (i.e., when income is above eligibility limits).
[7] Units in compliance with TANF program rules may continue to receive benefits beyond 60 months. If members of the unit have been sanctioned three or more times during their 60 months of assistance, the adult's needs are not considered for benefit computation for an amount of time equal to the length of the adult's last sanction period.
[8] After 60 months, the unit is still eligible to receive noncash assistance through the state's Safety Net Assistance program.
[9] In certain circumstances, a child may be able to continue receiving benefits after the 60 months. Since the time limit follows the adult, a child may enter a new household and become eligible in a new assistance unit.
[10] After receiving 36 months of assistance, the case is closed; however, it is possible to receive 24 additional months of benefits if the unit has not received benefits for at least 24 months and can demonstrate good cause for reapplying.
[11] Although the state does not discuss a federal lifetime limit (60 months), the final TANF regulations, published April 1999, indicate that any months during which a nonexempt head of household receives TANF-funded assistance under a waiver will count toward the federal time limit. Therefore, in addition to the state time limit, a 60-month lifetime limit applies retroactively to all recipients as of the date TANF began or the first month of receipt under the waiver, whichever is later.
[12] Units in compliance with TANF program rules may continue to receive benefits beyond 60 months.

Table IV.C.2 Other State Time Limit Policies, July 2005

State	Time limit	Whose Benefits Are Terminated: Entire unit	Whose Benefits Are Terminated: Adult only
Alabama	—	—	—
Alaska	—	—	—
Arizona	—[1]	—	—
Arkansas	—	—	—
California	—	—	—
Colorado	—	—	—
Connecticut	—	—	—
Delaware	—	—	—
D.C.	—	—	—
Florida	—	—	—
Georgia	—	—	—
Hawaii	—	—	—
Idaho	—	—	—
Illinois	—	—	—
Indiana	—	—	—
Iowa	—	—	—
Kansas	—	—	—
Kentucky	—	—	—
Louisiana	24 of 60 months	X	—
Maine	—	—	—
Maryland	—	—	—
Massachusetts			
Exempt	—	—	—
Nonexempt	24 of 60 months	X	—
Michigan	—	—	—
Minnesota	—	—	—
Mississippi	—	—	—
Missouri	—	—	—
Montana	—	—	—
Nebraska	—	—	—
Time limited assistance	24 of 48 months	X	—
Non-time limited assistance	—	—	—
Nevada	24 months; followed by 12 months of ineligibility	X	—
New Hampshire	—	—	—
New Jersey	—	—	—
New Mexico	—	—	—
New York	—	—	—
North Carolina	24 months; followed by 36 months of ineligibility	X	—
North Dakota	—	—	—
Ohio	36 months; followed by 24 months of ineligibility[2]	X	—
Oklahoma	—	—	—
Oregon	24 of 84 months	X	—
Pennsylvania	—	—	—
Rhode Island	—	—	—
South Carolina			
All, except STAR	24 of 120 months	X	—
STAR	—	—	—
South Dakota	—	—	—

Table IV.C.2 Other State Time Limit Policies, July 2005

State	Time limit	Whose Benefits Are Terminated: Entire unit	Adult only
Tennessee	18 months; followed by 3 months of ineligibility	X	—
Texas	12, 24, or 36 months; followed by 60 months of ineligibility[3]	—	X
Utah	—[4]	—	—
Vermont	—	—	—
Virginia			
VIEW	24 months; followed by 24 months of ineligibility[5]	X	—
All, except VIEW	—	—	—
Washington	—	—	—
West Virginia	—	—	—
Wisconsin	—	—	—
Wyoming	—	—	—

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

[1] Two-parent families in which neither parent is disabled are eligible for only 6 months of assistance in any 12-month period.
[2] In order to receive benefits after the 24-month period of ineligibility, the family must demonstrate good cause for reapplying. Good cause may include loss of employment, inability to find employment, divorce, domestic violence, or other reasons determined by the caseworker.
[3] The 12-month limit applies to nonexempt recipients who (1) did not complete the 11th grade and have 18 months or more of recent work experience, or (2) have either a high school diploma or GED, certificate from postsecondary school, or a certificate or degree from vocational or technical school, and any work experience. The 24-month limit applies to nonexempt recipients who (1) have not completed the 11th grade and have between 6 and 17 months of recent work experience, or (2) have completed the 11th grade but not the 12th grade or have a GED, and have completed 17 or fewer months of work experience. The 36-month limit applies to nonexempt recipients who (1) have less than six months of recent work experience and (2) have not completed the 11th grade.
[4] Two-parent families in which the principal wage earner is unemployed are only eligible for 7 months of assistance in a 13-month period.
[5] After receiving 24 months of assistance, the unit may receive up to 12 months of transitional benefits. The 24 months of ineligibility begins with the month in which the case was closed or the month in which transitional benefits were terminated, whichever is later.

Table IV.C.3 State Time Limit Exemption Policies, July 2005

	Unit Exempt for Months in Which the Head Was:									
State	Working (min. weekly hrs.) or had earned income (min. dollars)	Cooperating but unable to find employment	Ill or incapacitated	Caring for an ill or incapacitated person	Caring for child under age (months)	Pregnant (month or later)	Minor parent	Age (or older) (years)	Victim of domestic violence	Other
Alabama	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	—
Alaska	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Receiving diversion payments
Arizona	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Receiving diversion payments Receiving less than a $100 benefit Receiving benefits before 10/01/02 [1]
Arkansas	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	3 [2]	7	No	60	Yes	Receiving diversion payments[3] Receiving assistance in another state[4] Not receiving support services Not required to participate in activities
California[5]	No	No	Yes[6]	Yes	No	No	Yes[7]	60	Yes	Receiving diversion payments[8] Sanctioned for noncompliance[9] Months in which the full amount of assistance is reimbursed by child support Receiving less than a $10 benefit
Colorado	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Receiving diversion payments[10]
Connecticut	No	No	Yes	Yes	12 [11]	1 [12]	Yes[13]	60	No	An unemployable adult[14]
Delaware	20 hrs.[15]	No	Yes[16]	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Receiving diversion payments
D.C.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Florida	No	Yes	No	Yes	3 [17]	No	Yes	No	No	Receiving diversion payments[18] Not job-ready Not receiving support services Receiving less than a $10 benefit
Georgia	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	—
Hawaii	No	No	Yes[6]	Yes	6	No	No	60	Yes[19]	Receiving diversion payments Volunteering for VISTA
Idaho	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Sanctioned for noncompliance
Illinois	30 hrs.[20]	No	No	Yes[21]	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	In a postsecondary education program[22] Receiving diversion payments

Table IV.C.3 State Time Limit Exemption Policies, July 2005

	Unit Exempt for Months in Which the Head Was:									
State	Working (min. weekly hrs.) or had earned income (min. dollars)	Cooperating but unable to find employment	Ill or incapacitated	Caring for an ill or incapacitated person	Caring for child under age (months)	Pregnant (month or later)	Minor parent	Age (or older) (years)	Victim of domestic violence	Other
Indiana	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Unemployed or underemployed two-parent units[23]
Iowa	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Receiving diversion payments
Kansas	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	—
Kentucky	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes[24]	No	No	Receiving diversion payments
Louisiana	No[25]	No	No[26]	No	No	No[27]	No	No	No	—[28]
Maine[29]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maryland	Any earned income[30]	No	Yes[31]	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Receiving diversion payments Non-parent caretaker relative receiving benefits
Massachusetts										
Exempt[32]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nonexempt	No	No	—[33]	—[33]	—[33]	—[33]	—[33]	—[33]	Yes	Sanctioned for noncompliance[34]
Michigan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Minnesota	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes[35]	60[36]	Yes[37]	Receiving diversion payments Opting out of receiving the cash portion of the grant or receiving only the food portion of the grant
Mississippi	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	—
Missouri	No	No	Yes	Yes[38]	No	No	Yes[39]	60	No	Participating in a wage supplementation program
Montana	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes[40]	No	No	—
Nebraska										
Time limited assistance[41]	No	No	—[33]	—[33]	—[33]	—[33]	Yes[42]	—[33]	—[33]	Receiving assistance in another state Sanctioned for noncompliance
Non-time limited assistance[32]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nevada	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Receiving diversion payments Sanctioned for noncompliance[34]

Table IV.C.3 State Time Limit Exemption Policies, July 2005

State	Unit Exempt for Months in Which the Head Was: Working (min. weekly hrs.) or had earned income (min. dollars)	Cooperating but unable to find employment	Ill or incapacitated	Caring for an ill or incapacitated person	Caring for child under age (months)	Pregnant (month or later)	Minor parent	Age (or older) (years)	Victim of domestic violence	Other
New Hampshire										
NH Employment Program	No	No	—[33]	—[33]	No	No	No	—[33]	Yes	—
Family Assistance Program[32]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Jersey	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	60	Yes	Receiving diversion payments Not job-ready
New Mexico	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Receiving diversion payments In the Educational Works Program (a postsecondary education program)
New York	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Receiving diversion payments
North Carolina	No	No	No[43]	No[44]	No[45]	No	No	No[46]	No[44]	Receiving diversion payments Sanctioned for noncompliance —[47]
North Dakota	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	—
Ohio	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Receiving support services when at least one assistance group member is employed Receiving no cash benefit
Oklahoma	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Receiving diversion payments
Oregon	Any earned income[48]	No	Yes	Yes[49]	No	No	No	No	No	In the JOBS program, or failed to participate but with good cause Not required to participate in activities
Pennsylvania[50]	30 hrs.[51]	Yes[52]	Yes[53]	No	No	No	No	No	Yes[54]	Receiving no cash benefit Sanctioned for noncompliance
Rhode Island	30 hrs.	No	Yes[55]	Yes	No	No	No	60	Yes	—

Table IV.C.3 State Time Limit Exemption Policies, July 2005

	Unit Exempt for Months in Which the Head Was:									
State	Working (min. weekly hrs.) or had earned income (min. dollars)	Cooperating but unable to find employment	Ill or incapacitated	Caring for an ill or incapacitated person	Caring for child under age (months)	Pregnant (month or later)	Minor parent	Age (or older) (years)	Victim of domestic violence	Other
South Carolina										
All, except STAR	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes[56]	No	No	Not receiving support services[56] —[57]
STAR[32]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Dakota	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Receiving diversion payments
Tennessee[58]	No	No	Yes[59]	No	12 [60]	No	Yes	No	Yes[61]	Not job-ready[62] Not receiving support services Not required to participate in activities In drug treatment —[63]
Texas	No[64]	No	No[44]	No[44]	No	No	No	No	No	Receiving diversion payments[65] —[66]
Utah	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Receiving diversion payments[67]
Vermont	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Virginia										
VIEW	No	No	—[33]	—[33]	—[33]	—[33]	—[33]	—[33]	No	Receiving diversion payments
All, except VIEW[32]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Washington[68]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Virginia	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Receiving diversion payments[69]
Wisconsin	No	No	No	No	3	No	No	No	No	Receiving diversion payments
Wyoming	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes[70]	No	No	In a postsecondary education program[71]

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

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

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

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

[1] Any months of assistance received in Arizona or any other state before October 2002 do not count toward the time limit.
[2] The exemption applies to parents who have child care. If no child care is available, parents caring for children under 12 months old are exempt.
[3] The diversion payment is considered a loan; therefore the recipient must pay back any amount borrowed. Any amount paid back will not count toward the time limit, but if all or a portion of the amount has not been repaid, the months will count.
[4] If the adult received more than 36 months of payments in another state, all payments received in the other state count toward the time limit. If the adult received less than 36 months of assistance, none of the payments count toward the time limit.
[5] Counties have the option to vary their time limit exemption policies. These policies refer to Los Angeles County.
[6] To be exempt, the individual must have been ill or incapacitated for at least 30 days.
[7] Minor parents are exempt in months in which they are eligible for, participating in, or exempt from the Cal-Learn program.
[8] If the unit applies for monthly benefits after the diversion period (diversion amount divided by monthly benefit) ends, the state counts one month toward the time limit. If the unit applies during the diversion period, it can choose to count the diversion payment toward the time limit or repay the diversion amount at a rate of 10 percent of the monthly benefit each month until the diversion is repaid.
[9] Any month in which the adult is removed from the grant as a result of sanctions does not count toward the time limit.
[10] Diversion policy varies by county. In Denver County, diversionary payments intended to cover the recipient's needs for 120 days or less do not count toward the time limit. Payments intended to cover the recipient's needs for longer than 120 days count toward the time limit.
[11] The exemption does not apply to children subject to a family cap.
[12] Women who are pregnant or have just given birth are exempt if a physician certifies the woman's inability to work. In addition, a woman whose pregnancy ended within six weeks is exempt.
[13] All minor parents are exempt (whether they head the unit or not), provided the minor parent is in high school or earning his or her GED.
[14] To be "unemployable," an adult must (1) be age 40 or older, (2) be unemployed, (3) be fully cooperating with program requirements, (4) have not completed grade 6, and (5) have not been employed over six months in the past five years.
[15] Additionally, the family's countable income must be below the need standard for the family size.
[16] Ill or incapacitated recipients will be placed in the non-time limited Children's Program.
[17] The exemption applies to parents who have child care. If no child care is available, parents caring for children under 6 years old are exempt.
[18] Florida has three diversion programs. If the recipient participates in the Cash Severance program, and the payment is processed during a month for which temporary cash assistance is received, the payment will not affect the time limit. If the payment is processed during a month for which temporary cash assistance is not received, the payment will count as a month of assistance. Up-Front Diversion and Relocation Assistance do not count against the time limit.
[19] To be exempt, the individual must be unemployed or employed less than 20 hours a week, have had a relationship to the perpetrator of the violence, and have taken action as a result of the domestic violence (such as getting a court order protecting the individual from the perpetrator or living in a domestic violence shelter within the past 12 months). After the first six-month exemption period has ended, the individual may be allowed an additional six-month exemption if the victim has maintained active participation with a domestic violence agency and the agency recommends the additional period. The additional period will not be granted if the perpetrator resides in the same household as the victim.
[20] 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.
[21] The ill or incapacitated person must be a related child under age 18 or a spouse, or a child approved for a waiver under the Home and Community-Based Care Program.
[22] To be exempt, the caretaker relative must attend the postsecondary education program full time and retain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5.
[23] Two-parent units where the primary wage earner is unemployed or underemployed are exempt from the lifetime limit.
[24] To be exempt, the minor parent must live in an adult-supervised setting.
[25] Months in which an individual is eligible for the state's $900 earned income deduction (allowed for up to six months) are exempt from the periodic time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[26] This group is exempt from the periodic time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[27] Women in their last three months of pregnancy and first month after the birth of the child are exempt from the periodic time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[28] Months in which the individual received assistance in another state and months in which he or she was sanctioned are exempt from the periodic time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[29] Maine continues to fund assistance units that have reached the 60-month federal time limit and are in compliance with program requirements. Any individuals who have been sanctioned three or more times while receiving assistance must serve a "penalty period" equal to the length of their last sanction. In determining the number of months an individual has received assistance, the following months are considered exempt, thereby delaying the point at which the unit may be required to serve a penalty period: (1) months in which a recipient receives Diversion Assistance, Alternative Aid, Emergency Aid, or assistance through other state-funded programs; (2) the second year in which a TANF recipient is enrolled in postsecondary education; and (3) months in which a family receives benefits based on incapacity because the second parent or caretaker is an SSI recipient, funded with state money.
[30] Recipients eligible for the 35 percent disregard are exempt from the lifetime limit.
[31] An individual with a disability lasting 12 or more months who is filing for SSI and cooperating with the Disability and Entitlement Assistance Program is exempt.
[32] Recipients in this component are exempt from time limits. The criteria for inclusion in this component may include some of the exemptions listed in this table; see appendix 1 for more information.

[33] Individuals with this characteristic are placed in an alternative component, which is exempt from time limits. See appendix 1 for more information on components.
[34] This exemption only applies to months in which sanctions reduce the amount of the benefit to $0.
[35] 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.
[36] If the elderly person has reached the 60-month lifetime limit before turning 60, he or she is not eligible for this exemption.
[37] To be exempt, the family must be complying with a safety plan.
[38] To meet this exemption, there must be no other satisfactory alternative plan or care available.
[39] The minor parent is exempt if he or she is attending school and entered in the JOBS system in education related to employment or vocational education and training.
[40] To be exempt, the minor parent must be complying with activities requirements.
[41] These exemptions apply to the periodic time limit but not the lifetime limit. There are no exemptions to the lifetime limit for individuals in this component.
[42] Any month that a minor parent under age 19 spends in high school or actively working toward a GED is exempt.
[43] Months in which the individual is ill or incapacitated for at least 30 days are exempt from the benefit waiting period time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[44] This group is exempt from the benefit waiting period time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[45] Single parents caring for a child under 12 months old are exempt from the benefit waiting period time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[46] Individuals 65 years old and older are exempt from the benefit waiting period time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[47] Months in which the family does not have access to support services are exempt from the benefit waiting period time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[48] Any month in which the family's countable earned income equals or exceeds 173 percent of the Oregon minimum wage counts as two-fifths of a month toward the time limit.
[49] The exemption is limited to three months in a two-year period.
[50] Recipients who are exempt under the working full time, cooperating but unemployed, or ill or incapacitated criteria can only receive a total of 12 months of exemptions in a lifetime.
[51] Two-parent families in which one or both parents are working 55 hours a week in paid employment also qualify. Additionally, a recipient may qualify if he or she is working at least 20 hours a week in paid employment and is engaged in approved employment and training activities so the total work plus education or training hours a week equals or exceeds 30 hours.
[52] An individual who has completed the required eight-week job search and, in the first 12 months of cash assistance, has begun an employment and training program for 30 hours a week or a full-time postsecondary educational activity may receive this exemption.
[53] A recipient exempt from work requirements due to a verified disability may receive this exemption if he or she is receiving services that move him or her toward maximum workforce participation.
[54] A victim of domestic violence is exempted for an initial six-month period. An additional six-month period may be granted if a domestic violence counselor verifies the need.
[55] To be exempt, a recipient must be unable to work more than 30 hours a week because of a documented physical or mental incapacity.
[56] This exemption applies to both the periodic time limit and the lifetime limit.
[57] Individuals may be exempt for months during which they received benefits in another state. This exemption applies to the periodic time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[58] Unless otherwise noted, these exemptions apply to both the benefit waiting period time limit and the lifetime limit.
[59] This exemption includes participants who have a temporary impairment that prohibits work participation of at least 20 hours a week as well and those with permanent disabilities.
[60] This exemption applies to one-parent units. A two-parent unit must be caring for a child less than 16 weeks old to qualify for the exemption.
[61] The exemption is only allowed once in a 12-month period and then a family services counselor must assess the situation before extending the exemption. If the unit is residing in a domestic violence shelter, the exemption lasts throughout its stay.
[62] An individual is defined as "not job-ready" when he or she functions at or below an 8.9 grade level and is participating in a basic or remedial education program.
[63] The unit may be exempt from the benefit waiting period if the unit head lost employment through no fault of his or her own and was employed in the 18th month of assistance.
[64] Individuals earning up to $168 a month may be exempt from the benefit waiting period time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[65] The exemption applies to both the benefit waiting period time limit and the lifetime limit.
[66] Individuals who are unemployed due to high local unemployment may be exempt as long as the recipient contacts an average of 40 employers a month (job search). This exemption applies only to the benefit waiting period time limit.
[67] The first diversion payment in a 12-month period does not count against the time limit. The second and subsequent additional diversion payments in a 12 month period count against the time limit.
[68] After 60 months of assistance, households exempt from work requirements or experiencing documented hardship may continue to receive benefits at the same level that they received under TANF. Households not meeting this criteria must participate full time (32 to 40 hours a week) in work-related activities, which may include a combination of working, job search, or preparing for work, in order to continue receiving assistance. Households that fail to meet this participation requirement are placed in the Child Safety Net Payment Program. Their benefits are reduced by 40 percent or the adult portion, whichever is greater, and are paid through a protective payee. Proof of good cause, exemption status, or one month of compliance will cure the sanction and restore the unit's benefit. In calculating the number of months a unit has receiving assistance, months in which the head was a minor parent, a victim of domestic violence, or receiving diversion payments are exempt.
[69] For units that received diversion assistance before July 2000, three months are counted toward the lifetime limit.
[70] Up to one year of assistance will count against minor parents who received assistance before reaching their 18th birthday. All months beyond 12 will not count toward the lifetime limit.
[71] This exemption applies to individuals who participate in the state's State Adult Student Financial Aid program, meet the attendance requirements of their educational institution, and receive a passing grade (no incompletes or "F"s) in all classes each semester.

Table IV.C.4 State Time Limit Extension Policies, July 2005

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

Table IV.C.4 State Time Limit Extension Policies, July 2005

State	Working (min. weekly hrs.) or had earned income (min. dollars)	Cooperating but unable to find employment	Ill or incapacitated	Caring for an ill or incapacitated person	Caring for child under age (months)	Pregnant (month or later)	Age (or older) (years)	Victim of domestic violence	Other
	Assistance Extended to Unit for Months in Which the Head Is:								
Delaware[15]	No	Yes [16]	No	No	No	No	No	No	Not receiving support services[17]
D.C.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Florida	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	3 [18]	No	No	Yes	Not job-ready Not receiving support services Unemployed due to high local unemployment Likely to place children in foster care or emergency shelter due to loss of benefit In substance abuse or mental health treatment
Georgia	No	Yes	Yes[19]	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	In drug treatment Unemployed due to high local unemployment Not self-sufficient due to a natural disaster
Hawaii	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	—
Idaho	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	—
Illinois	No	No	Yes[20]	Yes[21]	No	No	No	Yes[20]	In treatment program for barriers to work[22] In an approved education or training program[8]
Indiana	No[23]	No[24]	No[24]	No	No	No	No	No[24]	—[25]
Iowa	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	In drug treatment Not job-ready Not receiving support services Suffering from a hardship[26]
Kansas	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	60	Yes	Participating in family services, which prevents full-time employment Financially eligible for benefits and cooperating with program requirements in the 60th month

Table IV.C.4 State Time Limit Extension Policies, July 2005

State	Working (min. weekly hrs.) or had earned income (min. dollars)	Cooperating but unable to find employment	Ill or incapacitated	Caring for an ill or incapacitated person	Caring for child under age (months)	Pregnant (month or later)	Age (or older) (years)	Victim of domestic violence	Other
	Assistance Extended to Unit for Months in Which the Head Is:								
Kentucky	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	In a unit in which a member lost his/her job within 30 days of reaching the 60-month time limit Unemployed due to high local unemployment[27] Nonparent caretaker relative receiving benefits
Louisiana[28]	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	In drug treatment Not job-ready Not receiving support services Experiencing a temporary family crisis[29] Unemployed due to high local unemployment Unemployed through no fault of their own[30]
Maine[31]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maryland	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Not receiving support services Suffering from a hardship
Massachusetts									
Exempt[32]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nonexempt	35 hrs.	Yes	—[33]	—[33]	—[33]	—[33]	—[33]	No	Participating in an approved education or training program Child care is unavailable Appropriate job opportunities not locally available
Michigan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table IV.C.4 State Time Limit Extension Policies, July 2005

State	Assistance Extended to Unit for Months in Which the Head Is: Working (min. weekly hrs.) or had earned income (min. dollars)	Cooperating but unable to find employment	Ill or incapacitated	Caring for an ill or incapacitated person	Caring for child under age (months)	Pregnant (month or later)	Age (or older) (years)	Victim of domestic violence	Other
Minnesota	30 hrs.[34]	No	Yes[35]	Yes	No	No	No	Yes[36]	Opting out of receiving the cash portion of the grant or receiving only the food portion of the grant Not job-ready Hard to employ due to mental illness, mental retardation, learning disabilities, or low IQ[37] Not required to participate in activities Unemployed due to high local unemployment
Mississippi	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	2	7	60	Yes[38]	In drug treatment Not receiving support services Unemployed due to high local unemployment
Missouri	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	In drug or mental health treatment Experiencing a family crisis[39] Participating in children's services
Montana	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	—
Nebraska									
Time limited assistance	No	No	—[33]	—[33]	—[33]	—[33]	—[33]	No	Not earning sufficient income to avoid extreme hardship[40]
Non-time limited assistance[32]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nevada[41]	No	No	Yes	Yes	12[42]	No	60	Yes	In drug or mental health treatment[43] Minor parent[44] Participating in a program likely to lead to self-sufficiency[45] Suffering from a hardship

Table IV.C.4 State Time Limit Extension Policies, July 2005

State	Assistance Extended to Unit for Months in Which the Head Is:								
	Working (min. weekly hrs.) or had earned income (min. dollars)	Cooperating but unable to find employment	Ill or incapacitated	Caring for an ill or incapacitated person	Caring for child under age (months)	Pregnant (month or later)	Age (or older) (years)	Victim of domestic violence	Other
New Hampshire									
NH Employment Program	30 hrs.[46]	Yes[47]	Yes[48]	Yes[48]	No	No	—[33]	Yes	Suffering from a hardship[49] Unemployed due to high local unemployment
Family Assistance Program[32]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Jersey	40 hrs.	Yes	Yes	No	3	1	No	Yes	Suffering from a hardship[50]
New Mexico	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	60	Yes[51]	—
New York[52]	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	In drug treatment Not job-ready
North Carolina	No	No[53]	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Suffering from a hardship[54] Not job-ready Unemployed due to high local unemployment —[55]
North Dakota	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	65	Yes	—
Ohio	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes[56]	Suffering from a hardship
Oklahoma	30 hrs.	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	In drug treatment Underemployed for an extended period due to documented barriers Mentally ill and receiving treatment In a training or education program in the 60th month that could be completed within 12 months Pending SSI/SSA disability application
Oregon	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	A minor parent
Pennsylvania	30 hrs.[57]	Yes[58]	Yes	Yes	12 [59]	No	No	Yes	—

Table IV.C.4 State Time Limit Extension Policies, July 2005

State	Assistance Extended to Unit for Months in Which the Head Is: Working (min. weekly hrs.) or had earned income (min. dollars)	Cooperating but unable to find employment	Ill or incapacitated	Caring for an ill or incapacitated person	Caring for child under age (months)	Pregnant (month or later)	Age (or older) (years)	Victim of domestic violence	Other
Rhode Island	No	No	Yes[60]	No	No	No	No	Yes	In drug treatment Not job-ready In an educational activity and working 20 to 30 hours a week In an ESL or literacy skills program for 20 hours a week Not receiving support services[61]
South Carolina									
All, except STAR	30 hrs.[62]	No[63]	—[33]	—[33]	No[64]	No[65]	No	Yes[62]	In drug treatment[62] A minor parent[66] Months receiving benefits in another state[62] —[67]
STAR[32]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Dakota	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Unable to work due to low intellectual function Unable to work due to a family safety issue[68]
Tennessee	No	Yes[69]	No	No	No	No	No	No	—[70]
Texas[71]	Earnings up to $168 [41]	Yes[72]	Yes[41]	Yes[41]	No	No	No	Yes[56]	Unemployed due to high local unemployment[73] Not receiving support services[74]
Utah[75]	80 hours a month[76]	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Suffering from a hardship A minor parent
Vermont	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Virginia									
VIEW	No	No	—[33]	—[33]	—[33]	—[33]	—[33]	No	—[77]
All, except VIEW[32]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Washington[78]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table IV.C.4 State Time Limit Extension Policies, July 2005

State	Assistance Extended to Unit for Months in Which the Head Is: Working (min. weekly hrs.) or had earned income (min. dollars)	Cooperating but unable to find employment	Ill or incapacitated	Caring for an ill or incapacitated person	Caring for child under age (months)	Pregnant (month or later)	Age (or older) (years)	Victim of domestic violence	Other
West Virginia	No	No	Yes[79]	Yes	6	7 [80]	No	Yes	In a training or education program in the 55th month that could be completed within 12 months Not receiving support services[81]
Wisconsin	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Significant barriers to employment[82] Unemployed due to high local unemployment
Wyoming	No	No	Yes[83]	Yes[83]	No	No	No	Yes	In a postsecondary education program[84]

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

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

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

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

[1] To receive an extension, the individual must have received at least 12 of the last 24 months of assistance under a basic hardship, be compliant with JOBS, not have been disqualified for noncompliance, and be certified as not currently employable by a JOBS caseworker.
[2] To receive an extension, the individual must have a temporary physical or mental incapacity that must be reevaluated every 30 days, or a more permanent physical or mental incapacity that must be reevaluated as determined by a physician or licensed mental health practitioner.
[3] To receive an extension, the individual must live in a Food Stamp ABAWD waiver county, be compliant with JOBS, not have been disqualified for noncompliance, and be not currently employed.
[4] To receive an extension, the individual must be engaged in activities to overcome his or her personal barrier(s). Examples of barriers may include but are not limited to the inability to speak English, needing extensive dental work, or having a learning disability, such as Attention Deficit Disorder.
[5] Benefits are extended if the family experiences circumstances outside its control that prevent the caretaker from participating in work activities or becoming self-sufficient, and the loss of benefits would result in conditions that threaten the health and safety of the family.
[6] No recipients in Arizona will reach 60 countable months of benefits until November 2007. Arizona has temporarily removed its extension policies from the manual; new policies are under development.
[7] Three months applies to parents who have child care. If no child care is available, parents caring for children less than 12 months old receive the extension.
[8] The individual must be within six months of completing his or her education or training program.
[9] Counties have the option to vary their time limit extension policies. These policies refer to Los Angeles County.
[10] To receive the extension, the individual must be disabled for a minimum of 30 days.
[11] Any month in which the adult is removed from the grant as a result of sanctions does not count toward the time limit.
[12] The extension is provided to families that have inadequate or unavailable transportation, child care, or housing.

[13] Family instability may be caused by a caretaker's inability to maintain stable employment or his or her inability to care for the children in his or her own home or in the home of a relative.
[14] Recipients must reapply for extensions every six months. Recipients may only receive two extensions unless they meet specific criteria (see WRD for information on extension criteria). If recipients are sanctioned during the extension period, they are ineligible to receive benefits again. Units may only receive a total of 60 months of benefits, including extensions.
[15] 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.
[16] Recipient must be unable to find employment that provides income at least equal to the payment standard after deduction of work expenses, earned income disregards, and child care expenses, and which provides wages at least equal to the minimum wage. The extension is limited to a total of 12 cumulative months.
[17] "Support services" include but are not limited to domestic violence counseling, substance abuse treatment, family planning, and employment training.
[18] Three months applies to parents who have child care. If no child care is available, single parents caring for children less than 6 years old receive an extension.
[19] This extension applies to individuals with mental illness, emotional trauma, mental retardation, and physical disability, and can be used for a maximum of six months.
[20] The extension is granted if the condition prevents the individual from working full time.
[21] The ill or incapacitated person must be a related child under age 18 or a spouse, or a child approved for a waiver under the Home and Community-Based Care Program.
[22] The extension is granted if the treatment prevents the individual from working at least 30 hours a week. Treatment programs for barriers to work include mental health and substance abuse treatment; homeless, domestic violence, and child protective services; and vocational rehabilitation.
[23] An individual may earn one month for every six months he or she works in an unsubsidized job. This extension applies to the benefit reduction limit but not the lifetime limit.
[24] Individuals meeting these criteria may receive an extension to the benefit reduction limit but not the lifetime limit.
[25] Individuals may receive an extension for months in which supportive services are not available. This extension applies to the benefit reduction limit but not the lifetime limit.
[26] Benefits will be extended if the individual suffers from a hardship that keeps him or her from becoming self-sufficient. Examples of hardships may include but are not limited to the following (some of these are included above): domestic violence, physical or mental health problems, substance abuse problems, the inability to find or keep a job, lack of suitable child care, difficult housing situations, or caring for a child with special needs.
[27] To receive this extension, recipients must participate in activities requirements for 30 hours a week.
[28] The extensions apply to both the periodic time limit and the lifetime limit.
[29] A temporary family crisis may include a death of a family member, eviction, a serious illness, or an accident.
[30] The family may also receive an extension for months in which the family was sanctioned. This extension applies to the periodic time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[31] Maine continues to fund assistance to units that have reached the 60-month federal time limit and are in compliance with program requirements. Any individuals who have been sanctioned three or more times while receiving assistance must serve a "penalty period" equal to the length of their last sanction. Recipients who have experienced domestic violence, or failed to comply due to illness or incapacity in the family, or other good cause, are not subject to a penalty period.
[32] Recipients in this component are exempt from time limits. The criteria for inclusion in this component may include some of the exemptions listed in this table. See appendix 1 for more information on the composition of the component.
[33] Individuals with this characteristic are placed in the alternative component, which is exempt from time limits. See appendix 1 for more information on components.
[34] 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.
[35] To receive an extension, the recipient must have a medical condition for more than 30 days that either prevents or limits him or her from obtaining or retaining employment. If a physician indicates the incapacity limits but does not prevent work, the recipient may receive the extension as long as he or she works the number of hours specified by that physician.
[36] To receive an extension, the family must be complying with a safety plan.
[37] To receive an extension, the recipient must be assessed by a vocational specialist or licensed physician as unable to obtain or retain available employment.
[38] The domestic violence extension applies to months in which the assistance unit is fleeing from or receiving treatment for domestic violence or abuse. "Abuse" includes sexual, mental, or physical abuse or battery and applies if the child or the adult is the one subject to the abuse.
[39] A family crisis may include, but is not limited to, a home destroyed by fire, a temporary disability of the payee, an accidental injury of family member, a job loss due to a poor economy, or being a victim of a crime.
[40] A family is considered to have insufficient income if its gross income is less than 185 percent of the TANF benefit it would receive, or if a caseworker determines that there is no job available that would raise the family's income above the TANF benefit. A family suffers from extreme hardship if it does not have enough money to meet the costs of basic needs (i.e., food, clothing, and housing). The extension applies to the periodic time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[41] The extensions apply to both the benefit waiting period time limit and the lifetime limit.
[42] Months in which the parent was exempt from activities requirements because he or she was caring for a young child are deducted from the 12-month extension period. For example, if the unit head was previously exempted from activities requirements for three months and then reaches the 60-month time limit, he or she may only receive an additional nine-month extension, provided one of his or her children is under 12 months old.
[43] To receive the extension, a caseworker must determine that the recipient is experiencing a drug, alcohol, or mental health treatment–related hardship.
[44] To receive the extension, the minor parent must be in compliance with high school attendance and living arrangement requirements.

[45] To receive the extension, the individual must be participating in a program that the caseworker determines likely to result in self-sufficiency. The extension period may not exceed six months.
[46] The extension is available only to assistance groups whose cases were closed due to time limits and who are reapplying for assistance.
[47] This extension cannot be used for cases that are reapplying for an extension after the case has been closed.
[48] Some recipients with this characteristic may be determined unable to work and are moved into the alternative component, which is exempt from time limits.
[49] Hardships may include lack of adequate child care, loss of employment, life-threatening circumstance or emergency situation, medical condition, medical condition of another household member, learning disability, participation in a substance abuse or mental health program, and family/domestic violence. In addition, families that are reapplying after case closure due to the 60-month time limit may receive an extension for working 30 or more hours a week or on a case-by-case basis if they do not fall into one of the hardship criteria listed above.
[50] Benefits are extended to families if termination would subject the family to extreme hardship. Extreme hardship is defined as one of the following (some of these are included above): periods of temporary incapacity resulting in work deferrals of more than 12 consecutive months that did not allow the recipient sufficient time to gain self-sufficiency; the existence of a current temporary deferral, such as for incapacity due to pregnancy or the need to care for a child under 12 weeks old; the existence of a current temporary deferral due to circumstances such as a lack of transportation or available child care to support work; if participant has been fully compliant with program requirements with no more than one sanction in the previous 12 months and he or she is still unable to obtain sufficient employment; a domestic violence situation renders a recipient temporarily incapable of sustaining the family without continued support.
[51] 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.
[52] These extensions apply to the 60-month limit for receiving regular cash assistance. After the expiration of the 60-month time limit, all units continue to receive noncash assistance, but through the state's Safety Net Assistance program.
[53] Individuals who are substantially complying with their Personal Responsibility Contract and are unable to obtain or maintain employment that provides a basic level of subsistence (defined as less than the state's maximum Work First payment minus 27.5 percent from each worker's income) receive an extension from the benefit waiting period time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[54] A family may receive a hardship extension if a unit member (some of these are included above) has been battered or abused, has suffered a severe illness, has an inhibiting education level, has severe unemployment, has a lack of child care, is participating in substance abuse treatment, has an inhibiting criminal record, is homeless or has substandard housing, has one or more children in the home receiving child welfare services, had inadequate access to employment services during the 60 months, lacks transportation, or has any other situation that makes employment unattainable. These apply to the lifetime time limit but not the benefit waiting period.
[55] Participants in postsecondary education programs may receive an extension to the benefit waiting period time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[56] The extension applies to the lifetime limit but not the benefit waiting period.
[57] 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.
[58] 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.
[59] Recipients caring for children under 6 years old may also receive an extension if an alternative child care arrangement is unavailable.
[60] To receive the extension, the recipient must work less than 30 hours a week because of a documented physical or mental incapacity.
[61] The extension is provided to families that are homeless or have inadequate or unavailable child care.
[62] The extension applies to the lifetime limit but not the periodic time limit.
[63] The extension applies to the periodic time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[64] A single parent who agrees to participate in the work program may receive an extension from the periodic limit but not the lifetime limit.
[65] A pregnant woman who has been participating in the work program but who stops participating as a result of being in the third trimester of pregnancy may receive an extension for the periodic limit but not the lifetime limit.
[66] The extension applies to the periodic and lifetime limit for minor parents who have not yet completed high school.
[67] Individuals who are participating in a county-approved training program may receive an extension from the periodic time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[68] Examples of family safety issues are homelessness or domestic violence.
[69] To receive this extension the recipient must not have been noncompliant more than once in the past 18 months and must remain in compliance for the entire length of the extension. In order to receive an extension to the 60-month time limit, the unit's gross income must be below 70 percent of the Consolidated Need Standard (CNS) for the first six months. Income must be less that 60 percent of the CNS for the second six months. After 12 months, the extension may continue only if income is below 50 percent of the CNS. To receive an extension to the 18-month benefit waiting time limit, the unit's income must be below 50 percent of the CNS. Units reapplying for benefits following case closure due to the 60-month or 18-month time limits must always have gross income below 50 percent of the CNS.
[70] Individuals unemployed due to high local unemployment may receive an extension from the benefit waiting period time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[71] To qualify for any extension a caretaker must have fewer than 12 months of activities or child support sanctions since November 1, 1996.
[72] 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.
[73] This extension can continue as long as the recipient contacts an average of 40 employers a month. This applies to both the benefit waiting period time limit and the lifetime limit.

[74] To be eligible for this extension, the recipient must reside in a county in which he or she receives minimum or mid-level services during the 60th month (or at any time during the 11 countable months immediately preceding the 60th month) of benefit receipt. This applies to the lifetime limit but not the benefit waiting period.
[75] For two-parent households, both parents must 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.
[76] An extension is granted if the following three conditions are met: (1) during the previous month, the parent was employed for no less than 80 hours; (2) during 6 of the previous 24 months the parent received assistance, he or she was employed for no less than 80 hours a month; and (3) the parent is expected to be employed for no less than 80 hours in the month for which financial assistance is being authorized.
[77] Individuals suffering from a hardship may receive an extension from the benefit waiting period time limit but not the lifetime limit.
[78] After 60 months of assistance, households exempt from work requirements or experiencing documented hardship may continue to receive benefits at the same level that they received under TANF. Households not meeting this criteria must participate full time (32 to 40 hours a week) in work-related activities, which may include a combination of working, job search, or preparing for work, in order to continue receiving assistance. Households that fail to meet this participation requirement are placed in the Child Safety Net Payment Program. Their benefits are reduced by 40 percent or the adult portion, whichever is greater, and are paid through a protective payee. Proof of good cause, exemption status, or one month of compliance will cure the sanction and restore the unit's benefit.
[79] Clients who experience the onset of a temporary incapacity after the 55th month of assistance may qualify for a one-time extension while undergoing treatment.
[80] Single, pregnant women (including emancipated minor parents under 18 years old) who will be in their third trimester or have a child under the age of 6 months during their 60th month of assistance may receive an extension until their child is 6 months old. If the pregnancy does not end in a live birth, the extension continues for two months following the end of the pregnancy.
[81] This extension is provided to families who have inadequate or unavailable child care.
[82] Significant barriers include but are not limited to low achievement ability, learning disability, severe emotional problems, or family problems, which include legal problems, family crises, homelessness, domestic abuse, or children's school or medical activities that affect a member of the W-2 group.
[83] The disability, illness, or incapacity must be a permanent condition.
[84] To receive the extension, the individual must be within one year of completing the degree.

Policies across Time, 1996–2005

V. Policies across Time

This chapter of the *Databook* includes longitudinal tables for selected areas of policy from 1996, 1999, 2002, and 2005 (as of July of each year).[22] Although not every policy from the previous sections has a companion table here, data for every year from 1996 through 2005 for each policy can be found in the WRD.

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

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[22] All years of data are available through the online WRD database, or see the following Databooks for previous years of data. The 1997 and 2001 data can be obtained from *Welfare Rules Databook: State TANF Policies as of July 2001* by Gretchen Rowe with Tracy Roberts and Kevin McManus. Data for 1998 and 2000 can be obtained from *Welfare Rules Databook: State TANF Policies as of July 2002* by Gretchen Rowe with Victoria Russell. Data for 2003 can be obtained from *Welfare Rules Databook: State TANF Policies as of July 2003* by Gretchen Rowe with Jeffrey Versteeg. Data for 2004 can be obtained from *Welfare Rules Databook: State TANF Policies as of July 2004* by Gretchen Rowe with Mary Murphy and Meghan Williamson.

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 demonstration projects in a few counties, and, after TANF, were expanded statewide.[23]

Two-parent eligibility: Table L2 describes states' deviation from the prior federal AFDC rules for two-parent, nondisabled units over time. The key AFDC policies were the 100-hour rule for both applicants and recipients, a 6-out-of-13-quarter work history test, and a 30-day waiting period. "Standard AFDC" describes the states that impose the AFDC rules. "Modified" describes the states that no longer impose all the former AFDC requirements on units but still impose some additional requirements. The specific combination of modified rules is footnoted. States that no longer impose any special requirements on two-parent units are denoted by "None."

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

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

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

Earned income disregards for benefit computation: Table L4 describes the earned income disregards allowed in determining the net income used for benefit computation. The disregards in this table apply to recipients.[24]

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, but benefits have changed relatively infrequently across time.

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

[24] 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 less than 36 months old.[25] Under waivers, many states began reducing the age of the child exemption. Then, with the passage of TANF, the federal government reduced the maximum age for the exemption to 12 months for the state's participation rate calculation. States can exempt units with children younger or older than 12 months, but units with children over 12 months old will be included in their work participation rate denominator. States with waivers also can continue their previous exemption policy under TANF until the waivers expire.

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 the states are allowed to determine the severity of the sanction.

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

States have liberalized asset tests over the past several years. 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

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

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.[26] TANF neither requires nor prohibits family cap policies.

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

Table L1 Formal Diversion Payments, 1996-2005 (July)

State	1996	1999	2002	2005
Alabama	No	No	No	No
Alaska	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Arizona	No	No	**Yes**	**Yes**[1]
Arkansas	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
California[2]	No	No	**Yes**[3]	Yes[3]
Colorado[4]	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Delaware	No	No	**Yes**[5]	Yes[5]
D.C.	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Florida	No	**Yes**[6]	**Yes**[7]	Yes[7]
Georgia	No	No	No	No
Hawaii	No	No	**Yes**	Yes
Idaho	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Illinois	No	**Yes**[8]	Yes[8]	Yes[8]
Indiana	No	No	No	No
Iowa	No	**No**[9]	No[9]	**Yes**[10]
Kansas	No	No	No	No
Kentucky	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Louisiana	No	No	**Yes**	**Yes**[11]
Maine	No	**Yes**[12]	Yes[12]	Yes[12]
Maryland	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Massachusetts	No	No	No	No
Michigan	No	No	No	No
Minnesota	No	**Yes**	Yes	**Yes**[13]
Mississippi	No	No	No	No
Missouri	No	No	No	No
Montana	No[14]	**Yes**[15]	**No**	No
Nebraska	No	No	No	No
Nevada	No	No	No	No
New Hampshire	No	No	No	No
New Jersey	No	**Yes**[16]	Yes[16]	Yes[16]
New Mexico	No	No	**Yes**[17]	Yes[17]
New York	No	No	**Yes**[18]	Yes[18]
North Carolina	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Dakota	No	No	No	No
Ohio	No	No	No	No
Oklahoma	No	No	**Yes**[19]	**Yes**[17]
Oregon	No	No	No	No
Pennsylvania	No	No	No	No
Rhode Island	No	No	No	**Yes**[20]
South Carolina	No	No	No	No
South Dakota	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Tennessee	No	No	No	No
Texas	No	**Yes**[21]	Yes[21]	**Yes**[22]
Utah	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vermont	No	No	No	No
Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Washington	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
West Virginia	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Wisconsin	No	**Yes**[23]	Yes[23]	Yes[23]

Table L1 Formal Diversion Payments, 1996–2005 (July)				
State	1996	1999	2002	2005
Wyoming	No	No	No	No
Total	**3**	**22**	**29**	**31**

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

[1] Eligibility for diversion assistance includes obtaining employment or an offer of employment. In select local offices participating in a pilot program, individuals must be referred to a Jobs Program Assessment for job search assistance before approval for diversion assistance.
[2] Counties have the option to vary their diversion programs. These policies refer to Los Angeles County.
[3] Diversion assistance is only offered to applicants.
[4] Counties have the option to vary their diversion programs. These policies refer to Denver County.
[5] The state's diversion program is related to retaining or obtaining employment, and is only for parents living with natural or adopted children.
[6] Florida has two separate diversion programs. Up-Front Diversion is for individuals in need of assistance due to unexpected circumstances or emergency situations. Relocation Assistance is available for individuals who reside in an area with limited employment opportunities and experience one of the following: geographic isolation, formidable transportation barriers, isolation from extended family, or domestic violence that threatens the ability of a parent to maintain self-sufficiency.
[7] Florida has three separate diversion programs. Up-Front Diversion is for individuals in need of assistance due to unexpected circumstances or emergency situations. Relocation Assistance is available for individuals who reside in an area with limited employment opportunities and experience one of the following: geographic isolation, formidable transportation barriers, isolation from extended family, or domestic violence that threatens the ability of a parent to maintain self-sufficiency. Cash Severance Diversion is available to TANF recipients if they meet the following criteria: are employed and receiving earnings, are able to verify their earnings, will remain employed for at least six months, have received cash assistance for at least six consecutive months since October 1996, and are eligible for at least one more month of TANF.
[8] 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 in order to begin or maintain employment.
[9] Iowa is conducting a demonstration project that provides diversion assistance to its clients.
[10] Applicants must either be in danger of losing employment or have evidence of barriers to accepting a verified offer of employment. Countable income must be at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
[11] Although it still exists in the law, Louisiana's diversion program has not received funding since September 2002.
[12] Diversion payments are only provided to caretaker relatives or parents who are employed or looking for work.
[13] Minnesota's Diversionary Work Program (DWP) is mandatory for most TANF applicants. DWP consists of four months of intensive employment services, focused on helping the participant obtain an unsubsidized job before entering welfare.
[14] Montana is conducting a demonstration project in eight counties that provides diversion assistance to its clients.
[15] Diversion payments are only provided for employment-related expenses at the discretion of the welfare department.
[16] Applicants for WFNJ/TANF must participate in New Jersey's diversion program, Early Employment Initiative, if they (1) have a work history that equals or exceeds four months of full-time employment in the last 12 months, (2) have at least one child, (3) appear to meet TANF eligibility requirements, (4) are not in immediate need, and (5) do not meet criteria for a deferral from work requirements. Participants receive a one-time lump-sum payment and are required to pursue an intensive job search for 15 to 30 days while their WFNJ/TANF application is being processed. If participants obtain employment and withdraw their application, they are eligible to receive a second lump-sum payment to assist in the transition to employment. If no employment is secured, the applicant is referred back to the WFNJ/TANF agency for cash assistance.
[17] The diversion payment is only available to assist applicants in keeping a job or accepting a bona fide offer of employment.
[18] New York has three types of diversion payments: Diversion Payments (for crisis items such as moving expenses, storage fees, or household structural or equipment repairs), Diversion Transportation Payments (for employment-related transportation expenses), and Diversion Rental Payments (for rental housing).
[19] Individuals must be employed or have a bona fide offer of employment to qualify for diversion assistance. Additionally, applicants must be screened for literacy and substance abuse before receipt of a diversion payment. If the applicant refuses the screenings, his or her application will be denied. If, after receiving the screening and any referrals for services, the applicant fails to follow through with the referral, eligibility for the diversion payment is not affected.
[20] Diversion assistance is only available to applicants. The unit must not have received assistance payments during the 12 months before the date of application, and the adult member of the unit must not have terminated employment within 60 days of application for benefits.
[21] 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 single parent experienced a loss of financial support from a spouse within the last 12 months owing to death, divorce, separation, or abandonment AND was employed within 12 months of the application or process month; (3) the caretaker or second parent graduated from a university, college, junior college, or technical training school within 12 months of the application or process month AND was underemployed or unemployed; or (4) the caretaker and/or second parent was employed but faced the loss or potential loss of transportation and/or shelter OR faced a medical emergency temporarily preventing them from continuing to work.
[22] 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 due to death, divorce, separation, abandonment, or termination of child support AND the caretaker was employed within 12 months of the application or process month; (3) the caretaker or second parent graduated from a university, college, junior college, or technical training school within 12 months of the application or process month AND was underemployed or unemployed; or (4) the caretaker and/or second parent was employed but faced the loss or potential loss of transportation and/or shelter OR faced a medical emergency temporarily preventing them from continuing to work.
[23] 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, 1996-2005[1] (July)

State	1996	1999	2002	2005
Alabama	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Alaska	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Arizona	Modified[2]	Modified[2]	Modified[2]	**None**
Arkansas	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
California	Modified[3]	**Modified[4]**	Modified[4]	Modified[4]
Colorado	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Connecticut	None	None	None	None
Delaware	None	None	None	None
D.C.	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC
Florida	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Georgia	Standard AFDC	**Modified[5]**	Modified[5]	Modified[5]
Hawaii	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Idaho	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Illinois	None	None	None	None
Indiana	Modified[3]	Modified[3]	Modified[3]	Modified[3]
Iowa	Modified[6]	**Modified[7]**	**None**	None
Kansas	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Kentucky	Standard AFDC	**Modified[8]**	Modified[8]	Modified[8]
Louisiana	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Maine	Standard AFDC	**Modified[9]**	Modified[9]	Modified[9]
Maryland	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Massachusetts	Modified[10]	Modified[10]	**None**	None
Michigan	None	None	None	None
Minnesota	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Mississippi	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC
Missouri	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	**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	Standard AFDC
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[11]**	Not eligible[11]	Not eligible[11]
Ohio	None	None	None	None
Oklahoma	Standard AFDC	**Modified[10]**	Modified[10]	Modified[10]
Oregon	None	None	None	None
Pennsylvania	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	**Modified[2]**	**None**
Rhode Island	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
South Carolina	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
South Dakota	Standard AFDC	**Modified[12]**	Modified[12]	Modified[12]
Tennessee	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC
Texas	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Utah	Modified[6]	**None**	None	None
Vermont	None	None	None	None
Virginia	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None

Table L2 Types of Special Restrictions on Two-Parent, Nondisabled Units' Eligibility, 1996–2005[1] (July)

State	1996	1999	2002	2005
Washington	Standard AFDC	**Modified[3]**	**None**	None
West Virginia	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None
Wisconsin	Modified[3]	**None**	None	None
Wyoming	Standard AFDC	**None**	None	None

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

Note: Standard AFDC rules for two-parent units include the following: (1) a 100-hour limit on work for both applicants and recipients, (2) applicants must have worked in at least 6 of the last 13 calendar quarters before application, and (3) applicants must have been unemployed for a minimum of 30 days before application.

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

Table L3 Maximum Income for Initial Eligibility for a Family of Three,[1] 1996–2005 (July)

State	1996	1999	2002	2005
Alabama	$366	**$205**	$205	**$269**
Alaska	$1,118	**$1,182**	**$1,276**	**$1,350**
Arizona	$639	**$586**	$586	$586
Arkansas	$426	**$279**	$279	$279
California	$820	**$883**	**$949**	**$981**
Colorado	$511	$511	$511	$511
Connecticut	$835	$835	$835	$835
Delaware	$428	$428	$428	$428
D.C.	$742	**$479**	**$539**	$539
Florida	$574	**$393**	$393	$393
Georgia	$514	$514	$514	$514
Hawaii	$1,187	**$1,641** [2]	$1,641 [2]	$1,641 [2]
Idaho	$1,081	**$637**	**$648**	$648
Illinois	$467	$467	**$486**	$486
Indiana	$378	$378	$378	$378
Iowa	$1,061	$1,061	$1,061	$1,061
Kansas	$519	$519	$519	$519
Kentucky	$616	**$909**	$909	$909
Louisiana	$405	**$310**	**$360**	$360
Maine	$643	**$1,023**	$1,023	$1,023
Maryland	$607	**$499**	**$590**	**$603**
Massachusetts				
Exempt	$669	$669	**$723**	$723
Nonexempt	$655	$655	**$708**	$708
Michigan	$774	$774	$774	$774
Minnesota	$621	**$953**	**$1,012**	**$1,067**
Mississippi	$458	$458	$458	$458
Missouri	$558	$558	$558	$558
Montana	$631		**$876**	**$700**
Pathways and JSP	—	**$797**	—	—
CSP	—	**$569**	—	—
Nebraska	$454	**$667**	**$732**	**$802**
Nevada	$642	**$1,035**	**$1,120**	**$1,185**
New Hampshire	$943	**$688**	**$781**	$781
New Jersey	$783	**$636**	$636	$636
New Mexico	$479	**$720** [3]	**$1,061** [3]	**$1,056** [3]
New York	$667	$667	$667	**$781**
North Carolina	$936	$936	**$681**	$681
North Dakota	$521	**$784**	**$1,252**	$1,252
Ohio	$631	**$630**	**$980**	$980
Oklahoma	$580	**$704**	$704	$704
Oregon	$550	**$616**	$616	$616
Pennsylvania	$677	$677	$677	$677
Rhode Island	$644	**$1,278**	$1,278	$1,278
South Carolina	$614	**$555**	**$609**	**$652**
South Dakota	$597	**$626**	**$693**	**$724**

Table L3 Maximum Income for Initial Eligibility for a Family of Three,[1] 1996–2005 (July)

State	1996	1999	2002	2005
Tennessee	$767	**$948**	**$1,008**	**$1,091**
Texas	$400	$400	**$401**	$401
Utah	$525	**$550**	**$573**	$573
Vermont	$945	**$979**	**$1,000**	**$1,003**
Virginia				
VIEW	$1,082 [4]	**$1,157**	**$1,252**	**$1,341**
All, except VIEW	$380	$380	$380	**$496**
Washington	$937	**$1,090**	$1,090	$1,090
West Virginia	$498	**$503**	**$753**	**$565**
Wisconsin	$895	**—**[5]	—[6]	**—**[7]
Wyoming	$680	**$540**	$540	$540
Mean[8]	**$669**	**$719**	**$768**	**$777**
Median[8]	**$631**	**$667**	**$704**	**$715**

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

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

[1] The values in this table represent the maximum amount of earnings an applicant can have and still be "technically" eligible for assistance in each state. Technical eligibility does not mean the unit will necessarily receive a cash benefit, but it will have passed all the eligibility tests and is eligible for some positive amount. Most states only distribute a cash benefit equaling $10 or more.
[2] Applies to units that have received assistance for no more than two months in a lifetime. For units applying for their third and subsequent months of benefits, the eligibility threshold for a family of three is $1,363.
[3] For purposes of the state's earned income disregard, the adult head is assumed to be working 40 hours a week.
[4] The All, except VIEW units make up the majority of the caseload in this year.
[5] Units with full-time employment (generally greater than 30 hours a week) at application will not receive a cash benefit in the state. However, applicants may earn up to $1,331 and still be eligible for nonfinancial assistance.
[6] Units with full-time employment (generally greater than 30 hours a week) will not receive a cash benefit in the state. There are provisions to provide prorated benefits to Community Service Jobs participants who are also employed part time at unsubsidized jobs. These eligibility determinations are made on a case-by-case basis. Recipients may earn up to $1,440 and still be eligible for nonfinancial assistance.
[7] Units with full-time employment (generally greater than 30 hours a week) will not receive a cash benefit in the state. There are provisions to provide prorated benefits to Community Service Jobs participants who are also employed part time at unsubsidized jobs. These eligibility determinations are made on a case-by-case basis. Recipients may earn up to $1,542 and still be eligible for nonfinancial assistance.
[8] The calculations only include one value per state (the policy affecting the largest percent of the caseload), and the eligibility threshold for Wisconsin is included in the calculation.

Table L4 Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, 1996–2005 (July)

State	1996	1999	2002	2005
Alabama	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**100% first 3 months, 20% thereafter**	**100% first 3 months, 20% thereafter**[1]	**100% first 3 months, 50% next 6 months, 20% thereafter**[1]
Alaska	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$150 and 33.3% of remainder first 12 months, $150 and 25% of remainder months 13–24, $150 and 20% of remainder months 25–36, $150 and 15% of remainder months 37–48, $150 and 10% of remainder months 49–60, $150 thereafter**	$150 and 33% of remainder first 12 months, $150 and 25% of remainder months 13–24, $150 and 20% of remainder months 25–36, $150 and 15% of remainder months 37–48, $150 and 10% of remainder months 49–60, $150 thereafter	$150 and 33% of remainder first 12 months, $150 and 25% of remainder months 13–24, $150 and 20% of remainder months 25–36, $150 and 15% of remainder months 37–48, $150 and 10% of remainder months 49–60, $150 thereafter
Arizona	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter			
All, except JOBSTART	—	**$90 and 30% of remainder**	$90 and 30% of remainder	$90 and 30% of remainder
JOBSTART	—	**100% of subsidized wages**[2]	100% of subsidized wages[2]	100% of subsidized wages[2]
Arkansas	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**No disregards—flat grant amount**	No disregards—flat grant amount	No disregards—flat grant amount
California	$120 and 33.3% of remainder	**$225 and 50% of remainder**	$225 and 50% of remainder	$225 and 50% of remainder
Colorado	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**66.7% first 12 months, $120 and 33.3% of remainder next 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter**	66.7% first 12 months, $120 and 33.3% of remainder next 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter
Connecticut	100% of the Federal Poverty Level	100% of the Federal Poverty Level	100% of the Federal Poverty Level	100% of the Federal Poverty Level
Delaware	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter
D.C.	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$100 and 50% of remainder**	**$160 and 66.7% of remainder**	$160 and 66.7% of remainder
Florida	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$200 and 50% of remainder**	$200 and 50% of remainder	$200 and 50% of remainder
Georgia	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter

Table L4 Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, 1996–2005 (July)

State	1996	1999	2002	2005
Hawaii	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**20%, $200, and 36% of remainder**	20%, $200, and 36% of remainder	20%, $200, and 36% of remainder
Idaho	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**40%**	40%	40%
Illinois	66.7%	66.7%	66.7%	66.7%
Indiana	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**No disregards—flat grant amount**	**75%**
Iowa	20% and 50% of remainder	20% and 50% of remainder	20% and 50% of remainder	20% and 50% of remainder
Kansas	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$90 and 40% of remainder**	$90 and 40% of remainder	$90 and 40% of remainder
Kentucky	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**100% first two months,[3] $120 and 33.3% of remainder next 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter**	100% first 2 months,[3] $120 and 33.3% of remainder next 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	100% first 2 months,[3] $120 and 33.3% of remainder next 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter
Louisiana	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$1,020 first 6 months,[4] $120 thereafter**	$1,020 first 6 months,[4] $120 thereafter	$1,020 in first 6 months,[4] $120 thereafter
Maine	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$108 and 50% of remainder**	$108 and 50% of remainder	$108 and 50% of remainder
Maryland	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**35%**	35%	**40%**
Massachusetts				
Exempt	$120 and 33.3% of remainder	$120 and 33.3% of remainder	$120 and 33.3% of remainder	$120 and 33.3% of remainder
Nonexempt	$120 and 50% of remainder	$120 and 50% of remainder	$120 and 50% of remainder	$120 and 50% of remainder
Michigan	$200 and 20% of remainder	$200 and 20% of remainder	$200 and 20% of remainder	$200 and 20% of remainder
Minnesota	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**36%**	**38%**	**36%** [5]
Mississippi	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**100% first 6 months, $90 thereafter[6]**	**100% first 6 months, $90 thereafter[7]**	100% first 6 months, $90 thereafter[7]

Table L4 Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, 1996-2005 (July)

State	1996	1999	2002	2005
Missouri	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**66.7% and $90 of remainder first 12 months, $90 thereafter[8]**	66.7% and $90 of remainder first 12 months, $90 thereafter[8]
Montana	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter		**$200 and 25% of remainder**	$200 and 25% of remainder
Pathways	—	**$200 and 25% of remainder**	—	—
Community Service Program	—	**$100**	—	—
Job Supplement Program	—	**No disregards allowed**	—	—
Nebraska	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**20%**	20%	20%
Nevada	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**100% first 3 months, 50% months 4–12, $90 or 20% (whichever is greater) thereafter**	100% first 3 months, 50% months 4–12, $90 or 20% (whichever is greater) thereafter	100% first 3 months, 50% months 4–12, $90 or 20% (whichever is greater) thereafter
New Hampshire	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**50%**	50%	50%
New Jersey	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**100% first month, 50% thereafter[9]**	100% first month, 50% thereafter[9]	100% in first month, 50% thereafter[9]
New Mexico	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**All earnings in excess of 29 hours a week, $150, and 50% of remainder first 24 months; $150 and 50% of remainder thereafter[10]**	**All earnings in excess of 34 hours a week, $125, and 50% of remainder first 24 months; $125 and 50% of remainder thereafter[11]**	All earnings in excess of 34 hours a week, $125, and 50% of remainder first 24 months; $125 and 50% of remainder thereafter[11]
New York	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$90 and 45% of remainder**	**$90 and 50% of remainder**	**$90 and 45% of remainder**
North Carolina	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**100% first 3 months of employment,[12] 27.5% thereafter**	100% first 3 months of employment,[12] 27.5% thereafter

Table L4 Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, 1996-2005 (July)

State	1996	1999	2002	2005
North Dakota	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$90 or 27%, whichever is greater, and additional amount computed from formula[13]**	**$180 or 27% (whichever is greater) and 50% of remainder first 6 months, $180 or 27% (whichever is greater) and 35% of remainder months 7–9, $180 or 27% (whichever is greater) and 25% of remainder months 10–13, $180 or 27% (whichever is greater) thereafter[14]**	$180 or 27% (whichever is greater) and 50% of remainder first 6 months, $180 or 27% (whichever is greater) and 35% of remainder months 7–9, $180 or 27% (whichever is greater) and 25% of remainder months 10–13, and $180 or 27% (whichever is greater) thereafter[14]
Ohio	$250 and 50% of remainder first 12 months, $90 thereafter	**$250 and 50% of remainder first 18 months**	**$250 and 50% of remainder**	$250 and 50% of remainder
Oklahoma	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$120 and 50% of remainder**	$120 and 50% of remainder	$120 and 50% of remainder
Oregon	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**50%**	50%	50%
Pennsylvania	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**50%**	50%	50%
Rhode Island	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$170 and 50% of remainder**	$170 and 50% of remainder	$170 and 50% of remainder
South Carolina	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**50% first 4 months, $100 thereafter**	50% first 4 months, $100 thereafter	50% first 4 months, $100 thereafter
South Dakota	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$90 and 20% of remainder**	$90 and 20% of remainder	$90 and 20% of remainder
Tennessee	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$150**	$150	$150
Texas	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$120 and 90% of remainder (up to $1,400) for 4 of 12 months, $120 thereafter[15]**	**$120 and 90% of remainder (up to $1,400) for 4 of 12 months, $120 thereafter[16]**
Utah	$100 and 50% of remainder[17]	$100 and 50% of remainder[17]	$100 and 50% of remainder[17]	$100 and 50% of remainder[17]
Vermont	$150 and 25% of remainder	$150 and 25% of remainder	$150 and 25% of remainder	$150 and 25% of remainder

Table L4 Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, 1996-2005 (July)

State	1996	1999	2002	2005
Virginia	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$134 [18] and 20% of remainder**
Washington	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**50%**	50%	50%
West Virginia	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**40%**	**60%**	**40%**
Wisconsin	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**No disregards—flat grant amount**	No disregards—flat grant amount	No disregards—flat grant amount
Wyoming	$120 and 33.3% of remainder first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	**$200 [19]**	$200 [19]	$200 [19]

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

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

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

[1] The earned income disregard cannot be applied to the earnings of an individual receiving assistance beyond the 60th month under an exemption or extension.
[2] In addition to the 100 percent disregard of all subsidized JOBSTART wages, recipients can disregard the standard $90 and 30 percent of the remainder for any non-JOBSTART earned income.
[3] Recipients are eligible for the one-time 100 percent disregard if they become newly employed.
[4] The six months in which the extra $900 is disregarded need not be consecutive, but the recipient may use this extra disregard in no more than six months over the course of his or her lifetime.
[5] This disregard applies to TANF applicants who have completed the mandatory diversion program. See table I.A.1 for details.
[6] Recipients are eligible for the one-time 100 percent disregard if they find employment of 35 hours a week within 30 days of either their initial approval for TANF or the beginning of job readiness training. If work is not found, the recipient will never be eligible to receive the disregard again. An additional 100 percent disregard is available to units for three months when the unit's case is subject to closure due to 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 that there is a period of at least 12 consecutive months in which a family does not receive TANF benefits before the family reapplies for assistance. Two-parent units may disregard 100 percent of earnings for the first 6 months, $120 and 33.3 percent in the next 12 months, and $90 thereafter.
[7] Recipients are eligible for the one-time 100 percent disregard if they find employment of 35 hours a week within 30 days of either their initial approval for TANF or the beginning of job readiness training. If work is not found, the recipient will never be eligible to receive the disregard again. An additional 100 percent disregard is available to units for three months when the unit's case is subject to closure due to 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 may disregard 100 percent of earnings for the first 6 months, $120 and 33.3 percent in the next 12 months, and $90 thereafter. If a recipient marries for the first time, his or her new spouse may receive a one-time, 100 percent disregard for six consecutive months.
[8] This policy only applies to recipients who become employed while receiving TANF. Applicants and recipients who gained employment before receiving TANF are allowed to disregard $120 and 33.3 percent of remainder for the first four months, $120 the next eight months, and $90 thereafter.
[9] The 100 percent disregard is only applicable once every 12 months, even if employment is lost and then regained. In the first month of benefit computation, applicants may disregard 50 percent of earnings only.

[10] Two-parent units may disregard all earnings above 59 hours a week (if federally subsidized child care is available, else 39 hours a week), $250, and 50 percent in the first 24 months. Thereafter, they may disregard $250 and 50 percent of the remainder. The disregard for earnings in excess of the participation requirement only applies to recipients for the first 24 months of benefit receipt, for both single- and two-parent units.
[11] Two-parent units may disregard all earnings in excess of 35 hours a week for one parent and 24 hours a week for the other parent, $225, and 50 percent in the first 24 months. Thereafter, they may disregard $225 and 50 percent of the remainder. The disregard for earnings in excess of the participation requirement only applies to recipients for the first 24 months of benefit receipt, for both single- and two-parent units.
[12] The 100 percent disregard is only available once in a lifetime and may be received only if the recipient is newly employed at a job that is expected to be permanent for more than 20 hours a week.
[13] The formula for months one through eight equals A*(A/B)*.5, where A Min[earnings after initial disregard, B] and B = Employment Incentive Limit; for months nine and ten it equals A*(A/B)*.3, where A = Min[earnings after ED #1, B] and B = Employment Incentive Limit; and for months 11 and 12 it equals A*(A/B)*.1, where A = Min[earnings after ED #1, B] and B = Employment Incentive Limit. Beginning in the 13th month, there is no additional disregard. If a parent marries while receiving assistance, the income of his or her new spouse is disregarded for the first six months. The disregard for the new spouse only applies if his or her needs were not previously included in the unit.
[14] If a parent marries while receiving assistance, the income of his or her new spouse is disregarded for the first six months. The disregard for the new spouse only applies if his or her needs were not previously included in the unit.
[15] Once the recipient has received four months (they need not be consecutive) of the 90 percent disregard, he or she is not eligible to receive the disregard again until the TANF case has been denied and remains denied for one full month, and 12 calendar months have passed since the denial. The 12-month ineligibility period begins with the first full month of denial after the client used the fourth month of the 90 percent disregard.
[16] Once the recipient has received four months (they need not be consecutive) of the 90 percent disregard, he or she is not eligible to receive the disregard again until the TANF case has been denied and remains denied for one full month, and 12 calendar months have passed since the denial. The 12-month ineligibility period begins with the first full month of denial after the client used the fourth month of the 90 percent disregard. The earnings of a TANF recipient's new spouse are disregarded for six months if the total gross income of the budget group does not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
[17] To be eligible for the 50 percent disregards, the recipient must have received benefits in at least one of the previous four months.
[18] The disregard varies by family size; for one to four family members, the disregard is $134. For five members, the disregard is $153, and for six or more family members, $175 may be disregarded.
[19] Married couples with a child in common may disregard $400.

Table L5 Maximum Monthly Benefit for a Family of Three with No Income, 1996–2005 (July)

State	1996	1999	2002	2005
Alabama	$164	$164	$164	**$215**
Alaska	$923	$923	$923	$923
Arizona	$347	$347	$347	$347
Arkansas	$204	$204	$204	$204
California	$596			
Nonexempt	—	**$626**	**$679**	**$704**
Exempt	—	**$699**	**$758**	**$786**
Colorado	$356	$356	$356	$356
Connecticut	$543	$543	$543	$543
Delaware	$338	$338	$338	$338
D.C.	$415	**$379**	$379	$379
Florida	$303	$303	$303	$303
Georgia	$280	$280	$280	$280
Hawaii	$712	**$570** [1]	$570 [1]	$570 [1]
Idaho	$317	**$276**	**$309**	$309
Illinois	$377	$377	**$396**	$396
Indiana	$288	$288	$288	$288
Iowa	$426	$426	$426	$426
Kansas	$429	$429	$429	$429
Kentucky	$262	$262	$262	$262
Louisiana	$190	$190	**$240**	$240
Maine	$418	**$461**	**$485**	$485
Maryland	$373	**$399**	**$472**	**$482**
Massachusetts				
Exempt	$579	$579	**$633**	$633
Nonexempt	$565	$565	**$618**	$618
Michigan	$459	$459	**$459** [2]	$459 [2]
Minnesota	$532	$532	$532	$532
Mississippi	$120	**$170**	**$170**	$170
Missouri	$292	$292	$292	$292
Montana	$425	**$469**	**$507**	**$375**
Nebraska	$364	$364	$364	$364
Nevada	$348	$348	$348	$348
New Hampshire	$550	$550	**$625**	$625
New Jersey	$424	$424	$424	$424
New Mexico	$389	**$439**	**$389**	$389
New York	$577	$577	$577	**$691**
North Carolina	$272	$272	$272	$272
North Dakota	$431	**$457**	**$477**	$477
Ohio	$341	**$362**	**$373**	$373
Oklahoma	$307	**$292**	$292	$292
Oregon	$460	**$503**	$503	$503
Pennsylvania	$403	$403	$403	$403
Rhode Island	$554	$554	$554	$554
South Carolina	$200	**$201**	**$204**	**$240**
South Dakota	$430	$430	**$483**	**$508**
Tennessee	$185	**$185** [3]	$185 [3]	$185 [3]

Table L5 Maximum Monthly Benefit for a Family of Three with No Income, 1996–2005 (July)

State	1996	1999	2002	2005
Texas	$188	$188	**$208**	**$223**
Utah	$426	**$451**	**$474**	$474
Vermont	$597	**$622**	**$638**	**$640**
Virginia	$291	$291	**$320**	$320
Washington	$546	$546	$546	$546
West Virginia	$253	**$303**	**$453**	**$340**
Wisconsin	$518			
W-2 Transition	—	**$628**	$628	$628
Community Service Jobs	—	**$673**	$673	$673
Trial Jobs/Unsubsidized Employment	—	**—**[4]	—[4]	—[4]
Wyoming	$360	**$340**	$340	$340
Mean[5]	**$394**	**$399**	**$413**	**$413**
Median[5]	**$377**	**$379**	**$396**	**$396**

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

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

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

Table L6 Work-Related Exemption When Caring for a Child under X Months, 1996–2005 (July)[1]

State	1996	1999	2002	2005
Alabama	12	12	**3**	3
Alaska	36	**12 [2]**	12 [2]	**12 [3]**
Arizona	24	**No exemption**	No exemption	No exemption
Arkansas	No exemption	**3 [2]**	3 [2]	3 [2]
California	36 [4]	**12 [5]**	12 [5]	12 [5]
Colorado	12	**12 [6]**	12 [6]	12 [6]
Connecticut	12 [7]	12 [7]	12 [7]	12 [7]
Delaware	13 weeks	13 weeks	13 weeks	13 weeks
D.C.	36	**12**	12	12
Florida	36	**3 [8]**	3 [8]	3 [8]
Georgia	36	**12 [9]**	12 [9]	12 [9]
Hawaii	36	**6**	6	6
Idaho	36	**No exemption**	No exemption	No exemption
Illinois	36 [10]	**12 [10]**	**12**	**12 [11]**
Indiana	36 [7]	**3**	3	**12**
Iowa	3	**No exemption[12]**	No exemption[12]	No exemption[12]
Kansas	36	**12 [13]**	12 [13]	**12 [14]**
Kentucky	36	**12 [2]**	12 [2]	12 [2]
Louisiana	12	**12 [2]**	12 [2]	**12 [15]**
Maine	36	**12 [2]**	12 [2]	12 [2]
Maryland	36	**12 [16]**	12 [16]	12 [16]
Massachusetts				
Exempt[17]	—	—	—	—
Nonexempt	—[18]	—[18]	—[18]	—[18]
Michigan	No exemption	**3**	3	**3 [19]**
Minnesota	36	**12**	12	**3 [20]**
Mississippi	36	**12 [2]**	12 [2]	12 [2]
Missouri	36	**12**	12	12
Montana	12		**No exemption**	No exemption
Pathways and Community Service	—	**No exemption**	**—**	—
Job Supplement Program[17]	—	—	**—**	—
Nebraska	12			
Time limited assistance	—	—[18]	—[18]	—[18]
Non-time limited assistance[17]	—	**3**	3	3
Nevada	36	**12 [2]**	12 [2]	12 [2]
New Hampshire	36			
New Hampshire Employment Program	—	**24 [21]**	**24 [22]**	24 [22]
Family Assistance Program[17]	—	—	**—**	—
New Jersey	24 [23]	**3 [24]**	3 [24]	3 [24]
New Mexico	36	**12 [2]**	12 [2]	12 [2]
New York	36	**3 [25]**	3 [25]	3 [25]
North Carolina	60 [26]	**12 [2]**	12 [2]	12 [2]
North Dakota	24	**4**	4	4
Ohio	12	12	12	12
Oklahoma	12	**3 [2]**	3 [2]	3 [2]
Oregon	3 [27]	**3**	3	3
Pennsylvania	36	**12 [2]**	12 [2]	12 [2]
Rhode Island	36	**12**	12	12

Table L6 Work-Related Exemption When Caring for a Child under X Months, 1996–2005 (July)[1]

State	1996	1999	2002	2005
South Carolina	36	**12 [28]**	12 [28]	
All, except STAR	—	—	—	**No exemption [29]**
STAR (A)	—	—	—	**No exemption**
STAR (B and C)[17]	—	—	—	—
South Dakota	12	**3**	3	3
Tennessee	12	**4**	4	**12**
Texas	36	**48**	**12 [30]**	12 [30]
Utah	No exemption	No exemption	No exemption	No exemption
Vermont	18 [31]	18 [31]	**24 [32]**	24 [32]
Virginia	36	**18 [33]**	18 [33]	18 [33]
Washington	36	**4 [2]**	4 [2]	4 [2]
West Virginia	36	**12 [34]**	12 [34]	**12 [35]**
Wisconsin	12	**3**	3	3
Wyoming	12	**3 [2]**	3 [2]	3 [2]

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

[1] This table refers to single-parent unit heads over 21 years old.
[2] The exemption is limited to 12 cumulative months in the recipient's lifetime.
[3] The exemption is limited to 12 cumulative months in the recipient's lifetime. While exempt, the caretaker may be required to participate in job-readiness activities.
[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] Counties have the option to vary some activities exemptions; this exemption applies to Los Angeles County. The recipient may receive this exemption only once, but he or she may also receive a limited exemption for a second or subsequent child under 6 months old.
[6] The exemption does not apply to those who have received benefits for 24 or more cumulative months.
[7] The exemption applies only if the child is not subject to a family cap.
[8] Recipients may be required to attend classes or other activities.
[9] The exemption is limited to once in the recipient's lifetime.
[10] This exemption does not apply to units in which the youngest related child is age 13 or older.
[11] Although exempt from activities requirements, people caring for children under 12 months old could be asked to participate in counseling, health-related education, group activities, and forums with information about child care and educational opportunities.
[12] If the participant has a newborn child, absence from activities is determined using the standards of the Family Leave Act of 1993. The maximum time for one parent is 12 workweeks in any 12-month period and for two parents is the 12 total workweeks of leave for both parents.
[13] The individual is exempt through the month the child turns 1 year old.
[14] The individual is exempt through the month the child turns 1 year old. The exemption cannot be claimed by any adult in the unit when at least one adult has reached the 48th month of cash assistance.
[15] Parents with a child less than 1 year old are not required to participate in regular work activities, but they may be required to participate in Parenting Skills Training.
[16] This is a one-time exemption for the first child only, and it only applies during the first 24 cumulative months of benefits.
[17] Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from activities requirements. To be included in this component, recipients have to meet certain criteria. See appendix 1 for more information on the composition of the component.
[18] Individuals with this characteristic are placed in the alternative component. See appendix 1 for more information on components.
[19] Women are exempt from activities requirements for three months after giving birth when the newborn is in the home or for postpartum recovery when the newborn is not in the home.
[20] The exemption only applies once in a lifetime. It does not apply if the child is subject to the family cap.
[21] Recipients who conceive a child while on assistance are exempt only until the child is 12 months old.
[22] Recipients who have received 39 or more months of assistance will not receive a child care exemption. Recipients who conceive a child while on assistance are exempt only until the child is 12 months old.
[23] Parents with children under 2 years old are required to participate in counseling and vocational assessment.
[24] The exemption may be extended if a physician certifies it is medically necessary for the parent or child.
[25] The exemption may last for no more than 12 months in a recipient's lifetime and it may not last for more than three months for any one child unless the social services official determines to extend the exemption for up to the total 12 months.
[26] This applies to caretakers with children under 5 years old, unless the caretaker or parent is working more than 30 hours a week.
[27] Native Americans who live in the Confederated Tribe of the Grande Ronde Service District are excluded from JOBS participation.
[28] The exemption does not apply to individuals under the age of 25 with no high school diploma or GED.
[29] A parent personally providing care for his or her child under age 1 will be expected to participate in the work program but cannot be sanctioned for failure to do so.
[30] This exemption only applies for children who were less than 12 months old at initial application.
[31] The parent is exempt from working but must participate in the Reach Up program.

[32] If the recipient cares for a child under 24 months old, work requirements may be modified or deferred. A participant's work requirement cannot be deferred for this reason for more than 24 months in a lifetime. If the participant has exhausted the 24 months and has a child under 13 weeks old, then he or she is automatically exempt from all work requirements.
[33] Recipients caring for children subject to a family cap are only exempt while the child is under 6 weeks old.
[34] The exemption applies only to the first child. The recipient is exempted for six months after the birth of any additional child. The six months include any time the recipient chooses to be exempt during pregnancy.
[35] The exemption is limited to six months for each child and may be taken at any time while the child is less than 12 months old.

Table L7 Most Severe Sanction Policy for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Adults, 1996–2005 (July)

	1996		1999		2002		2005	
State	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)	Reduction in benefit	Length of sanction (months)
Alabama	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Entire benefit**	**6 months**	Entire benefit	6 months	Entire benefit	6 months
Alaska	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Adult portion of benefit[1]**	**12 months[+]**	Adult portion of benefit[1]	12 months[+]	**Case is closed**	**Must reapply**
Arizona			**Entire benefit**	**1 month[+]**	Entire benefit	1 month[+]	Entire benefit	1 month[+]
All, except JOBSTART	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	—	—	—	—	—	—
JOBSTART	50%[2]	1 month[+]	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arkansas	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**25%**	**Until compliance**	**Case is closed[3]**	**Until in compliance for 2**	Case is closed[3]	Until in compliance for 2 weeks
California	Adult portion of benefit	6 months+	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]
Colorado[4]	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Entire benefit**	**3 months[+]**	Entire benefit	3 months[+]	Entire benefit	3 months[+]
Connecticut	Case is closed	3 months and must reapply	Case is closed	3 months and must reapply	Case is closed	3 months and must reapply	Case is closed	3 months and must reapply
Delaware	Entire benefit	Permanent	Entire benefit	Permanent	Entire benefit	Permanent	Entire benefit	Permanent
D.C.	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]
Florida	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Entire benefit**	**3 months+[5]**	Entire benefit	3 months[+5]	Entire benefit	3 months[+5]
Georgia	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Entire benefit**	**Permanent**	Entire benefit	Permanent	Entire benefit	Permanent
Hawaii	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Entire benefit**	**3 months[+]**	Entire benefit	3 months[+]
Idaho	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Entire benefit**	**Permanent**	Entire benefit	Permanent	Entire benefit	Permanent
Illinois	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Entire benefit**	**3 months[+]**	Entire benefit	3 months[+]	Entire benefit	3 months[+]

Table L7 Most Severe Sanction Policy for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Adults, 1996–2005 (July)

	1996		1999		2002		2005	
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			**Adult portion of benefit**	**36 months[+]**	Adult portion of benefit	36 months[+]	**Case is closed**	**Until compliance**
Nonplacement track	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**—**	**—**	—	—	—	—
Placement track	Adult portion of benefit	36 months[+]	**—**	**—**	—	—	—	—
Iowa	Entire benefit	6 months	**Entire benefit**	**6 months[+6]**	Entire benefit	6 months[+6]	Entire benefit	6 months[+6]
Kansas	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Entire benefit**	**2 months[+]**	Entire benefit	2 months[+]	Entire benefit	2 months[+]
Kentucky	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Entire benefit**	**Until compliance**	Entire benefit	Until compliance	Entire benefit	Until compliance
Louisiana	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Case is closed**	**Until compliance**	Case is closed	Until compliance	**Case is closed**	**3 months[+]**
Maine	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]
Maryland	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Entire benefit**	**Until in compliance for 30 days**	Entire benefit	Until in compliance for 30 days	Entire benefit	Until in compliance for 30 days
Massachusetts								
Exempt[7]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nonexempt	Entire benefit	Until in compliance for 2 weeks	Entire benefit	Until in compliance for 2 weeks	Entire benefit	Until in compliance for 2 weeks	Entire benefit	Until in compliance for 2 weeks
Michigan	Entire benefit	Until compliance	**Entire benefit**	**1 month[+]**	Entire benefit	1 month[+]	Entire benefit	1 month[+]
Minnesota	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Vendor payment and 30%[8]**	**1 month[+]**	Vendor payment and 30%[8]	1 month[+]	**Case is closed**	**1 month[+]**
Mississippi	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Entire benefit**	**Permanent**	Entire benefit	Permanent	Entire benefit	Permanent
Missouri	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**25%**	**3 months[+]**	25%	3 months[+]	25%	3 months[+]
Montana	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Case is closed[9]**	**1 month**	Case is closed[9]	1 month	**Case is closed**	**1 month**

Table L7 Most Severe Sanction Policy for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Adults, 1996–2005 (July)

	1996		1999		2002		2005	
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)
Nebraska	Adult portion of benefit	6 months+	**Entire benefit**	**12 months or the remainder of 48 months (whichever is shorter)**	Entire benefit	12 months or the remainder of 48 months (whichever is shorter)	Entire benefit	12 months or the remainder of 48 months (whichever is shorter)
Nevada	Adult portion of benefit	6 months+	**Entire benefit**	**Permanent**	Entire benefit	Permanent	**Entire benefit**	**Until compliance**
New Hampshire	Adult portion of benefit	6 months+						
New Hampshire Employment Program	—	—	**66% of Adjusted Payment Standard[10]**	**1 payment period+**	66% of Adjusted Payment Standard[10]	1 payment period+	**66% of Adjusted Payment Standard[11]**	**1 payment period+**
Family Assistance Program[7]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Jersey	Adult portion of benefit	90 days+	**Case is closed[12]**	**3 months**	Case is closed[12]	3 months	Case is closed[12]	3 months
New Mexico	Adult portion of benefit	6 months+	**Case is closed**	**6 months+**				
New Mexico Works Program	—	—	—	—	**Case is closed**	**6 months+**	Case is closed	6 months+
Educational Works Program	—	—	—	—	**Participation is terminated[13]**	*	Participation is terminated[13]	*
New York	Adult portion of benefit	6 months+	**Pro rata portion of benefit**	**6 months+**	Pro rata portion of benefit	6 months+	Pro rata portion of benefit	6 months+
North Carolina					**Case is closed[12]**	**Must reapply**	Case is closed	Must reapply
Work First Active	Adult portion of benefit	6 months+	**$75**	**12 months+**	—	—	—	—
Pre-Work First and Work First Preparatory[8]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table L7 Most Severe Sanction Policy for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Adults, 1996–2005 (July)

	1996		1999		2002		2005	
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 Dakota	Adult portion of benefit	3 months[+]	**Entire benefit[14]**	**3 months[+]**	Entire benefit[14]	3 months[+]	**Case is closed[15]**	**12 months**
Ohio	Entire benefit	6 months[+]	Entire benefit	6 months[+]	Entire benefit	6 months[+]	Entire benefit	6 months[+]
Oklahoma	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Entire benefit**	**Until compliance**	Entire benefit	Until compliance	Entire benefit	Until compliance
Oregon	Entire benefit	Until compliance	Entire benefit	Until compliance	Entire benefit	Until compliance	Entire benefit	Until compliance
Pennsylvania	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Entire benefit[16]**	**Permanent**	Entire benefit[16]	Permanent	Entire benefit[16]	Permanent
Rhode Island	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**140% of adult portion of benefit[17]**	**Until in compliance for 2 weeks**	140% of adult portion of benefit[17]	Until in compliance for 2 weeks	**Entire benefit**	**Until in compliance for 2 weeks**
South Carolina	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Case is closed**	**Must reapply and comply for 30 days**	Case is closed	Must reapply and comply for 30 days		
All, except STAR	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-	**Case is closed**	**Must reapply and comply for 30 days**
STAR (A)	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-	**Adult portion of benefit**	**Until compliance**
STAR (B and C)	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-	—-	**—[7]**	**—-**
South Dakota	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Case is closed**	**1 month[+] and must reapply**	Case is closed	1 month[+] and must reapply	Case is closed	1 month[+] and must reapply
Tennessee	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Entire benefit**	**3 months[+]**	Entire benefit	3 months[+]	Entire benefit	3 months[+]
Texas	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**Case is closed**	**Must reapply and comply for 30 days**
Utah	Entire benefit[18]	Until compliance	Entire benefit[18]	Until compliance	Entire benefit[18]	Until compliance	Entire benefit[18]	Until compliance
Vermont	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	Adult portion of benefit	6 months[+]	**$225**	**Until in compliance for 2 weeks**	$225	Until in compliance for 2 weeks

Table L7 Most Severe Sanction Policy for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Adults, 1996-2005 (July)

State	1996		1999		2002		2005	
	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	Entire benefit	6 months+						
VIEW	—-	—-	**Entire benefit**	**6 months+**	Entire benefit	6 months+	Entire benefit	6 months+
All, except VIEW	—-	—-	**—- [7]**	**—-**	—- [7]	—-	—- [7]	—-
Washington	Adult portion of benefit	6 months+	**Adult portion of benefit or 40% (whichever is greater)**	**Until in compliance for 2 weeks[19]**	Adult portion of benefit or 40% (whichever is greater)	Until in compliance for 2 weeks[19]	**Adult portion of benefit or 40% (whichever is greater)**	**Until in compliance for 4 weeks**
West Virginia	Adult portion of benefit	6 months+	**Entire benefit**	**6 months+**	Entire benefit	6 months+	**Entire benefit**	**3 months+**
Wisconsin	Entire benefit	Until compliance	**Entire benefit**	**Permanent[20]**	Entire benefit	Permanent[20]	Entire benefit	Permanent[20]
Wyoming	Adult portion of benefit	6 months+	**Entire benefit**	**Until compliance**	Entire benefit	Until compliance	Entire benefit	Until compliance

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

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

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

* Data not obtained.

1 The adult portion of the benefit is calculated by subtracting the child-only need standard for a one-person household from the adult-included need standard for a two-person household.
2 The participant will be removed from the JOBSTART program but will be eligible to participate in the non-JOBSTART component.
3 For the seventh and subsequent months of noncompliance, the caseworker has discretion to either reduce the unit's benefits by 50 percent or close the case. If the case is closed, the unit may reapply for its full benefits, but the application will be pending until the unit has complied with requirements for two weeks.
4 Counties have the option to determine the amount and duration of sanctions. These policies refer to Denver County.
5 Assistance may still be provided to children under age 16 in the unit; these benefits are issued to a protective payee.
6 The sanctioned parent must also sign a family investment agreement and complete 20 hours of eligible education or work activities to become eligible again. The sanction continues until the parent fully complies.
7 Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they have no sanctions.
8 The shelter costs are paid directly to the vendor; any remaining benefit amount is reduced by 30 percent of the Transitional Standard. Vendor payments continue for six months after the month in which the parent becomes compliant.
9 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.
10 The Adjusted Payment Standard refers to the new benefit amount once the adult portion is removed.
11 The Adjusted Payment Standard refers to the new benefit amount once the adult portion is removed. Additionally, the recipient must participate in an assessment of barriers to participation. If barriers are found, the recipient's training and support program is revised accordingly. If no barriers are found, financial assistance is terminated for the entire unit.

[12] If noncompliance continues after three months, the case is closed and the unit must reapply for further assistance.
[13] 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 Educational Works Program.
[14] If the adult is noncompliant for three or fewer months, only the adult portion of the benefit is removed. If noncompliance continues after four months, the entire unit is ineligible for benefits until compliance.
[15] 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.
[16] This applies to noncompliance that occurs after the first 24 months of assistance. For noncompliances that occur within the first 24 months of assistance, the needs of the sanctioned individual are not included for benefit calculation.
[17] If the individual is noncompliant for one to six months, 110 percent of the parent's benefit is reduced from the unit's. For months 7 through 12 of noncompliance, 120 percent of the parent's benefit is reduced from the unit's. Months 13–18, 130 percent reduction. Months 19–24, 140 percent reduction. Following 24 months of noncompliance, the reduction is decreased to 100 percent of the parent's benefit, but the entire remaining benefit must be made to a protective payee. The individual is sanctioned until he or she is in compliance for two weeks.
[18] The entire unit is ineligible if the adult is in noncompliance for two or more months. If the adult is noncompliant for less than two months, only $100 of the benefit is removed.
[19] The sanction remains in effect until the individual is compliant for two weeks; after two weeks of compliance, benefits are restored to their pre-sanction level and the individual is paid retroactively for the two weeks of compliance.
[20] Wisconsin has four components (see appendix 1 for description of components). When a recipient is sanctioned and permanently ineligible for benefits in W-2 T, Community Service Jobs, or Trial Jobs, the unit may receive benefits again if it becomes eligible for one of the other two. There is no permanent sanction for individuals in Unsubsidized Employment.

Table L8 Asset Limits for Recipients, 1996–2005 (July)

State	1996	1999	2002	2005
Alabama	$1,000	**$2,000/$3,000[1]**	$2,000/$3,000[1]	$2,000/$3,000[1]
Alaska	$1,000	$1,000	**$2,000/$3,000[1]**	$2,000/$3,000[1]
Arizona	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	$2,000
Arkansas	$1,000	**$3,000**	$3,000	$3,000
California	$2,000 [2]	**$2,000/$3,000[1]**	$2,000/$3,000[1]	$2,000/$3,000[1]
Colorado	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	$2,000
Connecticut	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000
Delaware	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
DC	$1,000	**$2,000/$3,000[1]**	$2,000/$3,000[1]	$2,000/$3,000[1]
Florida	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	$2,000
Georgia	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
Hawaii	$1,000	**$5,000**	$5,000	$5,000
Idaho	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	$2,000
Illinois	$1,000	**$2,000/$3,000/+ $50[3]**	$2,000/$3,000/+$50[3]	$2,000/$3,000/+$50[3]
Indiana	$1,000	**$1,500 [2]**	$1,500 [2]	$1,500 [2]
Iowa	$5,000 [4]	$5,000 [4]	$5,000 [4]	$5,000 [4]
Kansas	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	$2,000
Kentucky	$1,000	**$2,000**	**$2,000 [5]**	$2,000 [5]
Louisiana	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	$2,000
Maine	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	$2,000
Maryland	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	$2,000
Massachusetts	$2,500	$2,500	$2,500	$2,500
Michigan	$1,000	**$3,000**	$3,000	$3,000
Minnesota	$1,000	**$5,000 [4]**	$5,000 [4]	$5,000 [4]
Mississippi	$1,000	**$2,000**	**$2,000 [6]**	$2,000 [6]
Missouri	$5,000 [7]	**$5,000 [2]**	$5,000 [2]	$5,000 [2]
Montana	$1,000	**$3,000**	$3,000	$3,000
Nebraska	$1,000	**$4,000/$6,000[8]**	$4,000/$6,000[8]	$4,000/$6,000[8]
Nevada	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	$2,000
New Hampshire	$1,000	**$2,000 [2]**	$2,000 [2]	$2,000 [2]
New Jersey	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	$2,000
New Mexico	$1,000	**$3,500 [9]**	$3,500 [9]	$3,500 [9]
New York	$1,000	**$2,000/$3,000[1]**	$2,000/$3,000[1]	$2,000/3,000[1]
North Carolina	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000
North Dakota	$1,000	**$5,000/$8,000[10]**	**$3,000/$6,000/+$25[11]**	$3,000/$6,000/+$25[11]
Ohio	$1,000	**No limit[12]**	No limit[12]	No limit[12]
Oklahoma	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
Oregon	$10,000 [13]	$10,000 [13]	$10,000 [13]	$10,000 [13]
Pennsylvania	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
Rhode Island	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
South Carolina	$1,000	**$2,500**	$2,500	$2,500
South Dakota	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	$2,000
Tennessee	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	$2,000
Texas	$1,000	**$2,000/$3,000[1]**	$2,000/$3,000[1]	**$1,000 [14]**
Utah	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000
Vermont	$1,000 [15]	$1,000 [15]	$1,000 [15]	$1,000 [15]
Virginia	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	**No limit[12]**
Washington	$1,000	**$1,000 [16]**	$1,000 [16]	$1,000 [16]

Table L8 Asset Limits for Recipients, 1996–2005 (July)

State	1996	1999	2002	2005
West Virginia	$1,000	**$2,000**	$2,000	$2,000
Wisconsin	$1,000	**$2,500**	$2,500	$2,500
Wyoming	$1,000	**$2,500**	$2,500	$2,500

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

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

[1] Units including an elderly person may exempt $3,000; all other units exempt $2,000.
[2] The asset limit for applicants is $1,000.
[3] The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $2,000, two people receive $3,000, and three or more receive another $50 for each additional person.
[4] The asset limit for applicants is $2,000.
[5] Only liquid resources will be considered for eligibility determinations. Liquid resources include cash, checking and savings accounts, CDs, stocks and bonds, and money market accounts.
[6] When a TANF recipient marries while receiving assistance, the resources of the new spouse are disregarded for six months.
[7] The asset limit for applicants and for recipients who do not sign a self-sufficiency pact in Missouri is $1,000.
[8] The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $4,000 and two or more people receive $6,000.
[9] The total limit is $3,500; however, only $1,500 of that amount can be in liquid resources and only $2,000 can be in nonliquid resources. Liquid resources include the (convertible) cash value of life insurance policies, cash, stocks, bonds, negotiable notes, purchase contracts and other similar assets. Nonliquid resources include nonexempt vehicles, equipment, tools, livestock (except nonsalable domestic pets), one-time sale asset conversion, and lump-sum payments.
[10] The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $5,000 and two or more people receive $8,000.
[11] The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $3,000, two people receive $6,000, and three or more receive an additional $25 for each additional person thereafter.
[12] The asset test has been eliminated.
[13] The asset limit for applicants is $2,500. The asset limit for recipients may be reduced to $2,500 if they do not participate in the required activities of their case plan.
[14] When a TANF recipient marries while receiving assistance, the liquid resources of the new spouse are excluded for six months beginning the month after the date of the marriage. To receive the disregard, the resources must result from the new spouse's earnings and total gross income must not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
[15] In addition to the $1,000 asset limit, up to 100 percent of the unit's total gross earnings from the previous month, if placed in a savings account, will not count toward its asset limit.
[16] $3,000 held in a savings account or certificate of deposit may also be excluded.

Table L9 Vehicle Exemptions for Recipients, 1996–2005 (July)

State	1996	1999	2002	2005
Alabama	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per driver**	**All vehicles owned by household**	All vehicles owned by household
Alaska	$1,500[E]	**All vehicles owned by household[1]**	All vehicles owned by household[1]	All vehicles owned by household[1]
Arizona	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per household**	One vehicle per household	**All vehicles owned by household[2]**
Arkansas	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per household**	One vehicle per household	One vehicle per household
California	$4,500 [3E]	**$4,650[E]**	$4,650[E]	**$4,650[F]/One vehicle per licensed driver[4E]**
Colorado	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per household**	**$4,500[5F]**	**One vehicle per household**
Connecticut	$9,500[E]	$9,500[6E]	$9,500[6E]	$9,500[6E]
Delaware	$4,650[E]	$4,650[E]	$4,650[E]	$4,650[E]
D.C.	$1,500[E]	**$4,650[F]**	**All vehicles owned by household**	All vehicles owned by household
Florida	$1,500[E]	**$8,500[E]**	$8,500[E]	$8,500[E]
Georgia	$1,500[E]	**$1,500/$4,650[7E]**	$1,500/$4,650[7E]	$1,500/$4,650[7E]
Hawaii	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per household**	**All vehicles owned by household**	All vehicles owned by household
Idaho	$1,500[E]	**$4,650[8F]**	**$4,650[9F]**	$4,650[9F]
Illinois	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per household[10]**	One vehicle per household[10]	One vehicle per household[10]
Indiana	$1,000[E]	**$5,000[E]**	$5,000[E]	$5,000[E]
Iowa	$3,889[E] per vehicle for each adult and working teenager	**$3,916[E] per vehicle for each adult and working teenager**	**$4,115[E] per vehicle for each adult and working teenager**	**One vehicle per household[11]**
Kansas	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per household[12]**	**All vehicles owned by household[13]**	All vehicles owned by household[13]
Kentucky	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per household**	**All vehicles owned by household**	All vehicles owned by household
Louisiana	$1,500[E]	**$10,000[E]**	**All vehicles owned by household**	All vehicles owned by household
Maine	One vehicle per household	One vehicle per household	One vehicle per household	One vehicle per household
Maryland	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per household**	**All vehicles owned by household**	All vehicles owned by household
Massachusetts	$5,000[F]	$5,000[F]	**$5,000[E]/$10,000[14F]**	$5,000[E]/$10,000[14F]
Michigan	One vehicle per household[15]	**All vehicles owned by household**	All vehicles owned by household	All vehicles owned by household
Minnesota	$1,500[E]	**$7,500[16E]**	$7,500[16E]	$7,500[16E]
Mississippi	$1,500[E]	**$4,650[F]**	**One vehicle per household[17]**	**All vehicles owned by household[18]**
Missouri	One vehicle per household[19]	One vehicle per household[19]	One vehicle per household[19]	One vehicle per household[19]
Montana	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per household[20]**	One vehicle per household[20]	One vehicle per household[20]
Nebraska	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per household[21]**	One vehicle per household[21]	One vehicle per household[21]
Nevada	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per household**	One vehicle per household	One vehicle per household
New Hampshire	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per licensed driver**	One vehicle per licensed driver	One vehicle per licensed driver
New Jersey	$1,500[E]	**$9,500 [22F]**	$9,500 [22F]	$9,500 [22F]

Table L9 Vehicle Exemptions for Recipients, 1996–2005 (July)

State	1996	1999	2002	2005
New Mexico	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per household[23]**	One vehicle per household[23]	**All vehicles owned by household[24]**
New York	$1,500[E]	**$4,650[F]**	**$4,650[25F]**	$4,650[25F]
North Carolina	$5,000[F]	**One vehicle per adult**	One vehicle per adult	One vehicle per adult
North Dakota	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per household**	One vehicle per household	One vehicle per household
Ohio	$4,600[F]	**All vehicles owned by household**	All vehicles owned by household	All vehicles owned by household
Oklahoma	$1,500[E]	**$5,000[E]**	$5,000[E]	$5,000[E]
Oregon	$10,000[E]	$10,000[E]	$10,000[E]	$10,000[E]
Pennsylvania	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per household**	One vehicle per household	One vehicle per household
Rhode Island	$1,500[E]	**$4,600/$1,500[26F/E]**	**$4,650/$1,500[27F/E]**	**One vehicle per adult[28]**
South Carolina	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per licensed driver[29]**	One vehicle per licensed driver[29]	One vehicle per licensed driver[29]
South Dakota	$1,500[30E]	**$4,650 [31F]**	**One vehicle per household[32]**	One vehicle per household[32]
Tennessee	$1,500[E]	**$4,600[E]**	$4,600[E]	$4,600[E]
Texas	$1,500[E]	**$4,650[33F]**	**$4,650 [34F]**	**$4,650 [35F]**
Utah	$8,000 [36E]	$8,000 [36E]	$8,000 [36E]	$8,000 [36E]
Vermont	One vehicle per household	One vehicle per household	**One vehicle per adult**	One vehicle per adult
Virginia				**All vehicles owned by household**
VIEW	$7,500 [37F/E]	$7,500 [37F/E]	$7,500 [37F/E]	—-
All, except VIEW	$1,500[E]	$1,500[E]	$1,500[E]	—-
Washington	$1,500[E]	**$5,000 [36E]**	$5,000 [36E]	$5,000 [36E]
West Virginia	$1,500[E]	**One vehicle per household**	One vehicle per household	One vehicle per household
Wisconsin	$2,500[E]	**$10,000[E]**	$10,000[E]	$10,000[E]
Wyoming	$1,500[E]	**$12,000 [38F]**	$12,000 [38F]	**$15,000 [38F]**

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

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

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

[1] Vehicle 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 they are a part of the assistance unit. If the vehicle does not meet one of these requirements, the equity value of the vehicle is counted in the determination of resources.
[2] Recreational vehicles are not exempt.
[3] Applicants may only exempt $1,500 of the equity value of a vehicle.
[4] Each vehicle must be evaluated for both its equity and fair-market value; the higher of the two values counts against the family's asset limit. Before this calculation, all the following vehicles are completely excluded: (1) used primarily for income-producing purposes, (2) produces annual income consistent with its fair-market value, (3) is necessary for long-distance travel that is essential for employment, (4) used as the family's residence, (5) is necessary to transport a physically disabled household member, (6) would be exempt under previously stated exemptions but the vehicle is not in use because of temporary unemployment, (7) used to carry fuel or water to the home and is the primary method of obtaining fuel or water, and (8) the equity value of the vehicle is $1,501 or less. To determine the countable fair-market value of each remaining vehicle, exclude $4,650 from the vehicle's fair-market value. To determine the countable equity value of each remaining vehicle, exclude one additional vehicle per adult and one additional vehicle per licensed child who uses the vehicle to travel to school, employment, or job search. The full equity value of each remaining vehicle is counted. For each vehicle not completely excluded, the higher of the fair-market value or the equity value counts against the family's asset limit.
[5] One vehicle per household is exempt if equipped for a handicapped person, used to obtain medical treatment, or used for employment.
[6] The unit may exempt $9,500 of the equity value of a vehicle or the entire value of one vehicle used to transport a handicapped person.

[7] If the vehicle is used to look for work, or to travel to work or education and training, the unit may exclude $4,650 of the value. If the vehicle is not used for these purposes, $1,500 of the equity value will be excluded. If the vehicle is used more than 50 percent of the time to produce income or as a dwelling, it is totally excluded.
[8] The value of one specially equipped vehicle used to transport a disabled family member is also exempt.
[9] The value of one specially equipped vehicle used to transport a disabled family member is also exempt, and vehicles with a fair-market value of under $1,500 are exempt.
[10] When there is more than one vehicle, the equity value of the vehicle of greater value is exempt. If a vehicle has special equipment for the disabled, the added value of the special equipment is exempt and does not increase the vehicle's value.
[11] Additionally, $4,164 of the equity value of another vehicle is exempt for each adult and working teenager whose resources must be considered in determining eligibility.
[12] Any other vehicles used over 50 percent of the time for employment, needed for medical treatment, used as a home, or specially equipped for use by a handicapped person are exempt.
[13] Campers and trailers are also considered excludable vehicles.
[14] 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.
[15] The value of any additional vehicle that is necessary for employment is also exempt.
[16] Minnesota uses the loan value of the vehicle as listed in the current NADA Used Car Guide, Midwest edition instead of the fair-market value. The loan value is generally slightly less than the estimated fair-market value.
[17] $4,650 of the fair-market value of the unit's second vehicle is exempt.
[18] Recreational vehicles (unless used as a home), all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), and other off-road vehicles are not exempt. Additionally, industrial vehicles (i.e., 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 on a case-by-case basis.
[19] $1,500 of the equity of the unit's second vehicle is exempt.
[20] All income-producing vehicles are also exempt.
[21] The entire vehicle is exempt only if used for employment, training, or medical transportation; any motor vehicle used as a home is also exempt. If a unit has more than one vehicle that meets the exemption criteria, only the vehicle with the greatest equity value will be exempt.
[22] 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.
[23] When public transportation is available, the value of the first vehicle is exempt. When public transportation is not available, the value of one vehicle per participant involved in work activity is exempt.
[24] The entire vehicle is exempt only if used for transportation to work, work activities, or daily living requirements.
[25] If the vehicle is needed to seek or retain employment, $9,300 of the vehicle's fair-market value is exempt.
[26] A unit may exempt either $4,600 of the fair-market value of each vehicle or $1,500 of the equity value of each vehicle. The entire value of vehicles used primarily for income-producing purposes may be excluded (this includes vehicles such as delivery trucks or taxi cabs). Vehicles used to get to and from work are not considered income-producing vehicles.
[27] A unit may exempt $4,650 of the fair-market value of a vehicle. After this exemption, if the remaining value of the vehicle disqualifies the unit from assistance, $1,500 of the equity value of the vehicle is exempted. The entire value of a vehicle to provide necessary transportation of a disabled family member may be exempted.
[28] Exemptions for adult drivers cannot exceed two vehicles per household. Additionally, the entire value of a vehicle used primarily for income-producing purposes, used as a family home, or used to provide transportation for a disabled family member is exempt.
[29] 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.
[30] 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.
[31] $4,650 of the fair-market value of a vehicle is exempt if used to transport members of the unit for education or employment. The unit may also exempt a vehicle used to transport water or fuel to the home when it is not piped in, a vehicle used to transport a disabled member or SSI recipient in the household, and a vehicle used as a home or to produce income.
[32] In addition to one primary vehicle, an assistance unit may totally exclude a vehicle used to transport water or fuel to the home when it is not piped in, a vehicle used to transport a disabled member or SSI recipient in household, or a vehicle used in producing income or as a home. An assistance unit may also exclude $4,650 of the fair-market value of a vehicle used to transport members of the unit for education or employment.
[33] $4,650 is exempt for each vehicle owned by a TANF-certified or disqualified household member. All vehicles used more than 50 percent of the time for income-producing purposes are exempt.
[34] $4,650 is exempt for each vehicle owned by a TANF-certified or disqualified household member, and up to $15,000 is exempt for one vehicle owned by a two-parent family. All vehicles used for income-producing purposes are exempt.
[35] $4,650 is exempt for each vehicle owned by a TANF-certified or disqualified household member. All licensed vehicles used for income-producing purposes or for transporting a disabled household member are exempt.
[36] The entire equity value of a vehicle used to transport a disabled household member is also exempt.
[37] 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.
[38] The exemption applies to one vehicle for a single-parent unit. A married couple may split the exemption between two cars.

Table L10 Family Cap Policies, 1996–2005 (July)

State	1996	1999	2002	2005
Alabama	No	No	No	No
Alaska	No	No	No	No
Arizona	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arkansas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
California	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Colorado	No	No	No	No
Connecticut	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Delaware	Yes	Yes	**Yes**[1]	**Yes**[2]
D.C.	No	No	No	No
Florida	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Georgia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hawaii	No	No	No	No
Idaho	No	**No**[3]	No[3]	No[3]
Illinois	Yes	Yes	Yes	**No**[4]
Indiana	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Iowa	No	No	No	No
Kansas	No	No	No	No
Kentucky	No	No	No	No
Louisiana	No	No	No	No
Maine	No	No	No	No
Maryland	Yes	Yes	Yes	**Yes**[5]
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michigan	No	No	No	No
Minnesota	No	No	No	**Yes**
Mississippi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Missouri	No	No	No	No
Montana	No	No	No	No
Nebraska	No[6]	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Nevada	No	No	No	No
New Hampshire	No	No	No	No
New Jersey	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Mexico	No	No	No	No
New York	No	No	No	No
North Carolina	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Dakota	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Ohio	No	No	No	No
Oklahoma	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Oregon	No	No	No	No
Pennsylvania	No	No	No	No
Rhode Island	No	No	No	No
South Carolina	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
South Dakota	No	No	No	No
Tennessee	No	**Yes**	Yes	Yes
Texas	No	No	No	No
Utah	No	No	No	No
Vermont	No	No	No	No
Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Washington	No	No	No	No
West Virginia	No	No	No	No
Wisconsin	Yes	**No**[7]	No[7]	No[7]
Wyoming	No	**Yes**[8]	Yes[8]	Yes[8]
Total States with Cap	**14**	**21**	**21**	**21**

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

[1] In addition to the family cap policy, any child born after December 31, 1998, to an unmarried minor parent is ineligible for cash assistance, regardless of whether the minor was receiving aid at the time of the birth. 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 they will not be automatically given each month. Receipt is based on need.
[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. 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 they will not be automatically given each month. Receipt is based on need, and the total monthly value of the vouchers is capped at $69.
[3] The state provides a flat maximum benefit, regardless of family size. However, the Work Incentive Payment increases with family size, so the benefit for a unit with income may increase with an additional child, but never beyond the maximum benefit level.
[4] Illinois currently has no family cap, but children subject to a cap between January 1, 1996, and January 1, 2004, continue to be capped. The cap policy states that any child born more than 10 months after the initial case opening date is not eligible for an increase in benefits. 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.
[5] As an interim strategy to discontinue the family cap policy, local departments requested a two-year waiver of this policy from the State Secretary. Waivers were originally implemented on or around October 1, 2002. A second two-year waiver was implemented in October 2004.
[6] Nebraska is conducting a demonstration project in five counties that subjects units to a family cap.
[7] The state provides a flat benefit, regardless of family size.
[8] The state does not allow any individual, including adult relatives, to be added to the unit's payment 10 months after the initial qualification for assistance. A new individual's income and resources will be counted for eligibility and benefit determination.

Appendix 1:
Component Descriptions

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

Appendix 1: Component Description

State	Name	Duration	Description	Maximum time in component[1]	Interaction
Arizona	All, except JOBSTART	11/95–present	Nonexempt recipients.	No limit	The goal of JOBSTART is to place recipients in jobs that lead to unsubsidized employment. Those who do not reach unsubsidized employment after 6 months may receive benefits under the All, except JOBSTART component.
	JOBSTART	11/95–present	Participants are randomly selected nonexempt recipients who have completed high school/GED and are not enrolled in postsecondary education. The state subsidizes employers to hire JOBSTART participants full time.	6 months	
California	Nonexempt	7/97–present	Nonexempt recipients.	No limit	Recipients change components only when something happens to change their exemption status.
	Exempt	7/97–present	Recipients who are (1) a parent/relative, an aided parent of an unaided child, a pregnant woman, or an adult in a Refugee Cash Assistance unit and (2) receive SSI, In-Home Support Services, State Disability Insurance, or Temporary Worker's Compensation. Also exempt are unaided nonparent caretakers.	Until recipient no longer meets exemption characteristics.	
Indiana	Nonplacement track	5/95–3/97	Recipients who are not job-ready or are exempt from work requirements.	No limit	If a Placement Track recipient reaches the 24-month time limit and has served the 36 months of ineligibility, s/he may be placed in the Nonplacement Track. Placement Track recipients may be moved to the Nonplacement Track if they are determined unable to work under existing circumstances.
	Placement track	5/95–3/97	Job-ready recipients.	24 months	

Appendix 1: Component Description

State	Name	Duration	Description	Maximum time in component[1]	Interaction
Massachusetts	Exempt[2]	11/95–present	Recipient must meet one of the following exemptions: child-only unit; receiving SSI; disabled; caring for a disabled child, spouse, child's other parent, recipient's parent(s), or grandparent(s); pregnant 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 or not in the assistance unit but is the recipient's natural or adopted child and was born before the Family Cap date; 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 recipients no longer meet the exemption criteria	Recipients change components only when something happens to change their exemption status.
	Nonexempt	11/95–present	Nonexempt recipients.	No limit	
Montana	Pathways	2/96–6/01	New applicants who do not opt for the JSP (diversion) are required to participate in Pathways. Pathways requires a family to complete a Family Investment Agreement (FIA) and limits benefits for adults to 24 months. After the time limit expires, the family enters the CSP.	24 months	New applicants have the option of participating in JSP. If they do not choose to participate in JSP, they are placed in Pathways. If the new applicant chooses to participate in JSP and at any time needs monthly benefits, the unit is placed in Pathways. After receiving 2 years of assistance under Pathways, the unit is required to move to the Community Service Program (CSP). The unit must meet all the requirements of the CSP component to continue receiving benefits.
	Community Service Program (CSP)	2/96–6/01	Recipients whose time limits have expired in Pathways move into CSP. CSP requires that recipients participate in CSP activities.	No limit	
	Job Supplement Program (JSP)	2/96–6/01	Intended to divert applicants from welfare receipt by providing support services (such as Medicaid and child care assistance) and an employment-related cash payment. This program is completely optional and participants must still meet AFDC/TANF eligibility requirements.	n.a.	

Appendix 1: Component Description

State	Name	Duration	Description	Maximum time in component[1]	Interaction
Nebraska	Time limited assistance	11/95–present	Units in which the adult member(s) are able to work.	No limit	Recipients change components only when something happens to change their ability to work or to change their exempt status.
	Non-time limited assistance	11/95–present	Units where the adult member(s) are mentally, emotionally, or physically unable to work. Includes recipients who are one of the following: (1) ill or incapacitated; (2) caring for an ill or incapacitated household member; (3) over 60; (4) at least six months pregnant; (5) caring for a child under 6 months old; (6) victims of domestic violence.	Until recipients no longer meet the criteria	
New Hampshire	New Hampshire Employment Program (NHEP)	3/97–present	Units in which the adult member(s) are able to work.	No limit	Recipients change components only when something happens to change their ability to work.
	Family Assistance Program (FAP)	3/97–present	FAP provides financial assistance to units with dependent children who are cared for by a parent or relative who is unable to work due to a physical or mental disability, or are cared for by a relative other than a parent who is not receiving assistance. The program also includes individuals age 60 and older. Families who have reached their 60-month time limit and have received at least one 6-month extension for caring for a disabled relative, assistance unit member, or spouse may be permanently transferred to FAP. Recipients in this component are exempt from activities requirements and time limits.	Until recipients no longer meet the criteria	

Appendix 1: Component Description					
State	Name	Duration	Description	Maximum time in component[1]	Interaction
New Mexico	New Mexico Works (NMW)	10/00–present	The NMW Program provides financial assistance for families with dependent children.	No limit	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.
	Education Works Program (EWP)	10/00–present	EWP is a state-funded postsecondary 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 (meaning the applicant has no activities, child support, or reporting sanctions), the applicant must provide proof of enrollment in a two- or four-year postsecondary education program, and the applicant must apply for all financial aid available.	24 months	

Appendix 1: Component Description

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

Appendix 1: Component Description					
State	Name	Duration	Description	Maximum time in component[1]	Interaction
South Carolina	All, except STAR	10/03–present	TANF recipients with no health barriers to participation in work activities.	No limit	Recipients change components only when something happens to change their ability to work.
	STAR (A)	10/03–present	STAR is a state-funded program that serves TANF-eligible individuals who face health-related barriers to participation in work activities. Category (A) includes recipients who experience a disability severe enough to prevent full-time participation in the work program but not to the extent that all work and training activities are prevented. It also includes two-parent families where only one parent is severely disabled or caring for a disabled family member. This component is exempt from time limits.	Until recipients no longer meet the exemption criteria	
	STAR (B)	10/03–present	Recipients who experience a permanent or total disability severe enough to prevent most full- or part-time employment or training activities. This component is exempt from work requirements and time limits.	Until recipients no longer meet the exemption criteria	
	STAR (C)	10/03–present	Recipients are those who are responsible for the care of a disabled family member, precluding full-time participation in the work program for 30 days or more. This component is exempt from work requirements and time limits.	Until recipients no longer meet the exemption criteria	
Virginia	Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare Program (VIEW)	7/95–present	All nonexempt recipients that are required to participate in work-related activities.	24 months	Recipients change components only when something happens to change their ability to work.
	All, except VIEW	7/95–present	Recipients who are exempt from VIEW. Recipients are placed in this component as a result of being exempt from work requirements.	No limit	

Appendix 1: Component Description

State	Name	Duration	Description	Maximum time in component[1]	Interaction
Wisconsin	W-2 Transitions	3/97 - present	Individuals who have been determined not ready for unsubsidized employment and unable to participate in other employment positions for reasons such as an individual's incapacitation or the need to remain in the home to care for another family member who is incapacitated or disabled.	24 months	Recipients should always be placed at the highest level of employment participation possible. Therefore, recipients move between components as appropriate. Time limits may be extended on a case-by-case basis.
	Community Service Jobs (CSJ)	3/97 - present	Individuals who are not ready for immediate regular employment, particularly where attempts to place a participant in an unsubsidized job or Trial Job have failed.	24 months	
	Trial Jobs	3/97 - present	Individuals who are job ready but are not able to obtain an unsubsidized job.	24 months	
	Unsubsidized Employment (UE)	1/98 - present	Individuals who are employed at the time of application or who have a strong employment history and skills. Includes individuals who are capable of obtaining employment, are currently in an unsubsidized job, or were previously assigned to a subsidized employment position. These recipients are not subject to either federal or W-2 time limits. Individuals in this component do not receive cash benefits, but case management and some support services are available.	No limit	

Source: The Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by DHHS/ACF and DHHS/ASPE.
Note: Only those states that have clearly delineated components are included in this table.

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

* Data not obtained.
[1] For more information on work exemptions and time limit exemptions, see tables III.B.1, IV.C.3, and IV.C.4. Or, for more detail, see the Welfare Rules Database.
[2] In Massachusetts, the exempt component makes up the majority of the caseload.

About the Authors

Gretchen Rowe is a research associate with the Urban Institute's Income and Benefits Policy Center. Her research has focused on a variety of issues related to the TANF and Food Stamp programs. Currently, she manages the collection and analysis of data for the Welfare Rules Database, which tracks AFDC/TANF policy across states and time.

Mary Murphy is a research assistant with the Urban Institute's Income and Benefits Policy Center. Along with maintaining the Welfare Rules Database, her work has focused on a range of issues that relate to TANF policy.

Meghan Williamson was a research assistant with the Urban Institute's Income and Benefits Policy Center. Her work included maintaining the Welfare Rules Database and contributing to the development of the TRIM3 microsimulation model.