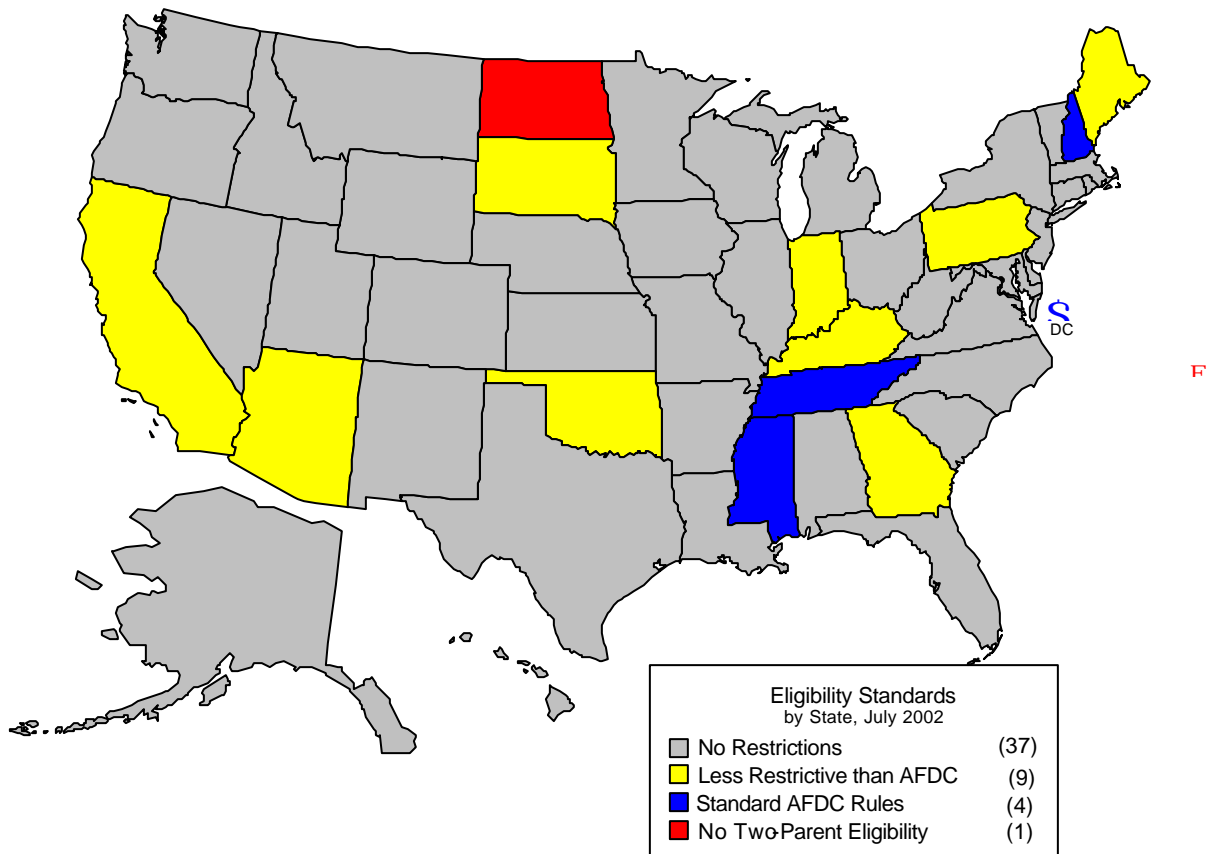




Fast Facts

Two-Parent Family Eligibility



TANF permits states to rescind eligibility rules, which penalize marriage. Some states, however, have maintained the restrictions from AFDC, which made it more difficult for two-parent, non-disabled families to qualify for assistance. The standard AFDC restrictions include the work history test, the waiting period, and the 100-hour rule.

As of July 2002, most states (37) have removed all marriage penalties, on two-parent families' eligibility, while fourteen states treat married couples differently than single-parents. Of those fourteen, four states apply the standard AFDC restrictions in determining the initial eligibility of two-parent, non-disabled families, and 9 states apply restrictions but fewer than those under AFDC. One state, North Dakota, provides no cash benefits to two-parent, non-disabled families.

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.