Welfare Rules Databook

State TANF
Policies as of
July 1999

Gretchen Rowe

November
2000

Assessing
the New
Federalism

*An Urban Institute
Program to Assess
Changing Social
Policies*

Assessing the New Federalism is a multi-year Urban Institute project designed to analyze the devolution of responsibility for social programs from the federal government to the states. It focuses primarily on health care, income security, employment and training programs, and social services. Researchers monitor program changes and fiscal developments. Alan Weil is the project director. In collaboration with Child Trends, the project studies changes in family well-being. The project provides timely, nonpartisan information to inform public debate and to help state and local decisionmakers carry out their new responsibilities more effectively.

Key components of the project include a household survey, studies of policies in 13 states, and a database with information on all states and the District of Columbia. Publications and database are available free of charge on the Urban Institute's Web site: http://www.urban.org.

The project has received funding from The Annie E. Casey Foundation, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, The Ford Foundation, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, The McKnight Foundation, The Commonwealth Fund, the Stuart Foundation, the Weingart Foundation, The Fund for New Jersey, The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, the Joyce Foundation, and The Rockefeller Foundation.

The author thanks Linda Giannarelli for her significant input and guidance during this process, as well as Tracy Roberts, who provided essential assistance with the data verification.

The author also thanks Sheila Zedlewski, Michael Wiseman, and the many state administrators for their thoughtful comments on earlier drafts. In addition, this paper could not have been written if not for the following past and present UI staff members who were integral to the development and continuation of the Welfare Rules Database: Matthew Buettgens, Dan Dowhan, Jerome Gallagher, Megan Gallagher, Jennifer Godwin, Brian Gormley, Tara Grieshop, Amelia Gruber, Jeffrey Krehely, Alberto Martini, Heather McCallum, Lori O'Brien, Monique Ouimette, Kevin Perese, Dorothy Preston, Lisa Sturtevant, Keith Watson, Susan Williams, and Elisabeth Wright.

Publisher: The Urban Institute, 2100 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037

Contents

Introduction			1
Policies as of July 1999			11
I.	Initial Eligibility		13
	A.	Does the state try to divert some families from becoming recipients?	15
	B.	How does family composition or individual status affect eligibility?	17
	C.	What level of assets can a family have and still be eligible?	21
	D.	How is income counted in determining eligibility?	22
	E.	How much income can a family have and still be eligible?	25
II.	Benefits		63
	A.	If a family passes all eligibility tests, what is received?	65
III.	Requirements		79
	A.	Once determined to be eligible, what must a recipient family do to maintain benefits?	81
	B.	What work activities are required?	83
IV.	Ongoing Eligibility		99
	A.	What eligibility tests must recipient families pass for continuing eligibility?	101
	B.	Are children eligible if born while the family receives benefits?	104
	C.	How long can a family receive benefits?	105
Policies across Time, 1996-1999			123
Appendix 1:	Component Descriptions		156

Tables

Table I.A.1	Diversion Payments, July 1999	30
Table I.A.2	Mandatory Job Search at Application, July 1999	33
Table I.B.1	Eligibility of Pregnant Women with No Other Children, July 1999	34
Table I.B.2	Eligibility Rules for Two-Parent, Nondisabled Applicant Units, July 1999	36
Table I.B.3	Special Rules Imposed on Minor Parent Eligibility, July 1999	38
Table I.B.4	Stepparent Eligibility, July 1999	40
Table I.B.5	Eligibility of Noncitizens Who Are Not Exempted during the Five-Year Ban on Benefits, July 1999	42
Table I.B.6	Eligibility of Noncitizens Who Are Not Exempted after the Five-Year Ban on Benefits, July 1999	44
Table I.C.1	Asset Limits for Applicants, July 1999	46
Table I.D.1	Treatment of Child Support Income, July 1999	48
Table I.D.2	Treatment of Grandparent Income, July 1999	50
Table I.D.3	Treatment of Stepparent Income, July 1999	52
Table I.E.1	Income Eligibility Test for Applicants, July 1999	54
Table I.E.2	Earned Income Disregards for Income Eligibility Purposes, July 1999	56
Table I.E.3	Eligibility Standards, July 1999	58
Table I.E.4	Initial Eligibility Threshold, July 1999	60
Table II.A.1	Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, July 1999	70
Table II.A.2	Benefit Determination Policies, July 1999	72
Table II.A.3	Benefit Standards, July 1999	74
Table II.A.4	Maximum Monthly Benefit for a Family of Three with No Income, July 1999	76
Table III.A.1	Behavioral Requirements, July 1999	86
Table III.B.1	Work-Related Activity Exemptions for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 1999	88
Table III.B.2	Work-Related Activity Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 1999	92
Table III.B.3	Sanction Policies for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 1999	94
Table IV.A.1	Eligibility Rules for Two-Parent, Nondisabled Recipient Units, July 1999	110
Table IV.A.2	Asset Limits for Recipients, July 1999	112
Table IV.A.3	Income Eligibility Tests for Recipients, July 1999	116
Table IV.B.1	Family Cap Provisions, July 1999	118
Table IV.C.1	State Time Limit Policies, July 1999	120
Table L1	Diversion Payment Provisions, 1996-1999 (July)	130

Table L2	Types of Special Restrictions on Two-Parent, Nondisabled Units' Eligibility, 1996-1999 (July)	132
Table L3	Initial Eligibility Threshold at Application, 1996-1999 (July)	134
Table L4	Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, 1996-1999 (July)	136
Table L5	Maximum Monthly Benefit for a Family of Three with No Income, 1996-1999 (July)	140
Table L6	Work-Related Exemption When Caring for a Child under X Months, 1996-1999 (July)	142
Table L7	Most Severe Sanction Policy for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Adults, 1996-1999 (July)	144
Table L8	Asset Limits for Recipients, 1996-1999 (July)	150
Table L9	Vehicle Exemptions for Recipients, 1996-1999 (July)	152
Table L10	Family Cap Policies, 1996-1999 (July)	154

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 1999, as well as longitudinal tables describing a subset of states' policies from 1996 through 1999. The tables are based on the information in the Welfare Rules Database (WRD), a publicly available, online database developed under the Urban Institute's *Assessing the New Federalism* project.

The *Databook* is divided into five groups of tables: Initial Eligibility in 1999; Benefits in 1999; Requirements in 1999; Ongoing Eligibility in 1999; and Policies across Time, 1996-1999. Each chapter begins with an overview of the policies, followed by details relating to specific tables.

The *Databook* provides a summary of the detailed information in the WRD. Users interested in a greater level of detail are encouraged to use the full database, available at http://newfederalism.urban.org/wrd.

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

The Welfare Rules Database

The Welfare Rules Database (WRD) 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 state Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and TANF policies from 1996 through 1999. (Data for 2000 have been collected and will be added to the database following verification by the states.) 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 data are available via an online point-and-click interface at the Web site noted above.

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 the AFDC program, the structure of eligibility and benefit computation was largely established at the federal level. States were allowed to set certain policies—including 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 the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF), and in annual reports issued by 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.

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

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 submission of the Plans.

Contents of the WRD

The WRD provides detailed information on and the timing of a wide range of policy topics. These topics are currently organized into 29 categories that together describe most significant dimensions of state policies. While the categories may be ordered in a variety of 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

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

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

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

II. Benefits

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

III. Requirements

A. Once determined to be 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]

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

---

[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 that is listed under section I.D.

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.

States were given the opportunity to verify all of the 1999 data. Many states reviewed all of the data for their state, while others focused only on the key data in the *Databook* tables. The 44 states that reviewed the complete 1999 data or the *Databook* tables are:

[4] Due 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 the states to clarify the implementation dates of waivers.

Alabama	Illinois	Nebraska	South Carolina
Alaska	Indiana	Nevada	South Dakota
Arizona	Iowa	New Hampshire	Tennessee
Arkansas	Kentucky	New Jersey	Texas
California	Louisiana	New York	Utah
Connecticut	Maine	North Carolina	Vermont
Delaware	Maryland	North Dakota	Virginia
DC	Massachusetts	Oklahoma	Washington
Florida	Michigan	Oregon	West Virginia
Hawaii	Minnesota	Pennsylvania	Wisconsin
Idaho	Montana	Rhode Island	Wyoming

Due to its historic nature, the 1996-1998 information in the WRD has not been fully reviewed by state TANF staff, but portions of the data have been verified against selected secondary sources.

General Points about the WRD

The WRD:

- Contains information on the 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 that are determined by county, the WRD captures policies for the largest county of the state.
- Contains one record for every year, state, and category of rules, which is designated as the "majority rule" record. This record represents the policy that affected the majority of the caseload for the majority of the year.

One additional issue is important for users of the WRD and the *Databook* to understand: the WRD does not address the issue of how rules may be implemented in practice. As noted above, the WRD is based on caseworker manuals and/or regulations, which typically do not include information on the likelihood of various outcomes occurring. For instance, if a particular type of recipient may be assigned to one of a number of different types of work activities, the manuals do not typically address the issue of which type is the most likely assignment. Thus, for certain types of 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.

The Tables in This Databook

Content of the Tables

The tables included in this paper are designed to provide readers with easy access to key TANF policies across states as of July 1999. The first four chapters of the *Databook* provide information as of July 1999 across four broad policy areas: Initial Eligibility, Benefits, Requirements, and Ongoing Eligibility. For selected policies, longitudinal tables include data from 1996 through 1999.

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

Structure of the Tables

Each table follows the same general structure and was created using the same set of general 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 1999. Units comprising the majority of the caseload tend to be nonexempt, single-parent units with children.

Some tables do 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 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 with children under 13 years old who are job ready." Descriptions of states' components are located in Appendix 1.

- Additional data as a footnote: Several types of variations may appear as a footnote in the tables. These include variation by type of assistance unit (two-parent units, applicants vs. recipients) or geographic areas (demonstration projects in a few counties vs. the rest of the state). In some, but not all, tables these types of policies are footnoted. Although the tables do not capture all of the variation in policies across regions and types of units, the WRD does contain more of this information.

  In addition, states that allow counties to vary policy are footnoted. The footnote indicates which county's policy is included in the table.

Each of the 1999 tables are 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.

Policies as of July 1999

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, as of July 1999. 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?

Through state waivers and then after the passage of PRWORA, states began focusing energy on decreasing their caseloads, as well as encouraging families to be 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. Almost half of the states have 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 in order for them 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 of time.

About 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, they 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 required by the state will find a job and no longer need assistance.

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

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.[5] Although some states employ a variety of strategies to divert applicants from ongoing receipt of cash benefits (such as requiring an applicant to participate in job search) only those programs that provide a cash payment or special support services are 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 table 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

[5] The diversion definition for purposes of the WRD would also include any state that provided only support services as a diversion payment. This means that the state would provide the recipient with no cash payment but would provide a range of support services, including possibly transportation, child care, etc. In return, the recipient would not apply for monthly benefits. However to date, no state provides only support services as a 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 the years 1996 through 1999.

<u>Mandatory job search at application:</u> Table I.A.2 indicates which states require applicants to search for a job prior to application as a condition of eligibility. Presently, 16 states require an applicant to seek employment either before or while their application is processed. The job search requirements vary by state, but in all cases if the applicant does not comply with the requirement, the family is not eligible for assistance.

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 in order to determine whether they may be 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 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 cash assistance through TANF. For those states that do 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,[6] 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).[7] The three types of tests that are sometimes imposed include limits on hours of work, work history tests, and waiting periods. Under an "hours test," the unit is not eligible if the principal wage earner is working more than a specified number of hours per month. An hours test has the effect of denying eligibility to some two-parent units where a parent works a substantial number of hours but would nevertheless be financially eligible for assistance, due to a low wage rate and/or a large family size. Note that states may apply this rule when determining the initial and/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 number of years, or where the principal wage earner satisfies other criteria related to labor force

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

attachment. Work history tests exclude families with very young parents who have not had a chance to accumulate the necessary calendar quarters of work. They also exclude two-parent families where neither parent has been in the labor force for a few years.

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. 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/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 the years 1996 through 1999.

<u>Minor parent eligibility:</u> 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 her/his own name. The second column indicates whether the state imposes any residency requirements on minor parents. 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.

Related tables: See Table I.D.2 for the rules related to the treatment of the income from the parents of a minor parent who is heading her own assistance unit.

<u>Eligibility of stepparents:</u> Table I.B.4 describes whether a stepparent is included in the TANF assistance unit. Stepparents must be included in the unit in some states, may not be included in other states, and may be included at the option of the family in others. This table focuses on rules for stepparents who have no child in common with their spouse and who have

no biological children in the assistance unit. State rules for stepparents not meeting those criteria may vary and are discussed in the WRD.

Related tables: See Table I.D.3 for the rules related to the treatment of the income from a stepparent who is not included in the assistance unit.

Eligibility of noncitizens: Tables I.B.5 and I.B.6 describe state eligibility rules concerning "postreform" legal noncitizens—those who entered the United States after the passage of PRWORA in August 1996. In most cases, these noncitizens are not eligible for federally funded TANF benefits during their first five years in the country. However, states may use their own funds to provide benefits to noncitizens during the five-year ban. After the five years, states may provide benefits to noncitizens using federal funding but are not required to do so. With the exception of a few federally exempted groups that cannot be denied eligibility based on immigrant status,[8] states have total discretion to provide or deny benefits to all or portions of their noncitizen population.

Note that the federal and state rules are applied to individuals, not families. Therefore, some members of a family may be ineligible for benefits based on their immigrant status and other characteristics, whereas other members of the family may be eligible for assistance.

Table I.B.5 shows the extent to which states use their own funding to provide benefits to noncitizens during the five-year federal ban. If states choose to fund noncitizens, they may provide assistance to all qualified noncitizens or to some subset, such as all lawful permanent residents or some other combination of individuals based on immigrant status.

[8] The federal government exempts refugees and asylees for the first five years they are in the country, individuals who had their deportation withheld for their first five years in the country, veterans or individuals in active duty along with their spouses and children, and permanent residents with 40 qualified quarters of work who have not received any federal means-tested benefits during any quarters beginning after December 1996. Forty quarters is approximately 10 years for one person; however, family members are allowed to apply other family members' qualified quarters to themselves, i.e., children can use both of their parents' quarters or a wife may use her own and her husband's.

Table I.B.6 indicates whether states plan to fund noncitizens after they have resided in the United States for at least five years. If so, the table further describes which groups of noncitizens may receive benefits: lawful permanent residents, asylees/refugees, individuals with deportation withheld, parolees in the country for at least one year, and/or battered noncitizens. The state may provide assistance to all, some, or none of the individuals in these groups.

Note that noncitizens who were already in the United States prior to the passage of PRWORA are eligible for federal funding unless the state chooses not to provide benefits to this group. The WRD provides details on each state's treatment of prereform noncitizens, as well as other rules related to noncitizens such as the extent to which the income of a noncitizen’s sponsor or a recipient’s illegal parent are deemed available to the unit.

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. The amounts also vary by the type of asset.

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

<u>Asset limits for applicants:</u> Table I.C.1 describes each state's asset tests for applicants. States determine the level of assets, including vehicles, an applicant family may hold without affecting their eligibility for benefits.

The first column 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 or all of the value of a vehicle is excluded for purposes of eligibility. 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 much less than the fair market value, so this distinction is important when comparing vehicle exemption amounts across states.

Related tables: Note that the limits may vary for determining the initial eligibility of applicants vs. the continuing eligibility of recipients. For information on the asset test for recipients, see Table IV.A.2.

D. How is income counted in determining eligibility?

Once the family has passed the state's asset tests, its available income is computed for eligibility purposes. States have discretion to determine the portion and types of earned and unearned income they will count in addition to whose income will count for eligibility. Generally, states count most earned income from each of the assistance unit's members 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, but only child support payments will be addressed in this paper. For more details on the treatment of other types of 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 or all of the income from certain individuals who have an obligation to support a member of the assistance unit but are not themselves part of the unit. This includes income from stepparents or parents of a minor parent not included in the assistance unit but living in the same home as the applicant. 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 that the individual bears some financial responsibility and therefore requires that a portion of their income be counted against the unit.

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

<u>Treatment of child support income:</u> Table I.D.1 describes each state's treatment of child support income. 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 either a "pass-through" or as unearned income. Under a pass-through, the TANF benefit is computed without counting any child support as income; then, a portion of child support income is added to the benefit as a pass-through. Alternatively, the state may give the family some or all of the child support collected, but it is treated as unearned income for eligibility and benefit computation purposes. Some states that transfer the child support to the family as unearned income also disregard a portion of the amount transferred, so that it does not count against the unit for eligibility purposes.

The first column of the table indicates the amount of the state's pass-through. The second and third columns describe the amount that is transferred to the family as unearned income and the portion of that amount that is disregarded for eligibility purposes, respectively.

Generally, if the state has a pass-through, it will not also treat income as unearned and vice versa. However, some states do provide recipients with a pass-through and then give any child support in excess of the family's monthly benefit back to the family. This amount is counted as unearned income.

Treatment of grandparent income: When a minor parent is potentially eligible to head her own assistance unit, a portion of her parent's income may be "deemed available" to the minor's unit in determining eligibility and benefits. Generally, states allow the grandparent an initial disregard(s), similar to the earned income disregards available to applicants. In addition, the grandparent may also subtract from his/her income a second disregard equal to the amount of his/her need and the needs of his/her dependents. The remaining income after these disregards is deemed available to the minor unit as unearned income and is counted for eligibility purposes.

Table I.D.2 describes the deeming process for grandparent income. The first column indicates if the state deems income, the second column indicates the initial earned income disregard available to the grandparent, and the third column describes any other disregards available to the grandparent. Most often this refers to 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 or II.A.3.

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

Treatment of stepparent income: In those 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 an initial disregard(s), similar to the earned income disregards available to applicants. In addition, the stepparent may also subtract from his/her income a second disregard equal to the amount of his/her need and the needs of his/her dependents. The remaining income after these disregards is deemed available to the stepparent's spouse and the spouse's dependents as unearned income and is counted for eligibility purposes. Table I.D.3 describes these policies.

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 now impose just one income test on applicants; however, others use a combination of tests, which may include a gross income test, gross earnings test, unearned income test, and/or net income test. There are other types of tests, but these are the most common. The gross income test compares all of the unit's total income, earned and unearned, to a standard (determined by the state). If the unit's income is less than the standard, the next test is applied, if there is one, or the unit is eligible and a benefit is computed. The gross earnings test and the unearned income test both work similarly; however, 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 the 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 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 initial eligibility threshold at application. Note that the first three tables must be used together in order to fully understand the income eligibility tests in the state.

Income eligibility tests for applicants: Table I.E.1 describes states' income eligibility tests for determining whether an applicant is eligible to begin receiving benefits. The table indicates which state income threshold is used for each test. To determine the value of the particular threshold for a family size of three, see Table I.E.3, discussed below. For states that impose a net income test, be aware that most states will disregard a portion of the unit's earned income before comparing the income to the threshold. These amounts are captured in Table I.E.2.

Note that this table describes the income tests that are imposed in addition to the implicit income test imposed by the benefit computation procedure. 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 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, I.D.2, and I.D.3 describe policies *concerning child support income and the deeming of income from grandparents and stepparents that may be used in determining gross income for purposes of 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 amount of earnings that a family can have and still be eligible for TANF. Table L3, in the last section of this paper, provides the same information as in Table I.E.4 for the years 1996 through 1999.*

Earned income disregards for income eligibility: Table I.E.2 describes the earned income disregards applied to applicants' and recipients' income in determining net income for purposes of income eligibility tests. Additional disregards for child care expenses paid by a family and/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 for purposes of an applicant's initial eligibility determination. 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 vs. 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 earned income disregards to the applicant's earnings. In other words, all of 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 the use of 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 only.

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, due to 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, in several states the standards no longer fit into the old AFDC framework.

Some types of details concerning eligibility standards are not included in the table. In some states, different sets of dollar amounts are used in different regions of the state; in those cases, the table includes the amounts that are 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 vs. two-parent families; we assume 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.

Related tables: Note that 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.E.1 and IV.A.3.

<u>Initial eligibility at application:</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 a benefit. The initial eligibility threshold is a calculation that 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 that the unit will necessarily receive a cash benefit, but they will have passed all of the eligibility tests. Most states only distribute a cash benefit if it is over $10. In many of the calculations, the benefit amount at the initial eligibility threshold is less than $10 but positive.

The calculation assumes that the assistance unit includes one parent and two children, has only earned income, has no child care expenses, contains no children covered by 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 initial eligibility threshold for the years 1996 through 1999.

Table I.A.1 Diversion Payments, July 1999

State	Diversion Program	Maximum Diversion Payment	Form of Payment	How Often Can Recipient Receive Maximum Payment	Period of TANF Ineligibility without Penalty after Payment	Payment Counts toward the Time Limit
Alabama	No	—	—	—	—	—
Alaska	Yes	2 Months	Vendor or Cash Payment	Once Every 12 Months	3 Months[1]	No
Arizona	No	—	—	—	—	—
Arkansas	Yes	3 Months	Cash Loan[2]	Once in a Lifetime	100 Days	No
California	No[3]	—	—	—	—	—
Colorado	Yes[4]	3 Months[5]	Vendor or Cash Payment	Three Times in a Lifetime, but No More Than Twice in 12 Months	Determined by Caseworker and Client	No
Connecticut	Yes	3 Months	Cash Payment	Three Times in a Lifetime, but No More Than Once Every 12 Months	3 Months	Yes
Delaware	No	—	—	—	—	—
D.C.	Yes	3 Months	Vendor or Cash Payment	Once Every 12 Months	Diversion Payment Divided by the Maximum Monthly Benefit the Unit Could Receive	No
Florida	Yes[6]	2/4 Months	Cash Payment	Once in a Lifetime	3/6 Months	No
Georgia	No	—	—	—	—	—
Hawaii	No	—	—	—	—	
Idaho	Yes	3 Months	Cash Payment	Once in a Lifetime	Twice the Number of Months Included in the Payment	Yes
Illinois	No	—	—	—	—	—
Indiana	No	—	—	—	—	—
Iowa	No[7]	—	—	—	—	—
Kansas	No	—	—	—	—	—
Kentucky	Yes	$1,500	Vendor or Cash Payment	Once Every 12 Months	12 Months	No
Louisiana	No	—	—	—	—	—
Maine	Yes[8]	3 Months	Vendor Payment	Once in a Lifetime	No Limit[9]	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	4 Months	Cash Payment	Once Every 36 Months	The Diversion Payment Divided by the Transitional Standard Times 30	No
Mississippi	No	—	—	—	—	—
Missouri	No	—	—	—	—	—
Montana	Yes[10]	3 Months	Cash Payment	Once in a Lifetime under the Job Supplement Program and Once in a Lifetime while Participating in Pathways	Twice the Number of Months Included in the Payment	No
Nebraska	No	—	—	—	—	—

Table I.A.1 Diversion Payments, July 1999

State	Diversion Program	Maximum Diversion Payment	Form of Payment	How Often Can Recipient Receive Maximum Payment	Period of TANF Ineligibility without Penalty after Payment	Payment Counts toward the Time Limit
Nevada	Yes[11]	$1,000	Cash Payment	As Often As Needed	Diversion Payment Divided by the Maximum Grant for Family Size[12]	Yes
New Hampshire	No	—	—	—	—	—
New Jersey	No	—	—	—	—	—
New Mexico	No	—	—	—	—	—
New York	No	—	—	—	—	—
North Carolina	Yes	3 Months	Cash Payment	Once Every 12 Months	No Limit	No
North Dakota	No	—	—	—	—	—
Ohio	Yes[13]	$1,000	Cash Payment	Once Every 12 Months[14]	*	No
Oklahoma	No	—	—	—	—	—
Oregon	No	—	—	—	—	—
Pennsylvania	No	—	—	—	—	—
Rhode Island	No[15]	—	—	—	—	—
South Carolina	No	—	—	—	—	—
South Dakota	Yes	2 Months	Cash Payment	No Limit[16]	3 Months[17]	No
Tennessee	No	—	—	—	—	
Texas	Yes	$1,000	Cash Payment	Once Every 12 Months	12 Months	No
Utah	Yes	3 Months	Cash Payment	No Limit	3 Months[17]	Yes
Vermont	No	—	—	—	—	—
Virginia	Yes	4 Months	Vendor or Cash Payment	Once Every 60 Month Period	Diversion Payment Divided by the Daily Benefit the Unit Would Receive	No
Washington	Yes	$1,500	Cash Payment	Once Every 12 Months	12 Months[18]	No
West Virginia	Yes	3 Months	Cash Payment	Once in a Lifetime	3 Months	Yes
Wisconsin	Yes[19]	$1,600	Cash Loan	No Limit[20]	No Limit	No
Wyoming	No	—	—	—	—	—

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

* Data not obtained.
[1]The entire payment is prorated over three months and counted as income if the unit applies for benefits within 3 months of receiving a payment.
[2]Arkansas considers the diversion payment a loan; therefore, the recipient must pay back any amount borrowed. Any amount that is paid back will not count toward the time limit; however, if all or a portion of the amount has not been repaid, the months will count.
[3]Counties have the option to vary their diversion programs. These policies refer to Los Angeles County.
[4]Counties have the option to vary their diversion programs. These policies refer to Denver County.
[5]A unit may receive more than 3 months of benefits, but then the payment counts toward the time limit. If over three months of benefits are requested, the application must be reviewed by a committee. The committee may either approve, deny, or reduce the payment.
[6]Florida has two separate diversion programs. An assistance unit may receive up to 2 months' worth of up-front diversion or 4 months of relocation assistance. The unit is ineligible to receive assistance for 3 months after receiving up-front diversion and for 6 months after receiving relocation assistance. 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.
[7]Iowa is conducting a demonstration project in 16 counties that provides diversion assistance to its clients.
[8]Diversion payments are only provided to caretaker relatives or parents who are employed or looking for work.
[9]If the unit applies for benefits during the 3-month ineligibility period, the unit must repay any diversion payment received for any period that was covered by both diversion and AFDC/TANF.
[10]Diversion payments are only provided for employment-related expenses at the discretion of the welfare department.
[11]The diversion payment is designed for nonrecurring situations associated with employment.
[12]Any part of the month counts as another month.
[13]Counties have the option to vary their diversion programs. These policies refer to Cuyahoga County.
[14]The unit may receive up to the maximum amount over a 12-month period. The maximum is $400 for contingent need that threatens the unit's safety or health and $700 to prevent the unit from entering TANF or to help the unit retain employment. The combined total maximum cannot be over $1,000.

[15]Rhode Island is conducting a pilot demonstration project that provides diversion assistance to its clients.
[16]South Dakota has no formal limit on the number of payments a unit may receive; however, a state source reports that it is unlikely that an assistance unit would receive a diversion payment more than once in a 12-month period.
[17]If the unit applies for benefits during the 3-month ineligibility period, the unit must repay the diversion payment. The payment will be prorated over a 3-month period and the amount of the repayment will be deducted from the unit's monthly assistance payment.
[18]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 paid off.
[19]Wisconsin considers the diversion payment a loan to assist with expenses related to obtaining or maintaining employment and it must be repaid to the state. Repayments are expected within 12 months but may be extended to 24 months. The loan may be paid back in cash or a combination of cash and volunteer community service (valued at the higher of the state or federal minimum wage).
[20]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 1999	
State	Job Search Required
Alabama	Yes
Alaska	No
Arizona	No
Arkansas	Yes
California	Yes
Colorado	No
Connecticut	No
Delaware	No
D.C.	Yes
Florida	No
Georgia	Yes
Hawaii	No
Idaho	No
Illinois	No
Indiana	Yes
Iowa	No
Kansas	Yes
Kentucky	No
Louisiana	*
Maine	No
Maryland	Yes
Massachusetts	No
Michigan	No
Minnesota	No
Mississippi	No
Missouri	Yes
Montana	No
Nebraska	No
Nevada	Yes
New Hampshire	No
New Jersey	No
New Mexico	No
New York	No
North Carolina	Yes
North Dakota	Yes
Ohio	Yes
Oklahoma	No
Oregon	Yes
Pennsylvania	No
Rhode Island	No
South Carolina	Yes
South Dakota	No
Tennessee	*
Texas	No
Utah	No
Vermont	No
Virginia	No
Washington	No
West Virginia	No
Wisconsin	Yes
Wyoming	No
Total States with Requirements:	**16**

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

* Data not obtained.

Table I.B.1 Eligibility of Pregnant Women with No Other Children, July 1999

State	Eligible for Cash Benefits	Eligible in What Month
Alabama	No	—
Alaska	Yes	7
Arizona	Yes	6
Arkansas	No	—
California	Yes	7
Colorado	Yes	6
Connecticut	Yes[1]	1
Delaware	Yes	9[2]
D.C.	Yes	6
Florida	Yes	9[3]
Georgia	No	—
Hawaii	Yes	9
Idaho	Yes	7[4]
Illinois	Yes[5]	1
Indiana	No	—
Iowa	No	—
Kansas	Yes[6]	1
Kentucky	No	—
Louisiana	Yes[7]	6
Maine	Yes	6
Maryland	Yes	1
Massachusetts	Yes	6
Michigan	Yes[6]	1
Minnesota	Yes	1
Mississippi	No	—
Missouri	No	—
Montana	Yes	6
Nebraska	Yes[6]	6
Nevada	Yes	6
New Hampshire	No	—
New Jersey	No	—
New Mexico	Yes	7
New York	Yes[8]	1
North Carolina	No	—-
North Dakota	Yes	6
Ohio	Yes	6
Oklahoma	No	—
Oregon	Yes	9
Pennsylvania	Yes	From Month of Medical Verification
Rhode Island	Yes[6]	6
South Carolina	No	—
South Dakota	No	—
Tennessee	Yes	6
Texas	No	—
Utah	Yes	6
Vermont	Yes	9
Virginia	No	—
Washington	Yes	7
West Virginia	No	—
Wisconsin	No[9]	—
Wyoming	No	—-
Total States Providing Benefits:	**32**	—

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

[1]The pregnant woman must meet the eligibility requirements as if her child were already born and living with her.
[2]The pregnant woman is eligible on the first day of the month in which her child is expected.
[3]Eligibility begins either in the ninth month or in the seventh month if a doctor verifies that the woman is unable to work.
[4]The pregnant woman is eligible only if she is in her last trimester and is unable to work due to medical reasons.
[5]The pregnant woman and her spouse, if living with her, are eligible for assistance.
[6]The pregnant woman and her unborn child are eligible for assistance.
[7]The pregnant woman is eligible for assistance only if the child would be eligible for assistance if born.
[8]The pregnant woman and the father of the child are eligible for assistance.
[9]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 1999

		Other Rules for Applicants	
State	Limit on Hours	Work History	Waiting Period
Alabama	No Limit	No	0
Alaska	No Limit	No	0
Arizona	No Limit	6 out of 13 Quarters[2]	0
Arkansas	No Limit	No	0
California	100	No	4 Weeks
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[3]	0
Hawaii	No Limit	No	0
Idaho	No Limit	No	0
Illinois	No Limit	No	30 Days
Indiana	100	6 out of 13 Quarters	30 Days
Iowa	No Limit	No	7 Days
Kansas	No Limit	No	0
Kentucky	100	Special Requirement[4]	30 Days
Louisiana	No Limit	No	0
Maine	100	6 out of 13 Quarters	30 Days
Maryland	No Limit	No	0
Massachusetts	No Limit	6 out of 13 Quarters	30 Days
Michigan	No Limit	No	0
Minnesota	No Limit	No	0
Mississippi	100	6 out of 13 Quarters	30 Days
Missouri	100	6 out of 13 Quarters	30 Days
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[5]	—	—	—
Ohio	No Limit	No	0
Oklahoma	No Limit	6 out of 13 Quarters	30 Days
Oregon	No Limit	No	0
Pennsylvania	100	6 out of 13 Quarters	30 Days
Rhode Island	No Limit	No	0
South Carolina	No Limit	No	0
South Dakota	100	No	0
Tennessee	100	6 out of 13 Quarters[6]	30 Days[6]
Texas	No Limit	No	0
Utah	No Limit	No	0
Vermont	No Limit	No	0
Virginia	No Limit	No	0

Table I.B.2 Eligibility Rules for Two-Parent, Nondisabled Applicant Units,[1] July 1999

State	Limit on Hours	Other Rules for Applicants	
		Work History	Waiting Period
Washington	No Limit	No	0
West Virginia	No Limit	No	0
Wisconsin	No Limit	No	0
Wyoming	No Limit	No	0

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

Note: In some states, benefits are provided to two-parent units under a state-funded program instead of through federal TANF. The table, however, includes 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. Traditionally, states imposed rules on two-parent families' work effort. These rules include limits on hours of work, work history tests, and waiting periods.
[2]Applicants have to demonstrate previous attachment to the workforce by working in at least 6 of the last 13 calendar quarters. The 13-quarter period must have ended within one year of applying for assistance.
[3]Applicants must be connected to the workforce, which includes one of the following: 1) currently working at least 20 hours per week, 2) receiving Unemployment Compensation, 3) unemployed or working less than 20 hours per week and has earned $500 within the 6 months prior to application, 4) receiving retirement benefits, 5) has received disability benefits based on 100 percent disability in any of the last 6 months.
[4]Applicants must have earned at least $1,000 during the 24-month period prior to the month of application.
[5]North Dakota does not provide benefits to two-parent, nondisabled units. In order for a child and therefore the unit to be eligible, the child must be deprived of parental support.
[6]If a single-parent recipient marries while receiving assistance, the new two-parent unit is not subject to the rule.

Table I.B.3 Special Rules Imposed on Minor Parent Eligibility, July 1999

State	Can Head Unit	Have Residency Requirement
Alabama	Yes	Yes
Alaska	Yes	Yes
Arizona	Yes	Yes
Arkansas	Yes	Yes
California	Yes	Yes
Colorado	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	Yes	Yes
Delaware	No[1]	Yes
D.C.	Yes	Yes
Florida	Yes	Yes
Georgia	Yes	Yes
Hawaii	Yes	No
Idaho	No[2]	Yes
Illinois	Yes	Yes
Indiana	Yes	Yes[3]
Iowa	Yes	Yes
Kansas	*	No
Kentucky	Yes	Yes
Louisiana	Yes	Yes
Maine	Yes	Yes
Maryland	No	Yes
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes
Michigan	No	Yes
Minnesota	Yes	Yes
Mississippi	Yes	Yes
Missouri	Yes	Yes
Montana		
Pathways/Community Service Program	Yes	Yes
Job Supplement Program	Yes	No
Nebraska	Yes	No
Nevada	Yes	Yes
New Hampshire	Yes	Yes
New Jersey	Yes	Yes
New Mexico	Yes	Yes
New York	Yes[4]	Yes
North Carolina	No	Yes
North Dakota	Yes	Yes[2]
Ohio	*	Yes
Oklahoma	Yes	Yes
Oregon	Yes	Yes
Pennsylvania	Yes	Yes
Rhode Island	Yes	Yes[3]
South Carolina	Yes	Yes
South Dakota	Yes	Yes
Tennessee	Yes	Yes
Texas	Yes	No
Utah	Yes	Yes
Vermont	Yes	Yes
Virginia	Yes	Yes

Table I.B.3 Special Rules Imposed on Minor Parent Eligibility, July 1999

State	Can Head Unit	Have Residency Requirement
Washington	Yes	Yes
West Virginia	No	Yes
Wisconsin	No	Yes
Wyoming	Yes	Yes

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

* Data not obtained.
[1]Babies born after 12/31/98 to teenage parents are not eligible for cash assistance, unless the parent is married or at least 18 years old. Noncash assistance services in the form of vouchers may be provided upon request but will not be automatically given each month. Receipt of vouchers is based on need. For minor parents with children born prior to 12/31/98, the grandparent's income is deemed to the unit for purposes of eligibility and benefit calculation.
[2]Minor parents having a marital status of married, separated, divorced, or widowed are not subject to the residency requirement.
[3]Married parents under 18 years of age are not subject to the requirement.
[4]In order to receive assistance, the minor parent must be at least 16 years of age.

Table I.B.4 Stepparent Eligibility, July 1999

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

Table I.B.4 Stepparent Eligibility, July 1999

State	Inclusion in the Assistance Unit
Virginia	Prohibited
Washington	Mandatory
West Virginia	Mandatory
Wisconsin	Mandatory[3]
Wyoming	Optional

Note: The table only describes units in which the stepparent has no child in common with the spouse (head of unit) or any dependents of his/her own living in the unit.

* Data not obtained.
[1]The stepparent is a mandatory participant in the unit unless the stepparent's income causes the assistance unit to become ineligible. Then the stepparent is not required to be included in the unit. The unit becomes a child-only unit.
[2]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.
[3]The stepparent is included in the W-2 group for income purposes but cannot be the mandatory work program participant.

Table I.B.5 Eligibility of Noncitizens Who Are Not Exempted during the Five-Year Ban on Benefits, July 1999

State	All Qualified Noncitizens[1]	All Lawful Permanent Residents[2]	Other
Alabama	—	—	—
Alaska	—	—	X[3]
Arizona	—	—	X[4]
Arkansas	—	—	—
California	—	—	X[5]
Colorado	—	—	X[3]
Connecticut	—	X[6]	—
Delaware	—	—	—
D.C.	—	—	—
Florida	—	—	—
Georgia	X	—	—
Hawaii	—	—	—
Idaho	—	—	—
Illinois	—	—	X[7]
Indiana	—	—	—
Iowa	—	—	—
Kansas	—	—	—
Kentucky	—	—	X[8]
Louisiana	—	—	X[9]
Maine	X	—	—
Maryland	X	—	—
Massachusetts	X	—	—
Michigan	X	—	—
Minnesota	—	—	X[10]
Mississippi	—	—	—
Missouri	—	X	X[11]
Montana	—	—	—
Nebraska	—	—	X[12]
Nevada	—	—	—
New Hampshire	—	—	X[12]
New Jersey	—	—	X[8]
New Mexico	—	—	X[4]
New York	—	—	—
North Carolina	—	—	X[8]
North Dakota	—	—	—
Ohio	—	—	X[13]
Oklahoma	—	—	—
Oregon	—	—	X[7]
Pennsylvania	—	—	—
Rhode Island	—	—	—
South Carolina	—	—	—
South Dakota	—	—	—
Tennessee	X	—	—
Texas	—	—	X[8]
Utah	—	—	—
Vermont	X	—	—
Virginia	—	—	—
Washington	X	—	—
West Virginia	—	—	X[12]
Wisconsin	X	—	—
Wyoming	—	—	X[12]

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

Notes: This table refers only to the postreform noncitizens, who are those noncitizens who entered the United States after 8/22/96. Policies concerning prereform noncitizens, or noncitizens who entered the United States before 8/22/96, are not captured in this table. Generally, states provide benefits to most prereform noncitizens. The WRD provides more information on this group.

This table only describes the eligibility for benefits of noncitizen groups that do not receive special treatment from the federal government. Based on noncitizen status, the federal government allows states to treat several groups of noncitizens as if they are citizens for eligibility purposes (for a list of those groups, see the introduction of the noncitizens tables). These groups are assumed to be eligible in every state and are not represented in this table.

[1]Qualified aliens are defined under PRWORA as lawful permanent residents, refugees, asylees, individuals who have had their deportation withheld, parolees admitted for one or more years, and certain battered aliens.
[2]Lawful permanent residents are defined as individuals who live in the United States permanently and qualify as refugees, asylees, or immigrants or who have been granted amnesty.
[3]Some American Indians born in Canada.
[4]Parolees admitted for at least one year.
[5]Some battered immigrants and some nonqualified, documented aliens.
[6]Noncitizens must have resided in the state for at least six months before being considered eligible for benefits.
[7]Some American Indians born in Canada and some battered immigrants.
[8]Some Cuban, Haitian, and Amerasian immigrants.
[9]Some surviving spouses of deceased veterans or individuals on active duty.
[10]Amerasians, 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.
[11]Individuals permanently residing in the United States under color of law (PRUCOL).
[12]Some battered immigrants.
[13]Amerasians and some surviving spouses of deceased veterans or individuals on active duty.

Table I.B.6 Eligibility of Noncitizens Who Are Not Exempted after the Five-Year Ban on Benefits, July 1999

State	Lawful Permanent Residents[1]	Asylees/Refugees[2]	Deportees[3]	Parolees[4]	Battered Noncitizens
Alabama	All	Some	Some	Some	None
Alaska	All	All	All	All	Some
Arizona	All	None	None	None	None
Arkansas	Must have worked 40 quarters	None	None	None	None
California	All	All	All	All	Some
Colorado	All	All	All	All	Some
Connecticut	All	All[5]	All[5]	All	All
Delaware	All	All[6]	All[6]	All	None
D.C.	All	All	All	All	All
Florida	All	All	All	All	All
Georgia	All	None	None	All	All
Hawaii[7]	All	All	All	All	None
Idaho	Must have worked 40 quarters or be a veteran/on active duty (spouse and dependents included)	Some	Some	Some	All
Illinois	All	All	All	All	Some
Indiana	None	All	All	None	None
Iowa	All	All	All	All	Some
Kansas	All	None	None	All	None
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	Some	All	All
Minnesota	All	All	All	All	All
Mississippi	None	None	None	None	None
Missouri	All	All	All	All	*
Montana	None	None	None	None	None
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	All	All	All
New York	All	All	All	All	Some
North Carolina	All	All	All	All	None
North Dakota	All	All	All	All	None
Ohio	All	All	All	All	All
Oklahoma	All	All	None	All	None
Oregon	All	All	All	All	All
Pennsylvania	All	All	Some	All	None
Rhode Island	None	None	None	None	None
South Carolina	All	All	None	All	None
South Dakota	All	All	All	All	All
Tennessee	All	All	All	All	None
Texas	Must be a veteran/on active duty (spouse and dependents included)	None	None	None	Some
Utah	All	All	All	All	None
Vermont	All	All	All	All	All
Virginia	All	All	All	None	All
Washington	All	All	All	All	All
West Virginia	All	All	All	All	Some
Wisconsin	All	All	All	All	All
Wyoming	All	None	None	All	All

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

Notes: This table refers only to the postreform noncitizens, who are those noncitizens who entered the United States after 8/22/96.

Policies concerning prereform noncitizens, or noncitizens who entered the United States before 8/22/96, are not captured in this table. Generally, states provide benefits to most prereform noncitizens. The WRD provides more information on this group.

This table only describes the eligibility for benefits of noncitizen groups who do not receive special treatment from the federal government. Based on noncitizen status, the federal government allows states to treat several groups of noncitizens as if they are citizens for eligibility purposes (for a list of those groups, see the introduction of the noncitizens tables). These groups are assumed to be eligible in every state and are not represented in this table.

* Data not obtained.
[1]Lawful permanent residents are defined as individuals who live in the United States permanently and qualify as refugees, asylees, or immigrants or who have been granted amnesty.
[2]Asylees and refugees are immigrants who flee their countries due 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.
[3]Deportees are individuals granted a stay of deportation or who have had their deportation withheld.
[4]Parolees are individuals permitted entry into the United States in cases of emergency or because of an overriding public interest. These entrants are granted temporary residence and are not likely to become residents. The table only discusses the eligibility of parolees in the United States for at least one year. Parolees in the United States for less than one year are not "qualified" aliens according to the immigrant definition in PRWORA.
[5]Only eligible for an additional two years of benefits after the initial five years following entry.
[6]Only eligible for five years of benefits.
[7]Beginning 2/97 all immigrant units are funded through a state program with the same eligibility rules as the state's PONO/TANF program. No immigrant units are eligible for TANF funding, however.

Table I.C.1 Asset Limits for Applicants, July 1999

State	Asset Limit	Vehicle Exemption
Alabama	$2,000/3,000[1]	One Vehicle per Driver
Alaska	$1,000	One Vehicle per Household[2]
Arizona	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household
Arkansas	$3,000	One Vehicle per Household
California	$2,000	$4,650[E]
Colorado	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household
Connecticut	$3,000	$9,500[3E]
Delaware	$1,000	$4,650[E]
D.C.	$2,000/3,000 [4]	$1,500[E]
Florida	$2,000	$8,500[E]
Georgia	$1,000	$1,500/4,650[5F]
Hawaii	$5,000	One Vehicle per Household
Idaho	$2,000	$4,650 [6F]
Illinois	$2,000/3,000/+50[7]	One Vehicle per Household
Indiana	$1,000	$5,000[E]
Iowa	$2,000	$3,916 per Vehicle for Each Adult and Working Teenager[E]
Kansas	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household[8]
Kentucky	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household
Louisiana	$2,000	$10,000[E]
Maine	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household
Maryland	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household
Massachusetts	$2,500	$5,000[F]
Michigan	$3,000	One Vehicle per Household[9]
Minnesota	$2,000	$7,500[E]
Mississippi	$2,000	$4,650[F]
Missouri	$1,000	One Vehicle per Household[10]
Montana	$3,000	One Vehicle per Household[11]
Nebraska	$4,000/6,000[12]	One Vehicle per Household[13]
Nevada	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household
New Hampshire	$1,000	One Vehicle per Household Member
New Jersey	$2,000	$9,500 [14F]
New Mexico	$3,500 [15]	One Vehicle per Household[16]
New York	$2,000/3,000[1]	$4,650[F]
North Carolina	$3,000	One Vehicle per Adult
North Dakota	$5,000/8,000[17]	One Vehicle per Household
Ohio	No Limit[18]	All Vehicles Owned by Unit
Oklahoma	$1,000	$5,000[E]
Oregon		
All, except JOBS and JOBS Plus	$2,500	$10,000[E]
JOBS and JOBS Plus	$10,000	$10,000[E]
Pennsylvania	$1,000	One Vehicle per Household
Rhode Island	$1,000	$4,600/1,500[19F/E]
South Carolina	$2,500	One Vehicle per Driver[20]
South Dakota	$2,000	$4,650 [21F]
Tennessee	$2,000	$4,600[E]
Texas	$2,000/3,000[4]	$4,650[F]
Utah	$2,000	$8,000 [22E]
Vermont	$1,000	One Vehicle per Household

Table I.C.1 Asset Limits for Applicants, July 1999		
State	Asset Limit	Vehicle Exemption
Virginia		
VIEW	$1,000	$7,500 [23F/E]
All, except VIEW	$1,000	$1,500[E]
Washington	$1,000	$5,000 [22E]
West Virginia	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household
Wisconsin	$2,500	$10,000[E]
Wyoming	$2,500	$12,000 [24F]

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

[E]Equity value of the vehicle.
[F]Fair market value of the vehicle.
[1]Units including a member age 60 years and over may exempt $3,000; all other units exempt $2,000.
[2]Vehicles used as a home, to produce self-employment income, to transport a disabled family member, or to participate in an approved work activity are also exempt.
[3]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.
[4]Households including an elderly or disabled person may exempt $3,000, regardless of whether that person is in the assistance unit. All other units exempt $2,000.
[5]If the vehicle is used to look for work or in 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.
[6]The value of one specially equipped vehicle used to transport a disabled family member is also exempt.
[7]The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $2,000, two persons receive $3,000, and three or more receive an additional $50 for every additional person.
[8]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.
[9]The value of any additional vehicle necessary for employment is also exempt.
[10]$1,500 of the unit's second vehicle is exempt.
[11]All income-producing vehicles are also exempt.
[12]The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $4,000, two or more persons receive $6,000.
[13]The entire vehicle is exempt only if used for employment, training, or medical transportation; any motor vehicle used as a home is also exempt.
[14]Units with two adults may exempt up to $4,650 of the fair market value of a second vehicle if it is essential for work, training, or transportation of a handicapped individual.
[15]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 a second vehicle, equipment, tools, livestock (with the exception of nonsalable domestic pets), one-time sale asset conversion, and lump-sum payments.
[16]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.
[17]The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $5,000, two or more persons receive $8,000.
[18]Ohio has eliminated the asset test.
[19]A unit may exempt $4,600 of the fair market value of each vehicle or $1,500 of the equity value of each vehicle. In addition, the value of vehicles used primarily for income-producing purposes is excluded.
[20]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.
[21]$4,650 of the vehicle is exempt if used for transportation. The unit may also exempt a vehicle used to transport water or fuel to their home when it is not piped in. Also, they may exempt a vehicle used to transport a disabled member or SSI recipient in the household.
[22]The entire equity value of a vehicle used to transport a disabled household member is also exempt.
[23]If the fair market value of the vehicle is greater than $7,500, the equity value greater than $1,500 is counted in the resource limit.
[24]The $12,000 exemption applies to one car for a single-parent unit and to two cars for a married couple.

Table I.D.1 Treatment of Child Support Income, July 1999

State	Amount of Pass-Through	Treated as Unearned Income: Amount Transferred	Treated as Unearned Income: Amount Disregarded
Alabama	$50	—	—
Alaska	$50	—	—
Arizona	—	All	0
Arkansas	—	—	—
California	$50	Amount in Excess of Benefit	
Colorado	$50	—	—
Connecticut	—	All	$100
Delaware	$50	—	—
D.C.	—	—	—
Florida	—	All	0
Georgia	—	—	—
Hawaii	—	—	—
Idaho	—	Amount in Excess of Benefit[1]	All of Amount Transferred
Illinois	$50	Amount in Excess of Benefit[2]	—
Indiana	—	All	0
Iowa	—	Amount in Excess of Benefit[1]	—
Kansas	*	*	*
Kentucky	$50	—	—
Louisiana	—	—	—
Maine	$50	—	—
Maryland	—	—	—
Massachusetts	$50	—	—
Michigan	$50	—	—
Minnesota	—	—	—
Mississippi	—	Amount in Excess of Benefit[3]	—
Missouri	$50	—	—
Montana	—	—	—
Pathways/Community Service Program	0	0	0
Job Supplement Program	—	All	0
Nebraska	—	All	0
Nevada	$75	—	—
New Hampshire	—	All	0
New Jersey	$50	—	—
New Mexico	—	—	—
New York	$50	Amount in Excess of Benefit[2]	0
North Carolina	—	—	—
North Dakota	—	All	0
Ohio	—	—	—
Oklahoma	—	—	—
Oregon	—	—	—
Pennsylvania	$50	—	—
Rhode Island	—	All	$50
South Carolina	—	All	0
South Dakota	—	—	—
Tennessee	[4]	—	—
Texas	$50	Amount in Excess of Benefit[2]	—
Utah	—	—	—
Vermont	—	All	$50

Table I.D.1 Treatment of Child Support Income, July 1999

State	Amount of Pass-Through	Treated as Unearned Income: Amount Transferred	Treated as Unearned Income: Amount Disregarded
Virginia	$50	—	—
Washington	—	—	—
West Virginia	$50 [5]	—	—
Wisconsin	—	All	0/All[6]
Wyoming	—	—	—

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

* Data not obtained.
[1]Any child support collected in excess of the lifetime benefit paid out is returned to the family.
[2]Any child support collected in excess of the monthly benefit amount plus the $50 disregard is returned to the unit.
[3]Any child support collected in excess of the monthly benefit amount, including cash assistance and transportation payments, is returned to the unit.
[4]Amount of collection or amount of unmet need, whichever is smaller.
[5]All child support payments (including the $50 pass-through) are considered income when testing the unit's gross income against 185 percent of need during application.
[6]Any child support collected on the family's behalf is used in determining whether income is less than 115 percent of the federal poverty level, but excluded for benefit computation purposes.

Table I.D.2 Treatment of Grandparent Income, July 1999

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 of the Unit That the Grandparent Is Responsible for) Times the Family Size[1]
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	100% of Minimum Basic Standard of Adequate Care for the Family Size
Colorado	Yes	*	*
Connecticut	Yes	—	100% of the Federal Poverty Level for the Family Size
Delaware	Yes	—	200% of the Federal Poverty Level for the Family Size[2]
D.C.	Yes	$100	100% of Standard of Assistance for the Family Size
Florida	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard 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	*	*	*
Kentucky	Yes	$90	100% of Standard of Need for the Family Size
Louisiana	Yes	$120	100% of Need Standard for the Family Size
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 the Federal Poverty Level for the Family Size
Michigan	No[+]	—	(Grandparent Is Always Included in Unit)
Minnesota	Yes	18%	200% of the Federal Poverty Level for the Family Size
Mississippi	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for the Family Size
Missouri	Yes	—	100% of the Federal Poverty Level for Dependent Children and 100% of Need Standard for the Family Size
Montana	No	—	—
Nebraska	Yes	—	300% of the 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 Need Standard for the Family Size
New Jersey	Yes[3]	50%	—
New Mexico	Yes	—	130% of the 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 $90 or 27%	100% of Need Standard for the Family Size
Ohio	*	*	*
Oklahoma	Yes	$120	100% of Need Standard for the Family Size
Oregon	Yes	$90	100% of Adjustable Income/Payment Standard for the Family Size
Pennsylvania	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for the Family Size
Rhode Island	Yes	$170	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
Tennessee	Yes	$150	100% of Consolidated Need Standard for the Grandparent and All In-House Dependents

Table I.D.2 Treatment of Grandparent Income, July 1999

State	Deeming	Earned Income Disregard	Other Income Disregard
Texas	Yes	$90	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 Assistance for the Family Size
Washington	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for the Family Size
West Virginia	No	40%	100% of Standard of Need for the Family Size
Wisconsin	No	—	—
Wyoming	Yes	$200	100% of Maximum Benefit for the Family Size

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

Notes: "Family Size" represents the grandparent and all dependents outside of the assistance unit.
In general, states also deduct child support payments, alimony, and payments made to dependents outside of the household from the grandparent's income before deeming to the unit.

* Data not obtained.
[+]There is no deeming because the grandparent must be included in the unit in order for the minor to receive benefits. Therefore, all of the grandparent’s income is included for eligibility purposes.
[1]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.
[2]Grandparents for applicant units may only disregard 100 percent of the federal poverty level for the grandparents and dependents outside the unit.
[3]Income is deemed to a minor parent unit even if they are not living in the home with the grandparent. The rules for deeming are the same.

Table I.D.3 Treatment of Stepparent Income, July 1999

State	Deeming	Earned Income Disregard	Other Income Disregards
Alabama	Yes	20%	100% of Countable Income Divided by Number of Persons in the Household (Inside and Outside of the Unit That the Stepparent Is Responsible for) for Family Size[1]
Alaska	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for Family Size
Arizona	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for Family Size[2]
Arkansas	No[+]	—	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
California	No[+]	—	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
Colorado	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for Family Size
Connecticut	Yes	100%	100% of Federal Poverty Level
Delaware	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for Family Size
D.C.	No	—	—
Florida	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard 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	$90	300% of Payment Standard for Family Size
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[3]
Kansas	No[+]	—	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
Kentucky	Yes	$90	100% of Standard of Need for Family Size
Louisiana	No[+]	—	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
Maine	Yes	$108	100% of Gross Income Test for Family Size
Maryland	Yes	20%[4]	100% of Allowable Payment for Family Size
Massachusetts	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard and Payment Standard for Family Size
Michigan	No[+]	—	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
Minnesota	No[+]	—	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
Mississippi	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for Family Size
Missouri	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for Family Size
Montana	No[+]	—	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
Nebraska	No[+]	—	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
Nevada	Yes	Greater of $90 or 20%	100% of Need Standard for Family Size
New Hampshire	No[+]	—	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
New Jersey	Yes	100%, 50%	100% of Maximum Benefit Payment Schedule for the Stepparent
New Mexico	No[+]	—	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
New York	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for Family Size
North Carolina	Yes	$90	—
North Dakota	Yes	Greater of $90 or 27%[5]	100% of TEEM Standard of Need for Family Size
Ohio	Yes	$90	100% of Allocation Allowance Standard for Family Size
Oklahoma	Yes	$120	100% of Need Standard for Family Size
Oregon	No[+]	—	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
Pennsylvania	Yes	$90	100% of Need Standard for Family Size
Rhode Island	No[+]	—	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
South Carolina	No[+]	—	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
South Dakota	No[+]	—	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
Tennessee	Yes	$150	100% of Consolidated Need Standard for the Stepparent and All In-House Dependents
Texas	Yes	$90	100% of Budgetary Needs Standard for Family Size
Utah	No[+]	—	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)

Table I.D.3 Treatment of Stepparent Income, July 1999

State	Deeming	Earned Income Disregard	Other Income Disregards
Vermont	No+	—	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
Virginia	Yes	$90	100% of Standard of Assistance for Family Size[6]
Washington	Yes	50%	100% of Payment Standard for Family Size
West Virginia	No	—	—
Wisconsin	No+	—	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)
Wyoming	No+	—	(Stepparent Always Included in the Unit)

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

Notes: "Family Size" represents the grandparent and all dependents outside of the assistance unit.
In general, states also deduct child support payments, alimony, and payments made to dependents outside of the household from the grandparent's income before deeming to the unit.

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

* Data not obtained.
+There is no deeming because the stepparent must be included in the unit. Therefore, all of the stepparent's income is included for eligibility purposes.
[1]The stepparent's remaining income after deductions is divided by the total number of dependents who do not receive assistance plus the stepparent and his/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 stepparent.
[2]The stepparent's income is deemed only to the stepchild(ren) in the unit.
[3]Deduct all child support payments and payments made to dependents outside the household before applying the 50% disregard.
[4]The stepparent's income is tested against 50% of the federal poverty level for a household size that includes the stepparent, the assistance unit, and any other dependents not in the unit. When the income is below 50% of the FPL, no income is deemed to the unit. When the income is over 50% of the FPL, all of the stepparent's income minus deductions is deemed to the unit.
[5]For the first six months of a new marriage, all stepparent income is disregarded, provided the parent was previously receiving benefits.
[6]The stepparent's income is deemed only to the spouse.

Table I.E.1 Income Eligibility Tests for Applicants, July 1999

State	Type of Test	Threshold (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
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		
Time-Limited Units	Net Income	100% of Need Standard
	Unearned Income	100% of Payment Standard
Time-Limited Exempt	Net Income	100% of Need Standard
Delaware	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard
	Net Income	100% of Maximum Benefit
D.C.	Net Income	100% Payment Level
Florida	Gross Income	185% of Consolidated Need Standard
	Net Income	100% of Payment Standard
Georgia	Gross Income	185% of Standard of Need
	Net Income	100% of Standard of Need
Hawaii	Gross Income	185% of Standard of Need
	Net Income	100% of Standard of Need
Idaho	No Explicit Tests	
Illinois	Net Income	100% of Payment Standard
Indiana	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard
	Net Income	100% of Need Standard
Iowa	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard
	Net Income	100% of Need Standard
Kansas	Net Income	100% of Budgetary Standards
Kentucky	Gross Income	185% of Standard of Need
Louisiana	Net Income	100% of Flat Grant Amount
Maine	Gross Income	100% of Gross Income Test
Maryland	Net Income	100% of Allowable Payment
Massachusetts	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard
	Net Income	100% of Need Standard
Michigan	No Explicit Tests	
Minnesota	Net Income	100% of Transitional Standard
Mississippi	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard
	Net Income	100% of Need Standard
Missouri	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard
	Net Income	100% of Need Standard
Montana	Gross Income	185% of Net Monthly Income Standard
	Net Income	100% 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	Gross Income	150% of Maximum Benefit Payment Schedule
New Mexico	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard
	Net Income	100% of Need Standard
New York	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard and 100% of 1996 Federal Poverty Level
	Net Income	100% of Need Standard
North Carolina	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard
North Dakota	Gross Income	106% of TEEM Standard of Need
Ohio	Net Income	100% of Allocation Allowance Standard

Table I.E.1 Income Eligibility Tests for Applicants, July 1999

State	Type of Test	Threshold (Less Than)
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
	Net Income	100% of Adjusted Income/Payment Standard
JOBS Plus	Gross Income	100% of Food Stamp Countable Income Limit
Pennsylvania	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard
	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	Gross Income	185% of Budgetary Needs Standard
	Net Income	100% of Budgetary Needs Standard
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	Gross Earnings	100% of Federal Poverty Level
	Unearned Income	100% of Standard of Assistance[1]
All, except VIEW	Gross Income	185% of Standard of Assistance
	Net Income	90% of Standard of Assistance
Washington	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard
	Gross Earnings	100% of Maximum Earned Income Limit
West Virginia	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard
	Net Income	100% of Standard of Need
Wisconsin	Gross Income	115% of Federal Poverty Level
Wyoming	No Explicit Tests	

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

Note: "No Explicit Test" indicates that either the state imposes no income tests on applicants or the state does impose 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.

[1]For two-parent units to be eligible, their gross earned income must be below 150% of the federal poverty level and unearned income must be below 100% of Standard of Assistance.

Table I.E.2 Earned Income Disregards for Income Eligibility Purposes, July 1999

State	Earned Income Disregard
Alabama	20%
Alaska	$90
Arizona	
All, except JOBSTART	No Explicit Net Income Test
JOBSTART	100% of subsidized wages up to 40 hours per week at the federal minimum wage, and $120 and 33% for the first 4 months, $120 for the next 8 months, and $90 thereafter on all wages above 40 hours
Arkansas	20%[1]
California	$90
Colorado	$90
Connecticut	$90
Delaware	$90
D.C.	$100
Florida	$90
Georgia	$90
Hawaii	20%, $200, and the Variable Percentage Rate[2]
Idaho	No Explicit Net Income Test
Illinois	$90
Indiana	$90
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 [3]
Missouri	$90
Montana	
Pathways	$200
Community Service Program	$100
Job Supplement Program	$200 and 25% of Remainder
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	All earnings in excess of 29 hours per week for the first 24 months[4]
New York	$90
North Carolina	No Explicit Net Income Test
North Dakota	No Explicit Net Income Test[5]
Ohio	No Disregards Allowed
Oklahoma	$120
Oregon	No Disregards Allowed
Pennsylvania	$90
Rhode Island	No Explicit Net Income Test
South Carolina	No Disregards Allowed
South Dakota	No Explicit Net Income Test

Table I.E.2 Earned Income Disregards for Income Eligibility Purposes, July 1999

State	Earned Income Disregard
Tennessee	No Explicit Net Income Test
Texas	$90
Utah	$100 [6]
Vermont	$90
Virginia	
VIEW	No Explicit Net Income Test
All, except VIEW	$90
Washington	No Explicit Net Income Test
West Virginia	40%
Wisconsin	No Net Income Test
Wyoming	No Explicit Net Income Test

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

Notes: Only earned income disregards are described in the table. Child care disregards and other special disregards, such as deductions for time-limited units or family-capped units, are not included.

"No Explicit Net Income Test" indicates that either the state imposes no net income test at application or the state does impose 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 have a test for initial eligibility but does not allow units to disregard any income.

[1] Recipients may disregard 60% of earnings.
[2] The variable percentage rate shall be a percentage that allows a household to earn up to the standard of need and still retain eligibility. This rate is around 36% for a family of three.
[3] Two-parent units may disregard $120 and 33.3%.
[4] Two-parent units may disregard all earnings in excess of 59 hours per week (if federally subsidized child care is available, else 39 hours per week), $250 and 50% for the first 24 months, $250 and 50% thereafter.
[5] Applicants and recipients in their first two months of assistance have no net income test; however recipients in their third and subsequent months of receipt do have a net income test and they may disregard $90 or 27%, whichever is greater, and A*(A/B)*.5, where A=Min[earnings after initial disregard, B] and B=Employment Incentive Limit.
[6] Recipients may disregard $100 and 50% of remainder. However, in order to be eligible for the 50% disregard the unit must have received benefits in at least one of the previous 4 months.

Table I.E.3 Eligibility Standards, July 1999

State	State Name	Amount for Family of Three
Alabama	Payment Standard	$164
Alaska	Need Standard	$1,092
Arizona		
All, except JOBSTART	Need Standard	$964
JOBSTART	Need Standard	$964
Arkansas	Income Eligibility Standard	$223
California		
Nonexempt	Minimum Basic Standard of Adequate Care	$793
Exempt	Minimum Basic Standard of Adequate Care	$793
Colorado	Need Standard	$421
Connecticut		
Time-Limited Units	Federal Poverty Level	$1,157
	Need Standard	$745
	Payment Standard	$543
Time-Limited Exempt	Federal Poverty Level	$1,157
	Need Standard	$745
Delaware	Need Standard	$853
	Maximum Benefit	$338
D.C.	Standard of Assistance	$712
	Payment Level	$379
Florida	Consolidated Need Standard	$1,180
	Payment Standard	$303
Georgia	Standard of Need	$424
Hawaii	Standard of Need	$1,140
Idaho	—-	—-
Illinois	Payment Standard	$377
Indiana	Federal Poverty Level	$1,157
	Need Standard	$320
Iowa	Need Standard	$849
Kansas	Budgetary Standards	$429
Kentucky	Standard of Need	$526
Louisiana	Flat Grant Amount	$190
Maine	Gross Income Test	$1,023
Maryland	Allowable Payment	$399
Massachusetts		
Nonexempt	Need Standard and Payment Standard	$565
Exempt	Need Standard and Payment Standard	$579
Michigan	—-	—-
Minnesota	Transitional Standard	$783
Mississippi	Need Standard	$368
Missouri	Need Standard	$846
Montana		
Pathways/Community Service Program	Net Monthly Income Standard	$597
Job Supplement Program	Net Monthly Income Standard	$597
Nebraska	—-	—-
Nevada	Need Standard	$828
New Hampshire	Payment Standard	$550
New Jersey	Maximum Benefit Payment Schedule	$424

Table I.E.3 Eligibility Standards, July 1999

State	State Name	Amount for Family of Three
New Mexico	Need Standard	$389
New York	Need Standard	$577
	1996 Federal Poverty Level	$1,082
North Carolina	Need Standard	$544
North Dakota	TEEM Standard of Need	$740
	Employment Incentive Limit	$184
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	$1,479
Pennsylvania	Need Standard	$587
Rhode Island	—-	—-
South Carolina	Need Standard	$555
South Dakota	—-	—-
Tennessee	Consolidated Need Standard	$799
Texas	Budgetary Needs Standard	$751
Utah	Adjusted Standard Needs Budget	$568
Vermont	Need Standard	$1,185
Virginia		
VIEW	Federal Poverty Level	$1,157
	Standard of Assistance	$322
All, except VIEW	Standard of Assistance	$322
Washington	Need Standard	$1,247
	Maximum Earned Income Limit	$1,092
West Virginia	Standard of Need	$991
Wisconsin		
W-2 Transition	Federal Poverty Level	$1,157
Community Service Jobs	Federal Poverty Level	$1,157
Trial Jobs/Unsubsidized Employment	Federal Poverty Level	$1,157
Wyoming	—-	—-

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

Note: This table provides information on the standards only. For information on how the standards are used, see Tables I.D.2, I.D.3, I.E.1, and IV.A.2.

Table I.E.4 Initial Eligibility Threshold, July1999

State	Maximum Earnings an Applicant Can Retain and Still Be Eligible for a Benefit
Alabama	$205
Alaska	$1,182
Arizona	$586
Arkansas	$279
California	$883
Colorado	$511
Connecticut	$835
Delaware	$428
D.C.	$479
Florida	$393
Georgia	$514
Hawaii	$1,641
Idaho	$637
Illinois	$467
Indiana	$410
Iowa	$1,061
Kansas	$519
Kentucky	$909
Louisiana	$310
Maine	$1,023
Maryland	$499
Massachusetts	$655
Michigan	$774
Minnesota	$955
Mississippi	$458
Missouri	$558
Montana	$797
Nebraska	$668
Nevada	$1,035
New Hampshire	$688
New Jersey	$636
New Mexico	$389
New York	$667
North Carolina	$936
North Dakota	$784
Ohio	$972
Oklahoma	$704
Oregon	$460
Pennsylvania	$677
Rhode Island	$1,278
South Carolina	$555
South Dakota	$626
Tennessee	$948
Texas	$400
Utah	$550
Vermont	$979
Virginia	$1,157
Washington	$1,090
West Virginia	$503

Table I.E.4 Initial Eligibility Threshold, July1999

State	Maximum Earnings an Applicant Can Retain and Still Be Eligible for a Benefit
Wisconsin	—[1]
Wyoming	$540

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

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 two children (with no family cap applied to either), has no special needs, pays for shelter, and lives in the most populated area of the state.

[1]Units with earnings 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.

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 1999.

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, there are general rules that most states do apply. First, all but two states[9] allow recipients to disregard a portion of their earned income before benefit computation and vary the units' benefits by net income. 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 even combine the statutory maximum and benefit reduction rate into their calculation. Clearly, state benefit computation formulas can become complex. The following section describes these policies in greater detail.

<u>Earned income disregards for benefit computation:</u> Table II.A.1 describes the earned income disregards that are allowed in determining net income for purposes of benefit

[9] The two states that do not vary their benefits by net income or allow disregards provide a flat benefit to the assistance unit. This means that the unit receives a set amount every month no matter what the income is (as long as the income does not exceed the state's income eligibility tests).

computation. If a state does not apply any earned income disregards to compute net income for benefit computation (so that all of a family's earnings are included in income for benefit computation purposes), "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 affected by a family cap or time limit. Those types of disregards are not included in the table but are captured in the WRD database.

In rare cases, states use different earned income disregards to determine the benefit of a unit in its first month of eligibility vs. 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: Note that 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 paper, describes the earned income disregards used for benefit computation purposes in each year, 1996 through 1999.

<u>Benefit determination policies:</u> Table II.A.2 describes the procedure by which 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 the income standards 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: Most states determine benefit eligibility by subtracting net income from an income standard. 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 I.D.3 include policies on treatment of unearned income (child support income, and amounts deemed from grandparent units and stepparent units). 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 paper, provides those maximum benefits for the years 1996 through 1999.*

<u>Benefit standards:</u> As described earlier, most benefit computation procedures involve the use of 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, due 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, in several states the standards no longer fit into the old AFDC framework.

Some types of details concerning benefit standards are not included in the table. In some states, different sets of dollar amounts are used in different regions of the state; in those cases, the table includes the amounts that are 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 vs. two-parent families; we assume 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.

Related tables: Note that these standards, by themselves, are not necessarily comparable across states, since the benefit computation procedures might be quite different. 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 the years 1996 through 1999.

<u>Maximum benefit for a family with no income:</u> Table II.A.4 provides information on the maximum benefit in the 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. And in still other cases, it will be a percentage of the payment standard.

The calculation assumes that the assistance unit includes one parent and two children, contains no "capped" children, 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 the years 1996 through 1999.

Table II.A.1 Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, July 1999

State	Earned Income Disregards
Alabama	100% first 3 consecutive months, 20% thereafter
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
Arizona	
All, except JOBSTART	$90 and 30% of remainder
JOBSTART	No disregards allowed
Arkansas	No disregards allowed
California	$225 dollars and 50% of remainder
Colorado	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter
Connecticut	100% of the federal poverty level
Delaware	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter
D.C.	$100 and 50% of remainder
Florida	$200 and 50% of remainder
Georgia	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter
Hawaii	20%, $200, and the variable percentage rate[1]
Idaho	40%
Illinois	66.7%
Indiana	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter
Iowa	20% and 50% of remainder
Kansas	$90 and 40% of remainder
Kentucky	100% for first two months,[2] $120 and 33.3% next four months, $120 next eight months, $90 thereafter
Louisiana	$1,020 for 6 months, $120 thereafter
Maine	$108 and 50% of remainder
Maryland	35%
Massachusetts	
Nonexempt	$120 and 50% of remainder
Exempt	$120 and 33.3% of remainder
Michigan	$200 and 20% of remainder
Minnesota	36%
Mississippi	100% first 6 months, $90 thereafter[3]
Missouri	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter
Montana	
Pathways	$200 and 25% of remainder
Community Service Program	$100
Job Supplement Program	No disregards allowed
Nebraska	20%
Nevada	100% for first 3 months; 50% for months 4-12; $90 or 20%, whichever is greater, thereafter
New Hampshire	50%
New Jersey	100% for first month, 50% thereafter[4]
New Mexico	All earnings in excess of 29 hours per week, $150 and 50% for the first 24 months, $150 and 50% thereafter[5]
New York	$90 and 45% of remainder
North Carolina	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter
North Dakota	$90 or 27%, whichever is greater, and additional amount computed from formula[6]
Ohio	$250 and 50% of remainder for first 18 months
Oklahoma	$120 and 50% of remainder
Oregon	50%
Pennsylvania	50%
Rhode Island	$170 and 50% of remainder
South Carolina	50% for first 4 months, $100 thereafter

Table II.A.1 Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, July 1999

State	Earned Income Disregards
South Dakota	$90 and 20% of remainder
Tennessee	$150
Texas	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter
Utah	$100 and 50% of remainder[7]
Vermont	$150 and 25% of remainder
Virginia	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter
Washington	50%
West Virginia	40%
Wisconsin	No disregards allowed
Wyoming	$200 [8]

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

Notes: Only earned income disregards are described in the table. Child care disregards and other special disregards, such as deductions for time-limited units or family-capped units, 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 first-month benefit, it is footnoted.

When no duration is specified for the disregards, they remain for the entire period of receipt.

[1]The variable percentage rate shall be a percentage that allows a household to earn up to the standard of need and still retain eligibility. This rate is around 36%.
[2]Recipients are eligible for the one-time 100% disregard if they become newly employed.
[3]Recipients are eligible for the one-time 100% disregard if they find employment of 35 hours per week within the first 30 days following initial approval for TANF. If work is not found within 30 days, the recipient is ineligible to ever receive the disregard again. This disregard only applies to new applications or reapplications approved after July 1, 1997. An additional 100% disregard is available to units for 3 months when the unit's case is subject to closure due to increased earnings and the individual is employed for at least 25 hours per 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 maximum 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% of earnings for the first 6 months, $120 and 33.3% in the next 12 months, and $90 thereafter .
[4]The 100% 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% of earnings only.
[5]Two-parent units may disregard all earnings in excess of 59 hours per week (if federally subsidized child care is available, else 39 hours per week), $250 and 50% for the first 24 months, $250 and 50% thereafter.
[6]The formula equals A*(A/B)*.5, where A=Min[earnings after initial disregard, B] and B=Employment Incentive Limit
[7]To be eligible for the 50% disregards, the recipient must have received benefits in at least one of the previous 4 months.
[8]Married couples with a child in common may disregard $400.

Table II.A.2 Benefit Determination Policies, July 1999

State	Benefit Equals:
Alabama	Payment Standard minus net income
Alaska	Need Standard minus net income times 84.81%[1]
Arizona	
All, except JOBSTART	Payment Benefit 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[3]
California	Maximum Aid Payment minus net income
Colorado	Need Standard minus net income times 84.75%
Connecticut	
Time-Limited Units	Payment Standard minus net income
Time-Limited Exempt	Need Standard minus net income times 73%
D.C.	Payment Level minus net income
Delaware	Smaller of Need Standard minus net income times 50% or Maximum Benefit
Florida	Payment Standard minus net income
Georgia	Smaller of Standard of Need minus net income or Family Maximum
Hawaii	Standard of Assistance minus net income
Idaho	Smaller of Work Incentive Allowance minus net income or Maximum Benefit
Illinois	Payment Standard minus net income
Indiana	Net Income Standard/Max Benefit minus net income[4]
Iowa	Payment Standard minus net income
Kansas	Budgetary Standards minus net income
Kentucky	Smaller of Standard of Need minus net income times 55% or Maximum Benefit
Louisiana	Flat Grant Amount minus net income
Maine	Smaller of Standard of Need minus net income or Maximum Benefit
Maryland	Allowable Payment minus net income
Massachusetts	Need Standard minus net income
Michigan	Payment Standard minus net income
Minnesota	Smaller of Family Wage Level minus net income or Transitional Standard[5]
Mississippi	Smaller of Need Standard minus net income times 60% or Maximum Benefit
Missouri	Payment Standard minus net income
Montana	
Pathways/Community Service Program	Benefit Standard minus net income
Job Supplement Program	None
Nebraska	Need Standard minus net income
Nevada	Payment Allowance minus net income
New Hampshire	Payment Standard minus net income
New Jersey	Maximum Benefit Payment Schedule minus net income
New Mexico	Payment Standard minus net income
New York	Need Standard minus net income
North Carolina	Need Standard minus net income times 50%
North Dakota	TEEM Standard of Need minus net income times 61.76%
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[6]
JOBS Plus	The cash value of the unit's food stamp and TANF benefit minus a measure of net earnings[7]
Pennsylvania	Family Size Allowance minus net income
Rhode Island	Cash Assistance Monthly Standard minus net income

Table II.A.2 Benefit Determination Policies, July 1999	
State	Benefit Equals:
South Carolina	Smaller of Need Standard minus net income or Maximum Benefit
South Dakota	Payment Standard minus net income
Tennessee	Smaller of Consolidated Need Standard minus net income or Maximum Benefit
Texas	Payment Standard minus net income
Utah	Maximum Financial Assistance Payment minus net income
Vermont	Payment Standard minus net income
Virginia	
VIEW	Smaller of the Federal Poverty Level minus Net Income or Payment Standard minus gross unearned income or Maximum Benefit [8]
All, except VIEW	Smaller of Payment Standard minus net income or Maximum Benefit
Washington	Smaller of Payment Standard minus net income or Maximum Benefit
West Virginia	Payment Standard minus net income[9]
Wisconsin	
W-2 Transition/Community Service Jobs	Benefit Amount (A Flat Grant Amount)
Trial Jobs	Varies by hours worked[10]
Unsubsidized Employment	None[11]
Wyoming	Maximum Benefit minus net income

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

[1]Two-parent units in which both parents are able to perform gainful activities will have their benefits reduced by 50% for the benefit months of 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 federal and state taxes, and FICA) 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 their 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. However, if the gross income is greater than $446, the benefit will be reduced to 50% of the Maximum Payment Level. Arkansas refers to this policy as the Gross Income Trigger.
[4]If there is no deficit or the deficit is less than $10, recipients will not receive a cash benefit. However, they still remain eligible for services as long as their income does not exceed 100% of the federal poverty guideline.
[5]The calculation applies to recipients without earned income or with only earned income. The benefit for recipients with earned and unearned income: 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. In order to calculate the AFDC/TANF grant amount without FS, subtract the Food Portion of the MFIP standard from the benefit.
[6]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 isn't complying with requirements, the unit only receives the difference between the Adjusted Income/Payment Standard and net income.
[7]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/her available hours (all scheduled hours, regardless of whether or not 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.
[8]The benefit for two-parent units equals the smaller of 150% of the federal poverty level minus net income or Payment Standard minus gross unearned income or Maximum Benefit.
[9]Units in which a man and a woman are legally married to each other are eligible for a marriage incentive that increases the benefit by 10%.
[10]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 per month.
[11]Units in the Unsubsidized Employment component receive wages from an unsubsidized job and are not eligible for a cash benefit; however, they may still receive support services if they are otherwise eligible.

Table II.A.3 Benefit Standards, July 1999

	Payment Standard		Statutory Maximum Benefit	
State	State Name	Amount for Family of Three	State Name	Amount for Family of Three
Alabama	Payment Standard	$164	—	—
Alaska	Need Standard	$1,092	—	—
Arizona				
All, except JOBSTART	Payment Benefit	$347	—	—
JOBSTART	Payment Benefit and Food Stamps[1]	—	—	—
Arkansas	Maximum Payment Level	$204	—	—
California				
Nonexempt	Maximum Aid Payment	$626	—	—
Exempt	Maximum Aid Payment	$699	—	—
Colorado	Need Standard	$421	—	—
Connecticut				
Time-Limited Units	Payment Standard	$543	—	—
Time-Limited Exempt	Need Standard	$745	—	—
Delaware	Need Standard	$853	Maximum Benefit	$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 Allowance	$382	Maximum Benefit	$276
Illinois	Payment Standard	$377	—	—
Indiana	Net Income Standard/Max Benefit	$288	—	—
Iowa	Payment Standard	$426	—	—
Kansas	Budgetary Standards	$429	—	—
Kentucky	Standard of Need	$526	Maximum Benefit	$262
Louisiana	Flat Grant Amount	$190	—	—
Maine	Standard of Need	$596	Maximum Benefit	$461
Maryland	Allowable Payment	$399	—	—
Massachusetts				
Nonexempt	Need Standard and Payment Standard	$565	—	—
Exempt	Need Standard and Payment Standard	$579	—	—
Michigan	Payment Standard	$459	—	—
Minnesota	Transitional Standard	$783 (532)[3]	—	—
	Family Wage Level	$861	—	—
Mississippi	Need Standard	$368	Maximum Benefit	$170
Missouri	Payment Standard	$292	—	—
Montana				
Pathways/Community Service Program	Benefit Standard	$469	—	—
Job Supplement Program	None	—	—	—
Nebraska	Need Standard	$535	—	—
Nevada	Payment Allowance	$348	—	—
New Hampshire	Payment Standard	$550	—	—
New Jersey	Maximum Benefit Payment Schedule	$424	—	—
New Mexico	Payment Standard	$489	—	—
New York	Need Standard	$577	—	—
North Carolina	Need Standard	$544	—	—
North Dakota	TEEM Standard of Need	$740	—	—

Table II.A.3 Benefit Standards, July 1999

	Payment Standard		Statutory Maximum Benefit	
State	State Name	Amount for Family of Three	State Name	Amount for Family of Three
Ohio	Payment Standard	$362	—	—
Oklahoma	Payment Standard	$292	—	—
Oregon				
All, except JOBS Plus	Adjusted Income/Payment Standard	$460	—	—
	Cooperative Incentive Payment[4]	$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	$555	Maximum Benefit	$201
South Dakota	Payment Standard	$430	—	—
Tennessee				
Time-Limited Units	Consolidated Need Standard	$799	Maximum Benefit	$185
Time-Limited Exempt Units	Consolidated Need Standard	$799	Maximum Benefit	$232
Texas	Payment Standard	$188	—	—
Utah	Maximum Financial Assistance Payment	$451	—	—
Vermont	Payment Standard	$622	—	—
Virginia				
VIEW	Federal Poverty Level	$1,157	Maximum Benefit	$291
	Payment Standard	$291	—	—
All, except VIEW	Payment Standard	$291	Maximum Benefit	$291
Washington	Payment Standard	$546	Maximum Benefit	$546
West Virginia	Payment Standard	$303	—	—
Wisconsin			—	—
W-2 Transition	Benefit Amount	$628	—	—
Community Service Jobs	Benefit Amount	$673	—	—
Trial Jobs/Unsubsidized Employment	No Cash Benefit[5]	—	—	—
Wyoming	Maximum Benefit	$340	—	—

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

Note: This table provides information on the standards only. For information on how the standards are used, see Tables I.D.2, I.D.3, and II.A.2.

[1]See the footnotes 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 the first and second months of benefits, the Standard of Assistance for a family of three is $712.
[3]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, that 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.
[4]If the unit is complying with all requirements, they receive the Cooperative Incentive Payment (most of the caseload does); however, if the unit isn't complying with requirements, they receive only the Adjusted Income/Payment Standard.
[5]The benefit in this component is based on the wages earned by individual participants.

Table II.A.4 Maximum Monthly Benefit for a Family of Three with No Income, July 1999

State	Maximum Benefit
Alabama	$164
Alaska	$923
Arizona	$347
Arkansas	$204
California	
Nonexempt	$626
Exempt	$699
Colorado	$357
Connecticut	$543
Delaware	$338
D.C.	$379
Florida	$303
Georgia	$280
Hawaii	$570
Idaho	$276
Illinois	$377
Indiana	$288
Iowa	$426
Kansas	$429
Kentucky	$262
Louisiana	$190
Maine	$461
Maryland	$399
Massachusetts	
Nonexempt	$565
Exempt	$579
Michigan	$459
Minnesota	$532
Mississippi	$170
Missouri	$292
Montana	$469
Nebraska	$535
Nevada	$348
New Hampshire	$550
New Jersey	$424
New Mexico	$489
New York	$577
North Carolina	$272
North Dakota	$740
Ohio	$362
Oklahoma	$292
Oregon	$460
Pennsylvania	$403
Rhode Island	$554
South Carolina	$201
South Dakota	$430
Tennessee	$185
Texas	$188
Utah	$451

Table II.A.4 Maximum Monthly Benefit for a Family of Three with No Income, July 1999

State	Maximum Benefit
Vermont	$622
Virginia	$291
Washington	$546
West Virginia	$303
Wisconsin	
W-2 Transition	$628
Community Service Jobs	$673
Wyoming	$340

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

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

Requirements

III. Requirements

The tables in this chapter of the *Databook* describe the requirements for individuals within an assistance unit, as of July 1999. Numerous requirements may be imposed on a family in order to become and/or remain eligible for TANF. In order to receive benefits, most states require recipients to negotiate and sign contracts that detail what is required of the 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 units must fulfill in order to become and remain eligible for assistance, including those related to behavior and work activities.

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

States may impose many types of behavioral requirements (requirements that attempt to influence 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 attain a minimum grade point average in school. Note that fulfilling behavioral requirements can be a condition of initial and/or continuing eligibility.

Behavioral requirements: Although behavioral requirements affect adults in many states, this table only addresses some of the requirements for dependent children. These include school, immunization, health screening, and other health requirements described below:

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

- School bonus policies describe 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 requirement policies require parents to have their children immunized.

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

- Other health requirements primarily involve the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) program.

Table III.A.1 describes requirements imposed on dependent children in the assistance unit for either initial and/or continuing eligibility. The table indicates whether states impose school, immunization, health screening, and other health requirements on the assistance unit. Requirements are only included in this table if (1) they are explicitly mentioned in the manual as a requirement for cash assistance or recipients must sign a contract, which includes one of the requirements, in order to receive benefits; and (2) a sanction results from noncompliance. The table also describes whether the state provides school bonuses. Note that 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[10] and (2) ensure that every recipient is working (as defined by the state) as soon as the state determines that they are 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 of time. 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 of the recipient. In cases where the recipient is not exempt but also not complying with activity requirements, the state may sanction, or reduce, the unit's benefit. Below is a further discussion of these topics and the tables included in this section.

<u>Work-related exemptions:</u> States may, but are not required to, exempt certain types of individuals or groups from participating in work-related activities. Any exempted individuals are still included in the denominator for purposes of the state's work participation rate, with the exception of single parents caring for a child under one year. If the state decides to exempt these units, they are not included in the denominator for purposes of the participation rate calculation.

Table III.B.1 describes each state's key rules for exempting the head of an assistance unit from work-related requirements. An individual may be exempt if s/he works a specified number of hours in an unsubsidized job, is ill or incapacitated, is caring for an ill or incapacitated person,

[10] The work participation rate indicates what percentage of the state TANF caseload must be participating in work activities. The number of hours required to qualify for the rate and the percentage itself have both increased annually since 1996. As of 1999, 35 percent of the state's caseload must be participating a minimum of 25 hours per week.

is elderly, is in a specified month of pregnancy, or is caring for a child under a specified age. For other types of exemption criteria, see the WRD.

Related tables: Table L6 provides the exemption for a parent with a child under a certain age for the years 1996 through 1999.

Work-related activities: Work programs vary widely from state to state based on several factors, including when the requirement is imposed, what activities are allowed, how many hours per week the recipient must participate, and who is allowed to do certain activities. For simplicity, the table only includes the activity requirements for units headed by a single parent over age 20.

Table III.B.2 provides a general overview of state activity requirements. The table describes when the recipient must begin participating, allowable activities the recipient could possibly participate in, and how many hours the recipient must participate per week, including what share of those hours can be spent in education and training programs.

Users of this table should keep in mind that the caseworker manuals on which the WRD is based do not provide complete information about the ways that these work requirements are implemented. In particular, caseworker manuals do not generally indicate the likelihood that a recipient will be assigned to one particular activity or another. Thus, two states could have the same list of potential activities but have very different policies in terms of how often different types of activities are assigned. Alternatively, one state might include a potential activity that is not listed in another state but in practice rarely assign any recipients to that activity. Finally, one state may explicitly say that 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 a diploma to educational activities. Despite these limitations, the table provides a starting point for understanding the range of work-related requirements across the states.

Work-related sanctions: If adults who are required to participate in activities do not comply with requirements, the state has the option to 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/her assigned activities for the specified number of hours, s/he is not complying and could be sanctioned. A sanction generally results in the removal of the noncomplying individual from the unit for benefit computation purposes, a percent reduction in the entire unit's benefit, or a full benefit sanction. Often states increase the severity of the sanction based on the number of times and/or the amount of time the individual is noncompliant.

Table III.B.3 describes sanction policies for failing to comply with work requirements. The table provides both the initial sanction (for the first instance of noncompliance) and the most severe sanction. For both 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 the years 1996 through 1999.

Table III.A.1 Behavioral Requirements, July 1999					
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	No	Yes[6]	Yes	No	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	Yes	No	No	No	No
Kansas	No	No	No	No	No
Kentucky	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Louisiana	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Maine	No	No	No	No	Yes
Maryland	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Massachusetts	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Michigan	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Minnesota	No	No	No	No	No
Mississippi	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Missouri	No	No	No	No	No
Montana	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Nebraska					
Time-Limited Assistance	Yes	No	No	No	No
Non-Time-Limited Assistance	No	No	No	No	No
Nevada	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
New Hampshire	Yes	No	No	No	No
New Jersey	Yes	No	Yes[7]	No	No
New Mexico	Yes	No	No	No	No
New York	Yes	No	No	No	No
North Carolina	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
North Dakota	Yes	No	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

Table III.A.1 Behavioral Requirements, July 1999

State	School Requirements[1]	School Bonuses[2]	Immunization Requirements[3]	Health Screening Requirements[4]	Other Health Requirements[5]
Utah	Yes	No	No	No	No
Vermont	No	No	No	No	No
Virginia	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Washington	No	No	No	No	No
West Virginia	No	No	Yes	No	No
Wisconsin	Yes	No	No	No	No
Wyoming	Yes	No	No	No	No
States with Requirements:	**34**	**6**	**26**	**6**	**2**

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

[1]School requirements apply only to requirements for dependent children, not minor parents. A requirement is coded as a "Yes" only if the state explicitly mentions it as a requirement for cash assistance and a sanction results from noncompliance. These policies may require children to attend school, to achieve at least a minimal grade point average, and/or 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, the school bonuses apply to both dependent children and minor parents.
[3]Immunization requirements includes information on standard immunizations for children. A requirement is coded as a "Yes" only if the state explicitly mentions it as a requirement for cash assistance and/or as an item in a contract and a sanction results from noncompliance.
[4]Health screening requirements includes information on regular checkups for both children and adults, although the requirements usually apply only to children. A requirement is coded as a "Yes" only if the state explicitly mentions it as a requirement for cash assistance and a sanction results from noncompliance.
[5]Other health requirements includes information on other health-related requirements such as early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment (EPSDT). A requirement is coded as a "Yes" only if the state explicitly mentions it as a requirement for cash assistance and a sanction results from noncompliance.
[6]School bonuses only apply to minor parents.
[7]New Jersey state law requires all dependent children to be immunized whether they receive TANF benefits or not. However, a welfare recipient's benefits may be sanctioned if they do not immunize their dependent children. Recipients are required to sign an IRP contract in order to receive benefits, and an immunization requirement may be included in the IRP. If the recipient fails to immunize his/her children, they breach the contract and receive a financial sanction.

Table III.B.1 Work-Related Activity Exemptions for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 1999

	Unit head exempt if:					
State	Working in unsubsidized job for (in hours):	Ill or incapacitated	Caring for an ill or incapacitated person	Age (or older) (in years):	In which month of pregnancy (or later)	Caring for child under age (in months):
Alabama	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	No Exemption	4	36
Alaska	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	No Exemption	No Exemption	12 [1]
Arizona	30 [2]	No	No	No Exemption	No Exemption	No Exemption
Arkansas[3]	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	60	7	3
California[4]	No Exemption	Yes[5]	Yes	60 [5]	No Exemption[6]	12 [7]
Colorado[8]	No Exemption	No	No	No Exemption	No Exemption	12 [9]
Connecticut	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	60	No Exemption[10]	12 [11]
Delaware	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	No Exemption	No Exemption	13 weeks
D.C.	25	Yes	Yes	60	4	12
Florida	No Exemption	Yes[12]	Yes[13]	No Exemption	6 [14]	3 [15]
Georgia	No Exemption	No	No	No Exemption	No Exemption	12 [16]
Hawaii	No Exemption	Yes[17]	Yes	60	No Exemption	6
Idaho	No Exemption	No	No	No Exemption	No Exemption	No Exemption
Illinois[18]	No Exemption	No	No	60	No Exemption	12
Indiana	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	60	4	3
Iowa	No Exemption	Yes	Yes[19]	No Exemption	No Exemption	No Exemption[20]
Kansas	No Exemption	No	Yes	60	No Exemption	12
Kentucky	30	No	Yes	60	No Exemption	12 [16]
Louisiana	No Exemption	No	No	No Exemption	No Exemption	12 [16]
Maine	No Exemption	No	Yes[21]	No Exemption	No Exemption	12 [16]
Maryland	30 [22]	Yes[23]	Yes	No Exemption	No Exemption	12 [24]
Massachusetts						
Nonexempt	20	No	No	No Exemption	No Exemption	No Exemption
Exempt[25]	—	—	—	—	—	—
Michigan	30 [22]	Yes	Yes	60	No Exemption	3
Minnesota	35	Yes	Yes	60	[26]	12
Mississippi	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	60	7	12 [16]
Missouri	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	60	7	12 [16]
Montana						
Pathways/Community Service Program	No Exemption	No	No	No Exemption	No Exemption	No Exemption
Job Supplement Program[27]	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nebraska						
Time Limited Assistance	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	60	6	3
Non-Time Limited-Assistance[28]	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nevada	No Exemption	Yes[29]	Yes	60	1 [30]	12 [16]
New Hampshire						
New Hampshire Employment Program	35	Yes[31]	Yes	—[32]	4	36
Family Assistance Program[33]	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Jersey	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	60	7 [34]	3 [35]
New Mexico	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	60	6	12 [16]
New York	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	60	9	12 [36]
North Carolina	No Exemption	No	No	No Exemption	No Exemption	12 [16]

Table III.B.1 Work-Related Activity Exemptions for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 1999

State	Unit head exempt if: Working in unsubsidized job for (in hours):	Ill or incapacitated	Caring for an ill or incapacitated person	Age (or older) (in years):	In which month of pregnancy (or later)	Caring for child under age (in months):
North Dakota	30	Yes	Yes	60	4	24
Ohio	30	Yes	Yes	60	3	12
Oklahoma	No Exemption	No	No	No Exemption	No Exemption	3 [16]
Oregon	No Exemption	No	No	60	9	3
Pennsylvania	No Exemption	Yes	No	No Exemption	4	12 [16]
Rhode Island	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	60	6	12
South Carolina	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	No Exemption	7	12 [16]
South Dakota	No Exemption	No	No	No Exemption	No Exemption	3
Tennessee	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	60	No Exemption	4
Texas	30	Yes	Yes	60	3	48
Utah	No Exemption	No	No	No Exemption	No Exemption	No Exemption
Vermont	15 [37]	Yes	Yes	60	4	18 [38]
Virginia	30	Yes[39]	Yes	60	4	18 [40]
Washington	No Exemption	No	No	No Exemption	No Exemption	3 [16]
West Virginia	No Exemption	Yes	Yes	60	7 [41]	12 [42]
Wisconsin	No Exemption	No	No	No Exemption	No Exemption	3 [43]
Wyoming	No Exemption	No	No	65	No Exemption	3 [16]

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

[1]The caretaker loses this exemption after retaining it for 12 cumulative months
[2]To be exempt, the job must pay at least the minimum wage and be expected to last at least 30 days.
[3]The parent may only receive exemptions in a total of 12 months in his or her lifetime. They may use any combination of exemptions in which they are eligible to accumulate these 12 months.
[4]Counties have the option to vary some activities exemptions. Statewide exemptions are noted; all other exemptions apply only to Los Angeles County.
[5]Statewide exemption.
[6]The woman is only exempt if the pregnancy is disabling and prohibits her from work or training participation.
[7]The recipient may only receive this exemption one time; however, they may also receive a limited exemption for a second or subsequent child under 6 months old.
[8]Counties have the option to vary activities exemptions. These policies refer to Denver County.
[9]The exemption does not apply to recipients who have received benefits for 24 or more cumulative months.
[10]Although there is no exemption, a pregnant or postpartum recipient may be exempt if the physician indicates that she is unable to work.
[11]The exemption only applies if the child under 12 months old is not a capped child.
[12]To be exempt, the recipient must be receiving SSI.
[13]The exemption applies only if no alternative care is available.
[14]The exemption is contingent upon the pregnant woman's inability to work and requires verification from a medical professional.
[15]Recipients may be required to attend classes or other activities.
[16]The exemption is limited to 12 months in the recipient's lifetime.
[17]To be exempt, the recipient must have had the condition for a minimum of 30 days.
[18]Units in which the youngest child is age 13 or older are exempt only if the recipient is ill or incapacitated or if they are caring for someone ill or incapacitated.
[19]The recipient is exempt only if he/she is caring for a disabled child under 3 months of age.
[20]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 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.
[21]To be exempt, the ill or incapacitated individual must be receiving SSI.
[22]To be exempt, the job must pay the minimum wage or higher.
[23]The exemption is limited to 12 months unless the individual has applied for SSI and the application is approved, pending, or in appeal.
[24]This is a one-time exemption for the first child only.
[25]Recipients who are in the Exempt component are automatically exempt from activities requirements. To be included in this component, recipients have to meet certain criteria, such as illness or incapacitation, caring for an ill or incapacitated person, pregnancy, caring for a young child, or age.
[26]Pregnant women are exempt if the pregnancy has resulted in a professionally certified disability that prevents the woman from obtaining or retaining employment.
[27]The Job Supplement Program is diversion assistance; therefore, all recipients in this component are exempt from activities requirements.
[28]Recipients who are in the Non-Time-Limited component are automatically exempt from activities requirements.
[29]The recipient is only exempt from job training requirements (on-the-job training, vocational training, CWEP, and any apprenticeship program).

[30]To be exempt, a physician must have determined that the recipient is unable to work, and then the woman is only exempt from job training requirements (on-the-job training, vocational training, CWEP, and any apprenticeship program).
[31]If a recipient is permanently unable to work, s/he is placed in the FAP component. People who are temporarily ill or incapacitated are exempt from NHEP until their illness or incapacity improves or passes.
[32]Recipients age 60 and older are placed in the FAP component.
[33]Recipients who are in the Family Assistance Program component are automatically exempt from activities requirements.
[34]Recipients in their 4th month of pregnancy may be exempt if a physician certifies that a medical reason exists.
[35]The exemption may be extended if a physician certifies it is medically necessary.
[36]The exemption may last for no more than 12 months in a recipient's lifetime and it may not last for more than 3 months for any one child unless the social services official makes a determination to extend the exemption for up to the total 12 months.
[37]The 15-hour exemption applies to single parents with a child under the age of 13. If the recipient has a child over the age of 13, the parent must work 30 hours to be considered exempt.
[38]The parent is exempt from working but must participate in the Reach Up program.
[39]To be exempt, the recipient must provide a physician's note certifying that s/he is incapacitated, the nature and scope of incapacity, and the abilities and limitations of the individual, as well as the duration of the incapacity. If the individual can participate in employment or training, but is limited in the types of activities that s/he may participate in, the individual must participate in work activities that are determined suitable. If a doctor determines that an individual is temporarily incapacitated, a caseworker must reevaluate the case after the prescribed duration of incapacitation or every 60 days, whichever comes first.
[40]Recipients caring for capped children are only exempt while the child is under 6 weeks of age.
[41]The exemption applies only to a woman giving birth to a second or subsequent child. She can be exempt for a total of 6 months for this child. The 6-month period can include the last trimester of pregnancy. Fathers cannot claim this exemption during pregnancy but can claim a 6-month exemption after the birth. For the first child, a recipient is only exempt due to pregnancy if there are complications with the pregnancy.
[42]The exemption applies only to the birth of a first child. The recipient is exempted for only 6 months after the birth of any additional child (the 6 months include any time the recipient chooses to be exempt during pregnancy).
[43]Only applies to individuals who give birth 10 months or less after starting to receive benefits.

Table III.B.2 Work-Related Activity Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 1999

State	Timing of Requirement in Relation to Benefit Receipt	Allowable Activities Listed	Minimum Hour Requirement	Share of Hours Allowed for Education and Training
Alabama	Immediately	All	Case-by-Case Basis	—
Alaska	Immediately	All	25	—
Arizona	Immediately	All except Employment	Case-by-Case Basis	—
Arkansas	Immediately	All	25	—
California	After Assessment	All except Postsecondary Education[1]	*	—
Colorado[2]	*	All[1]	22	—
Connecticut	Immediately	All except Postsecondary Education	Case-by-Case Basis	—
Delaware	*	Job-Related, E&T, and CWEP[1]	20	—
D.C.	Immediately	All	25	5
Florida	Immediately	All	25	5
Georgia	24 Months	All	25 [3]	15
Hawaii	Immediately	All except Postsecondary Education	18	—
Idaho	Immediately	All except Postsecondary Education[4]	25	—
Illinois	After Assessment	High School Not Complete: E&T	Full-Time as Defined by School	—
	After Assessment	High School Complete: All	25	—
Indiana	Immediately	All except Postsecondary Education	25	5
Iowa	Immediately	All except Subsidized Employment	Full-Time employment[5]	—
Kansas	Immediately	All except Postsecondary Education	25	5
Kentucky	*	All	20	—
Louisiana	Immediately	Job-Related and Employment	25 [6]	—
Maine	Immediately	All	25	5
Maryland	24 Months	Job-Related and Employment	Depends on Activity	In Excess of 20 Hours
Massachusetts	60 Days[5]	All	Depends on Activity	—
Michigan	Immediately	All[7]	25 [6]	5
Minnesota	6 Months	All	25 [6]	—
Mississippi	24 Months	All	25 [6]	5
Missouri	24 Months	All	25	—
Montana	Immediately	All	25	—
Nebraska	Immediately	All except Community Service	Full-Time Employment	—
Nevada	24 Months	All	25	5
New Hampshire	Immediately	All[1]	25 [6]	—
New Jersey	Immediately	All	35	—
New Mexico	3 Months after Approval	All	29 [8]	—
New York	30 Days after Orientation	All except Postsecondary Education	25	5
North Carolina	12 Weeks	All	35	—
North Dakota	Immediately	All except Unsubsidized Employment	Case-by-Case Basis	—
Ohio	Immediately	All	20	—
Oklahoma	Immediately	All	25	—
Oregon	Immediately	All except Unsubsidized Employment[1]	*	—
Pennsylvania	Immediately	All[1]	20	—
Rhode Island	At Application	All except Postsecondary Education[1]	20	—
South Carolina	Immediately	All[1]	20	—
South Dakota	Immediately	All except Unsubsidized Employment	25 [6]	—
Tennessee	Immediately	All	40	20

Table III.B.2 Work-Related Activity Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 1999

State	Timing of Requirement in Relation to Benefit Receipt	Allowable Activities Listed	Minimum Hour Requirement	Share of Hours Allowed for Education and Training
Texas	After Work Orientation	Job-Related, E&T, and CWEP	*	—
Utah	Immediately	All except Subsidized Employment	Case-by-Case Basis	—
Vermont	Immediately	All[1]	Case-by-Case Basis	—
Virginia	Immediately	Employment	*	—
Washington	Immediately	Job-Related and Employment	25	—
West Virginia	24 Months	All	25	5
Wisconsin	After Assessment	All	40	12
Wyoming	Immediately	Job-Related and Employment	25 [9]	—

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

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

Note: The table contains the activity requirements for single-parent recipients 21 years of age or older.

* Data not obtained.
[1] According to the state manuals, recipients move from one set of activities to another after a set period of time. Generally, they begin with job-related activities and end with employment; see the WRD for details.
[2] Counties have the option to vary their activity requirements. These policies refer to Denver County.
[3] When the agency determines it possible, the recipient must participate for a minimum of 40 hours per week.
[4] Recipients with children under the age of 12 weeks must only participate in life skills training.
[5] Recipients with children under age six may not be required to work more than 20 hours per week.
[6] The hours apply to recipients with children over the age of six years. Recipients with children under six years of age are required to work 20 hours.
[7] Recipients with children under six years of age are not allowed to participate in E&T.
[8] Recipients with federally funded child care and children over age 13 are required to work 24 hours per week.
[9] The state stressed that recipients are required to work 40 hours per week, but in cases where the recipient is unable to work the full 40 hours, caseworkers have the option to scale back the number of hours (not to go below 25). The 25 hours apply to recipients with children over the age of six years. Recipients with children under six years of age are required to work 20 hours.

Table III.B.3 Sanction Policies for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 1999

State	Initial Sanction: Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Initial Sanction: Length of Sanction (In Months)	Most Severe Sanction: Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Most Severe Sanction: Length of Sanction (In Months)
Alabama	25%	3 Months+	Entire Benefit	6 Months
Alaska	Adult Portion of Benefit[1]	Until Compliance	Adult Portion of Benefit[1]	12 Months+
Arizona	25%	One Month	Entire Benefit	1 Month+
Arkansas	25%	Until Compliance	25%	Until Compliance
California	Adult Portion of Benefit	Until Compliance	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+
Colorado[2]	25%	One Month	Entire Benefit	3 Months+
Connecticut	20%	3 Months+	Entire Benefit	3 Months and Must Reapply
Delaware	33.30%	2 Months or until Compliance (Whichever Is Shorter)	Entire Benefit	Permanent
D.C.	Adult Portion of Benefit	Until Compliance	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+
Florida	Entire Benefit	Until in Compliance for 10 Working Days	Entire Benefit	3 Months[3]
Georgia	25%	Until Compliance up to 3 Months	Entire Benefit	Permanent
Hawaii	Adult Portion of Benefit	Until Compliance	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+
Idaho	Entire Benefit	1 Month+	Entire Benefit	Permanent
Illinois	50%[4]	Until Compliance	Entire Benefit	3 Months+
Indiana	Adult Portion of Benefit	2 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	36 Months+
Iowa	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance	Entire Benefit	6 Months[5]
Kansas	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance	Entire Benefit	2 Months+
Kentucky	Pro Rata Portion of Benefit[6]	Until Compliance[7]	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance
Louisiana	Adult Portion of	3 Months	Case Is Closed	Until Compliance
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				
Nonexempt	None[8]	—	Entire Benefit	Until in Compliance for 2 Weeks
Exempt	—[9]	—	—[9]	—
Michigan	Entire Benefit[10]	1 Month+	Entire Benefit	1 Month+
Minnesota	10%	1 Month+	Vendor Payment and 30%[11]	1 Month+
Mississippi	Entire Benefit	2 Months+	Entire Benefit	Permanent
Missouri	25%	Until Compliance	25%	3 Months+
Montana	Adult Portion of Benefit	One Month	Adult Portion of Benefit	12 Months+ and the Unit Must Renegotiate Contract

Table III.B.3 Sanction Policies for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 1999

	Initial Sanction		Most Severe Sanction	
State	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (In Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (In Months)
Nebraska				
Time-Limited Assistance	Entire Benefit	1 Month+	Entire Benefit	12 Months or the Remainder of 48 Months, Whichever Is Longer
Non-Time-Limited Assistance	—[12]	—	—[12]	—
Nevada	33.3% or Pro Rata Share, Whichever Is Greater[13]	1 Month+	Entire Benefit	Permanent
New Hampshire				
New Hampshire Employment Program	Adult Portion of Benefit	1 Month+	66% of Adjusted Payment Standard[14]	One Month+
Family Assistance Program	—[15]	—	—[15]	—
New Jersey	Adult Portion of Benefit[16]	1 Month+	Entire Benefit[17]	3 Months
New Mexico	25%	Until Compliance	Case Is Closed	6 Months+
New York	Adult Portion of Benefit	Until Compliance	Pro Rata Portion of Benefit	6 Months+
North Carolina				
Work First Active	$50	3 Months	$75	12 Months+
Pre-Work First and Work First Preparatory	—[18]	—	—[18]	—
North Dakota	Adult Portion of Benefit[19]	1 Month+	Adult Portion of Benefit[20]	3 Months+
Ohio	Adult Portion of	1 Month+	Entire Benefit	6 Months+
Oklahoma	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance
Oregon	$50	Until Compliance or 2 Months	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance
Pennsylvania	Adult Portion of Benefit[21]	1 Month+	Adult Portion of Benefit[21]	Permanent
Rhode Island	Adult Portion of Benefit	Until in Compliance for 2 Weeks	110% of Adult Portion of Benefit[22]	Until Compliance
South Carolina	Entire Benefit	Until Reapplication and Compliance for 1 Month	Case Is Closed	Must Reapply and Comply for 1 Month
South Dakota	None[23]	—	Case Is Closed	1 Month+ and Must Reapply
Tennessee	Entire Benefit	Until in Compliance for 2 Weeks	Entire Benefit	3 Months+
Texas	Adult Portion of Benefit	Until Compliance	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+
Utah	$100 [24]	Until Compliance	$100 [24]	Until Compliance
Vermont	Benefits are vendored to third parties and recipient is required to attend three meetings a month with caseworkers	Until Compliance	Benefits are vendored to third parties and recipient is required to attend three meetings a month with caseworkers	6 Months+

Table III.B.3 Sanction Policies for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 1999

	Initial Sanction		Most Severe Sanction	
State	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (In Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (In Months)
Virginia	Entire Benefit	1 Month+	Entire Benefit	6 Months+
Washington	Adult Portion of Benefit	Until Compliance up to 1 Month[25]	Adult Portion of Benefit or 40%, Whichever Is Greater	Until in Compliance for 2 Weeks[25]
West Virginia	33.30%	3 Months	Entire Benefit	6 Months+
Wisconsin	Minimum Wage Times the Number of Hours of Nonparticipation[27]	Until Compliance	Entire Benefit	Permanent[26]
Wyoming	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

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.

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

[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]Counties have the option to determine the amount and duration of sanctions. These policies refer to Denver County.
[3]After the 3-month penalty period, benefits are not restored until the sanctioned individual has complied for 10 working days. Assistance may still be provided to children under 16 in the unit; these benefits are issued to a protective payee.
[4]If noncompliance continues after 3 months of reduced benefits, the entire unit is ineligible for benefits until compliance.
[5]The sanction continues after 6 months until the sanctioned parent signs a family investment agreement and completes 20 hours of eligible education/work activities.
[6]The pro rata portion of the benefit is equal to the total monthly benefit divided by the number of members in the unit.
[7]Worker judgment may be used to determine whether the unit must be in compliance for 2 weeks before receiving benefits.
[8]The initial sanction does not reduce benefits. Recipients are given a written warning detailing the consequences of subsequent failures to comply.
[9]Recipients in the Exempt component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they have no sanctions.
[10]The entire benefit is removed if noncompliance occurs within the first two months of assistance. If noncompliance occurs after the initial two months of receipt, the benefit is reduced by 25%.
[11]Vendor pays shelter costs; any remaining amount of benefit is reduced by 30% of the Transitional Standard. Vendor payments continue for 6 months after the month in which the parent become compliant.
[12]Recipients in the Non-Time-Limited component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they have no sanctions.
[13]If noncompliance continues after 1 month, the benefit is reduced by 2/3 or a pro rata share, whichever is greater, during the second month. The individual is sanctioned until compliance or one month, whichever is longer. If noncompliance continues after 2 months, the entire benefit is eliminated; however, they are still considered eligible during the third month. The third-month sanction lasts until compliance or 3 months, whichever is longer.
[14]The adjusted payment standard refers to the new benefit amount once the adult portion is removed.
[15]Recipients in the Family Assistance Program component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they have no sanctions.
[16]If noncompliance continues after 3 months of reduced benefits, the entire unit becomes ineligible for benefits and the unit must reapply for further assistance.
[17]If noncompliance continues after 3 months, the case is closed and the unit must reapply for further assistance. The recipient must also satisfy an intent to comply before receiving subsequent benefits.
[18]Recipients in the Work First Preparatory and Pre-Work First Components are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they have no sanction.
[19]If noncompliance continues after 6 months of reduced benefits, the entire unit is ineligible for benefits until compliance.
[20]If noncompliance continues beyond 4 months, the entire unit is ineligible. Ineligibility is effective until compliance or 12 months, whichever is less.
[21]Applies to noncompliances that occur within the first 24 months of assistance. The benefit for the entire unit will be eliminated if the noncompliance occurs after 24 months of assistance.
[22]If the individual is noncompliant for 1-6 months, 110% of the parent's benefits are reduced from the unit's. For 7-12 months of noncompliance, 120% of the parent's benefits are reduced from the unit's. Months 13-18, 130% reduction. Months 19-24, 140% reduction. Following 24 months

of noncompliance, the reduction is decreased to 100% of the parent's benefit, but the entire remaining benefit must be made to a protective payee. The individual is sanctioned until s/he is in compliance for 2 weeks.

[23]The initial sanction does not reduce benefits. Recipients are given a written warning indicating that continued noncompliance will result in reduced assistance and possible case closure.

[24]If noncompliance continues after 2 months of reduced benefits, the entire unit is ineligible for benefits until compliance.

[25]The sanction remains in effect until the individual is compliant for 2 weeks; after 2 weeks of compliance, benefits are restored to their presanction level and the individual is paid retroactively for the 2 weeks of compliance.

[26]Unit is ineligible for benefits in that component for life. Unit may receive benefits again if s/he becomes eligible for a difference component.

[27]Recipients in the Trial Jobs component are not subject to activities sanctions because they do not receive benefits from the state; rather they receive a wage from an employer. The Trial Job employer and participant work together to allow for planned absences. However, unplanned and unexcused absences will be reflected by a decrease in wages.

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 1999. After a family applies for assistance and passes all of the tests, it becomes a recipient 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' eligibility and benefits may also be affected by their reproductive choices and the number of months they have received assistance. Some states impose family cap policies on recipients, which restrict benefits from increasing when a child is born to a family while on assistance. Almost all states now time limit benefits, which reduces or eliminates benefits to recipients based on the total number of months the unit has received benefits.

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 tests that tend to differ for applicants and recipients, including two-parent hours tests, asset tests, and income eligibility tests.

Two-parent eligibility for recipients: For states providing benefits to two-parent families,[11] 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).[12] In addition to the standard eligibility tests that all recipient units must pass, some states also impose "hours tests" on two-parent units. Under an hours test, the unit is not eligible if the principal wage earner is working more than a specified number of hours per month. An hours test has the effect of denying eligibility to some two-parent units where a parent works a substantial number of hours but would nevertheless be financially eligible for assistance, due to a low wage rate and/or a large family size. Note that 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 recipients and Table L2 for information on the rules for two-parent units in the years 1996 through 1999.

Asset tests for recipients: Table IV.A.2 describes each state's asset tests for recipients. States determine the level of assets, including vehicles and restricted assets, a family may hold without affecting their eligibility for benefits.

The first column 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. Note that the limits may vary for determining the initial eligibility of applicants vs. the continuing eligibility of recipients.

The second column describes whether some or all of the value of a vehicle(s) is excluded for purposes of eligibility. When a portion of the vehicle's value is exempted, that

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

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 much less than the fair market value, so this distinction is important when comparing vehicle exemption amounts across states.

The last two columns of the table describe whether the state excludes additional assets when in restricted 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 the overall asset limit. Some of the restricted accounts are “Individual Developments Accounts” (IDAs), which may or may not include a match (under which a third party, generally the state, adds to the amount the family has saved). The table does not provide information on the type of account or matching policy, but the WRD does contain this information.

Related tables: See Tables L8 and L9 for information on assets rules in effect in 1996 through 1999. See Table I.C.1 for the asset tests applied at application.

<u>Income eligibility tests for recipients:</u> Table IV.A.3 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 threshold is used for each test. To determine the value of the particular threshold for a family size of three, see Table I.E.3.

Note that this table describes the income tests that are imposed in addition to the implicit income test imposed by the benefit computation procedure. 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 that 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 the benefit computation procedure. In those 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 I.D.3 describe policies concerning child support income, and the deeming of income from grandparents and stepparents that may be used in determining gross income for purposes of 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 also required to pass both nonfinancial and financial tests in order to continue receiving benefits.

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

Even if recipients pass the eligibility tests in a state, their benefit could be restricted if they have additional children while receiving benefits. 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 an additional child is born. In these states, the benefit increase that an assistance unit would normally 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 additional child.

<u>Family caps:</u> Table IV.B.1 describes the 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 explained further in footnotes. States with the notation "disregard" increase the earned income disregards for families that have a capped child; again, more details are provided in the footnotes. The final column 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 of time. Otherwise, the table provides the number of months a family must remain off the rolls in order 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 the years 1996 through 1999.

C. How long can a family receive benefits?

Since the passage of PRWORA, almost all states limit the number of months an assistance unit may receive benefits. The type and length of these limits vary from state to state. There are four basic types of limits that states impose on recipients: benefit reductions, periodic limits, benefit waiting periods, and lifetime limits. Some states impose only one limit on units, while other states combine two or more of them.

Table IV.C.1 describes these state time limit policies.[13] The first three columns describe the various intermittent state time limit policies that disrupt eligibility but do not permanently limit a unit's ability to receive assistance. The last column describes the total number of months a unit may receive assistance in a lifetime. The following discussion provides more background on time limit policies.

Intermittent time limits: States have developed several intermittent time limits that interrupt or limit benefits for a period of time but do not eliminate the entire benefit permanently. These include benefit reductions, periodic limits, and benefit waiting periods. After a period of benefit receipt, a benefit reduction limit reduces the benefit for a specified number of months or permanently. 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 of time. 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.

Lifetime termination limit: Under TANF, the federal government imposed a maximum 60-month lifetime time limit on receipt of federal TANF funds. Therefore, after 60 months of TANF benefits, either consecutively or nonconsecutively, an assistance unit is no longer eligible for federal cash assistance. Some states have adopted shorter lifetime limits, while others have chosen to fund recipients after the 60 months with state dollars.

Not all assistance units are subject to time limits. "Child-only" units (with no adults in the assistance unit) are never subject to time limits. In addition, some units that include adults

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

may be exempted from time limits for various reasons determined by the states. Up to 20 percent of a state's caseload may consist of units that are past the 60-month time limit but have been exempted by the state. The WRD includes the time limit exemption policies currently listed in states' manuals. However, since in many states units have not reached a time limit, exemption policies are not fully developed and therefore are often not in the manuals. Thus, we do not include a table describing time limit exemptions.

Note, however, that exemption policies are important for understanding the overall time limits in the states. Exemptions 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 large portion of the caseload may be exempted. If for instance, a state exempts from the federal 60-month time limit any month in which a unit contains an adult working 20 or more hours per week, it is reasonable to assume that a fairly substantial percentage of the state's caseload may receive benefits beyond the 60 months. Therefore, comparing state time limits is a bit more complex when factoring in the generosity of state exemption criteria.

Another time limit complexity to be aware of is whether, once the state implemented TANF, state staff thought that the months a unit received assistance under a state waiver were counted toward the 60-month limit or not. In states that had time limit policies in effect under waivers, it was unclear after the implementation of TANF whether the federal time limit was counting against the units affected by the waiver time limits, or if those months were exempt from the 60-month limit. Final regulations issued by HHS in April 1999 indicated that all months under the waivers since TANF implementation count retroactively toward the federal time limit, unless the state time limit policy removed the head of the unit for benefit computation purposes. In those instances, the states had until October 1999 to decide whether to retroactively count the months or not. The states' decisions in these cases are included in the body of the table. So even though, for example, Texas did not have a 60-month limit in place as of July 1999, it retroactively (as of October 1999) applied the limit to all cases receiving benefits under the state waiver. Therefore, technically a recipient as of July 1999 does have a 60-month limit. The table includes a 60-month limit with a footnote explaining the policy.

Table IV.A.1 Eligibility Rules for Two-Parent, Nondisabled Recipient Units, July 1999

State	Limit on Hours Worked per 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	100
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	100
Rhode Island	No Limit
South Carolina	No Limit
South Dakota	100
Tennessee	100[2]
Texas	No Limit
Utah	No Limit
Vermont	No Limit
Virginia	No Limit
Washington	No Limit

Table IV.A.1 Eligibility Rules for Two-Parent, Nondisabled Recipient Units, July 1999

State	Limit on Hours Worked per Month
West Virginia	No Limit
Wisconsin	No Limit
Wyoming	No Limit

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

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

[1]North Dakota does not provide benefits to two-parent, nondisabled units. In order for a child and therefore the unit to be eligible, the child must be deprived of parental support.
[2]If a single-parent recipient marries while receiving assistance, the new two-parent unit is not subject to the rule.

Table IV.A.2 Asset Limits for Recipients, July 1999

State	Asset Limit	Vehicle Exemption	Restricted Asset Accounts	
			Amount	Description
Alabama	$2,000/3,000[1]	One Vehicle per Driver	—	—
Alaska	$1,000	One Vehicle per Household[2]	—	—
Arizona	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household	$9,000	Educational or training costs, first home purchase, business capitalization costs
Arkansas	$3,000	One Vehicle per Household	—	—
California	$2,000	$4,650[E]	$5,000	Postsecondary education, purchase of home, start a new business
Colorado	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household	Amount Determined by County[3]	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education, purchase of home, start a new business
Connecticut	$3,000	$9,500[4E]	No Limit	Postsecondary education of a dependent child, IRAs, Keoghs, 401k plans
Delaware	$1,000	$4,650[E]	$5,000	Dependent care expenses, security deposit for an apartment or house, purchase or repair of a vehicle, educational expenses, business expenses, or business investments
D.C.	$2,000/3,000 [5]	$1,500[E]	—	—
Florida	$2,000	$8,500[E]	—	—
Georgia	$1,000	$1,500/4,650[6F]	$5,000	Postsecondary educational expenses, first home purchase, business capitalization
Hawaii	$5,000	One Vehicle per Household	—	—
Idaho	$2,000	$4,650 [7F]	—	—
Illinois	$2,000/3,000/+50[8]	One Vehicle per Household	No Limit	Postsecondary education, purchase of home, start a new business[9]
Indiana	$1,500	$5,000[E]	—	—
Iowa	$5,000	$3,916 per Vehicle for Each Adult and Working Teenager[E]	All Deposits and Interest	Postsecondary education or job training, buying a home or home improvement, starting a small business, or medical emergencies
Kansas	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household[10]	—	—
Kentucky	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household	$5,000	IDA accounts: Postsecondary education, purchase of home, start a new business
Louisiana	$2,000	$10,000[E]	$6,000	Postsecondary education or training expenses, or payments for work-related clothing, tools, or equipment
Maine	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household	$10,000 [11]	Family Development Accounts, educational expenses, purchase of a home, repairs to vehicle or home, or for a business startup
Maryland	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household	—	—
Massachusetts	$2,500	$5,000[F]	—	—
Michigan	$3,000	One Vehicle per Household[12]	—	—
Minnesota	$5,000	$7,500[E]	—	—
Mississippi	$2,000	$4,650[F]	—	—
Missouri	$5,000 [13]	One Vehicle per Household[14]	No Limit	IDA account
Montana	$3,000	One Vehicle per Household[15]	—	—
Nebraska	$4,000/6,000[16]	One Vehicle per Household[17]	—	—
Nevada	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household	—	—
New Hampshire	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household Member	No Limit[18]	Funds set aside for a work goal under a Plan for Achieving Self-Support
New Jersey	$2,000	$9,500 [19F]	—	—
New Mexico	$3,500 [20]	One Vehicle per Household[21]	No Limit[22]	Postsecondary education for dependent child, first home purchase, business capitalization

Table IV.A.2 Asset Limits for Recipients, July 1999				
State	Asset Limit	Vehicle Exemption	Restricted Asset Accounts	
			Amount	Description
New York	$2,000/3,000[1]	$4,650[F]	No Limit	Postsecondary educational expenses, first home purchase, business capitalization
North Carolina	$3,000	One Vehicle per Adult	—	—
North Dakota	$5,000/8,000[23]	One Vehicle per Household	—	—
Ohio	No Limit[24]	All Vehicles Owned by Unit	—	—
Oklahoma	$1,000	$5,000[E]	$2,000	IDA accounts
Oregon				
All, except JOBS	$2,500	$10,000[E]	No Limit	—
JOBS/JOBS Plus	$10,000	$10,000[E]	No Limit	Education account in which the participant's employer contributes $1 for every hour the participant works
Pennsylvania	$1,000	One Vehicle per Household	—	—
Rhode Island	$1,000	$4,600/1,500[25F/E]	—	—
South Carolina	$2,500	One Vehicle per Driver[26]	$10,000	IDA accounts, including lump-sum income deposited within 30 days of receipt
South Dakota	$2,000	$4,650 [27F]	—	—
Tennessee	$2,000	$4,600[E]	$5,000	IDA accounts and profits from a business enterprise in escrow in a Low Income Entrepreneurial Escrow Account
Texas	$2,000/3,000[5]	$4,650[F]	No Limit	IDA accounts
Utah	$2,000	$8,000 [28E]	—	—
Vermont	$1,000	One Vehicle per Household	90% of Gross Earnings[29]	Savings from earnings or assets bought using these savings
Virginia				
VIEW	$1,000	$7,500 [30F/E]	$5,000	Education, purchase of home, start a new business
All, except VIEW	$1,000	$1,500[E]	$5,000	Education, purchase of home, start a new business
Washington	$1,000	$5,000 [28E]	$3,000/No Limit[18]	$3,000 of a savings account or certificate of deposit and the entire amount in an IDA account[31]
West Virginia	$2,000	One Vehicle per Household	—	—
Wisconsin	$2,500	$10,000[E]	—	—
Wyoming	$2,500	$12,000 [32F]	—	—

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

[E]Equity value of the vehicle.
[F]Fair market value of the vehicle.
[1]Units including a member age 60 years and over may exempt $3,000; all other units exempt $2,000.
[2]Vehicles used as a home, to produce self-employment income, to transport a disabled family member, or to participate in an approved work activity are also exempt.
[3]Counties have the option to determine the amount of IDA accounts.
[4]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.
[5]Households including an elderly or disabled person may exempt $3,000, regardless of whether that person is in the assistance unit. All other units exempt $2,000.
[6]If the vehicle is used to look for work or in 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.
[7]The value of one specially equipped vehicle used to transport a disabled family member is also exempt.
[8]The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $2,000, two persons receive $3,000, and three or more receive an additional $50 for every additional person.
[9]Deposits must come from earned income and all deposits must be matched by a unit of state or local government or through contributions made by a nonprofit entity.
[10]Any other vehicles used over 50% of the time for employment, needed for medical treatment, used as a home, or specially equipped for use by a handicapped person are exempt.
[11]Up to $10,000 of nonrecurring lump-sum income may be disregarded if used within 30 days.
[12]The value of any additional vehicle that is necessary for employment is also exempt.
[13]Applies to recipients who sign a self-sufficiency pact. Otherwise, they are only allowed to exempt $1,000 of assets.
[14]$1,500 of the unit's second vehicle is exempt.
[15]All income-producing vehicles are also exempt.

[16]The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $4,000, two or more persons receive $6,000.
[17]The entire vehicle is exempt only if used for employment, training, or medical transportation; any motor vehicle used as a home is also exempt.
[18]Applicants are not eligible to exempt any funds in a restricted asset account.
[19]Units with two adults may exempt up to $4,650 of the fair market value of a second vehicle if it is essential for work, training, or transportation of a handicapped individual.
[20]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 a second vehicle, equipment, tools, livestock (with the exception of nonsalable domestic pets), one-time sale asset conversion, and lump-sum payments.
[21]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.
[22]The state does not limit the amount of money a unit may save for postsecondary education or business capitalization; however, the unit may only save $1,500 toward the purchase of a new home.
[23]The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $5,000, two or more persons receive $8,000.
[24]Ohio has eliminated the asset test.
[25]A unit may exempt $4,600 of the fair market value of each vehicle or $1,500 of the equity value of each vehicle. In addition, the value of vehicles used primarily for income-producing purposes is excluded.
[26]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.
[27]$4,650 of the vehicle is exempt if used for transportation. The unit may also exempt a vehicle used to transport water or fuel to their home when it is not piped in. Also, they may exempt a vehicle used to transport a disabled member or SSI recipient in the household.
[28]The entire equity value of a vehicle used to transport a disabled household member is also exempt.
[29]The limit on an IDA account equals 90% of a unit's gross earnings from the previous month. For example, if a unit earns $1,000 over the past month, the unit may place $900 in a savings account, which does not count toward the asset limit.
[30]If the fair market value of the vehicle is greater than $7,500, the equity value greater than $1,500 is counted in the resource limit.
[31]An IDA is a trust fund established with a Community-Based Organization that will match the contributions of the recipient for one of the following purposes: postsecondary education, small business development, or first-time home purchase.
[32]The $12,000 exemption applies to one car for a single-parent unit and to two cars for a married couple.

Table IV.A.3 Income Eligibility Tests for Recipients, July 1999

State	Type of Test	Threshold (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
Arkansas	Net Income	100% of Income Eligibility Standard
California	No Explicit Tests	
Colorado	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard
Connecticut		
Time-Limited Units	Gross Earnings	100% of the Federal Poverty Level
	Unearned Income	100% of Need Standard and 100% of Payment Standard
Time-Limited Exempt	Gross Earnings	100% of the Federal Poverty Level
	Unearned Income	100% of Need Standard
Delaware	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard
D.C.	No Explicit Tests	
Florida	Gross Income	185% of Consolidated Need Standard
Georgia	Gross Income	185% of Standard of Need
Hawaii	Gross Income	185% of Standard of Need
	Net Income	100% of Standard of Need
Idaho	No Explicit Tests	
Illinois	No Explicit Tests	
Indiana	Net Income	100% of Federal Poverty Level
Iowa	Gross Income	185% of Standard of Need
Kansas	No Explicit Tests	
Kentucky	Gross Income	185% of Standard of Need[1]
Louisiana	No Explicit Tests	
Maine	Gross Income	100% of Gross Income Test
Maryland	No Explicit Tests	
Massachusetts	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard
Michigan	No Explicit Tests	
Minnesota	No Explicit Tests	
Mississippi	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard[1]
Missouri	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard
Montana	Gross Income	185% of Net Monthly Income Standard
	Net Income	100% of Net Monthly Income Standard
Nebraska	No Explicit Tests	
Nevada	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard[1]
New Hampshire	No Explicit Tests	
New Jersey	No Explicit Tests	
New Mexico	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard
	Net Income	100% of Need Standard
New York	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard and 100% of 1996 Federal Poverty Level
North Carolina	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard
North Dakota	Net Income	100% of TEEM Standard of Need[2]
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	

Table IV.A.3 Income Eligibility Tests for Recipients, July 1999

State	Type of Test	Threshold (Less Than)
South Carolina	Gross Income	185% of Payment Standard
South Dakota	No Explicit Tests	
Tennessee	Gross Income	185% of Consolidated Need Standard
Texas	Gross Income	185% of Budgetary Needs Standard
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	Gross Earnings	100% of Federal Poverty Level
	Unearned Income	100% of Standard of Assistance[3]
All, except VIEW	Gross Income	185% of Standard of Assistance
Washington	Gross Income	185% of Need Standard
	Gross Earnings	100% of Maximum Earned Income Limit
West Virginia	Gross Income	185% of Standard of Need
Wisconsin	Gross Income	115% of Federal Poverty Level
Wyoming	No Explicit Tests	

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

Note: "No Explicit Test" indicates that either the state imposes no income tests on recipients or the state does impose an income test, but the calculation of the test and disregards allowed for the test are not different from those used to calculate the benefit.

[1]The gross income test does not apply to recipients receiving the 100% disregard.
[2]These tests only apply to recipients in their third and subsequent months of benefit receipt. For recipients in their first and second month to be eligible, their gross income must be below 106% of the Standard of Need.
[3]For two-parent units to be eligible, their gross earned income must be below 150% of the federal poverty level and unearned income must be below 100% of the Standard of Assistance.

Table IV.B.1 Family Cap Provisions, July 1999

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]	60
Arkansas	Yes	Any Month after Case Opening	None	6
California	Yes	10	None	24
Colorado	No	—-	—-	—-
Connecticut	Yes	10	$50	Always Capped
Delaware	Yes	10	None	Always Capped
D.C.	No	—-	—-	—-
Florida	Yes	*	Half of Normal Increment[3]	Always Capped
Georgia	Yes	10	None	*
Hawaii	No	—-	—-	—-
Idaho	No[4]	—-	—-	—-
Illinois	Yes	10	None	9
Indiana	Yes	10	None	Always Capped
Iowa	No	—-	—-	—-
Kansas	No	—-	—-	—-
Kentucky	No	—-	—-	—-
Louisiana	No	—-	—-	—-
Maine	No	—-	—-	—-
Maryland	Yes	10	None (Third-Party Payment)[5]	Always Third-Party Payment
Massachusetts	Yes	10	None (Disregard)[6]	Always Capped
Michigan	No	—-	—-	—-
Minnesota	No	—-	—-	—-
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 (Disregard)[7]	12 [8]
New Mexico	No	—-	—-	—-
New York	No	—-	—-	—-
North Carolina	Yes	9	None	Always Capped
North Dakota	Yes	8	None	12
Ohio	No	—-	—-	—-
Oklahoma	Yes	10	None (Voucher)[9]	Always Voucher
Oregon	No	—-	—-	—-
Pennsylvania	No	—-	—-	—-
Rhode Island	No	—-	—-	—-
South Carolina	Yes	10	None (Voucher)[10]	Always Voucher
South Dakota	No	—-	—-	—-
Tennessee	Yes	10	None	1 [11]
Texas	No	—-	—-	—-
Utah	No	—-	—-	—-

Table IV.B.1 Family Cap Provisions, July 1999

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[12]	—-	None	—-
Wyoming	No	—-	—-	—-

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

* Data not obtained.
[1]This describes the number of months a unit must remain off of assistance in order to regain eligibility for a previously capped child. Some states permanently exclude capped children even if the unit cycles on and off assistance, whereas other states may include previously capped children in benefit and eligibility calculations if the unit has not received assistance for a specified period of time.
[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.
[3]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 an additional child may receive another $30 each month since they are now a three-person unit.
[4]The state provides a flat maximum benefit, regardless of family size. However, the payment standard 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.
[5]The money that the unit would have received for the additional child will instead go to a third party (church, charity org., relative, etc.) to purchase necessary care requirements for the affected child.
[6]Units subjected 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.
[7]Units subjected to the family cap receive an additional disregard equal to 50% of the Maximum Benefit Payment Schedule (based on family size that includes the capped children).
[8]After case closure, if the recipient is employed for three months and loses the job by no fault of his/her own, then the previously capped child is included in the unit. These units do not receive a new 10-month grace period for any subsequent pregnancies.
[9]The unit will not receive cash for an additional child; however, the unit will receive a voucher for the amount they 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.
[10]Benefits will be provided in the form of vouchers up to the amount of increase in cash benefits the unit would have received for the child.
[11]If the case is closed due to sanction, the child is not eligible for benefits upon reapplication.
[12]The state provides a flat benefit, regardless of family size.

Table IV.C.1 State Time Limit Policies, July 1999

State	Intermittent Time Limits: Description	Consequences: Loss of Entire Benefit	Consequences: Adult Removed from Unit	Lifetime Termination Limit
Alabama	—	—	—	60 Months
Alaska	—	—	—	60 Months
Arizona				
All, except JOBSTART	24 out of 60 Months[1]	—	X	—[2]
JOBSTART	—	—	—	6 Months[3]
Arkansas	—	—	—	24 Months
California	60 Months	—	X	—
Colorado	—	—	—	60 Months
Connecticut	—	—	—	21 Months
Delaware	48 Months; Followed by 96 Months of Ineligibility[4]	X	—	60 Months
D.C.	—	—	—	60 Months
Florida	24 out of 60 Months or 36 out of 72 Months[5]	X	—	48 Months
Georgia	—	—	—	48 Months
Hawaii	—	—	—	60 Months
Idaho	—	—	—	24 Months
Illinois	—	—	—	60 Months
Indiana	24 Months	—	X	—[2]
Iowa	—	—	—	60 Months[6]
Kansas	—	—	—	60 Months
Kentucky	—	—	—	60 Months
Louisiana	24 out of 60 Months	X	—	60 Months
Maine	—	—	—	60 Months[7]
Maryland	—	—	—	60 Months
Massachusetts				
Nonexempt	24 out of 60 Months	X	—	—[8]
Exempt	—	—	—	—
Michigan	—	—	—	—
Minnesota	—	—	—	60 Months
Mississippi	—	—	—	60 Months
Missouri	36 Months	—	X	60 Months
Montana				
Pathways	—	—	—	24 Months[9]
Community Service Program	—	—	—	60 Months[10]
Job Supplement Program	—	—	—	—
Nebraska				
Time-Limited Assistance	24 out of 48 Months	X	—	—[8]
Non-Time-Limited Assistance	—	—	—	—
Nevada	24 Months; Followed by 12 Months of Ineligibility	X	—	60 Months
New Hampshire	—	—	—	60 Months
New Jersey	—	—	—	60 Months
New Mexico	—	—	—	60 Months
New York	—	—	—	60 Months

Table IV.C.1 State Time Limit Policies, July 1999

State	Intermittent Time Limits: Description	Consequences: Loss of Entire Benefit	Consequences: Adult Removed from Unit	Lifetime Termination Limit
North Carolina				
Work First Active	24 Months; Followed by 36 Months of Ineligibility	X	—	60 Months
Work First Preparatory and Pre-Work First	—	—	—	60 Months
North Dakota	—	—	—	60 Months
Ohio	—	—	—	36 Months[11]
Oklahoma	—	—	—	60 Months
Oregon	24 out of 86 Months	X	—	—[8]
Pennsylvania	—	—	—	60 Months
Rhode Island	—	—	—	60 Months
South Carolina	24 out of 120 Months	X	—	60 Months
South Dakota	—	—	—	60 Months
Tennessee	18 Months; Followed by 3 Months of Ineligibility	X	—	60 Months
Texas	12, 24, or 36 Months; Followed by 60 Months of Ineligibility[13]	—	X	60 Months[12]
Utah	—	—	—	36 Months
Vermont	—	—	—	—
Virginia	24 Months; Followed by 24 Months of Ineligibility[14]	X	—	60 Months
Washington	—	—	—	60 Months
West Virginia	—	—	—	60 Months
Wisconsin	—	—	—	60 Months
Wyoming	—	—	—	60 Months

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

[1]If a recipient reaches the 24-month limit, s/he loses eligibility, but his/her children are still eligible for benefits. The full resources and income of the ineligible individual are counted when determining the benefit for the eligible members of the unit; however, the needs of the ineligible individual are not included. In addition, the unit gets an additional disregard equal to the benefit amount lost due to the removal of the ineligible member. Note the ineligible member may still receive support services such as medical assistance, child care, and JOBS services.
[2]As of 10/99, the state removed the 60-month lifetime limit. Although the state initially imposed the 60-month limit on recipients (as of 10/96), it retroactively stopped counting those months after the final TANF regulations were published.
[3]Recipients may only participate in JOBSTART for a total of 6 months. If they want to continue receiving assistance after that time, they are placed in the non-JOBSTART component.
[4]The limit only applies to units headed by a nonexempt recipient age 19 or older who is employable.
[5]The 24 out of 60 months limit applies to nonexempt recipients who have received less than 36 months of assistance during the previous 60 months AND are EITHER over age 24 OR under 24 with a high school diploma/GED. The 36 out of 72 months limit applies to nonexempt recipients who (1) have received benefits for 36 of the previous 60 months OR (2) are under age 24, have not completed high school/GED, are not enrolled in a high school equivalency program, and have little/no work experience.
[6]In addition to the 60-month lifetime limit, units must also 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). Recipients may select an ending date by laying out plans for a training goal and calculating the time that will be needed to fulfill the activities needed to reach that goal, or select the desired ending date and choose activities that will lead to self-sufficiency by that date. The ending date should remain fixed; it should not be regularly revised or updated. However, the time frame can be extended if funding for activities or supportive services is not available. Recipients who fail to demonstrate satisfactory progress or choose not to develop a time frame plan will have their unit's benefits reduced for 3 months and then eliminated for at least 6 months. They cannot reapply for another 6 months.
[7]As of 7/98; recipients may apply for state-funded assistance after their federal 60-month time limit has expired. States may only provide this extension to 20% of their caseload.
[8]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, there is also a 60-month lifetime limit that applies retroactively to all recipients as of the date TANF began or first month of receipt under the waiver, whichever is later.
[9]After recipients reach the 24-month limit, they enter the Community Service Program for the remainder of their 60 months of eligibility.
[10]Individuals are only eligible for benefits for a total of 60 months. They can participate in the Pathways component for up to 24 months. After that time, they move into the Community Service component for the remainder of their 60 months.
[11]After the unit's benefits expire, 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.

[12]As of 10/1/99, Texas decided that all months in which an assistance unit received federal TANF dollars and in which the state time limit applied will count toward the federal 60-month time limit. This means that between 11/96 and 10/99, any month that counted toward the state's benefit waiting period limit also counted toward the federal 60-month time limit.

[13]The 12-month limit applies to nonexempt recipients with (1) 18 months or more of recent work experience OR (2) EITHER a high school diploma/GED, a certificate from a postsecondary school, or a certificate or degree from a vocational/technical school. The 24-month limit applies to nonexempt recipients who (1) have 6 through 17 months of recent work experience OR (2) have completed the 11th grade but not the 12th grade. The 36-month limit applies to nonexempt recipients who (1) have less than 6 months of recent work experience AND (2) have not completed the 11th grade. Also, when determining the benefit for the remaining eligible individuals in the unit, the following procedure is used: Calculate the countable gross monthly earned income of the disqualified parent/caretaker. Subtract the standard $90 work-related deduction from the earned income. Add the disqualified parent/caretaker's unearned income. Subtract the following: payments made to other dependents outside the home, amount paid in alimony and/or child support, and the Budgetary Needs Standard for the disqualified parent/caretaker plus the caretaker's dependents who live in the home but are excluded from the unit. The remaining income is deemed available to the unit.

[14]After receiving 24 months of assistance, the unit may receive up to 12 months of transitional benefits. The 24 months of ineligibility begin with the month in which the case was closed or the month in which transitional benefits were terminated, whichever is later.

Policies across Time, 1996-1999

Policies across Time

This chapter of the *Databook* includes longitudinal tables for selected areas of policy for the years 1996-1999 (as of July of each year). Although not every policy from the previous sections has a companion table here, data from all four years for each variable can be found in the WRD.

The following discussion provides more information on the policies included in this section and the specific policies discussed in the tables.

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 paid directly to the family or to a vendor for expenses incurred by the family.[14] Although some states employ a variety of strategies to divert applicants from ongoing receipt of cash benefits (such as requiring an applicant to participate in job search), only those programs that provide a cash payment or special support services are identified as diversion programs in the table.

States did not have the option to divert units under AFDC. However, a few states did experiment with diversion through waivers. Generally, diversion programs began as demonstration projects in a few counties and, after TANF, the states expanded the programs statewide.[15] Today 22 states have diversion programs in place statewide.

Two-parent eligibility: Table L2 describes states' deviation from federal AFDC rules for two-parent, nondisabled units over time. The four key AFDC policies are: the 100-hour rule for

[14] The diversion definition for purposes of the WRD includes any state that provides only support services as a diversion payment. This means that the state would provide the recipient with no cash payment but would provide a range of support services, including possibly transportation, child care, etc. In return, the recipient would not apply for monthly benefits. However, to date, no state provides only support services as a diversion payment.
[15] Years in which the state implemented a diversion program as a demonstration project in only a few counties are footnoted.

both applicants and recipients, a 6-out-of-13-quarter work history test, and a 30-day waiting period. In the table, "Standard AFDC" describes the states that imposed the AFDC rules. "Modified" describes the states that no longer impose all of the 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. States are no longer required to impose any special requirements on two-parent units.

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

Earned income disregards for benefit computation: Table L4 describes the earned income disregards that are allowed in determining the net income used for benefit computation. The disregards in this table apply to recipients.[16]

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.

[16] If units in the first month of receipt (applicants) receive different disregards, they are footnoted. Also, this table does not include disregards related to child care or any other special disregards for units affected by family caps or time limits.

Through waivers, many states began changing their disregard policies, which often allowed units to keep more of their income and still remain eligible for aid. This broadening of disregards continued under TANF. States now may determine their own disregard policies.

Maximum benefit for a family of three with no income: Table L5 indicates the benefit that a family of three will receive if they have no other income. The benefits are calculated assuming that the assistance unit includes one parent and two children, contains no "capped" children, 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 of the 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 in order 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.

Under AFDC, parents were exempt from the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS) program if they had children less than 36 months of age. Under waivers, many states began reducing the age of the child exemption. Then, with TANF, the federal government reduced the maximum age for the exemption to 12 months for purposes of the state's participation rate calculation. States have the option to 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.

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 types of 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 last several years. Initially under AFDC rules, the federal government set the maximum amount of assets a unit could retain and still remain eligible at $1,000 of liquid assets and $1,500 of the equity value of a vehicle. During the early 1990s, states began experimenting with higher asset limits and vehicle exemptions through waivers. Under TANF, there are no longer federal maximums on asset tests.

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 did experiment with family caps through waivers.[17] TANF neither required nor prohibited family cap policies. Twenty states have implemented these policies in recent years.

---

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

Table L1 Diversion Payment Provisions, 1996-1999 (July)

State	1996	1997	1998	1999
Alabama	No	No	No	No
Alaska	No	No	Yes	Yes
Arizona	No	No	No	No
Arkansas	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
California	No	No	No[1]	No[1]
Colorado	No	Yes	Yes[2]	Yes[2]
Connecticut	No	No	No	Yes
Delaware	No	No	No	No
D.C.	No	No	No	Yes
Florida	No	Yes	Yes	Yes[3]
Georgia	No	No	No	No
Hawaii	No	No	No	No
Idaho	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Illinois	No	No	No	No
Indiana	No	No	No	No
Iowa	No	No[4]	No[4]	No[4]
Kansas	No	No	No	No
Kentucky	No	Yes[5]	Yes	Yes
Louisiana	No	No	No	No
Maine	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maryland	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Massachusetts	No	No	No	No
Michigan	No	No	No	No
Minnesota	No	No	Yes	Yes
Mississippi	No	No	No	No
Missouri	No	No	No	No
Montana	No[6]	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nebraska	No	No	No	No
Nevada	No	No	Yes	Yes
New Hampshire	No	No	No	No
New Jersey	No	No	No	No
New Mexico	No	No	No	No
New York	No	No	No	No
North Carolina	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Dakota	No	No	No	No
Ohio	No	No	Yes[7]	Yes[7]
Oklahoma	No	No	No	No
Oregon	No	No	No	No
Pennsylvania	No	No	No	No
Rhode Island	No	No[8]	No[8]	No[8]
South Carolina	No	No	No	No
South Dakota	No	No	Yes	Yes
Tennessee	No	No	No	No
Texas	No	No	Yes	Yes
Utah	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vermont	No	No	No	No
Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Washington	No	No	Yes	Yes

Table L1 Diversion Payment Provisions, 1996-1999 (July)

State	1996	1997	1998	1999
West Virginia	No	No[9]	Yes	Yes
Wisconsin	No	No[10]	Yes	Yes
Wyoming	No	No	No	No
Totals:	3	11	20	22

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

[1]Counties have the option to vary their diversion programs. These policies refer to Los Angeles County.
[2]Counties have the option to vary their diversion programs. These policies refer to Denver County.
[3]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.
[4]Iowa is conducting a demonstration project in three counties that provides diversion assistance to its clients.
[5]Kentucky is conducting a demonstration project in four counties that provides diversion assistance to its clients.
[6]Montana is conducting a demonstration project in eight counties that provides diversion assistance to its clients.
[7]Counties have the option to vary their diversion programs. These policies refer to Cuyahoga County.
[8]Rhode Island is conducting a pilot demonstration project that provides diversion assistance to its clients.
[9]West Virginia is conducting a demonstration project in nine counties that provides diversion assistance to its clients.
[10]Wisconsin is conducting a demonstration project in two counties that provides diversion assistance to its clients.

Table L2 Types of Special Restrictions on Two-Parent, Nondisabled Units' Eligibility, 1996-1999[1] (July)

State	1996	1997	1998	1999
Alabama	Standard AFDC	None	None	None
Alaska	Standard AFDC	None	None	None
Arizona	Modified[2]	Modified[2]	Modified[2]	Modified[2]
Arkansas	Standard AFDC	None	None	None
California	Modified[3]	Modified[3]	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[6]	Modified[7]	Modified[7]
Kansas	Standard AFDC	None	None	None
Kentucky	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Modified[8]
Louisiana	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	None	None
Maine	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Modified[9]	Modified[9]
Maryland	Standard AFDC	None	None	None
Massachusetts	Modified[10]	Modified[10]	Modified[10]	Modified[10]
Michigan	None	None	None	None
Minnesota	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	None	None
Mississippi	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC
Missouri	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC
Montana	Standard AFDC	None	None	None
Nebraska	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	None	None
Nevada	Standard AFDC	Modified[6]	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	Standard AFDC	None	None
North Carolina	None	None	None	None
North Dakota	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Not Eligible[11]	Not Eligible[11]
Ohio	None	None	None	None
Oklahoma	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Modified[10]	Modified[10]
Oregon	None	None	None	None
Pennsylvania	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC
Rhode Island	Standard AFDC	None	None	None
South Carolina	Standard AFDC	None	None	None
South Dakota	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	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, 1996-1999[1] (July)

State	1996	1997	1998	1999
Washington	Standard AFDC[13]	Modified[3]	Modified[3]	Modified[3]
West Virginia	Standard AFDC	Standard AFDC	None	None
Wisconsin	Modified[3]	Modified[3]	None	None
Wyoming	Standard AFDC	None	None	None

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

* Data not obtained.
[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 do not, however, include any variation in state programs due to special time limits that apply only to two-parent units.
[2]Modified rules for two-parent units: six out of the last 13 quarters work history.
[3]Modified rules for two-parent units: 100-hour work limit for applicants, 6 out of the last 13 quarters work history, and 30-day waiting period.
[4]Modified rules for two-parent units: 100-hour work limit for applicants and 4-week waiting period.
[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 per week, (2) receiving Unemployment Compensation, (3) unemployed or working less than 20 hours per week and has earned $500 within the 6 months prior to application, (4) receiving retirement benefits, (5) has received disability benefits based on 100% disability in any of the last 6 months.
[6]Modified rules for two-parent units: 30-day waiting period.
[7]Modified rules for two-parent units: 7-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 prior to the month of application, and 30-day waiting period.
[9]Modified rules for two-parent units: 100-hour work limit for applicants, 130-hour work limit for recipients, 6 out of the last 13 quarters work history, and 30-day waiting period.
[10]Modified rules for two-parent units: 6 out of the last 13 quarters work history and 30-day waiting period.
[11]North Dakota does not provide benefits to two-parent, nondisabled units. In order for a child and therefore the unit to be eligible, the child must be deprived of parental support. Deprivation of parental support occurs only if one or both parents are deceased, continuously absent from the home, or mentally or physically incapacitated. Therefore, the only two-parent families that are eligible are two-parent families in which one or both of the parents are mentally or physically incapacitated.
[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 6 months equal to at least $1,500. Parents must not have terminated employment, reduced hours worked, or refused a job offer within the previous 6 months (without good cause).
[13]Standard AFDC rules for two-parent units: a 100-hour limit on work for both applicants and recipients; applicants must have worked in at least 6 of the last 13 calendar quarters before application; and applicants must have been unemployed for a minimum of 30 days before application.

Table L3 Initial Eligibility Threshold at Application, 1996-1999 (July)

State	1996	1997	1998	1999
Alabama	$366	$205	$205	$205
Alaska	$1,118	$1,147	$1,147	$1,182
Arizona	$639	$639	$586	$586
Arkansas	$426	$279	$279	$279
California	$820	$844	$844	$883
Colorado	$511	$511	$511	$511
Connecticut	$835	$835	$835	$835
Delaware	$876	$428	$428	$428
D.C.	$742	$688	$688	$479
Florida	$574	$806	$393	$393
Georgia	$514	$514	$514	$514
Hawaii	$1,187	$1,641	$1,641	$1,641
Idaho	$1,081	$577	$625	$637
Illinois	$467	$467	$467	$467
Indiana	$410	$410	$410	$410
Iowa	$1,061	$1,061	$1,061	$1,061
Kansas	$519	$519	$519	$519
Kentucky	$616	$616	$616	$909
Louisiana	$405	$280	$310	$310
Maine	$643	$643	$687	$1,023
Maryland	$607	$471	$485	$499
Massachusetts	$655	$655	$655	$655
Michigan	$774	$774	$774	$774
Minnesota	$622	$622	$930	$955
Mississippi	$458	$458	$458	$458
Missouri	$558	$558	$558	$558
Montana	$631	$758	$773	$797
Nebraska	$454	$454	$668	$668
Nevada	$642	$435	$961	$1,035
New Hampshire	$943	$688	$688	$688
New Jersey	$783	$636	$636	$636
New Mexico	$479	$720	$389	$389
New York	$667	$667	$667	$667
North Carolina	$936	$936	$936	$936
North Dakota	$521	$521	$784	$784
Ohio	$631	$631	$972	$972
Oklahoma	$580	$734	$704	$704
Oregon	$706	$550	$550	$460
Pennsylvania	$677	$677	$677	$677
Rhode Island	$644	$1,278	$1,278	$1,278
South Carolina	$614	$630	$555	$555
South Dakota	$597	$597	$626	$626
Tennessee	$767	$826	$922	$948
Texas	$400	$400	$400	$400
Utah	$525	$525	$550	$550
Vermont	$994	$965	$965	$979
Virginia	$380	$1,111	$1,138	$1,157

Table L3 Initial Eligibility Threshold at Application, 1996-1999 (July)

State	1996	1997	1998	1999
Washington	$937	$937	$1,090	$1,090
West Virginia	$498	$498	$420	$503
Wisconsin	$895	$895	__[1]	__[2]
Wyoming	$680	$340	$340	$540
Average	**$718**	**$718**	**$737**	**$754**

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

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 two children (with no family cap applied to either), has no special needs, pays for shelter, and lives in the most populated area of the state.

[1]Units with earnings at application will not receive a cash benefit in the state. However, applicants may earn up to $1,308 and still be eligible for nonfinancial assistance.
[2]Units with earnings 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.

Table L4 Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, 1996-1999 (July)

State	1996	1997	1998	1999
Alabama	$120 and 33.3% first 4 consecutive months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	100% first 3 consecutive months, 20% thereafter	100% first 3 consecutive months, 20% thereafter	100% first 3 consecutive months, 20% thereafter
Alaska	$120 and 33.3% first 4 consecutive months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$150 and 33.3% 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 and 33.3% 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 and 33.3% 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
Arizona				
All, except JOBSTART	$120 and 33.3% first 4 consecutive months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% first 4 consecutive months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$90 and 30% of remainder	$90 and 30% of remainder
JOBSTART	None	None	None	None
Arkansas	$120 and 33.3% first 4 consecutive months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	None	None	None
California	$120 and 33.3% first 4 consecutive months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3%	$225 dollars and 50% of remainder	$225 dollars and 50% of remainder
Colorado	$120 and 33.3% first 4 consecutive months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% first 4 consecutive months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% first 4 consecutive months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 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 for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter
D.C.	$120 and 33.3% first 4 consecutive months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$100 and 50% of remainder
Florida	$120 and 33.3% first 4 consecutive 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 for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter
Hawaii	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	20%, $200, and the variable percentage rate[1]	20%, $200, and the variable percentage rate[1]	20%, $200, and the variable percentage rate[1]
Idaho	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	40%	40%	40%
Illinois	66.7%	66.7%	66.7%	66.7%

Table L4 Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, 1996-1999 (July)

State	1996	1997	1998	1999
Indiana	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter
Iowa	20% and 50%	20% and 50%	20% and 50%	20% and 50%
Kansas	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for 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 for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	100% for first two months,[2] $120 and 33.3% next 4 months, $120 the next eight months, $90 thereafter	100% for first two months,[2] $120 and 33.3% next 4 months, $120 the next eight months, $90 thereafter	100% for first two months,[2] $120 and 33.3% next 4 months, $120 the next eight months, $90 thereafter
Louisiana	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$1,020 for 6 months, $120 thereafter	$1,020 for 6 months, $120 thereafter
Maine	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$108 and 50% of remainder	$108 and 50% of remainder
Maryland	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	26%	26%	35%
Massachusetts				
Nonexempt	$120 and 50% of remainder	$120 and 50% of remainder	$120 and 50% of remainder	$120 and 50% of remainder
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
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 for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	36%	36%
Mississippi	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	100% first 6 months, $90 thereafter[3]	100% first 6 months, $90 thereafter[3]	100% first 6 months, $90 thereafter[3]
Missouri	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter
Montana	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	—	—	—
Pathways	—	$200 and 25% of remainder	$200 and 25% of remainder	$200 and 25% of remainder
Community Service Program	—	$100	$100	$100
Job Supplement Program	—	None	None	None
Nebraska	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	20%	20%

Table L4 Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, 1996-1999 (July)

State	1996	1997	1998	1999
Nevada	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	100% for first 3 months; 50% for months 4-12[4]; $90 or 20%, whichever is greater, thereafter	100% for first 3 months; 50% for months 4-12; $90 or 20%, whichever is greater, thereafter	100% for first 3 months; 50% for months 4-12; $90 or 20%, whichever is greater, thereafter
New Hampshire	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	50%	50%	50%
New Jersey	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	100% for first month, 50% thereafter[5]	100% for first month, 50% thereafter[5]	100% for first month, 50% thereafter[5]
New Mexico	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$150 and 50% of remainder	All earnings in excess of 24 hours per week, $150 and 50% for the first 24 months, $150 and 50% thereafter[6]	All earnings in excess of 29 hours per week, $150 and 50% for the first 24 months, $150 and 50% thereafter[6]
New York	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$90 and 45% of remainder	$90 and 45% of remainder
North Carolina	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 up to next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter
North Dakota	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$90 or 27%, whichever is greater, and formula[7]	$90 or 27%, whichever is greater, and formula[7]
Ohio	$250 and 50% of remainder for first 12 months, then $90	$250 and 50% of remainder for first 12 months, then $90	$250 and 50% of remainder for first 18 months	$250 and 50% of remainder for first 18 months
Oklahoma	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for 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 for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	50%
Pennsylvania	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	50%	50%	50%
Rhode Island	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for 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 for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	50% for first 4 months, $100 thereafter	50% for first 4 months, $100 thereafter
South Dakota	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$90 and 20% of remainder	$90 and 20% of remainder
Tennessee	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$150	$150	$150

Table L4 Earned Income Disregards for Benefit Computation, 1996-1999 (July)

State	1996	1997	1998	1999
Texas	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter
Utah	$100 and 50% of remainder[8]	$100 and 50% of remainder[8]	$100 and 50% of remainder[8]	$100 and 50% of remainder[8]
Vermont	$150 and 25% of remainder	$150 and 25% of remainder	$150 and 25% of remainder	$150 and 25% of remainder
Virginia	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter
Washington	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	50%	50%
West Virginia	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	40%	40%
Wisconsin	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	None	None
Wyoming	$120 and 33.3% of remainder for first 4 months, $120 next 8 months, $90 thereafter	$200 [9]	$200 [9]	$200 [9]

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

Notes: Only earned income disregards are described in the table. Child care disregards and other special disregards, such as deductions for time-limited units or family-capped units, are not included. The table describes benefit computation disregards for recipients. If the disregards differ for applicants, it is footnoted.

[1] The variable percentage rate shall be a percentage that allows a household to earn up to the standard of need and still retain eligibility. This rate is around 36% for a family of three.
[2] Recipients are eligible for the one-time 100% disregard if they become newly employed.
[3] Recipients are eligible for the one-time 100% disregard if they find employment of 35 hours per week within the first 30 days following initial approval for TANF. If work is not found within 30 days, the recipient is ineligible to ever receive the disregard again. This disregard only applies to new applications or reapplications approved after July 1, 1997. An additional 100% disregard is available to units for 3 months when the unit's case is subject to closure due to increased earnings and the individual is employed for at least 25 hours per 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 maximum 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% of earnings for the first 6 months, $120 and 33.3% in the next 12 months, and $90 thereafter.
[4] To be eligible for the 100% and 50% disregards, the recipient must have received or been eligible to receive cash assistance for 3 months. Eligible to receive includes: Grants computed to be under $10 or grants not issued due to an overpayment deduction.
[5] The 100% 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% of earnings only.
[6] Two-parent units may disregard all earnings in excess of 59 hours per week (if federally subsidized child care is available, else 39 hours per week), $250 and 50% for the first 24 months, $250 and 50% thereafter.
[7] The formula equals A*(A/B)*.5, where A=Min[earnings after initial disregard, B] and B=Employment Incentive Limit.
[8] To be eligible for the 50% disregards, the recipient must have received benefits in at least one of the previous 4 months.
[9] Married couples with a child in common may disregard $400.

Table L5 Maximum Monthly Benefit for a Family of Three with No Income, 1996-1999 (July)

State	1996	1997	1998	1999
Alabama	$164	$164	$164	$164
Alaska	$923	$923	$923	$923
Arizona	$347	$347	$347	$347
Arkansas	$204	$204	$204	$204
California	$596	—	—	—
Nonexempt	—	$565	$565	$626
Exempt	—	$631	$631	$699
Colorado	$357	$357	$357	$357
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	$570	$570
Idaho	$317	$276	$276	$276
Illinois	$377	$377	$377	$377
Indiana	$288	$288	$288	$288
Iowa	$426	$426	$426	$426
Kansas	$429	$429	$429	$429
Kentucky	$262	$262	$262	$262
Louisiana	$190	$190	$190	$190
Maine	$418	$418	$418	$461
Maryland	$373	$377	$388	$399
Massachusetts				
Nonexempt	$565	$565	$565	$565
Exempt	$579	$579	$579	$579
Michigan	$459	$459	$459	$459
Minnesota	$532	$532	$532	$532
Mississippi	$120	$120	$120	$170
Missouri	$292	$292	$292	$292
Montana	$425	$438	$450	$469
Nebraska	$364	$364	$535	$535
Nevada	$348	$348	$348	$348
New Hampshire	$550	$550	$550	$550
New Jersey	$424	$424	$424	$424
New Mexico	$389	$389	$489	$489
New York	$577	$577	$577	$577
North Carolina	$272	$272	$272	$272
North Dakota	$431	$431	$457	$457
Ohio	$341	$341	$362	$362
Oklahoma	$307	$307	$292	$292
Oregon	$460	$503	$503	$503
Pennsylvania	$403	$403	$403	$403
Rhode Island	$554	$554	$554	$554
South Carolina	$200	$200	$201	$201
South Dakota	$430	$430	$430	$430
Tennessee	$185	$185	$185	$185
Texas	$188	$188	$188	$188
Utah	$426	$426	$451	$451
Vermont	$596	$611	$611	$622
Virginia	$291	$291	$291	$291
Washington	$546	$546	$546	$546
West Virginia	$253	$253	$253	$303

Table L5 Maximum Monthly Benefit for a Family of Three with No Income, 1996-1999 (July)				
State	1996	1997	1998	1999
Wisconsin	$518	$518	—-	—-
W-2 Transition	—-	$628	$628	$628
Community Service Jobs	—-	$673	$673	$673
Wyoming	$360	$340	$340	$340

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

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

Table L6 Work-Related Exemption When Caring for a Child under X Months, 1996-1999 (July)

State	1996	1997	1998	1999
Alabama	36	36	36	36
Alaska	36	12 [1]	12 [1]	12 [1]
Arizona	—	—	No Exemption	No Exemption
All, except JOBSTART	24	12	—	—
JOBSTART	24	24	—	—
Arkansas	No Exemption	3 [2]	3 [2]	3 [3]
California	36 [4]	36 [4]	12 [5]	12 [5]
Colorado	12	12 [6]	12 [6]	12 [6]
Connecticut[7]	12	12	12	12
Delaware	13 weeks	13 weeks	13 weeks	13 weeks
D.C.	36	36	36	12
Florida	36	3 [8]	3 [8]	3 [8]
Georgia	36	12 [2]	12 [2]	12 [2]
Hawaii	36	6	6	6
Idaho	36	No Exemption	No Exemption	No Exemption
Illinois [9]	36	12	12	12
Indiana	36 [7]	24 [10]	6 [10]	3
Iowa	3	No Exemption[11]	No Exemption[11]	No Exemption[11]
Kansas	36	12	12 [12]	12
Kentucky	36	12 [2]	12 [2]	12 [2]
Louisiana	12	12 [2]	12 [2]	12 [2]
Maine	36	36	12 [2]	12 [2]
Maryland	36	12 [13]	12 [13]	12 [13]
Massachusetts				
Nonexempt	No Exemption	No Exemption	No Exemption	No Exemption
Exempt[14]	—	—	—	—
Michigan	No Exemption	3	3	3
Minnesota	36	36	12	12
Mississippi	36	12 [2]	12 [2]	12 [2]
Missouri	36	36	12 [2]	12 [2]
Montana	12	—	—	—
Pathways and Community Service	—	No Exemption	No Exemption	No Exemption
Job Supplement Program[15]	—	—	—	—
Nebraska	12	12	—	—
Time-Limited Assistance	—	—	3	3
Non-Time-Limited Assistance[16]	—	—	—	—
Nevada	36	12 [2]	12 [2]	12 [2]
New Hampshire	36	—	—	—
New Hampshire Employment Program	—	36	36	36
Family Assistance Program[17]	—	—	—	—
New Jersey	24 [18]	3 [19]	3 [19]	3 [19]
New Mexico	36	12 [2]	12 [2]	12 [2]
New York	36	36	12 [20]	12 [20]
North Carolina	60 [21]	60 [21]	60 [21]	12 [2]
North Dakota	24	24	24	24
Ohio	12	12	12	12
Oklahoma	12	12	3 [2]	3 [2]
Oregon	3 [22]	3 [22]	3	3
Pennsylvania	36	12 [2]	12 [2]	12 [2]

Table L6 Work-Related Exemption When Caring for a Child under X Months, 1996-1999 (July)

State	1996	1997	1998	1999
Rhode Island	36	12	12	12
South Carolina	36	12	12	12 [2]
South Dakota	12	12	3	3
Tennessee	12	4	4	4
Texas	36	60	48	48
Utah	No Exemption	No Exemption	No Exemption	No Exemption
Vermont	36	36	36	18 [23]
Virginia	—	—	18 [24]	18 [24]
VIEW	18 [24]	18 [24]	—	—
All, except VIEW	36	36	—	—
Washington	36	36	12 [2]	3 [2]
West Virginia	36	12 [25]	12 [25]	12 [25]
Wisconsin	12	3 [26]	3 [26]	3 [26]
Wyoming	12	12	3 [2]	3 [2]

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

[1]The caretaker loses this exemption after retaining it for 12 cumulative months
[2]The exemption is limited to 12 months in the recipient's lifetime.
[3]The parent may only receive exemptions, in any combination, for a total of 12 months in his or her lifetime. Any exemptions that the parent is eligible for and uses accumulate toward the 12 months.
[4]Limited to only one child during a period of continuous AFDC eligibility, where continuous is defined as receiving welfare without a break for at least 6 consecutive months.
[5]Counties have the option to vary some activities exemptions; this exemption applies only to Los Angeles County. The recipient may only receive this exemption one time; however, they may also receive a limited exemption for a second or subsequent child under 6 months old.
[6]Counties have the option to vary activities exemptions; these policies refer to Denver County. The exemption does not apply to recipients who have received benefits for 24 or more cumulative months.
[7]The exemption only applies if the child is not a capped child.
[8]Recipients may be required to attend classes or other activities.
[9]Does not apply to units where the youngest child is age 13 or older.
[10]The exemption only applies if the child is not a capped child. Caretakers of "capped" children may be exempt if the child is under 3 months old.
[11]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 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.
[12]The individual is exempt through the month the child turns age 1.
[13]This is a one-time exemption for the first child only.
[14]Recipients who are in the Exempt component are automatically exempt from activities requirements. To be included in this component, recipients have to meet certain criteria.
[15]The Job Supplement Program is diversion assistance; therefore, all recipients in this component are exempt from activities requirements.
[16]Recipients who are in the Non-Time-Limited component are automatically exempt from activities requirements.
[17]Recipients who are in the Family Assistance Program component are automatically exempt from activities requirements.
[18]Parents of children under 2 are required to participate in counseling and vocational assessment.
[19]The exemption may be extended if a physician certifies it is medically necessary.
[20]The exemption may last for no more than 12 months in a recipient's lifetime, and it may not last for more than 3 months for any one child unless the social services official makes a determination to extend the exemption for up to the total 12 months.
[21]Caretakers with children under 5 years, unless the caretaker or parent is working more than 30 hours per week.
[22]Native Americans who live in the Confederated Tribe of the Grande Ronde Service District are excluded from JOBS participation.
[23]The parent is exempt from working but must participate in the Reach Up program.
[24]Recipients caring for capped children are only exempt while the child is under 6 weeks of age.
[25]The exemption applies only to the birth of a first child. The recipient is exempted for only 6 months after the birth of any additional child (the 6 months include any time the recipient chooses to be exempt during pregnancy).
[26]Only applies to individuals who give birth 10 months or less after starting to receive benefits.

Table L7 Most Severe Sanction Policy for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Adults, 1996-1999 (July)

	1996		1997		1998		1999	
State	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in 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[1]	6 Months[+]	Adult Portion of Benefit[1]	12 Months[+]	Adult Portion of Benefit[1]	12 Months[+]	Adult Portion of Benefit[1]	12 Months[+]
Arizona	—	—	—	—	Entire Benefit	1 Month[+]	Entire Benefit	1 Month[+]
All, except JOBSTART	Adult Portion of Benefit[1]	6 Months[+]	Adult Portion of Benefit[1]	6 Months[+]	—	—	—	—
JOBSTART	50%[2]	1 Month[+]	50%[2]	1 Month[+]	—	—	—	—
Arkansas	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months[+]	Case Is closed[3]	3 Months[+]	Case Is closed[3]	3 Months[+]	25%	Until Compliance
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	Entire Benefit	3 Months and Must Reapply	Entire Benefit	3 Months and Must Reapply	Entire Benefit	3 Months and Must Reapply	Entire Benefit	3 Months and Must Reapply
Delaware	Entire Benefit	Permanent	Entire Benefit	Permanent	Entire Benefit	Permanent	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months[+]
D.C.	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months[+]	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months[+]	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months[+]	Entire Benefit	Permanent
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[+]	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months[+]	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 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, 1996-1999 (July)

	1996		1997		1998		1999	
State	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)
Indiana	—	—	Adult Portion of Benefit	36 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	36 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	36 Months+
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+	Entire Benefit	6 Months+	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+	Pro Rata Portion of Benefit[7]	Until Compliance	Pro Rata Portion of Benefit[7]	Until Compliance	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance
Louisiana	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Case Is Closed	Until Compliance	Case Is Closed	Until Compliance
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	—[8]	—	—[8]	—	—[8]	—	—[8]	—
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+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Vendor Payment and 30%[9]	1 Month+	Vendor Payment and 30%[9]	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+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	25%	3 Months+

Table L7 Most Severe Sanction Policy for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Adults, 1996-1999 (July)

	1996		1997		1998		1999	
State	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)
Montana	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months[+]	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months[+]	Adult Portion of Benefit	12 Months[+] and the Unit Must Renegotiate Contract	Adult Portion of Benefit	12 Months[+] and the Unit Must Renegotiate Contract
Nebraska	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months[+]	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months[+]	—	—	—	—
Time-Limited Assistance	—	—	—	—	Entire Benefit	12 Months or the Remainder of 48 Months, Whichever Is Longer	Entire Benefit	12 Months or the Remainder of 48 Months, Whichever Is Longer
Non-Time-Limited Assistance	—[10]	—	—[10]	—	—[10]	—	—[10]	—
Nevada	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months[+]	Pro Rata Portion of Benefit	1 Month[+]	Entire Benefit	Permanent	Entire Benefit	Permanent
New Hampshire	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months[+]	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Hampshire Employment Program	—	—	66% of Adjusted Payment Standard[11]	One Month+	66% of Adjusted Payment Standard[11]	One Month+	66% of Adjusted Payment Standard[11]	One Month+
Family Assistance Program	—	—	—[12]	—	—[12]	—	—[12]	—
New Jersey	Adult Portion of Benefit	90 Days[+]	Entire Benefit[13]	3 Months	Entire Benefit[13]	3 Months	Entire Benefit[13]	3 Months
New Mexico	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months[+]	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance for 30 Days	Case Is Closed	6 Months[+]	Case Is Closed	6 Months[+]
New York	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months[+]	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months[+]	Pro Rata Portion of Benefit	6 Months[+]	Pro Rata Portion of Benefit	6 Months[+]
North Carolina								
Work First Active	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months[+]	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months[+]	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months[+]	$75	12 Months[+]
Pre-Work First and Work First Preparatory	—[14]	—	—[14]	—	—[14]	—	—[14]	—

Table L7 Most Severe Sanction Policy for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Adults, 1996-1999 (July)

	1996		1997		1998		1999	
State	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)
North Dakota	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	3 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit[15]	3 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+	Adult Portion of Benefit	Until Compliance	Adult Portion of 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+	Adult Portion of Benefit[16]	Permanent	Adult Portion of Benefit[16]	Permanent	Adult Portion of Benefit[16]	Permanent
Rhode Island	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	110% of Adult Portion of Benefit[17]	Until in Compliance for 2 Weeks	110% of Adult Portion of Benefit[17]	Until in Compliance for 2 Weeks	110% of Adult Portion of Benefit[17]	Until in Compliance for 2 Weeks
South Carolina	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Case Is Closed	Must Reapply and Comply for 1 Month	Case Is Closed	Must Reapply and Comply for 1 Month	Case Is Closed	Must Reapply and Comply for 1 Month
South Dakota	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	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+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+
Utah	$100 [18]	Until Compliance	$100 [18]	Until Compliance	$100 [18]	Until Compliance	$100 [18]	Until Compliance
Vermont	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Benefits are Vendored to Third Parties and Recipient Is Required to Attend Three Meetings a Month with Caseworkers.	6 Months+
Virginia					Entire Benefit	6 Months+	Entire Benefit	6 Months+
VIEW	Entire Benefit	6 Months+	Entire Benefit	6 Months+	—-	—-	—-	—-
All, except VIEW	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	—-	—-	—-	—-

Table L7 Most Severe Sanction Policy for Noncompliance with Work Requirements for Single-Parent Adults, 1996-1999 (July)

	1996		1997		1998		1999	
State	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)	Amount of Reduction in Benefit	Length of Sanction (in Months)
Washington	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	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]
West Virginia	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Entire Benefit	6 Months+	Entire Benefit	6 Months+	Entire Benefit	6 Months+
Wisconsin	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance	Entire Benefit	Must Reapply	Entire Benefit	Permanent[20]	Entire Benefit	Permanent[20]
Wyoming	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Adult Portion of Benefit	6 Months+	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance	Entire Benefit	Until Compliance

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

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.

\+ Indicates that the unit is sanctioned for a specified number of months, or until the sanctioned individual complies with the activity requirements, whichever is longer.
[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]When the state determines that case closure is not in the best interest of the child, the case will remain open with a 25% reduction in benefits until compliance.
[4]Counties have the option to determine the amount and duration of sanctions. These policies refer to Denver County.
[5]After the 3-month penalty period, benefits are not restored until the sanctioned individual has complied for 10 working days. Assistance may still be provided to children under 16 in the unit; these benefits are issued to a protective payee.
[6]The sanction continues after 6 months until the sanctioned parent signs a family investment agreement and completes 20 hours of eligible education/work activities.
[7]Benefits are assigned to a protective payee.
[8]Recipients in the Exempt component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they have no sanctions.
[9]Vendor pays shelter costs; any remaining amount of benefit is reduced by 30% of the Transitional Standard. The grant reduction must be in effect for a minimum of one month; otherwise it is in effect until compliance. Vendor payments continue for 6 months after the month in which the parent becomes compliant.
[10]Recipients in the Non-Time-Limited component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they have no sanctions.
[11]The adjusted payment standard refers to the new benefit amount once the adult portion is removed.
[12]Recipients in the Family Assistance Program component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, no sanctions were imposed.
[13]If noncompliance continues after 3 months, the case is closed and the unit must reapply for further assistance. The recipient must also satisfy an intent to comply before receiving benefits.
[14]Recipients in the Work First Preparatory and Pre-Work First components are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they have no sanction.
[15]If noncompliance continues beyond 4 months, the entire unit is ineligible. Ineligibility is effective until compliance or 12 months, whichever is less.
[16]Applies to noncompliance that occurs within the first 24 months of assistance. If the noncompliance occurs after the first 24 months of assistance, the entire benefit will be sanctioned.
[17]If the individual is noncompliant for 1-6 months, 110% of the parent's benefits are reduced from the unit's. For 7-12 months of noncompliance, 120% of the parent's benefits are reduced from the unit's. Months 13-18, 130% reduction. Months 19-24, 140% reduction. Following 24 months of noncompliance, the reduction is decreased to 100% of the parent's benefit, but the entire remaining benefit must be made to a protective payee. The individual is sanctioned until s/he is in compliance for 2 weeks.
[18]If noncompliance continues after 2 months of reduced benefits, the entire unit is ineligible for benefits until compliance.
[19]The sanction remains in effect until the individual is compliant for 2 weeks; after 2 weeks of compliance, benefits are restored to their presanction level and the individual is paid retroactively for the 2 weeks of compliance.
[20]Unit is ineligible for benefits in that component for life. Unit may receive benefits again if s/he becomes eligible for a different component.

Table L8 Asset Limits for Recipients, 1996-1999 (July)

State	1996	1997	1998	1999
Alabama	$1,000	$1,000	$2,000/3,000[1]	$2,000/3,000[1]
Alaska	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
Arizona	$1,000 [2]	$1,000 [2]	$2,000	$2,000
Arkansas	$1,000	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000
California	$2,000 [3]	$2,000 [3]	$2,000	$2,000
Colorado	$1,000	$1,000	$2,000	$2,000
Connecticut	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000
Delaware	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
D.C.	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$2,000/3,000 [4]
Florida	$1,000	$1,000	$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 [5]	$2,000/3,000/+ 50 [5]	$2,000/3,000/+ 50[5]
Indiana	$1,000	$1,500 [6]	$1,500 [6]	$1,500 [6]
Iowa	$5,000 [7]	$5,000 [7]	$5,000 [7]	$5,000 [7]
Kansas	$1,000	$1,000	$2,000	$2,000
Kentucky	$1,000	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000
Louisiana	$1,000	$1,000	$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	$1,000	$5,000 [8]	$5,000 [8]
Mississippi	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$2,000
Missouri	$5,000 [9]	$5,000 [9]	$5,000 [9]	$5,000 [9]
Montana	$1,000	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000
Nebraska	$1,000	$1,000	$4,000/6,000[10]	$4,000/6,000[10]
Nevada	$1,000	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000
New Hampshire	$1,000	$2,000 [11]	$2,000 [11]	$2,000 [11]
New Jersey	$1,000	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000
New Mexico	$1,000	$3,500 [12]	$3,500 [12]	$3,500 [12]
New York	$1,000	$1,000	$2,000/3,000 [1]	$2,000/3,000[1]
North Carolina	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000
North Dakota	$1,000	$1,000	$5,000/8,000[13]	$5,000/8,000[13]
Ohio	$1,000	No Limit[14]	No Limit[14]	No Limit[14]
Oklahoma	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
Oregon				
JOBS and JOBS Plus	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000
All, except JOBS and JOBS Plus	$2,500	$2,500	$2,500	$2,500
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	$1,000	$2,000	$2,000
Tennessee	$1,000	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000
Texas	$1,000	$2,000/3,000[4]	$2,000/3,000[4]	$2,000/3,000[4]
Utah	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000

Table L8 Asset Limits for Recipients, 1996-1999 (July)

State	1996	1997	1998	1999
Vermont	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
Virginia				
VIEW	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
All, except VIEW	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
Washington	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
West Virginia	$1,000	$1,000	$2,000	$2,000
Wisconsin	$1,000	$2,500	$2,500	$2,500
Wyoming	$1,000	$2,500	$2,500	$2,500

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

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 a member age 60 years and over may exempt $3,000; all other units exempt $2,000.
[2] The asset limit for applicants in Arizona is $1,000.
[3] The asset limit for applicants in California is $1,000.
[4] Households including an elderly or disabled person may exempt $3,000, regardless of whether that person is in the assistance unit. All other units exempt $2,000.
[5] The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $2,000, two persons receive $3,000, and 3 or more receive an additional $50 for every additional person.
[6] The asset limit for applicants in Indiana is $1,000.
[7] The asset limit for applicants in Iowa is $2,000.
[8] The asset limit for applicants in Minnesota is $2,000.
[9] The asset limit for applicants, and recipients who do not sign a self-sufficiency pact, in Missouri is $1,000.
[10] The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $4,000, two or more persons receive $6,000.
[11] The asset limit for applicants in New Hampshire is $1,000.
[12] 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 a second vehicle, equipment, tools, livestock (with the exception of nonsalable domestic pets), one-time sale asset conversion, and lump-sum payments.
[13] The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives $5,000, two or more persons receive $8,000.
[14] Ohio has eliminated the asset test.

Table L9 Vehicle Exemptions for Recipients, 1996-1999 (July)

State	1996	1997	1998	1999
Alabama	$1,500[E]	One Vehicle per Driver	One Vehicle per Driver	One Vehicle per Driver
Alaska	$1,500[E]	One Vehicle per Household[1]	One Vehicle per Household[1]	One Vehicle per Household[1]
Arizona	$1,500[E]	$1,500[E]	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household
Arkansas	$1,500[E]	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household
California	$4,500 [2E]	$4,500 [2E]	$4,650[E]	$4,650[E]
Colorado	$1,500[E]	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household
Connecticut	$9,500[E]	$9,500[3E]	$9,500[3E]	$9,500[3E]
Delaware	$4,650[E]	$4,650[E]	$4,650[E]	$4,650[E]
D.C.	$1,500[E]	$1,500[E]	$4,650[F]	$4,650[F]
Florida	$1,500[E]	$1,500[E]	$8,500[E]	$8,500[E]
Georgia	$1,500[E]	$1,500/4,650[4F]	$1,500/4,650[4F]	$1,500/4,650[4F]
Hawaii	$1,500[E]	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household
Idaho	$1,500[E]	$4,650 [5F]	$4,650 [5F]	$4,650 [5F]
Illinois	$1,500[E]	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household
Indiana	$1,000[E]	$1,000[E]	$1,000[E]	$5,000[E]
Iowa	$1,500[E]	$3,889 per Vehicle for Each Adult and Working Teenager[E]	$3,889 per Vehicle for Each Adult and Working Teenager[E]	$3,889 per Vehicle for Each Adult and Working Teenager[E]
Kansas	$1,500[E]	One Vehicle per Household[6]	One Vehicle per Household[4]	One Vehicle per Household[6]
Kentucky	$1,500[E]	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household
Louisiana	$1,500[E]	$1,500[E]	$10,000[E]	$10,000[E]
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	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household
Massachusetts	$5,000[F]	$5,000[F]	$5,000[F]	$5,000[F]
Michigan	One Vehicle per Household[5]	One Vehicle per Household[7]	One Vehicle per Household[7]	One Vehicle per Household[7]
Minnesota	$1,500[E]	$4,650[E]	$7,500[E]	$7,500[E]
Mississippi	$1,500[E]	$1,500[E]	$1,500[E]	$4,650[F]
Missouri	One Vehicle per Household[8]	One Vehicle per Household[8]	One Vehicle per Household[8]	One Vehicle per Household[8]
Montana	$1,500[E]	One Vehicle per Household[9]	One Vehicle per Household[9]	One Vehicle per Household[9]
Nebraska	$1,500[E]	$1,500[E]	One Vehicle per Household[10]	One Vehicle per Household[10]
Nevada	$1,500[E]	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household
New Hampshire	$1,500[E]	One Vehicle per Household Member	One Vehicle per Household Member	One Vehicle per Household Member
New Jersey	$1,500[E]	$9,500 [11F]	$9,500 [11F]	$9,500 [11F]
New Mexico	$1,500[E]	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household[12]	One Vehicle per Household[12]
New York	$1,500[E]	$1,500[E]	$4,650[F]	$4,650[F]
North Carolina	$5,000[F]	$5,000[F]	$5,000[F]	One Vehicle per Adult
North Dakota	$1,500[E]	$1,500[E]	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household
Ohio	$4,600[F]	All Vehicles Owned by Unit	All Vehicles Owned by Unit	All Vehicles Owned by Unit
Oklahoma	$1,500[E]	$1,500[E]	$5,000[E]	$5,000[E]
Oregon	$9,000[E]	$9,000[E]	$9,000[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[13F/E]	$4,600/1,500[13F/E]	$4,600/1,500[13F/E]
South Carolina	$1,500[E]	$10,000[F]	$10,000[F]	One Vehicle Per Driver[14]

Table L9 Vehicle Exemptions for Recipients, 1996-1999 (July)

State	1996	1997	1998	1999
South Dakota	$1,500 [15E]	$1,500 [15E]	$4,650 [16F]	$4,650 [16F]
Tennessee	$1,500[E]	$4,600[E]	$4,600[E]	$4,600[E]
Texas	$1,500[E]	$4,650[F]	$4,650[F]	$4,650[F]
Utah	$8,000 [17E]	$8,000 [17E]	$8,000 [17E]	$8,000 [17E]
Vermont	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household	One Vehicle per Household
Virginia				
View	$7,500 [18F/E]	$7,500 [18F/E]	$7,500 [18F/E]	$7,500 [18F/E]
All except View	$1,500[E]	$1,500[E]	$1,500[E]	$1,500[E]
Washington	$1,500[E]	$1,500[E]	$5,000 [17E]	$5,000 [17E]
West Virginia	$1,500[E]	$1,500[E]	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[F]	$12,000 [19F]	$12,000 [19F]

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

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

[1]Vehicles used as a home, to produce self-employment income, to transport a disabled family member, or to participate in an approved work activity are also exempt.
[2]Applicants may only exempt $1,500 of the equity value of a vehicle.
[3]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.
[4]If the vehicle is used to look for work or in 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.
[5]The value of one specially equipped vehicle used to transport a disabled family member is also exempt.
[6]Any other vehicles used over 50% of the time for employment, needed for medical treatment, used as a home, or specially equipped for use by a handicapped person are exempt.
[7]The value of any additional vehicle that is necessary for employment is also exempt.
[8]$1,500 of the unit's second vehicle is exempt.
[9]All income-producing vehicles are also exempt.
[10]The entire vehicle is exempt only if used for employment, training, or medical transportation; any motor vehicle used as a home is also exempt.
[11]Units with two adults may exempt up to $4,650 of the fair market value of a second vehicle if it is essential for work, training, or transportation of a handicapped individual.
[12]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.
[13]A unit may exempt $4,600 of the fair market value of each vehicle or $1,500 of the equity value of each vehicle. In addition, the value of vehicles used primarily for income-producing purposes is excluded.
[14]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.
[15]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.
[16]$4,650 of the vehicle is exempt if used for transportation. The unit may also exempt a vehicle used to transport water or fuel to the home when it is not piped in. Also, they may exempt a vehicle used to transport a disabled member or SSI recipient in the household.
[17]The entire equity value of a vehicle used to transport a disabled household member is also exempt.
[18]If the fair market value of the vehicle is greater than $7,500, the equity value greater than $1,500 is counted in the resource limit.
[19]The $12,000 exemption applies to one car for a single-parent unit and to two cars for a married couple.

Table L10 Family Cap Policies, 1996-1999 (July)

State	1996	1997	1998	1999
Alabama	No	No	No	No
Alaska	No	No	No	No
Arizona	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arkansas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
California	No	No	Yes	Yes
Colorado	No	No	No	No
Connecticut	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Delaware	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
D.C.	No	No	No	No
Florida	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Georgia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hawaii	No	No	No	No
Idaho	No	No[1]	No[1]	No[1]
Illinois	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
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
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michigan	No	No	No	No
Minnesota	No	No	No	No
Mississippi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Missouri	No	No	No	No
Montana	No	No	No	No
Nebraska	No[2]	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	No	Yes	Yes
Ohio	No	No	No	No
Oklahoma	No	No	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	Yes	No[3]	No[3]
Wyoming	No	No	No	No
Total States with Cap:	**14**	**18**	**20**	**20**

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

[1]The state provides a flat maximum benefit, regardless of family size. However, the payment standard 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.
[2]Nebraska is conducting a demonstration project in five counties that subjects units to a family cap.
[3]The state provides a flat benefit, regardless of family size.

Appendix 1: Component Descriptions

State	Name of Component	Description of Component	Maximum Amount of Time in Component	Component Interaction
Arizona	All, except JOBSTART	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	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 on a full-time basis.	6 months	
Connecticut	Time-Limited Units	Units who are subject to the 21-month time limit	21 months[1]	Recipients change components only when something happens to change their exemption status.
	Time-Limit Exempt	Units exempt from the time limit	Until recipients no longer meet the exemption criteria	
Indiana	Nonplacement Track	Recipients who are not job ready or are exempt from activities	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	Job ready recipients	24 months	
Massachusetts	Nonexempt	Nonexempt recipients	No limit	Recipients change components only when something happens to change their exemption status.
	Exempt	Recipients who are one of the following: disabled; caring for a relative with a disability; pregnant with a child who is expected to be born within 120 days; caring for a child under the age of 2; teen parents under age 20 meeting living arrangement requirements and attending school; or recipients 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	
Montana	Pathways	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 in order to continue receiving benefits.
	Community Service Program (CSP)	Recipients whose time limits have expired in Pathways move into CSP. CSP requires that recipients participate in CSP activities.	36 months[2]	
	Job Supplement Program (JSP)	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 Descriptions

State	Name of Component	Description of Component	Maximum Amount of Time in Component	Component Interaction
Nebraska	Time-Limited Assistance	Units in which the adult member(s) are able to work.	24 months within a 48-month period	Recipients change components only when something happens to change their ability to work.
	Non-Time-Limited Assistance	Units that are not self-sufficient because the adult member(s) are mentally, emotionally, or physically unable to work. These units are exempt from activities requirements.	Until recipients no longer meet the criteria	
New Hampshire	New Hampshire Employment Program (NHEP)	The NHEP provides financial assistance to units with dependent children who are cared for by a parent or relative who is able bodied for employment.	60 months	*
	Family Assistance Program (FAP)	The 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. These units are exempt from activities requirements.	60 months	
North Carolina	Work First Active	Counties are responsible for assigning individuals to components. Most individuals who are nonexempt 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 per week regardless of the age of the youngest child; and (6) a caretaker whose youngest child is age 5 or older.	Limited to 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, they move to Work First Active.
	Work First Preparatory	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	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.	

Appendix 1: Component Descriptions

State	Name of Component	Description of Component	Maximum Amount of Time in Component	Component Interaction
Oregon	All, except JOBS Plus	Recipients not participating in the JOBS Plus program	No limit	*
	JOBS Plus	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.	*	
Tennessee	Time-Limited Units	Units that are subject to the time limit.	No limit	Recipients change components only when something happens to change their exemption status.
	Time-Limited Exempt Units	Units that are exempt from the state time limit. These include child-only units and units where the head is disabled, caring full-time for a disabled family member, or over age 60.	Until recipients no longer meet the exemption criteria	
Virginia	Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare Program (VIEW)	All nonexempt recipients that are required to participate in employment activities (unsubsidized, subsidized, community service)	24 months	*
	All, except VIEW	All nonexempt recipients that are required to participate in the JOBS/Employment Services Program	No limit	
Wisconsin	W-2 Transitions	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)	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	Individuals who are job ready but are not able to obtain an unsubsidized job	24 months	
	Unsubsidized Employment (UE)	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 some case management services are available	No limit	

Source: The Welfare Rules Database (an Urban Institute "Assessing the New Federalism" project).

Notes: A component occurs when the state divides its entire caseload into mutually exclusive groups that are treated differently across more than one policy. These groups are usually defined by more than one characteristic.

Only the states with a component are listed in the table.

* Data not obtained.

[1]For units who have been granted a time limit extension, the number of months in the component is extended.
[2]Recipients may receive benefits for a total of 60 months. It is possible to spend up to 60 total months in CSP if no time is spent in Pathways.

About the Author

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.