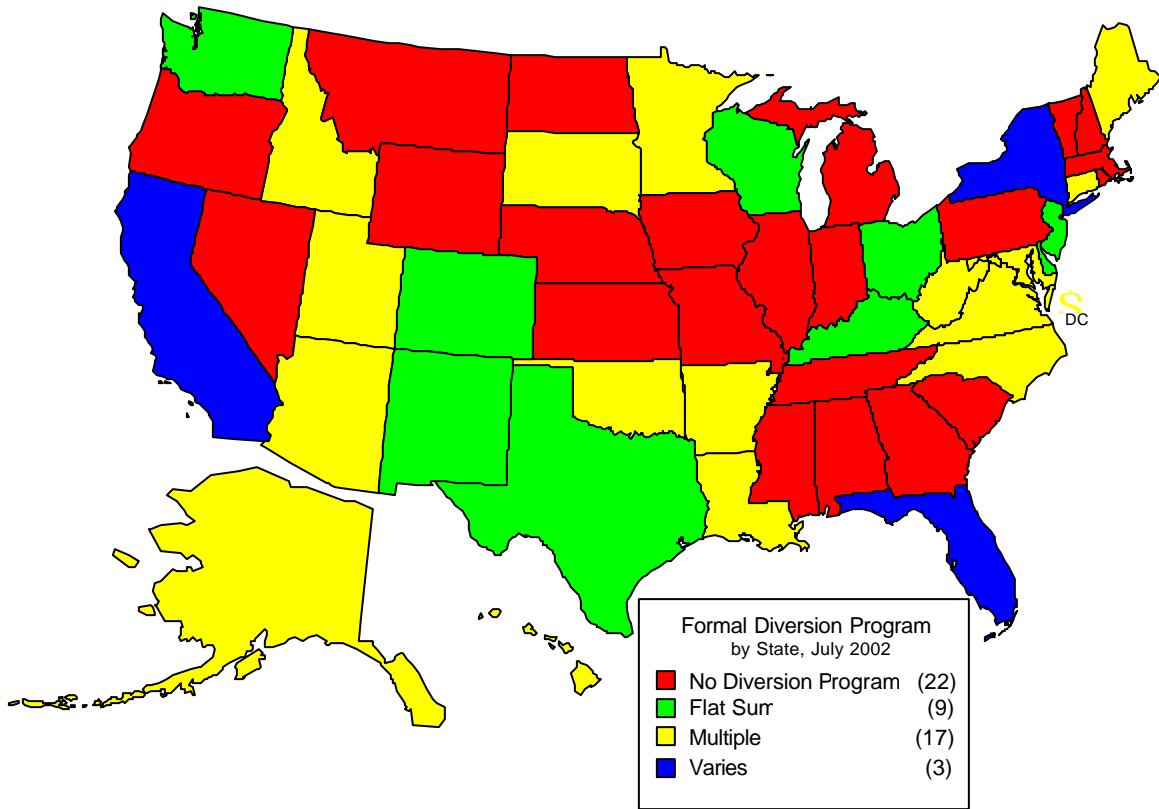




Fast Facts

Formal Diversion



By July 2002, over half of all states (29) offered formal diversion programs. Diversion programs help families weather short-term crises and alleviate immediate problems that interfere with obtaining or retaining employment. Families that accept diversion payments are generally barred from applying for monthly TANF benefits for a specific period of time.

The amount of the diversion payment varies greatly across the states. Nine states provide a flat lump-sum amount, ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,600. Seventeen states provide a cash payment equal to a multiple of the state's monthly benefit for the family size, ranging from 2 to 8 months with 3 months of benefits being the most common policy. Three states have programs where the amount of the diversion payment varies.

The number of times a family can receive diversion payments also differs across states. Some states have no limit on the number of times a recipient may apply for diversion, while others allow only one diversion payment in a lifetime. The majority of states with diversion programs allow a recipient to apply once every 12 months. In many states, diversion payments do not count against a family's lifetime TANF time limit.

Source: [The Welfare Rules Database](#). 2002.

The Welfare Rules Database (WRD) provides a longitudinal account of the changes in welfare rules in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The WRD organizes the detailed information on welfare rules across states, time, and geographic areas within states as well as across different types of assistance units. Caseworker manuals and state regulations provide the data from 1997 to the present, while AFDC State Plans and Waiver Terms and Conditions provide the data for years prior to 1997.