

# **The Welfare Rules Databook: State Policies as of July 2005**

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## **Introduction and Background**

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

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

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

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

### **The Welfare Rules Database**

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



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

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

### ***Contents of the WRD***

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







## *General Points about the WRD*

### The WRD

- contains information on the cash assistance rules *in effect* in each state across time. It does not include information on proposals or legislation that has not been implemented.
- focuses on welfare *rules*. The database does not contain information regarding caseloads, budgets, outcomes, or administrative practices.
- contains at least one “record” (a set of coded variables) for each state, year, and category of rules.
- contains additional records when the state changes a policy during the year or when the state’s policies vary by geographic regions of the state, demographic characteristics of the assistance units, or “component” groups across the state. (The term “component” is used when the state’s caseload is divided into mutually exclusive groups based on multiple characteristics.)
- indicates when states vary policies by county. For those policies determined at the county level, the WRD captures the policies for the largest county in the state.<sup>5</sup>
- for every year, state, and category of rules contains one record that is designated the “majority rule” record. This record represents the policy that affected the majority of the caseload for the majority of the year.

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

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<sup>5</sup> The states that allow counties to vary policies (that are included in this book) are California and Colorado. The largest counties in each state are Los Angeles County in California and Denver County in Colorado.



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

### ***Structure of the Tables***

Each table follows the same general structure and was created using the same set of rules.

Typically, the body of each table includes one row per state, which represents the policies that affect the majority of the caseload as of July 2005. Units comprising the majority of the caseload tend to be nonexempt, single-parent units with children.

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

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

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



## **Policies as of July 2005**



# **Initial Eligibility**











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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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











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

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

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

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

















Maximum Aid Payment for the apparently eligible assistance unit at the time the diversion payment was made. The month(s) resulting from the calculation less any partial month, is (are) counted toward the 60-month time limit.

<sup>11</sup> Counties have the option to vary their diversion programs. These policies refer to Denver County.

<sup>12</sup> If assistance greater than \$1,000 is requested, it must be approved by a designated staffing team. If an individual is seeking employment and training services through the mayor's Office of Workforce Development, there will be no limit to the amount of money issued.

<sup>13</sup> If an individual is seeking employment and training services through the mayor's Office of Workforce Development, there will be no limit to the number of diversion applications approved.

<sup>14</sup> If the payment is intended to cover greater than 120 days worth of need, the additional time counts towards the time limit. If an individual is seeking employment and training services through the mayor's Office of Workforce Development, there will be no time frame for how long services can be provided.

<sup>15</sup> The state's diversion program is related to retaining or obtaining employment and is only for parents living with natural or adopted children.

<sup>16</sup> The period of ineligibility depends on the amount of the diversion payment. Units receiving \$1-500.99 are ineligible for one month, units receiving \$501-1,000.99 are ineligible for two months, and units receiving \$1,001-\$1,500 are ineligible for three months.

<sup>17</sup> Florida has three separate diversion programs. An assistance unit may receive a one-time payment of up to \$1,000 in Up-Front Diversion or Relocation Assistance, up to the amount needed to relocate, or a one-time \$1,000 payment of Cash Severance Diversion. The unit is ineligible to receive assistance for three months after receiving Up-Front Diversion and for six months after receiving Relocation Assistance or Cash Severance Diversion. Up-Front Assistance is for individuals in need of assistance due to unexpected circumstances or emergency situations. Relocation Assistance is available for individuals who reside in an area with limited employment opportunities and experience one of the following: geographic isolation, formidable transportation barriers, isolation from extended family, or domestic violence that threatens the ability of a parent to maintain self-sufficiency. Cash Severance Diversion is available to TANF recipients if they meet the following criteria: are employed and receiving earnings; are able to verify their earnings; will remain employed for at least six months; have received cash assistance for at least six consecutive months since October 1996; and are eligible for at least one more month of TANF. Up-Front Diversion and Relocation Assistance do not count toward time limits. Cash Severance Diversion does not count toward time limits if the payment is made in a month in which the unit also receives a TANF payment. If the payment is made in a month in which the unit does not receive a TANF payment, the Cash Severance Diversion payment counts as a month toward the time limit.

<sup>18</sup> The period of ineligibility depends on the amount of the diversion payment. Units receiving a payment equaling three months of benefits are ineligible for five consecutive months, units receiving a payment equaling six months of benefits are ineligible for nine consecutive months, and units receiving a payment equaling eight months of benefits are ineligible for twelve consecutive months.

<sup>19</sup> All of the unit's income is disregarded for benefit computation, so it will always receive three times the Maximum Benefit.

<sup>20</sup> An applicant who has found a job that will make him or her ineligible for cash assistance or who wants to accept a job and withdraw his or her application for assistance is eligible for a one-time payment in order to begin or maintain employment.

<sup>21</sup> Applicants must either be in danger of losing employment or have evidence of barriers to accepting a verified offer of employment. Countable income must be at or below 200 percent of poverty.

<sup>22</sup> Additional benefits may be available to a candidate who has already received diversion funds if (1) the candidate has not already received the \$2,000 maximum allowed in the program period, (2) the candidate is still in the period of TANF ineligibility, (3) the candidate is employed at the time, and (4) the expense is for an unforeseen job-related expense.

<sup>23</sup> Iowa calculates the period of TANF ineligibility in days rather than months. The total period of ineligibility is equal to two times the diversion payment divided by (maximum benefit for family size divided by 30 days).

<sup>24</sup> Although it still exists in the law, Louisiana's diversion program has not received funding since September 2002. According to that law, the recipient can receive a cash payment worth up to four months of TANF benefits, the same amount of time they are ineligible for TANF if they do opt for diversion. They can receive it twice in a lifetime, but no more than once every 12 months.

<sup>25</sup> Diversion payments are only provided to caretaker relatives or parents who are employed or looking for work.

<sup>26</sup> Units that apply for benefits during the three-month ineligibility period must repay any diversion payment received for any period that was covered by both diversion and TANF.

<sup>27</sup> Minnesota's four month Diversionary Work Program (DWP) is mandatory for all TANF applicants except for the following units: (1) child only cases, (2) one-parent families that include a child under 12 weeks of age, (3) minor caregivers without a high school diploma or GED, (4) caregivers age 18 or 19 without a high school diploma or GED who choose to have an employment plan with an education option, and (5) caregivers age 60 or over. Two-parent families must participate in DWP unless both parents meet the exemption criteria listed above. In addition to receiving financial assistance, recipients participate in four months of intensive employment services focused on helping the participant obtain an unsubsidized job before entering welfare. Failure to comply with the employment services, which may include a structured job search, results in ineligibility for both DWP and TANF until compliance. After the four months are complete, participants still requiring assistance may apply for TANF as applicants.

<sup>28</sup> DWP benefits are provided on a monthly basis and are equal to the difference between the unit's countable income and the sum of its actual housing costs, utility costs, \$35 per month for telephone services, and up to \$70 per unit member for personal needs. The total monthly grant amount cannot exceed the cash portion of the TANF Transitional Standard (see table II.A.3). Once the recipient is enrolled in DWP, any unexpected increases in income will be disregarded. 100 percent of the earnings from a new job obtained while participating in DWP will be disregarded for the remainder of the four-month program.

<sup>29</sup> Vendor payments are made to cover housing, utility, and telephone costs. The remainder of the grant is issued as a monthly cash payment.

<sup>30</sup> The unit may apply for TANF at the completion of the four-month diversion program. If a unit applies to TANF anytime within 12 months of receiving either TANF or DWP assistance, the unit moves directly into TANF and is not eligible to participate in diversion.

<sup>31</sup> Applicants for WFNJ/TANF must participate in New Jersey's diversion program, Early Employment Initiative (EEI), if they (1) have a work history that equals or exceeds four months of full-time employment in the last 12 months, (2) have at least one child, (3) appear to meet TANF eligibility requirements, (4) are not in immediate need, and (5) do not meet criteria for a deferral from work requirements. Participants receive a one-time, lump-sum payment and are required to pursue an intensive job search for 15 to 30 days while their WFNJ/TANF application is processed. If participants obtain employment and withdraw their application, they are eligible to receive a second lump-sum payment to assist in the transition to employment. If no employment is secured, the applicant is referred back to the WFNJ/TANF agency for cash assistance.

<sup>32</sup> The maximum amount a family would receive is relative to the number of persons in the unit. The amount included in the table is for a unit of eight or more people. The maximum diversion payment for a family of three is \$750. If the agency feels an individual may benefit, he or she may be considered suitable for repeated participation in EEI when determining subsequent eligibility for the program.

<sup>33</sup> If a participant is unable to find a job through the diversion program or loses employment, and reapplies for TANF benefits within 60 days of the original application, TANF benefits will be retroactive to the date of application. Any lump-sum payment received under the EEI is prorated from the date of the original application to the date of the reactivation and subtracted from the monthly grant amount for which the assistance unit is eligible. If this lump sum exceeds the family's monthly grant amount, the excess is counted as unearned income when calculating the monthly assistance benefits for any subsequent month. If the applicant loses his or her employment after 60 days from the application date, the family will need to reapply for TANF.

<sup>34</sup> The diversion payment is only available to assist applicants in keeping a job or accepting a bona fide offer of employment.

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

<sup>36</sup> New York has three types of diversion payments: Diversion Payments (for crisis needs such as moving expenses, storage fees, or household structural or equipment repairs), Diversion Transportation Payments (for employment-related transportation expenses), and Diversion Rental Payments (for rental housing).

<sup>37</sup> The type and amount of the payment is determined on a case-by-case basis and is dependent upon the needs of the applicant.

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

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

<sup>40</sup> 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 every 12 months.

<sup>41</sup> To qualify for the state's diversion program, the assistance unit must meet one of the "Crisis Criteria" including: (1) the caretaker or second parent lost employment in the process month, application month, or two months before application; (2) a dependent child experienced a loss of financial support from the legal parent or stepparent within the past 12 months due to death, divorce, separation, abandonment, or termination of child support AND the caretaker was employed within 12 months of the application or process month; (3) the caretaker or second parent graduated from a university, college, junior college, or technical training school within 12 months of the application or process month AND was underemployed or unemployed; or (4) the caretaker and/or second parent was employed but faced the loss or potential loss of transportation and/or shelter OR faced a medical emergency temporarily preventing them from continuing to work.

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

<sup>43</sup> 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 five percent each month until the loan is repaid.

<sup>44</sup> For units that received diversion assistance before July 2000, three months are counted toward the lifetime limit.

<sup>45</sup> The diversion payment is considered a loan to assist with expenses related to obtaining or maintaining employment and it must be repaid. Repayments are expected within 12 months but may be extended to 24 months. The loan may be paid back in cash or through a combination of cash and volunteer community service (valued at the higher of the state or federal minimum wage).

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



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

State	Job search required
West Virginia	No
Wisconsin	Yes <sup>9</sup>
Wyoming	No
<b>Total states with requirements</b>	<b>18</b>

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

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

<sup>1</sup> In local offices participating in a pilot program, individuals are required to participate in work activities prior to initial cash assistance approval. Case managers assist recipients with job search, offer supportive employment services, and provide immediate child care assistance.

<sup>2</sup> If transportation and/or child care are not available at application, the state delays the job search requirement until after the application is approved and supportive services can be provided.

<sup>3</sup> The job search requirement was originally intended for the entire state, but was only implemented in Gibson County.

<sup>4</sup> As a condition of eligibility, applicants must participate in the four-month Diversionary Work Program (DWP), during which they receive benefits and intensive employment services focused on helping them obtain unsubsidized jobs before entering welfare. Although it is possible to participate in a variety of activities that address barriers to employment, most applicants are placed in a structured job search. After the Diversionary Work Program is complete, participants still needing assistance may apply for TANF as applicants.

<sup>5</sup> Both parents in two-parent households are required to participate in job search while their application for assistance is pending. However, if child care is necessary, one parent can participate in a search to find child care.

<sup>6</sup> Job search is a mandatory part of the state's diversion program. Applicants are automatically placed in the Early Employment Initiative (diversion) program if they (1) have a work history that equals or exceeds four months of full-time employment in the past 12 months, (2) have at least one child, (3) appear to meet TANF eligibility requirements, (4) are not in immediate need, and (5) do not meet criteria for a deferral from work requirements. Once in the program, participants receive an activity payment and are required to search for a job during the TANF application process. If they are not successful in securing employment, they are eligible for TANF benefits.

<sup>7</sup> Job search is not an eligibility requirement but many applicants are assigned to job search and receive a labor market test (a labor market test consists of a structured and assisted job search designed to assess the applicant's employability).

<sup>8</sup> The job search requirement only applies to the following applicants: (1) the primary caretaker in two-parent able-to-work families; (2) both adults in two-parent able-to-work families where the adults choose to share the work requirement; and (3) adults in all other unit types who have no barriers to obtaining and maintaining a job, have a recent and stable work history, and received annualized wages for their most recent job that equal or exceed 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Level.

<sup>9</sup> Only applicants who are considered job-ready and who can benefit from job search may be assigned unpaid, up-front job search as a condition of eligibility.



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

State	Eligible for cash benefits	Eligible in what month of pregnancy
Wisconsin	No <sup>18</sup>	—
Wyoming	No	—
<b>Total states providing benefits</b>	<b>32</b>	—

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

<sup>1</sup> The needs, resources, and income of all members who would be required to be in the mandatory filing unit if the child were born must be considered in determining eligibility. If eligibility exists, the payment is determined based only on the pregnant woman's needs and income.

<sup>2</sup> A pregnant teen who has not graduated from high school is eligible from the date the pregnancy is verified.

<sup>3</sup> A pregnant woman must meet the eligibility requirements as if her child were already born and living with her.

<sup>4</sup> A pregnant woman's financial eligibility in the month that her child is due is determined by comparing her gross income to 185 percent of the Standard of Need for one person. If she lives with the father of her unborn child, financial eligibility is determined by comparing the sum of the pregnant woman's income and the father's income to the Standard of Need for three people (the number of people who would be included in the family unit when the child is born). If income exceeds the standard, the application is denied. If income is less than the standard, only the mother's income and needs are considered in determining the amount of the grant.

<sup>5</sup> A pregnant woman is eligible on the first day of the month in which her child is expected.

<sup>6</sup> A pregnant woman is eligible in the ninth month, unless her doctor verifies that she is unable to work; then she is eligible in the seventh month.

<sup>7</sup> A pregnant woman is eligible only if she is in her last trimester and is unable to work for medical reasons.

<sup>8</sup> A pregnant woman and her spouse, if living with her, are eligible for assistance.

<sup>9</sup> A pregnant woman, her unborn child, and the father of the unborn child are eligible for assistance.

<sup>10</sup> A pregnant woman must meet the eligibility requirements as if her child were already born and living with her. The father of the unborn child or the spouse of the pregnant woman, if living with her, is also eligible.

<sup>11</sup> A pregnant woman and her unborn child are eligible for assistance.

<sup>12</sup> A pregnant woman and the father of the unborn child, if living with her, are eligible for assistance.

<sup>13</sup> A pregnant woman who is at risk of or has a safety concern due to domestic violence may be eligible for benefits earlier.

<sup>14</sup> A pregnant woman must meet the eligibility requirements as if her child were already born and living with her. If the pregnant woman's spouse is living in the home, his income, resources, and needs are included in this calculation. If she is not married, the income, resources, and needs of the father will not be included in the eligibility calculation until the child is born and paternity has been established.

<sup>15</sup> A pregnant woman can begin to receive assistance within three months of her medically verified due date.

<sup>16</sup> A pregnant woman may be eligible in the seventh month if she is a minor or is documented as having a high-risk pregnancy.

<sup>17</sup> A pregnant woman may only receive benefits once a licensed medical practitioner has verified the pregnancy and expected date of delivery.

<sup>18</sup> 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,<sup>1</sup> July 2005**

State	Limit on hours	Other Rules for Applicants	
		Work history <sup>2</sup>	Waiting period
Virginia	No limit	No	0
Washington	No limit	No	0
West Virginia	No limit	No	0
Wisconsin	No limit	No	0
Wyoming	No limit	No	0

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

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

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

<sup>2</sup> Applicants have to demonstrate previous attachment to the workforce; under AFDC, applicants were required to work at least six of the last 13 quarters. The 13-quarter period must have ended within one year of applying for assistance. Generally, work history could also be established if one of the following applied: (1) the applicant received Unemployment Compensation (UC) benefits within 12 months of the date of application or (2) the applicant would have been eligible for UC benefits within the previous 12 months but did not apply or his or her employment was not covered by UC laws.

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

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

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

<sup>6</sup> North Dakota does not provide benefits to two-parent, nondisabled units.

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



State	Can be head of unit	Living arrangement restriction <sup>1</sup>
West Virginia	No	Yes
Wisconsin	No	Yes
Wyoming	Yes	Yes
<b>Total states with policy</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>49</b>

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

<sup>1</sup> This variable indicates whether the state requires unmarried minor parents, who have not been legally emancipated, to live with their parent(s) or in another state-approved setting. If "Yes" is coded, a minor is not eligible to receive assistance unless living with a parent or in an approved setting.

<sup>2</sup> Children born to teenage parents are ineligible for cash assistance unless the parent is married. The minor parent may receive noncash assistance services in the form of vouchers for their child(ren) upon request; however vouchers are not automatically distributed each month. Voucher payments are distributed through a protective payee to the minor parent's parent or the adult in the supervised living arrangement.

<sup>3</sup> Minor parents may receive benefits for up to six nonconsecutive months without complying with the residency requirement.

<sup>4</sup> A minor parent can head his or her own unit if he or she meets an exemption to the residency requirement.

<sup>5</sup> To receive assistance, the minor parent must be at least 16 years old.

<sup>6</sup> When the residency requirements are imposed, the benefit is paid to a protective payee whenever possible.

<sup>7</sup> To receive assistance, the minor parent must be at least 15 years old.







**Table I.B.5 State Practices Regarding Eligibility of Nonexempt, Pre-PRWORA, Qualified Aliens, July 2005<sup>1</sup>**

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

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

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

<sup>1</sup> This table only identifies eligibility for federally funded TANF assistance of certain groups of qualified aliens that entered the country before August 22, 1996. It does not provide information on the eligibility of other nonqualified aliens who may be eligible for state-funded assistance. Aliens are categorized by their current immigrant status (rather than their initial status upon entry into the United States, if different).

<sup>2</sup> Lawful permanent residents are defined as individuals who have been admitted into the United States permanently.

<sup>3</sup> Asylees and refugees are immigrants who flee their countries owing to persecution because of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a social group. Refugees request permission to enter the country, while asylees are already in the United States and request permission to stay.

<sup>4</sup> Deportees are individuals granted a stay of deportation or who have had their deportation withheld.

<sup>5</sup> Parolees are individuals permitted entry into the United States in cases of emergency or because of an overriding public interest. The table only discusses the eligibility of aliens paroled into the United States for at least one year. Aliens paroled into the United States for less than a year are not "qualified" aliens according to the immigrant definition in PRWORA.

<sup>6</sup> Battered noncitizens refer to those individuals who meet the statutory definition of a battered alien pursuant to 8 USC 1641 (c).

<sup>7</sup> Some battered noncitizens who meet the qualified alien definition.

<sup>8</sup> 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 federal TANF funding, however.

<sup>9</sup> Qualified aliens with this status are only eligible for benefits for seven years beginning on the date they entered the United States.

<sup>10</sup> Battered noncitizens who are the spouse or minor unmarried dependent child of a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident and do not live with the family member who battered them are eligible.



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

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

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

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

<sup>1</sup> Qualified aliens are defined under PRWORA as lawful permanent residents (includes Amerasians), refugees, asylees, individuals who have had their deportation withheld, parolees admitted for one or more years, certain battered aliens, Cuban/Haitian entrants, and aliens granted conditional entry before April 1, 1980.

<sup>2</sup> Lawful permanent residents are defined as individuals who have been admitted into the United States permanently.

<sup>3</sup> Parolees are individuals permitted entry into the United States in cases of emergency or because of an overriding public interest. The table only discusses the eligibility of aliens paroled into the United States for at least one year. Aliens paroled into the United States for less than a year are not "qualified" aliens according to the immigrant definition in PRWORA.

<sup>4</sup> Battered noncitizens refer to those individuals who meet the statutory definition of a battered alien pursuant to 8 USC 1641 (c).

<sup>5</sup> The groups of noncitizens listed here are not qualified aliens as defined by federal law; therefore, these groups would never be eligible for most federally funded TANF benefits.

<sup>6</sup> Certain American Indians born in Canada and individuals permanently residing in the United States under color of law (PRUCOL).

<sup>7</sup> All nonqualified aliens who are not one of the following: (1) nonimmigrant aliens lawfully admitted for a temporary purpose or temporary residence, or (2) undocumented aliens.

<sup>8</sup> Noncitizens with mental retardation are eligible for benefits. Additionally, individuals permanently residing in the United States under color of law (PRUCOL) and who were receiving benefits before July 1, 2003 may continue to do so.

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> Individuals permanently residing in the United States under color of law (PRUCOL) as defined by the state.

<sup>11</sup> All nonqualified noncitizens who are legally in the country are eligible for assistance.



**Table I.B.7 State Practices Regarding Eligibility of Nonexempt, Post-PRWORA, Qualified Aliens after Five Years, July 2005<sup>1</sup>**

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

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

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

<sup>1</sup> This table identifies the eligibility for federally funded TANF assistance of certain groups of qualified aliens after the expiration of the five-year bar. It does not provide information on the eligibility of other nonqualified aliens who may be eligible for state-funded assistance. Aliens are categorized by their current immigrant status (rather than their initial status upon entry into the United States, if different).

<sup>2</sup> Lawful permanent residents are defined as individuals who have been admitted into the United States permanently.

<sup>3</sup> Asylees and refugees are immigrants who flee their countries owing to persecution because of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a social group. Refugees request permission to enter the country, while asylees are already in the United States and request permission to stay.

<sup>4</sup> Deportees are individuals granted a stay of deportation or who have had their deportation withheld.

<sup>5</sup> Parolees are individuals permitted entry into the United States in cases of emergency or because of an overriding public interest. The table only discusses the eligibility of aliens paroled into the United States for at least one year. Aliens paroled into the United States for less than a year are not "qualified" aliens according to the immigrant definition in PRWORA.

<sup>6</sup> Battered noncitizens refer to those individuals who meet the statutory definition of a battered alien pursuant to 8 USC 1641 (c).

<sup>7</sup> Some battered immigrants who meet the qualified alien definition.

<sup>8</sup> Qualified aliens with this status are only eligible for benefits for seven years beginning on the date they entered the United States.

<sup>9</sup> 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 federal TANF funding, however.

<sup>10</sup> Battered noncitizens who are the spouse or minor unmarried dependent child of a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident and do not live with the family member who battered them are eligible.

<sup>11</sup> Aliens who were not continuous residents of the United States (meaning they left the United States for 30 days or more) before becoming Lawful Permanent Residents are ineligible for benefits.



<sup>E</sup> Equity value of the vehicle.

<sup>F</sup> Fair market value of the vehicle.

<sup>1</sup> Units including an elderly person may exempt \$3,000; all other units exempt \$2,000.

<sup>2</sup> Vehicle are exempt if used for one of the following: (1) to meet the family's basic needs, such as getting food and medical care or other essentials; (2) to go to and from work, school, training or work activity (such as job search or community service); (3) as the family's house; (4) to produce self-employment income; or (5) to transport a disabled family member, whether or not they are a part of the assistance unit. If the vehicle does not meet one of these requirements, the equity value of the vehicle is counted in the determination of resources.

<sup>3</sup> Recreational vehicles are not exempt.

<sup>4</sup> Each vehicle must be evaluated for both its equity and fair market value; the higher of the two values counts against the family's asset limit. Before this calculation, all of the following vehicles are completely excluded: (1) used primarily for income producing purposes; (2) produces annual income that is consistent with its fair market value; (3) is necessary for long distance travel that is essential for employment; (4) used as the family's residence; (5) is necessary to transport a physically disabled household member; (6) would be exempt under previously stated exemptions but the vehicle is not in use because of temporary unemployment; (7) used to carry fuel or water to the home and is the primary method of obtaining fuel or water; and (8) the equity value of the vehicle is \$1,501 or less. To determine the countable fair market value of each remaining vehicle, exclude \$4,650 from the vehicle's fair market value. To determine the countable equity value of each remaining vehicle, exclude one additional vehicle per adult and one additional vehicle per licensed child who uses the vehicle to travel to school, employment, or job search. The full equity value of each remaining vehicle is counted. For each vehicle not completely excluded, the higher of the fair market value or the equity value counts against the family's asset limit.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> \$4,650 of the value of vehicles used to look for work, or to travel to work or education and training is excluded. \$1,500 of the equity value will be excluded for vehicles not used for these purposes. Vehicles used over 50 percent of the time to produce income or as a dwelling are excluded.

<sup>7</sup> The value of one specially equipped vehicle used to transport a disabled family member is exempt. Also, all vehicles with a fair market value under \$1,500 are exempt.

<sup>8</sup> The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives \$2,000, two receive \$3,000, and three or more receive \$50 for every additional person.

<sup>9</sup> When there is more than one vehicle, the equity value of the vehicle of greater value is exempt. If a vehicle has special equipment for the disabled, the added value of the special equipment is exempt and does not increase the vehicle's value.

<sup>10</sup> Additionally, \$4,164 of the equity value of an additional vehicle is exempt for each adult and working teenager whose resources must be considered in determining eligibility.

<sup>11</sup> Campers and trailers are also considered excludable vehicles.

<sup>12</sup> Only liquid resources are considered for eligibility determinations. Liquid resources include cash, checking and savings accounts, CDs, stocks and bonds, and money market accounts.

<sup>13</sup> The state compares the value of the vehicle to two standards: \$10,000 of the fair market value and \$5,000 of the equity value. If the value of the vehicle exceeds either limit, the excess counts towards the asset limit; however, if the value of the vehicle exceeds both limits, only the excess of the greater amount counts toward the asset limit.

<sup>14</sup> Note that Minnesota uses the loan value of the vehicle as listed in the current NADA Used Car Guide, Midwest edition instead of the fair market value. The loan value is generally slightly less than the estimated fair market value.

<sup>15</sup> Recreational vehicles (unless used as a home), all terrain vehicles, and other off-road vehicles are not exempt. Additionally, industrial vehicles (i.e., heavy haulers, pulpwood trucks, etc.) are exempt as long as they are used for income-producing purposes over 50 percent of the time, or as long as they annually produce income consistent with their fair market value.

<sup>16</sup> \$1,500 of the equity value of the unit's second vehicle is exempt.

<sup>17</sup> All income-producing vehicles are also exempt.

<sup>18</sup> The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives \$4,000; two or more people receive \$6,000.

<sup>19</sup> The entire vehicle is exempt only if used for employment, training, or medical transportation; any motor vehicle used as a home is also exempt. If a unit has more than one vehicle that meets the exemption criteria, only the vehicle with the greatest equity value will be exempt.

<sup>20</sup> Units with two adults or one adult and a minor child at least 17 years old may exempt up to \$4,650 of the fair market value of a second vehicle if it is essential for work, training, or transporting a handicapped individual.

<sup>21</sup> 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 non-exempt vehicles, equipment, tools, livestock (with the exception of nonsalable domestic pets), one-time sale asset conversion, and lump-sum payments.

<sup>22</sup> The entire vehicle is exempt only if used for transportation to work, work activities, or daily living requirements.

<sup>23</sup> If the vehicle is needed to seek or retain employment, \$9,300 of the vehicle is exempt.

<sup>24</sup> The asset limit is based on unit size: one person receives \$3,000, two receive \$6,000, and \$25 is added for each additional person thereafter.

<sup>25</sup> The asset test has been eliminated.

<sup>26</sup> There is more than one phase of the application process in Oregon. The asset limit for applicants first applying for TANF is \$2,500. If the applicant makes it through the first stage of application, he or she must participate in the "Assessment Program" in which he or she is assessed and given a case plan to follow. If the applicant does not follow the case plan, he or she maintains the \$2,500 asset limit as long as he or she is in the Assessment Program. If the applicant complies with the case plan, he or she is allowed a \$10,000 asset limit.

<sup>27</sup> Exemptions for adult drivers cannot exceed two vehicles per household. Additionally, the entire value of a vehicle used primarily for income-producing purposes, that is used as a family home, or that is used to provide transportation for a disabled family member is exempt.

<sup>28</sup> Vehicles used to transport disabled individuals, for self-employment, to produce income, and as a home are also exempt.

<sup>29</sup> In addition to one primary vehicle, an assistance unit may totally exclude a vehicle used to transport water or fuel to the home when it is not piped in, a vehicle used to transport a disabled member or SSI recipient in household, or a vehicle used in producing income or as a home; an assistance unit may also exclude \$4,650 of the fair market value of a vehicle used to transport members of the unit for education or employment.

<sup>30</sup> \$4,650 is exempt for each vehicle owned by a TANF-certified or disqualified household member. All licensed vehicles used for income-producing purposes or for transporting a disabled household member are exempt. Leased vehicles are exempt as long as the title is in the leasing company's name.

<sup>31</sup> The entire equity value of a vehicle used to transport a disabled household member is also exempt.

<sup>32</sup> The \$15,000 exemption applies to one vehicle for a single-parent unit. A married couple may split the exemption between two cars.











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

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

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

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

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

<sup>1</sup> In households where the natural or adoptive parent is married to a non-needy stepparent, the gross household income may not exceed 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Level.

<sup>2</sup> Apply only the \$120 disregard for this test.

<sup>3</sup> Apply both the \$120 disregard and the 33.3 percent disregard for this test.

<sup>4</sup> Two-parent units' gross earned income must be below 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Level and their unearned income must be below 100 percent of Standard of Assistance.



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

State	Earned income disregard
Vermont	\$90
Virginia	
VIEW	No explicit net income test
All, except VIEW	\$134 and 20% of remainder <sup>11</sup>
Washington	No explicit net income test
West Virginia	No explicit net income test
Wisconsin	No explicit net income test
Wyoming	No explicit net income test

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>1</sup> The earned income disregard cannot be applied to the earnings of an individual receiving assistance beyond the 60th month under an exemption or an extension.

<sup>2</sup> Recipients may disregard \$150 and 33 percent of remainder in first 12 months, \$150 and 25 percent of remainder in months 13-24, \$150 and 20 percent of remainder in months 25-36, \$150 and 15 percent of remainder in months 37-48, \$150 and 10 percent of remainder in months 49-60, and \$150 thereafter. Recipients include any units who have received assistance in one of the previous four months.

<sup>3</sup> In addition to the 100% disregard of all subsidized JOBSTART wages, recipients can also disregard the standard \$90 and 30 percent of the remainder for any non-JOBSTART earned income.

<sup>4</sup> Recipients may disregard 20 percent and 60 percent of the remainder.

<sup>5</sup> The \$90 disregard only applies after the first 12 cumulative months of earnings.

<sup>6</sup> Recipients may disregard \$120 and 33.3 percent of remainder for first four months, \$120 next eight months, and \$90 thereafter.

<sup>7</sup> Applicant units receiving assistance in one of the last four months may disregard \$200 and 50 percent.

<sup>8</sup> Two-parent units may disregard \$120 and 33.3 percent for the first 12 months and \$90 thereafter. If a recipient marries for the first time, his or her new spouse may receive a one-time, 100 percent disregard for six consecutive months.

<sup>9</sup> Recipients may disregard \$120 and 90 percent of remainder (up to \$1,400) for four out of 12 months. The four months need not be consecutive. Once the recipient has received four months of the 90 percent disregard, he or she is not eligible to receive the disregard again until the TANF case has been denied and remains denied for one full month, and 12 calendar months have passed since the denial. The 12-month ineligibility period begins with the first full month of denial after the client used the fourth month of the 90 percent disregard. In all other months, recipients may disregard \$120. The earnings of a TANF recipient's new spouse are excluded for six months after the date of the marriage if the total gross income of the budget group does not exceed 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level for the family size.

<sup>10</sup> Recipients may disregard \$100 and 50 percent of remainder. However, to be eligible for the 50 percent disregard the unit must have received benefits in at least one of the previous four months.

<sup>11</sup> The dollar amount of the initial disregard varies by family size. For one to four unit members, the disregard is \$134. For five members it is \$153, and for six or more members, it is \$175.



**Table I.E.3 Eligibility Standards, July 2005**

State	State name	Amount for family of three	
New York	Federal Poverty Level	\$1,341	
	Need Standard	\$577	
North Carolina	—	—	
North Dakota	Standard of Need	\$477	
Ohio	Allocation Allowance Standard	\$980	
Oklahoma	Need Standard	\$645	
Oregon	Countable Income Limit	\$616	
	Adjusted Income/Payment Standard	\$460	
	JOBS Plus	Food Stamp Countable Income Limit	\$1,698
	Adjusted Income/Payment Standard	\$460	
Pennsylvania	Need Standard	\$587	
Rhode Island	Cash Assistance Monthly Standard	\$554	
South Carolina	Need Standard	\$652	
South Dakota	Payment Standard	\$508	
Tennessee	Consolidated Need Standard	\$942	
Texas	Budgetary Needs Standard	\$751	
	Recognizable Needs	\$188	
Utah	Adjusted Standard Needs Budget	\$568	
Vermont	Need Standard	\$1,291	
Virginia	VIEW	Standard of Need	\$322
		Federal Poverty Level	\$1,341
	All, except VIEW	Standard of Need	\$322
	Washington	Maximum Gross Earned Income	\$1,092
	Need Standard	\$1,619	
West Virginia	Standard of Need	\$991	
Wisconsin	Federal Poverty Level	\$1,341	
Wyoming	Maximum Benefit	\$340	

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

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

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



**Table I.E.4 Maximum Income for Initial Eligibility for a Family of Three,<sup>1</sup>  
July 2005**

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

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

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

<sup>1</sup> The values in this table represent the maximum amount of earnings an applicant can have and still be “technically” eligible for assistance in each state. Technical eligibility does not mean that the unit will necessarily receive a cash benefit, but they will have passed all of the eligibility tests and are eligible for some positive benefit. Most states only distribute a cash benefit equaling \$10 or more.

<sup>2</sup> Applies to units that have received assistance for no more than two months in a lifetime. For units applying for their third and subsequent months of benefits, the eligibility threshold for a family of three is \$1,363.

<sup>3</sup> For purposes of the state's earned income disregard, the adult head is assumed to be working 40 hours a week.

<sup>4</sup> Units with earnings at application will not receive a cash benefit in the state. However, applicants may earn up to \$1,542 and still be eligible for nonfinancial assistance.



# **Benefits**















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

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

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

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

The table describes the earned income disregards used to compute a recipient's benefit. If different disregards are used to compute an applicant's benefit in the first month, they are footnoted.

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

<sup>1</sup> The earned income disregard is not applied to earnings of an individual receiving assistance after 60 months under an exemption or extension.

<sup>2</sup> In addition to the 100% disregard of all subsidized JOBSTART wages, recipients can also disregard the standard \$90 and 30 percent of the remainder for any non-JOBSTART earned income.

<sup>3</sup> Recipients are eligible for the one-time 100 percent disregard if they become newly employed or report increased wages after approval.

<sup>4</sup> The six months in which the extra \$900 is disregarded need not be consecutive; however, the recipient may use this extra disregard in no more than six months over the course of his or her lifetime.

<sup>5</sup> The disregard applies to TANF recipients with earned income. Different disregards apply during the four-month mandatory diversion program. See table I.A.1 for details.

<sup>6</sup> Recipients are eligible for the one-time 100 percent disregard if they find employment of 35 hours per week within 30 days of either their initial approval for TANF or the beginning of job readiness training. If work is not found, the recipient will never be eligible to receive the disregard again. An additional 100 percent disregard is available to units for three months when the unit's case is subject to closure due to increased earnings and the individual is employed for at least 25 hours a week at the federal minimum wage or higher. The recipient may not have already received the six-month disregard, unless there has been at least a 12-month break in receipt of TANF benefits. The three-month disregard may be received more than once during the 60-month TANF benefit period, provided that there is a period of at least 12 consecutive months in which a family does not receive TANF benefits before the family reapplies for assistance. Two-parent units may disregard 100 percent of earnings for the first six months, \$120 and 33.3 percent of remainder in the next 12 months, and \$90 thereafter. If a recipient marries for the first time, his or her new spouse may receive a one-time, 100 percent disregard for six consecutive months.

<sup>7</sup> The disregards only apply to recipients who become employed while receiving TANF. Applicants and recipients who gained employment before receiving TANF may disregard \$120 and 33.3 percent of remainder for first four months, \$120 next eight months, and \$90 thereafter.

<sup>8</sup> The 100 percent disregard is only applicable once every 12 months, even if employment is lost and then regained. Also, applicants are not eligible for the 100 percent disregard in the first month of benefit computation; they may disregard 50 percent of earnings only.

<sup>9</sup> Two-parent units may disregard all earnings in excess of 35 hours a week for one parent and 24 hours a week for the other parent and \$225 and 50 percent in the first 24 months. Thereafter, they may disregard \$225 and 50 percent of the remainder. The disregard for earnings in excess of the participation requirement only applies to recipients for the first 24 months of benefit receipt, for both single- and two-parent units.

<sup>10</sup> The 100 percent disregard is only available once in a lifetime and may be received only if the recipient is newly employed at a job that is expected to be permanent for more than 20 hours a week.

<sup>11</sup> If a parent marries while receiving assistance, the income of his or her new spouse is disregarded for the first six months. The disregard for the new spouse only applies if his or her needs were not previously included in the unit.

<sup>12</sup> If a parent marries while receiving assistance, and the new spouse's gross income (minus any court-ordered child support) is less than 185 percent of the Consolidated Need Standard for the entire assistance unit including the spouse, the unit may choose to include the new spouse in the unit. If the spouse is included, all of his or her income is excluded for eligibility purposes and benefit computation. If he or she is not in the unit, all of the spouse's income and resources are excluded for eligibility and benefit computation.

<sup>13</sup> Once the recipient has received four months (they need not be consecutive) of the 90 percent disregard, he or she is not eligible to receive the disregard again until the TANF case has been denied and remains denied for one full month, and 12 calendar months have passed since the denial. The 12-month ineligibility period begins with the first full month of denial after the client used the fourth month of the 90 percent disregard. The earnings of a TANF recipient's new spouse are disregarded for six months if the total gross income of the budget group does not exceed 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level.

<sup>14</sup> To be eligible for the 50 percent disregards, the recipient must have received benefits in at least one of the previous four months.

<sup>15</sup> The disregard varies by family size; for one to four family members, the disregard is \$134. For five members, the disregard is \$153, and for six or more family members \$175 may be disregarded.

<sup>16</sup> Married couples with a child in common may disregard \$400.



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

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

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

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

<sup>1</sup> Two-parent units in which both parents are able to perform gainful activities will have their benefits reduced by 50 percent for the benefit months of July, August, and September.

<sup>2</sup> JOBSTART recipients receive wages from their subsidized employer. However, the state provides a supplemental payment for units whose adjusted gross income (earnings net of FICA and federal and state taxes) is less than the cash value of the food stamp and TANF benefits they would have otherwise received. The supplemental payment is determined by subtracting the unit's adjusted gross income from the cash value of its food stamp and TANF benefit.

<sup>3</sup> 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 percent of the Maximum Payment Level. Arkansas refers to this policy as the Gross Income Trigger.

<sup>4</sup> In households with a stepparent not receiving assistance, the unit receives the lesser of 1) Maximum Aid Payment (for family size including the stepparent) minus net income or 2) the Maximum Aid Payment for family size excluding the stepparent.

<sup>5</sup> The calculation applies to recipients with earned income only. The calculation for recipients without earned income is Transitional Standard minus net income. The calculation for recipients with earned and unearned income is the following: if the Family Wage Level minus earned income is less than the Transitional Standard, the benefit equals the Family Wage Level minus total net income (earned and unearned income). If the Family Wage Level minus earned income is greater than the Transitional Standard, the benefit equals the Transitional Standard minus unearned income. Also, the MFIP payment standards include the state's food stamp (FS) allotment. MFIP recipients' cash and FS grants are computed with the same calculation. A flat amount (based on family size) for the FS allotment is subtracted from the benefit amount, and any remaining amount is provided to the unit in cash. To calculate the TANF grant amount without FS, subtract the Food Portion of the MFIP standard from the benefit. Unless otherwise exempt, all applicants must first participate in a mandatory, four month diversion program before receiving TANF. See table I.A.1 for benefit determination policies that apply during this period.

<sup>6</sup> Montana adds \$30 to the benefit, regardless of family size, to offset the high cost of heating.

<sup>7</sup> If the benefit is positive and the unit is complying with all requirements, the Cooperative Incentive Payment is added to the benefit. (Most of the caseload receives the Incentive Payment). However, if the unit is not complying with requirements, the unit only receives the difference between the Adjusted Income/Payment Standard and net income.

<sup>8</sup> The benefit is equal to the maximum of (A-C or B-D), where A equals the full benefit equivalent, the sum of welfare and food stamp benefits, calculated using normal rules. B equals the minimum benefit equivalent, A minus the difference between Adjusted Income/Payment Standard for the unit including the JOBS Plus participant and Adjusted Income/Payment Standard for the unit not including the JOBS Plus participant. C equals the JOBS Plus participant's wage times his or her available hours (all scheduled hours, regardless of whether the participant worked those hours), minus \$90, \$50 pass-through, \$102 earned income credit refund, and any garnishment withheld. D equals the JOBS Plus participant's wage times hours actually worked, minus \$90, \$50 pass-through, \$102 earned income credit refund, and any garnishment withheld.

<sup>9</sup> When a caretaker marries while receiving assistance, a different set of benefit computation rules can potentially apply to the assistance unit. The spouse's gross income less any court ordered child support is first tested against the gross income limit (185 percent of the Consolidated Need Standard) for the entire assistance unit plus the spouse. If the spouse's income exceeds this standard, regular deeming, eligibility, and benefit computation policies are used. However, if the spouse's income is below that standard, the unit has two choices: (1) The unit may include the spouse in the unit but disregard his income. His income is excluded for eligibility and benefit computation, but his needs and resources are included. (2) The unit may exclude the spouse from the unit. Eligibility and benefits for the unit are determined as if the spouse were not present in the home. No income is deemed, and the spouse's needs are not included. These policies continue until the case is closed for any reason. This policy applies even if the spouse is the father of one of the assistance group children.

<sup>10</sup> The benefit for two-parent units equals the lesser of (150 percent of (the Federal Poverty Level minus net income)), or (Payment Standard minus gross unearned income) or Maximum Benefit. For all units, the Maximum Benefit only limits benefits for units with six or more members.

<sup>11</sup> The Maximum Benefit only limits benefits for units with nine or more members.

<sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> Units in the Unsubsidized Employment component receive wages from an unsubsidized job and are ineligible for a cash benefit; however, they may still receive support services if they are otherwise eligible.

**Table II.A.3 Benefit Standards, July 2005**

State	Payment Standard		Statutory Maximum Benefit	
	State name	Amount for family of three	State name	Amount for family of three
Alabama	Payment Standard	\$215	—	—
Alaska	Need Standard	\$1,260	Maximum Payment	\$923
Arizona				
All, except JOBSTART	Payment Standard	\$347	—	—
JOBSTART	Payment Standard and Food Stamps <sup>1</sup>	—	—	—
Arkansas	Maximum Payment Level	\$204	—	—
California				
Nonexempt	Maximum Aid Payment	\$704	—	—
Exempt	Maximum Aid Payment	\$786	—	—
Colorado	Need Standard	\$421	—	—
Connecticut	Payment Standard	\$543	—	—
Delaware	Standard of Need	\$979	Payment Standard	\$338
D.C.	Payment Level	\$379	—	—
Florida	Payment Standard	\$303	—	—
Georgia	Standard of Need	\$424	Family Maximum	\$280
Hawaii	Standard of Assistance	\$570 <sup>2</sup>	—	—
Idaho	Work Incentive Payment	\$389	Maximum Benefit	\$309
Illinois	Payment Standard	\$396	—	—
Indiana	Net Income Standard	\$288	—	—
Iowa	Payment Standard	\$426	—	—
Kansas	Budgetary Standards	\$429	—	—
Kentucky	Standard of Need	\$526	Maximum Benefit	\$262
Louisiana	Flat Grant Amount	\$240	—	—
Maine	Standard of Need	\$620	Maximum Benefit	\$485
Maryland	Allowable Payment	\$482	—	—
Massachusetts				
Exempt	Need Standard and Payment Standard	\$633	—	—
Nonexempt	Need Standard and Payment Standard	\$618	—	—
Michigan	Payment Standard	\$459 <sup>3</sup>	—	—
Minnesota	Transitional Standard	\$876 (532) <sup>4</sup>	Transitional Standard	\$876
	Family Wage Level	\$964	—	—
	Food Portion of MFIP	\$344	—	—
Mississippi	Need Standard and Payment Standard	\$368	Maximum Benefit	\$170
Missouri	Payment Standard	\$292	—	—
Montana	Benefit Standard	\$375	—	—
	Heating Supplement	\$30	—	—
Nebraska	Standard of Need	\$643	Payment Maximum	\$364
Nevada	Payment Allowance	\$348	—	—
New Hampshire	Payment Standard	\$625	—	—
New Jersey	Maximum Benefit Payment Schedule	\$424 <sup>5</sup>	—	—
New Mexico	Need Standard	\$389	—	—
New York	Need Standard	\$577	—	—
North Carolina	Need Standard	\$544	—	—

**Table II.A.3 Benefit Standards, July 2005**

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

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

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

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

<sup>1</sup> See the footnote in table II.A.2 for a description of the standard.

<sup>2</sup> Applies to units that have received assistance for at least two months in a lifetime. For units receiving their first and second months of benefits, the Standard of Assistance for a family of three is \$712.

<sup>3</sup> Applies to units that have at least one employable adult. For units where all adults either receive SSI or are exempt from work requirements for reasons other than caring for a child under three months old, the Payment Standard for a family of three is \$477.

<sup>4</sup> Minnesota's Transitional Standard includes the food stamp allotment for each unit size. The food stamp and cash benefit are computed together for welfare recipients. The Food Stamp allotment is a flat benefit, based on family size, which is subtracted from the benefit amount. Any remaining benefit is given to the unit as cash. The value of the TANF benefit only is in parentheses.

<sup>5</sup> An additional \$150 is added to the benefit amount for exempt units receiving assistance beyond the 60th month.

<sup>6</sup> If the unit is complying with all requirements, the Cooperative Incentive Payment is added to the benefit; however, if the unit is not complying with requirements, the benefit is computed using only the Adjusted Income/Payment Standard. The majority of the caseload receives the Cooperation Incentive Payment.

<sup>7</sup> For units where the caretaker is over 60, disabled, caring full-time for a disabled family member, or excluded from the assistance unit, the Maximum Benefit for a family of three is \$232.

<sup>8</sup> The Maximum Benefit only impacts payments for units with six or more members.

<sup>9</sup> The Maximum Benefit only impacts payments for units with nine or more members.

<sup>10</sup> Community Service Jobs participants can receive a prorated payment if they are working 40 hours a week in a combination of unsubsidized employment, work training, and educational activities. Education may never fulfill more than 10 hours of the requirement. Participants working 20 to 29 hours per week in an unsubsidized job may receive \$230, those working 15 to 19 hours receive \$341, and individuals working 10 to 14 hours per week receive \$452. Individuals who are working fewer than nine hours are eligible for the full payment. Individuals employed full time are not considered to have barriers to work, and are therefore ineligible for payments.

<sup>11</sup> The benefits in these components are based on the wages earned by individual participants.





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

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

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

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

<sup>1</sup> Applies to units that have received assistance for two or more months in a lifetime. For units applying for their first or second months of benefits, the maximum monthly benefit for a family of three is \$712.

<sup>2</sup> Applies to units that have at least one employable adult. For units where all adults either receive SSI or are exempt from work requirements for reasons other than caring for a child under three months old, the maximum monthly benefit for a family of three is \$477.

<sup>3</sup> For units where the caretaker is over 60, disabled, caring full-time for a disabled family member, or excluded from the assistance unit, the maximum monthly benefit for a family of three is \$232.

<sup>4</sup> The benefits in these components are based on the wages earned by individual recipients.



# **Requirements**



















**Table III.A.1 Behavioral Requirements, July 2005**

State	School requirements <sup>1</sup>	School bonuses <sup>2</sup>	Immunization requirements <sup>3</sup>	Health screening requirements <sup>4</sup>	Other health requirements <sup>5</sup>
Washington	Yes	No	No	No	No
West Virginia	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Wisconsin	Yes	No	No	No	No
Wyoming	Yes	No	No	No	No
<b>Total states with policy</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>

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

<sup>1</sup> School requirements apply only to requirements for dependent children, not minor parents. A requirement is coded "Yes" if the state explicitly mentions it as a requirement for cash assistance or if it is included as a requirement in the recipient's contract and noncompliance results in a sanction. These policies may require children to attend school, to achieve at least a minimal grade point average, and/or parents to be involved in their children's education in some way.

<sup>2</sup> This variable captures financial incentives for assistance units whose children meet specific attendance or achievement standards. Unless otherwise noted, school bonuses apply to both dependent children and minor parents.

<sup>3</sup> Immunization requirements include information on standard immunizations for children. A requirement is coded "Yes" only if the state explicitly mentions it as a requirement for cash assistance or if it is included as a requirement in the recipient's contract and noncompliance results in a sanction.

<sup>4</sup> Health screening requirements include information on regular checkups for both children and adults, although the requirements usually apply only to children. A requirement is coded "Yes" only if the state explicitly mentions it as a requirement for cash assistance or if it is included as a requirement in the recipient's contract and noncompliance results in a sanction.

<sup>5</sup> Other health requirements include information on other health-related requirements such as early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment (EPSDT). A requirement is coded "Yes" only if the state explicitly mentions it as a requirement for cash assistance or if it is included as a requirement in the recipient's contract and noncompliance results in a sanction.

<sup>6</sup> School bonuses only apply to teen parents, ages 16 through 19.

<sup>7</sup> New Jersey state law requires all dependent children to be immunized regardless of whether they receive TANF benefits. However, welfare recipients' benefits may be sanctioned if they do not immunize their dependent children. Recipients are required to sign an IRP contract to receive benefits; an immunization requirement may be included in the IRP. If the recipient fails to immunize his or her children, he or she breaches the contract and receives a financial sanction.



**Table III.B.1 Work-Related Activity Exemptions for Single-Parent Head of Unit, July 2005<sup>1</sup>**

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

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

<sup>1</sup> This table refers to single-parent unit heads over 21 years old.

<sup>2</sup> A pregnant woman may qualify for an exemption if the pregnancy is disabling and prohibits her from participating in work or training programs.

<sup>3</sup> An incapacitated person may be fully or partially exempt from work requirements, but he or she is still required to participate in self-sufficiency activities.

<sup>4</sup> If the incapacitated person is an adult, the caretaker is exempt only if he or she is related to the person and providing 24 hour care.

<sup>5</sup> The exemption is limited to 12 cumulative months in the recipient's lifetime. While the caretaker is exempt, he or she may be required to participate in job-readiness activities.

<sup>6</sup> To be exempt, the job must pay at least the minimum wage and be expected to last at least 30 days.

<sup>7</sup> The exemption is limited to 12 cumulative months in the recipient's lifetime.

<sup>8</sup> Counties have the option to vary some activities exemptions. Statewide exemptions are noted; all other exemptions apply to Los Angeles County only.

<sup>9</sup> Statewide exemption.

<sup>10</sup> The recipient may only receive this exemption once; however, he or she may also receive a limited exemption for a second or subsequent child under six months old.

<sup>11</sup> Counties have the option to vary some activities exemptions. Statewide exemptions are noted; all other exemptions apply to Denver County only.

<sup>12</sup> While not technically exemptions, severe mental or physical disability and family emergencies such as the serious or terminal illness of an immediate family member may, on a case-by-case basis, be considered good cause for nonparticipation.

<sup>13</sup> This statewide exemption does not apply to recipients who have received benefits for 24 or more cumulative months.

<sup>14</sup> A pregnant recipient may qualify for an exemption if her physician indicates that she is unable to work. She may also be exempt from work requirements for six weeks postpartum.

<sup>15</sup> The exemption only applies if the child under 12 months old is not subject to a family cap.

<sup>16</sup> A recipient's care for an ill or incapacitated family member may qualify as his or her participation requirement.

<sup>17</sup> The hours apply to recipients with children age 6 or older. Recipients with children under 6 years old are required to work 20 hours in order to be exempt.

<sup>18</sup> The exemption applies only if no alternative care is available.

<sup>19</sup> Recipients may be required to attend classes or other activities.

<sup>20</sup> The state does not consider these groups technically exempt; however, they may meet the state's criteria for good cause for noncompliance or deferral.

<sup>21</sup> The exemption is limited to once in the recipient's lifetime.



















































































































































































































