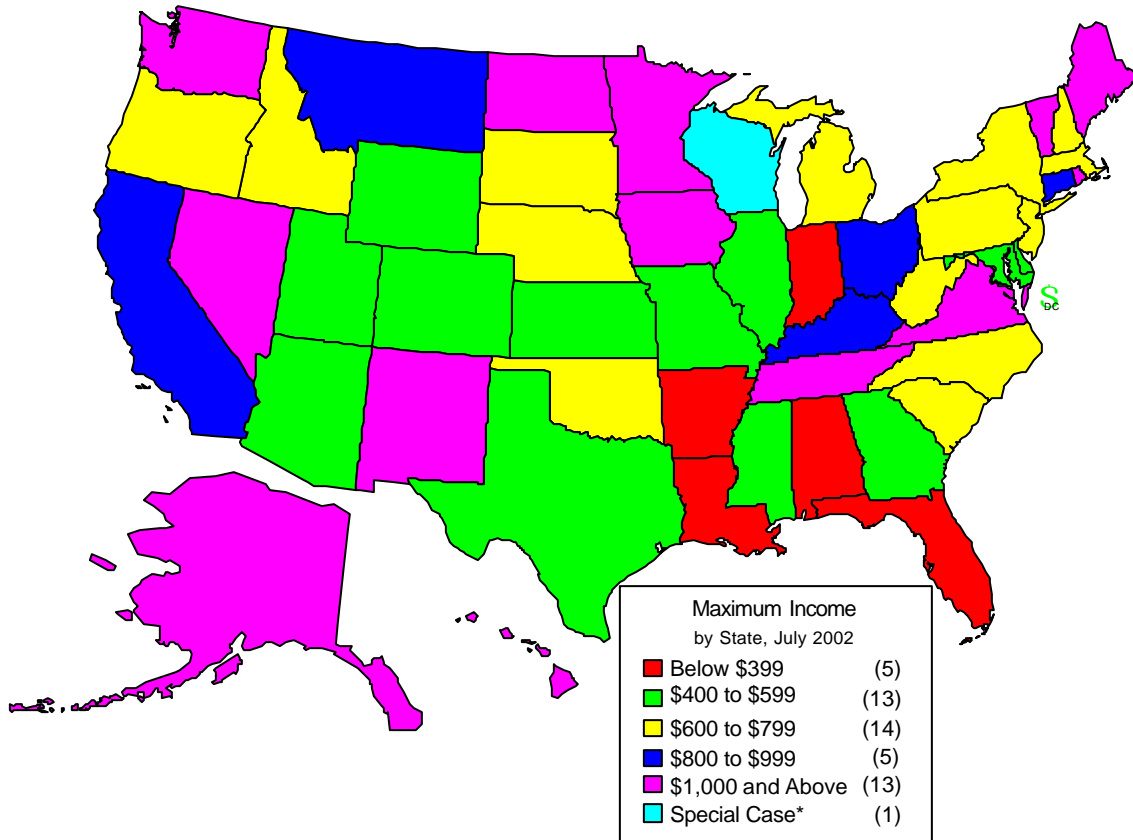




# Fast Facts

## TANF Income Eligibility Thresholds



Under TANF there is wide variation across the states in the maximum amount of earnings that a family can have and still be eligible for cash assistance – an amount referred to as the initial eligibility threshold. A state's initial eligibility threshold under TANF considers all the state's financial eligibility rules governing applicants – the limitations placed on gross income, the rules for deductions from gross income in determining net income, and any limitations placed on net income.

The initial earned income thresholds for a family of three as of July 2002 ranged from \$205 in Alabama to \$1,641 in Hawaii, with a national average of \$768. The initial eligibility threshold was set between \$200 to \$399 in 5 states, between \$400 to \$599 in 13 states, between \$600 to \$799 in 14 states, between \$800 to \$999 in 5 states, and \$1,000 and above in 14 states.

\*Units with full-time employment will not receive a cash benefit in the state. Recipients may earn up to \$1,462 and still be eligible for nonfinancial assistance, however.

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.