



State TANF Policies During the COVID-19 Pandemic

An Updated Look at Changes in TANF Policies as of July 2021

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The COVID-19 pandemic created sudden and substantial hardships for many families with low incomes and also created unprecedented challenges for the operation of benefit programs. Millions of families lost earnings. Job loss was most severe for people in lower-earning occupations and jobs returned more slowly in some industries than others.¹ During periods when stay-at-home mandates were in place, people were generally unable to look for jobs or engage in other work-related activities; even when those rules were lifted, parents' activities may have been limited by a lack of child care or due to illness. Families combining work and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) when the pandemic began could have lost earnings, while non-working TANF recipients may have become unable to meet other activity requirements, and families who were previously economically stable and ineligible for TANF may have become newly eligible for cash assistance. Agencies administering benefit programs, including state TANF programs, had to determine how to adjust program rules during state program office closures and stay-at-home orders while continuing to meet families' current and evolving needs.

Although no TANF policy changes were mandated at the federal level, states were able to use the TANF program's existing flexibility to modify their policies.² State's policy changes included altering the treatment of unemployment insurance (UI) benefits, increasing or suspending asset limits, creating or expanding nonrecurrent short-term benefit programs (sometimes referred to as diversion programs), temporarily increasing monthly cash payments, creating or expanding virtual learning opportunities for participants, suspending requirements imposed on recipients to engage in work activities or up-front job search, providing exemptions from activity requirements and/or sanction policies, and modifying some aspects of time limit policies (although all federal time limit policies remained in place). Though most states did make some policy changes in response to the pandemic, many state TANF policies, including eligibility tests and dollar amounts used for eligibility and benefit determination, stayed the same throughout 2020 and 2021 (other than regular annual increases in dollar amounts in states that have annual increases).

¹ See the Bureau of Labor Statistics webpage "Access to historical data for the "A" tables of the Employment Situation News Release", Table A-1, Employment status of the civilian population, <https://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsatabs.htm>, accessed October 3, 2022, and the BLS webpage "Establishment data series from the monthly B tables, Table B1," <https://www.bls.gov/ces/data/employment-situation-table-download.htm>, accessed October 3, 2022. As one example of greater job loss for workers in lower-earning industries, employment in the food service industry fell from 12.0 million in February 2020 to 6.3 million in April 2020, a decline of 48 percent. By July 2021, employment in the food service industry rose to 11.2 million, but still had not reached pre-pandemic levels. In contrast, employment in the residential construction industry fell from 813,000 in February 2020 to 698,000 in April 2020, and then rose to 882,000 by July 2021 surpassing pre-pandemic employment levels.

² In early 2021, the American Rescue Plan provided additional funding to states, tribes, and territories to provide certain nonrecurrent short-term benefits (NRST) to assist families in need and impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. NRST benefits are supports that are available for families with a specific need or in a crisis situation, when the payments are not ongoing and are not provided for more than four months. States decide the specifics of how they use these funds. For more information, see <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/policy-guidance/tanf-acf-pi-2021-02>. Changes to states' NRST programs are not covered in this brief.

In this brief, we focus on selected state TANF policy changes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic for families receiving or applying for regular monthly cash aid from TANF. We present detailed data related to the treatment of UI income, work requirements and sanctions, up-front job search, behavioral requirements, special benefit computation policies, and the suspension or removal of time limits. We also discuss policies related to asset limits.

The policies described in this brief were in effect for all or a portion of the time between the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and July 1, 2021, extending our earlier analysis of states' COVID-related TANF policy changes to include data that are more recent and more complete.³ Also, for most of these policies, in addition to showing which states implemented the policies at any point during the COVID-19 pandemic, we show which states have these policies still in place as of July 1, 2021. Key findings include:

- Thirty-three states did not count at least some portion of UI benefits at some point during the pandemic. As of May 1, 2021, all of the 33 states continued to exclude at least some portion of UI benefits.^{4,5}
- Forty-one states made changes so that families either were not expected to comply with work requirements or were not sanctioned for not complying at some point during the pandemic. Twenty-seven states still had these changes in place as of July 1, 2021.⁶
- Nineteen states removed existing work-related sanctions at the beginning of the pandemic so that families could resume receiving full benefits even if they were not able to comply with requirements due to the pandemic. Seven states either continued to lift existing sanctions or continued to suspend sanctions (and therefore there were no new sanctions to lift) as of July 1, 2021.
- Nine states suspended up-front job search requirements at some point during the pandemic. As of July 1, 2021, seven states continued to suspend job search requirements.
- Six states suspended behavioral requirements at some point during the pandemic. Five states continued to suspend behavioral requirements as of July 1, 2021.

³ The policies captured in this brief are reviewed and verified by state TANF staff.

⁴ The counts of states in this brief include both the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

⁵ We use May 1, 2021 as the focal date for the treatment of UI because states began opting out of federal expanded UI benefits in June 2021. May 2021 was the last month in which expanded UI benefits were available in all states.

⁶ While states have the authority to allow families not to comply with work requirements, ACF does not have the authority to waive the work participation rate requirement for states. In guidance issued in early 2020, ACF indicated that the agency would exercise its authority to grant relief from the penalty for failing to meet the work participation rate to the maximum extent possible. See the Office of Family Assistance's "TANF-ACF-PI-2020-01 (Questions and answers about TANF and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic)", <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/policy-guidance/tanf-acf-pi-2020-01-questions-and-answers-about-tanf-and-coronavirus-disease>, accessed August 25, 2021.

- One state (New Mexico) suspended their asset limit for applicants and recipients, and one state (Oregon) increased the asset limit for applicants due to the pandemic. Both of these policy changes were still in place as of July 1, 2021.
- Ten states altered their benefit computation policies by providing families with the maximum benefit amount for their family size or by distributing payments in addition to the standard benefit at some point during the pandemic. Three states had special benefit computation policies in place in July 2021.
- Nine states temporarily stopped counting months towards a state time limit, and 13 states did not stop counting months but granted an extension to families reaching a time limit. One state allowed families that had previously reached the time limit to reapply and receive state-funded benefits if otherwise eligible. As of July 1, 2021, eight states continued to not count months towards a state time limit and eight states provided an extension to families reaching a time limit.

The policies are taken from the Welfare Rules Database (WRD), a publicly accessible resource maintained by the Urban Institute and funded by the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation within the Administration for Children and Families in the US Department of Health and Human Services. The WRD tracks state policies over time, from 1996 to the present, including rules related to eligibility, cash benefits, work requirements, time limits, and transitional benefits. States' TANF caseworker materials are used to identify program rules, and state administrators review the entries for each state to assure accuracy. Although in general the WRD can be thought of as tracking TANF policies, the state cash assistance programs tracked by the WRD are not always exclusively funded with TANF dollars. Some states' cash assistance policies incorporate separate state program (SSP) funding, and other states use solely state-funded (SSF) program funding. These policies are included in the WRD and this brief to the extent they are described in the TANF caseworker materials. More information about state TANF policies in 2021 is available in the 2021 Welfare Rules Databook and from the full database, which is accessible through an online search tool.⁷ The full database also includes information about the timing of policies, including when states instituted and repealed these COVID-related changes. States' administrative practices—such as uses of technology for communication between clients and caseworkers—and their uses of TANF funds for purposes other than cash aid are not covered in the WRD; those policies may have also changed during the COVID-19 pandemic but are not covered in this brief. Changes to diversion programs are also not covered in this brief.⁸

⁷ For the 2021 Welfare Rules Databook, see Knowles, Sarah, Ilham Dehry, Katie Shantz, and Linda Giannarelli (2023). Welfare Rules Databook: State TANF Policies as of July 2021, OPRE Report 2023-001, Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The full database can be accessed through the project's website, <https://wrd.urban.org>.

⁸ For more information on changes to diversion programs during the COVID-19 pandemic, see Shantz, Katie, Heather Hahn, Mary Nelson, Matt Lyons, and Ann Flagg (2020). Changes in State TANF Policies in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.

Treatment of Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefits

To be eligible for TANF cash assistance, one key criterion is that a family's countable income does not exceed specified limits. In many cases, the maximum income limits are higher for families already receiving TANF than those initially applying for assistance; however, for both applicants and recipients, if a family's countable income exceeds the allowable limit, the family is not eligible for cash aid. States determine which types of income to count and whether to count the full amount of a particular type of income or to disregard a portion of it. Prior to the pandemic, all states counted the entire amount of UI benefits as part of countable income.

During the pandemic, both the number of people receiving UI and—for most of the period covered by this analysis—the level of UI weekly benefit amounts increased. Between April and July 2020, all UI recipients could receive an extra \$600 per week in Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) benefits in addition to their regular UI benefit computed according to their state's formula. The \$600 addition expired after four months, but new legislation in December 2020 provided for an additional \$300 per week in federally-funded UI. In many cases, a parent who lost a low-wage job whose regular state UI benefit would still allow TANF eligibility would no longer be eligible for TANF if an additional \$300 or \$600 per week in UI benefits were included in countable income. The federal government also created the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program to fund additional weeks of UI benefits beyond the number that would normally have been allowed and created the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program to pay the cost of UI benefits for people who would not qualify for regular state UI programs, including people who lost self-employment income and people with insufficient work history.⁹

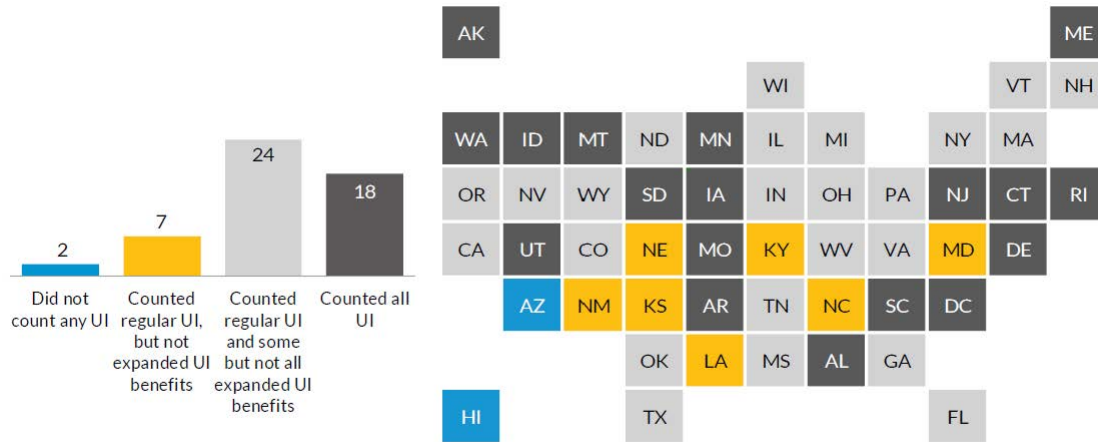
Many state TANF programs used their existing flexibility to alter the way in which they treated some portions of the additional federal UI payments and, in some cases, the way in which they treated regular UI benefits. Two states (Arizona and Hawaii) did not consider any UI benefits to be countable income for TANF in 2020 (figure 1, appendix tables 1, 2a, and 2b). Seven states continued to count regular UI but did not count any of the additional expanded UI benefits, and 24 states counted regular UI and some but not all expanded UI at some point during the COVID-19 pandemic. Eighteen states counted all UI benefits throughout the pandemic. As of May 1, 2021, all 33 states that excluded at least some UI benefits at some point during the pandemic continued to exclude at least some portion of UI.¹⁰

⁹ For more information on the federal government expansions and extensions of UI benefits, as well as the Lost Wages Assistance program that provided additional federally-funded benefits to some recipients in August and September 2020, see “Current Status of Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefits: Current-Law Programs and COVID-19 Pandemic Response”, March 23, 2021, Congressional Research Service Report R46687, https://www.everycrsreport.com/files/2021-03-23_R46687_2d2b64cba17ac9d4f0b1bdcb1da50b46a7d6bdc6.pdf. The Lost Wages Assistance benefits are not covered in this brief due to the brief duration of the program and state variations in implementation.

¹⁰ We use May 1, 2021 as the focal date for the treatment of UI because states began opting out of federal expanded UI benefits in June 2021. May 2021 was the last month in which expanded UI benefits were available in all states. See “States Opting Out of COVID-19 Unemployment Insurance (UI) Agreements”, August 20, 2021, Congressional Research Service Report IN11679, <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IN/IN11679>.

FIGURE 1

Treatment of Unemployment Insurance (UI) Income During the COVID-19 Pandemic, through May 1, 2021



Source: Welfare Rules Database.

Note: The category in the graphic is based on the most-expansive policy the state adopted at any point during the pandemic. Maryland did not count any expanded UI benefits at some point during the pandemic, but as of May 1, 2021 counted PUA and PEUC but not FPUC. Regular unemployment insurance (UI) includes the standard unemployment benefits available in a state and Extended Benefits. The expanded UI benefits include Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), the \$600 per week Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) for a portion of 2020, and the \$300 per week FPUC for a portion of 2021. In the states that did not count some or all UI, those policies were in place for at least some of the months affected by the pandemic; see the full Welfare Rules Database for more information on when the policies were instituted.

Work Requirements

All states' TANF programs include work-related requirements, as well as sanctions if work-related requirements are not met. The work-related requirements vary by a person's circumstances, and some participants are exempted from requirements. When requirements are not met, sanctions are imposed that either reduce a family's benefits or make the family completely ineligible, either for a certain period or until the adults comply with the requirement. However, during the pandemic, it was much more difficult for many TANF recipients to comply with requirements, either because of stay-at-home orders in their area, or due to challenges caused by child care, other caregiving responsibilities, or illness. In recognition of these issues, many states made policy changes so that families would not be sanctioned, and some states lifted sanctions that had been imposed previously. States were still required to comply with the federal work participation rate requirement, because ACF did not have the authority to waive the requirement for states.¹¹ ACF indicated that the agency would exercise its authority to grant relief from the resulting penalty to the maximum extent possible.

Limiting Current Requirements or Not Imposing New Sanctions

A total of 36 states made policy changes at some point during the pandemic so that everyone who otherwise would have been required to participate in work-related activities either was no longer expected to do so or was not sanctioned for not meeting the requirements, effectively lifting work requirements (figure 2, appendix tables 3a, 3b, 3c, and 4a). An additional five states made changes so that some participants could be issued a "good cause" exemption from work requirements on a case-by-case basis. In the 10 states that did not make any of these three changes, participants who were not exempt from requirements for another reason (e.g., illness or disability) were still technically required to participate in assigned activities as a condition of ongoing eligibility to avoid sanctions. However, in these states, the nature of the required activity may have changed.

As of July 1, 2021, 27 states still had special policies in place related to activities requirements and sanctions. Of the 27 states, 21 still had policy changes in place so that everyone who otherwise would have been required to participate in work-related activities either was no longer expected to do so or was not sanctioned for not meeting the requirements. Two states (Connecticut and Nevada) lifted activity

¹¹ The federal work participation rate requires states to have a certain percentage of families receiving assistance in a countable work activity for at least 30 hours per week (or at least 20 hours per week for single parents with at least one child under 6 years old) or face financial penalties. The overall work participation rate target is 50 percent of families with a work-eligible individual (less those disregarded), but states may have a lower effective target rate if they have experienced decreases in their TANF caseload since 2005 that were not due to eligibility changes. (The target for families with two work-eligible individuals who are parents without disabilities is much higher, at 90 percent.) In FY 2021, 30 states had an effective target of zero for their overall work participation rate, and therefore were not at any risk of a penalty regardless of how many families they were able to engage in countable activities. For more information, see "Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Separate State Programs - Maintenance of Effort (SSP-MOE): Work Participation Rates and Engagement in Work Activities" available at https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ofa/wpr_FY2021_final.pdf (PDF).

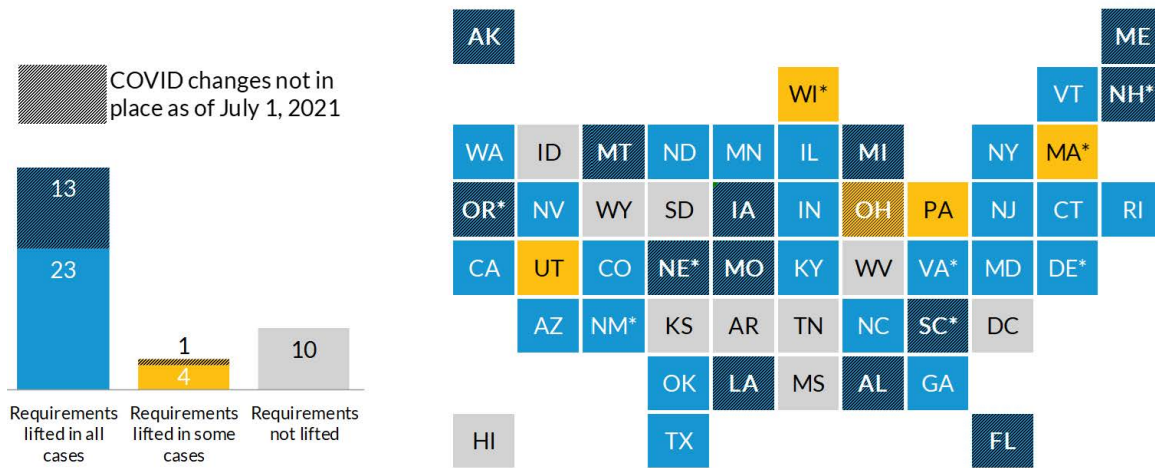
requirements in all cases earlier in the pandemic, but both states reinstated activity requirements and allowed case-by-case exemptions from activity requirements as of July 1, 2021. Among the five states that exempted some participants from work requirements during the pandemic on a case-by-case basis using “good cause” policies, four states still had those changes in place as of July 1, 2021.

States used different policies to lift activity requirements for participants during the pandemic, including suspending work requirements, issuing either blanket or case-by-case exemptions from work requirements, and suspending new sanctions. Of the 27 states that still had requirements lifted in at least some cases as of July 1, 2021, some states made only one of those changes and some made more than one. Fourteen states continued to completely suspend all work requirements, 20 states still issued additional exemptions from the requirements due to COVID-19 (either blanket exemptions or on a case-by-case basis), and 11 states had not resumed imposing new sanctions (appendix table 3a, 3c, and 4a).¹²

¹² In states that suspended work requirements that generally require parents and guardians to participate in work activities even when they are not in the assistance unit, work requirements were suspended for both parents/guardians within the unit and outside the unit. In states that expanded activities exemptions at some point during the pandemic, the states could choose to exempt participants from the work requirements using a blanket exemption, an exemption from only certain activities, a good cause exemption for all participants, or determine good cause on a case-by-case basis. In states that determined good cause exemptions on a case-by-case basis, we do not have information on how many cases were issued an exemption compared with the number of participants still expected to comply with requirements.

FIGURE 2

Activity Requirements Lifted During the COVID-19 Pandemic, through July 1, 2021



Source: Welfare Rules Database.

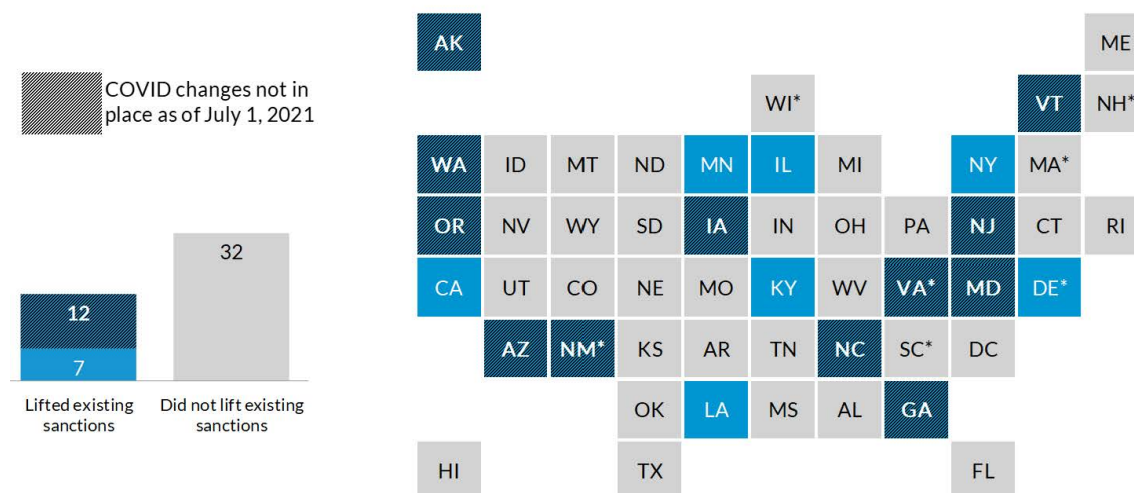
Note: The category in the graphic is based on the most-expansive policy the state adopted at any point during the pandemic. In states that lifted requirements in all cases, everyone who otherwise would have been required to participate in work-related activities either was no longer expected to do so or was not sanctioned for not meeting the requirements. In states that lifted requirements in some cases, participants could be issued a “good cause” exemption from work requirements on a case-by-case basis. In the states that lifted activity requirements in some or all cases, those policies were in place for at least some of the months affected by the pandemic; see the full Welfare Rules Database for more information on when the policies were instituted. If a state is labeled as “COVID policy not in place as of July 1, 2021”, it means that no COVID policy is in place related to lifting activity requirements or sanctions. In two states (Connecticut and Nevada), the policy in place as of July 1, 2021 policy is different than the most-expansive COVID policy. In the following states, the policies vary by specific TANF program, and the data shown are for specific programs or groups: Delaware (time-limited assistance), Massachusetts (non-exempt recipients), Nebraska (time-limited assistance), New Hampshire (New Hampshire Employment Program (NHEP)), New Mexico (New Mexico Works (NMW) program), Oregon (All, except Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS) program), South Carolina (All, except Challenging Adults through Rehabilitation, Education, and Services (CARES) program), and Virginia (Virginia Initiative for Education and Work (VIEW)).

Lifting Existing Sanctions

States also considered the situation of TANF recipients who, at the beginning of the pandemic, were being sanctioned for non-compliance with work requirements—that is, they were receiving a lower benefit than would otherwise have been the case, or they were not receiving any benefit at all due to the sanction. Typically, families have an opportunity to “cure” a sanction by complying with work-related activity requirements; but during the pandemic, those opportunities were either unavailable or more limited than would normally be the case. Nineteen states chose to address this issue by lifting existing sanctions from families, allowing these families to resume receiving benefits (or receiving full benefits) if otherwise eligible (figure 3, appendix table 4b). In some of these states, existing sanctions were lifted for all families as of the beginning of the pandemic and in other states existing sanctions were lifted if families reached out to the agency. In the remaining 32 states, existing sanctions at the beginning of the pandemic remained in place even if new sanctions were suspended.

As of July 1, 2021, seven states were still using special policies regarding sanctions for non-compliance with work-related activities. These states either continued to lift existing sanctions if sanctioned families reached out to the agency in 2021 or the state lifted all existing sanctions as of the beginning of the pandemic and continued to suspend sanctions in 2021 so there were no new sanctions to lift as of July 1, 2021.

FIGURE 3
Existing Sanctions Lifted During the COVID-19 Pandemic, through July 1, 2021



Source: Welfare Rules Database.

Note: In the states that lifted existing sanctions for non-compliance with work requirements, those policies were in place for at least some of the months affected by the pandemic; see the full Welfare Rules Database for more information on when the policies were instituted. If a state is labeled as “COVID policy not in place as of July 1, 2021”, it means that no COVID policy is in place related to lifting existing sanctions. In the following states, the policies vary by specific TANF program, and the data shown are for specific programs or groups: Delaware (time-limited assistance), Massachusetts (non-exempt recipients), New Hampshire (New Hampshire Employment Program (NHEP)), New Mexico (New Mexico Works (NMW) program), South Carolina (All, except Challenging Adults through Rehabilitation, Education, and Services (CARES) program), Virginia (Virginia Initiative for Education and Work (VIEW)), Wisconsin (W-2 Transition (W-2T) and Community Service Jobs (CSJ) programs).

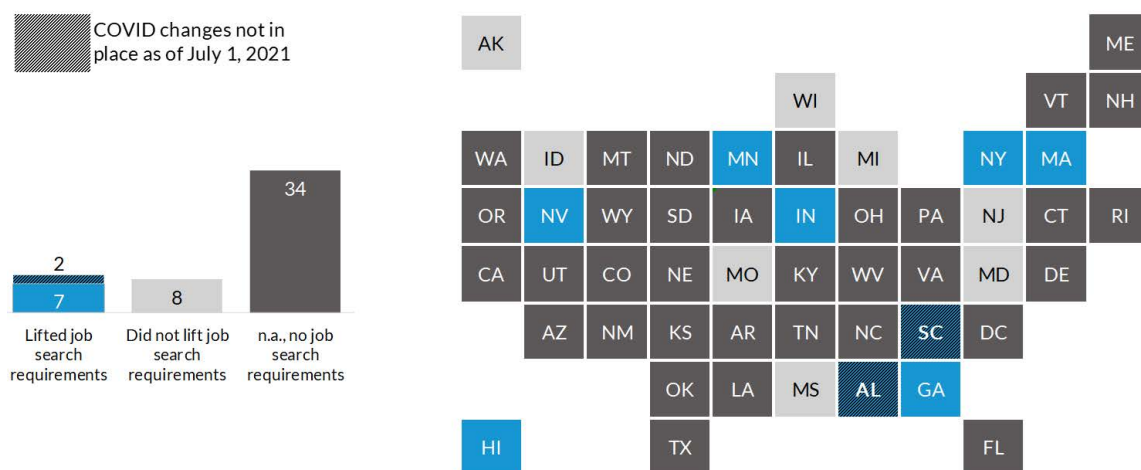
Up-Front Job Search

In addition to imposing work requirements on existing recipients, some states impose a special type of work-related requirement on new applicants—up-front job search. Under this policy, when a parent who is out of work applies for TANF, the parent must look for a job either before the application is processed or while the application is processed. In states with this policy, applicants must prove they searched for jobs at a certain number of businesses or participated in the state’s job-related programs.

Nine states completely suspended job search as a condition of eligibility for applicants due to the COVID-19 pandemic (figure 4, appendix table 5). Among the states with up-front job search that did not completely suspend the requirement, the majority suspended work requirements or sanctions for recipients, and they may have made changes not captured in the WRD to minimize the impact of the job search requirements on families who were applying for benefits. As of July 1, 2021, seven states continued to completely suspend job search as a condition of eligibility due to the pandemic.

FIGURE 4

Job Search Requirements Lifted During the COVID-19 Pandemic, through July 1, 2021



Source: Welfare Rules Database.

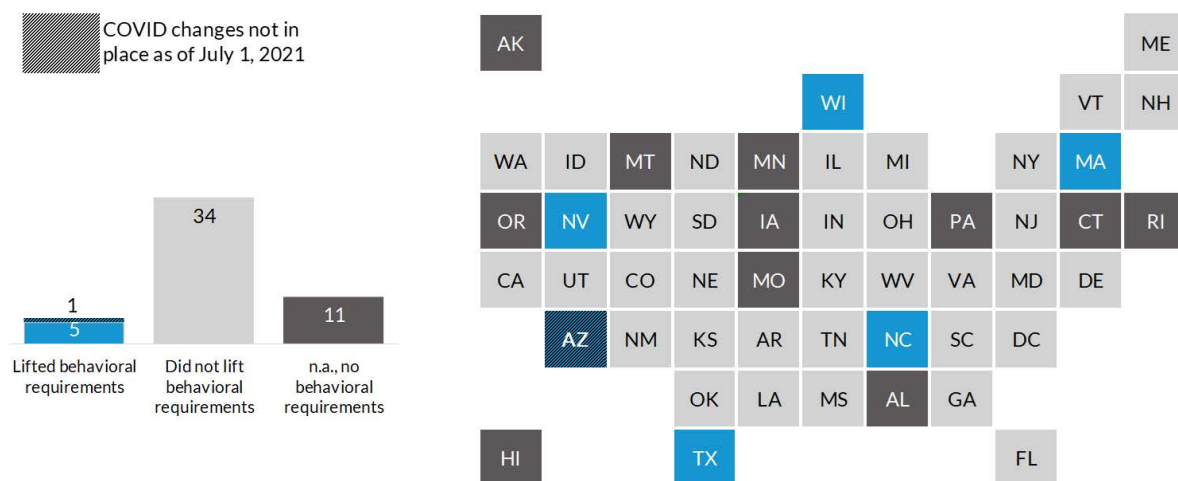
Note: In the states that lifted job search requirements, those policies were in place for at least some of the months affected by the pandemic; see the full Welfare Rules Database for more information on when the policies were instituted. If a state is labeled as “COVID policy not in place as of July 1, 2021”, it means that no COVID policy is in place related to lifting job search requirements.

Other Requirements for Eligibility

Some states place various other types of requirements—not related to work—on some members of the assistance unit. For example, dependent children may be required to maintain a minimum grade point average in school, and adults may be required to keep up to date with immunizations for their children. Fulfilling behavioral requirements can be a condition of initial and continuing eligibility.

Among the 40 states that generally impose some sort of behavioral requirements, a total of six states lifted those requirements at some point during the COVID-19 pandemic (figure 5, appendix table 6). Five states (Arizona, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Texas, and Wisconsin) completely suspended the requirements, and in Nevada, the state provided a good cause exemption for failure to meet behavioral requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic on a case-by-case basis. As of July 1, 2021, these policy changes to behavioral requirements were still in place in all states but Arizona.

FIGURE 5
Behavioral Requirements Lifted During the COVID-19 Pandemic, through July 1, 2021



Source: Welfare Rules Database.

Note: In the states that lifted behavioral requirements, those policies were in place for at least some of the months affected by the pandemic; see the full Welfare Rules Database for more information on when the policies were instituted. If a state is labeled as “COVID policy not in place as of July 1, 2021”, it means that no COVID policy is in place related to lifting behavioral requirements.

Another requirement for TANF eligibility in some states is an asset limit—a limit on the total value of a family’s assets, including vehicles—in order for the family to become or remain eligible for benefits. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, two states (New Mexico and Oregon) made changes to their asset limits for applicants and/or recipients (appendix table 7).¹³ New Mexico temporarily removed the asset limit for both applicants and recipients due to the pandemic. Oregon temporarily increased the asset limits for applicants from \$2,500 to \$10,000 during the pandemic. (The asset limit for most recipients remained at \$10,000.) Both of these changes to asset limits were still in place as of July 1, 2021.

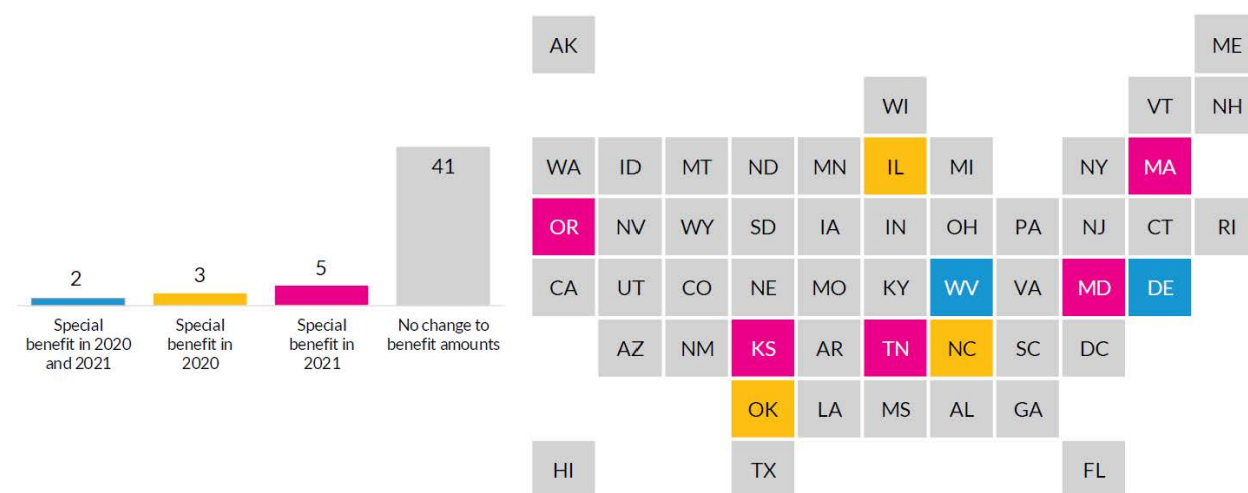
¹³ The asset limit policies are described in more detail in the Welfare Rules Databook. For the 2021 Welfare Rules Databook, see Knowles, Sarah, Ilham Dehry, Katie Shantz, and Linda Giannarelli (2023). Welfare Rules Databook: State TANF Policies as of July 2021, OPRE Report 2023-001, Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Benefit Computation Policies

To help families meet financial needs during the pandemic, ten states provided some type of additional or increased cash benefits (figure 6, appendix table 8). The states varied in the frequency, level, and computation of the additional benefit. One state provided families with the maximum benefit amount for their family size for a portion of the pandemic, and nine states distributed payments in addition to the standard benefit at some point during the pandemic. Among the states that distributed payments in addition to the standard benefit, four states issued flat additional benefit amounts, ranging from \$200 to \$735, and one state (Tennessee) issued a flat additional benefit amount of \$950 for child-only units, while the remaining four states varied the additional benefit by the number of children, children and pregnant people, or family members. Of the 10 states that provided additional benefits, three states issued special benefits at some point in 2020, five states issued special benefits in 2021, and two states issued special benefits in both years. The extra benefits occurred in a single month in six states, in two different months in two states (Oklahoma and West Virginia), and across a period of 12 to 21 months in two states (Delaware and Maryland).

FIGURE 6

Special Benefit Computation Policies During the COVID-19 Pandemic, 2020-2021



Source: Welfare Rules Database.

Note: In the states that provided special benefits, those policies were in place for at least one month affected by the pandemic; see the full Welfare Rules Database for more information on when the policies were instituted.

Time Limits

TANF benefits are usually time-limited. Federal law sets a 60-month lifetime limit on how long families containing an adult who receives *federally-funded* benefits can receive TANF benefits. States can use the federal limit, impose a shorter limit, or use both a shorter limit and the federal limit. (See the full WRD for details on states' TANF time limits.¹⁴)

During the pandemic, many states made policy changes so that families receiving assistance would not accrue months toward their time limit, families reaching the time limit could continue receiving benefits, or previously time-limited families could reapply for cash benefits. These changes had to be made within the context of federal statute. States cannot stop counting months toward the *federal* time limit for families whose benefits are being paid using federal TANF dollars (although they may extend benefits beyond 60 months for up to 20 percent of their caseload on the basis of hardship). However, because benefits paid with only state funds do not count towards the federal time limit, some states used their own funds to exempt months from being counted towards a time limit or to provide benefits beyond the federal time limit. Other states implemented changes only to their state time limit (shorter than the federal limit) in which case the benefits could be funded with either federal or state funds.¹⁵

From the perspective of the families (rather than the funding sources or administrative methods that allowed the changes), states' time-limit policy changes fell into three categories:

- *Providing exemptions or suspensions:* Under exemptions or suspensions, certain months of benefits did not count towards the time limit, meaning that families covered by the policy did not newly reach a time limit.
- *Providing extensions:* Under an extension policy, families were not newly terminated due to reaching the time limit, but a family's counted months of benefits could still be increasing.
- *Removing previous time limit terminations:* When previously-applied time limits were removed, families that had previously had their benefits terminated due to reaching a time limit were able to reapply and receive benefits if otherwise eligible.

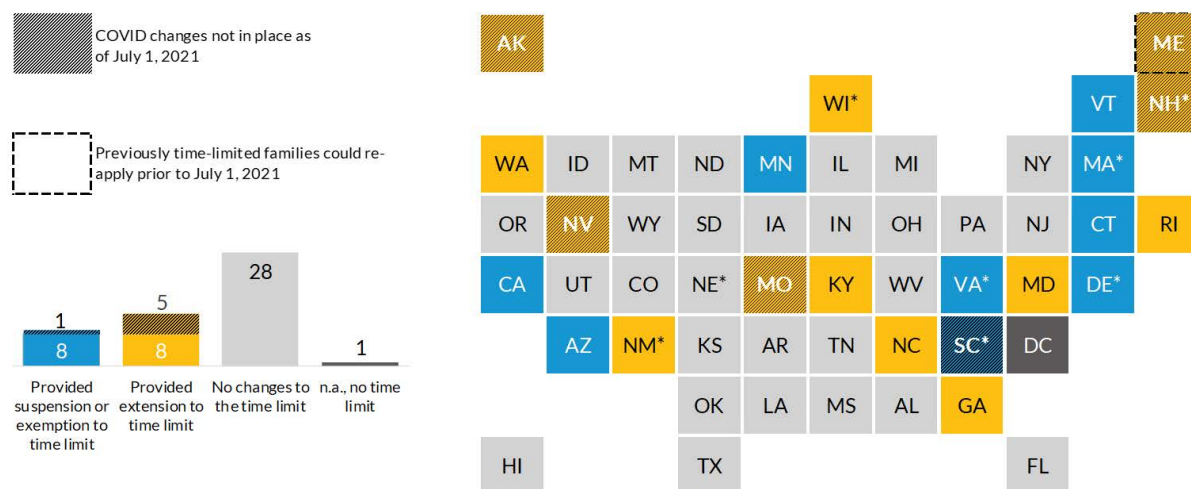
¹⁴ The full database can be accessed through the project's website, <https://wrd.urban.org>. Participants in states with a shorter time limit are still subject to the 60-month federal limit on TANF.

¹⁵ States may choose to use different types of funding for families in different situations. The TANF caseworker materials, which are generally the source materials for this project, do not typically indicate what funding is used in what circumstance. Thus, if a state funds benefits beyond the federal time limit for some families under SSP or SSF funding, those benefits policies are included in the WRD to the extent they are described in the caseworker materials. The WRD does not separately identify which policies use SSP or SSF funds.

A total of 22 states made a change to their time limit policy at some point during the COVID-19 pandemic (figure 7, appendix table 9a, 9b, and 9c). Nine states provided suspensions or exemptions. Thirteen states did not terminate benefits for families reaching the time limit by providing extensions. Some states provided blanket extensions, while others provided extensions on a case-by-case basis to families facing hardship due to the pandemic. In addition to not terminating benefits for families for reaching the time limit, one state (Maine) allowed previously time-limited families to reapply and receive cash benefits if otherwise eligible; in other words, they granted an extension to these previously-time-limited families. Twenty-eight states did not make changes to their time limit policies at any point during the pandemic, meaning that families not qualifying for exemptions or extensions for some other reason (such as illness or having a very young child) continued to accrue months towards the limit and could have reached the limit. (The District of Columbia does not impose a time limit, as families can continue to receive state-funded assistance after they have reached the federal time limit.)

As of July 1, 2021, 16 states still had a change to their time limit policy in place. Eight states continued to provide suspensions or exemptions to the time limit. Eight states still provided extensions to allow families to continue receiving benefits after reaching the time limit.

FIGURE 7
Time Limit Policies During the COVID-19 Pandemic, through July 1, 2021



Source: Welfare Rules Database.

Note: These policies were in place for at least some of the months affected by the pandemic; in some cases, the policies affected only the implementation of a state’s shorter time limit. See the full Welfare Rules Database for more information on when the policies were instituted. If a state is labeled as “COVID policy not in place as of July 1, 2021”, it means that no COVID policy is in place related to time limits. In the following states, the policies vary by specific TANF program, and the data shown are for specific programs or groups: Delaware (time-limited assistance), Massachusetts (non-exempt recipients), Nebraska (time-limited assistance), New Hampshire (New Hampshire Employment Program (NHEP)), New Mexico (New Mexico Works (NMW) program), South Carolina (All, except Challenging Adults through Rehabilitation, Education, and Services (CARES) program), Virginia (Virginia Initiative for Education and Work (VIEW)), Wisconsin (W-2 Transition (W-2T), Community Service Jobs (CSJ), and Trial Employment Match Program (TEMP)).

More Information from the Welfare Rules Database

The policies discussed in this brief are a small subset of the policies available from the WRD. The WRD tracks TANF policies for the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The database contains hundreds of variables designed to capture detailed TANF policies over time.

Information from the database is available for public use through the project's website (<https://wrd.urban.org>). From the project website, users can access the data in two ways:

- **Annual databooks.** The annual databook highlights key policies as of July of each year. The databook contains prepared tables showing policies for (1) initial application and eligibility requirements, (2) benefit amounts, (3) work and activity requirements, and (4) ongoing eligibility requirements and transitional assistance. The databook also contains tables showing selected policies over time. All annual databooks are available for download.
- **Online search tool.** The online search tool provides access to the full database detail. The search tool allows users to access information beyond what is included in the annual databooks, including hundreds of detailed policy variables and policies for any point in time back to 1996. Users can select the information they are interested in and produce custom tables through a point-and-click online interface.

Appendix Tables

APPENDIX TABLE 1

Treatment of Regular Unemployment Insurance Income and Extended Benefits, 2020 – 2021¹

State	Under COVID-19 policies at any point during the COVID-19 pandemic ²	Under COVID-19 policies as of May 1, 2021 ³
Alabama	Counted	Counted
Alaska	Counted	Counted
Arizona	Not counted	Not counted
Arkansas	Counted	Counted
California	Counted	Counted
Colorado	Counted	Counted
Connecticut	Counted	Counted
Delaware	Counted	Counted
D.C.	Counted	Counted
Florida	Counted	Counted
Georgia	Counted	Counted ⁴
Hawaii	Not counted	Not counted
Idaho	Counted	Counted
Illinois	Counted	Counted
Indiana	Counted	Counted
Iowa	Counted	Counted
Kansas	Counted	Counted
Kentucky	Counted	Counted
Louisiana	Counted	Counted
Maine	Counted	Counted
Maryland	Counted	Counted
Massachusetts	Counted	Counted
Michigan	Counted	Counted
Minnesota	Counted	Counted
Mississippi	Counted	Counted
Missouri	Counted	Counted
Montana	Counted	Counted
Nebraska	Counted	Counted
Nevada	Counted	Counted
New Hampshire	Counted	Counted
New Jersey	Counted	Counted
New Mexico	Counted	Counted
New York	Counted	Counted
North Carolina	Counted	Counted
North Dakota	Counted	Counted
Ohio	Counted	Counted
Oklahoma	Counted	Counted
Oregon	Counted	Counted
Pennsylvania	Counted	Counted
Rhode Island	Counted	Counted
South Carolina	Counted	Counted
South Dakota	Counted	Counted

APPENDIX TABLE 1

Treatment of Regular Unemployment Insurance Income and Extended Benefits, 2020 – 2021

State	Under COVID-19 policies at any point during the COVID-19 pandemic ²	Under COVID-19 policies as of May 1, 2021 ³
Tennessee	Counted	Counted
Texas	Counted	Counted
Utah	Counted	Counted
Vermont	Counted	Counted
Virginia	Counted	Counted
Washington	Counted	Counted
West Virginia	Counted	Counted
Wisconsin	Counted	Counted
Wyoming	Counted	Counted
Total states counting this income	49	49

Source: Welfare Rules Database.

¹ This table describes how unemployment insurance is counted in determining eligibility and benefits. In the states that did not count some or all unemployment insurance, those policies were in place for at least some of the months. The table captures instances in which income is counted for initial eligibility determination, continuing eligibility determination, and benefit computation; if those policies differ, the continuing eligibility policies are reflected in the table, and the initial eligibility or benefit computation policies are footnoted.

² The maximum duration of regular unemployment insurance varies by state; the maximum number of weeks of regular unemployment benefits ranged from 16 to 30, with most states paying a maximum of 26 weeks. (U.S. Department of Labor, "Comparison of State Unemployment Insurance Laws", Chapter 3: Monetary Entitlement, Table 3-12: Duration of Benefits, 2021). The Extended Benefits program provides additional weeks of benefits to unemployed workers who have exhausted the regular benefit and are in states with high unemployment. If the treatment of regular unemployment insurance and Extended Benefits differs, we capture the policy for regular unemployment insurance in the table and footnote the policy for Extended Benefits.

³ The maximum duration of regular unemployment insurance varies by state; the maximum number of weeks of regular unemployment benefits ranged from 16 to 30, with most states paying a maximum of 26 weeks. (U.S. Department of Labor, "Comparison of State Unemployment Insurance Laws", Chapter 3: Monetary Entitlement, Table 3-12: Duration of Benefits, 2021). The Extended Benefits program provides additional weeks of benefits to unemployed workers who have exhausted the regular benefit and are in states with high unemployment. If the treatment of regular unemployment insurance and Extended Benefits differs, we capture the policy for regular unemployment insurance in the table and footnote the policy for Extended Benefits.

⁴ Regular unemployment insurance is counted as income. State Extended Benefits are excluded as income.

APPENDIX TABLE 2A

Treatment of Expanded Unemployment Insurance Income, 2020 – 2021¹

State	\$600 per week (FPUC) from April 2020 to July 2020	\$300 per week (FPUC) beginning in January 2021 ²
Alabama	Counted	Counted
Alaska	Counted	Counted
Arizona	Not counted	Not counted
Arkansas	Counted	Counted
California	Not counted ³	Not counted ⁴
Colorado	Not counted	Not counted
Connecticut	Counted	Counted
Delaware	Counted	Counted
D.C.	Counted	Counted
Florida	Counted	Not counted
Georgia	Not counted	Not counted
Hawaii	Not counted	Not counted
Idaho	Counted	Counted
Illinois	Not counted	Not counted
Indiana	Not counted	Not counted
Iowa	Counted	Counted
Kansas	Not counted ⁵	Not counted ⁶
Kentucky	Not counted	Not counted
Louisiana	Counted	Not counted ⁷
Maine	Counted	Counted
Maryland	Not counted	Not counted
Massachusetts	Counted	Not counted
Michigan	Not counted	Not counted
Minnesota	Counted	Counted
Mississippi	Not counted	Not counted
Missouri	Counted	Counted
Montana	Counted	Counted
Nebraska	Counted	Not counted
Nevada	Counted	Not counted
New Hampshire	Not counted	Not counted
New Jersey	Counted	Counted
New Mexico	Not counted	Not counted
New York	Counted	Not counted
North Carolina	Not counted	Not counted
North Dakota	Not counted	Not counted
Ohio	Not counted	Not counted
Oklahoma	Not counted	Not counted
Oregon	Counted	Not counted ⁸
Pennsylvania	Not counted ⁹	Not counted ¹⁰
Rhode Island	Counted	Counted
South Carolina	Counted	Counted
South Dakota	Counted	Counted
Tennessee	Counted	Not counted
Texas	Counted	Not counted

State	\$600 per week (FPUC) from April 2020 to July 2020	\$300 per week (FPUC) beginning in January 2021 ²
Utah	Counted	Counted
Vermont	Counted	Not counted
Virginia	Counted	Not counted
Washington	Counted	Counted
West Virginia	Counted	Not counted ¹¹
Wisconsin	Not counted	Not counted
Wyoming	Counted	Not counted
Total states counting this income	31	18

Source: Welfare Rules Database.

¹ This table describes how unemployment insurance is counted in determining eligibility and benefits. In the states that did not count some or all unemployment insurance, those policies were in place for at least some of the months. The table captures instances in which income is counted for initial eligibility determination, continuing eligibility determination, and benefit computation; if those policies differ, the continuing eligibility policies are reflected in the table, and the initial eligibility or benefit computation policies are footnoted. These columns capture the treatment of expanded unemployment insurance benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act expanded unemployment insurance benefits to include Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC). These benefits were extended under the December 2020 relief bill, and again under the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Under the CARES Act, FPUC provided an additional \$600 weekly benefit to those eligible for any unemployment insurance for weeks ending from April 5, 2020 through July 25, 2020. The December 2020 bill provided an additional \$300 weekly benefit to those eligible for any unemployment insurance for weeks ending from January 2, 2021 through March 13, 2021. The \$300 weekly FPUC benefit was extended under the 2021 ARPA through September 6, 2021.

² FPUC benefits of \$300 per week were available through September 6, 2021, but some states ended participation in FPUC prior to this date. See the database for more information on policy end dates.

³ The FPUC benefit is excluded as income for continuing eligibility and benefit determinations. This income is included for income eligibility determination at application.

⁴ The \$300 FPUC benefit was excluded as income for continuing eligibility and benefit determinations, but included for income eligibility determination at application in January and February 2021. The benefit was excluded for both applicants and recipients beginning in March 2021.

⁵ FPUC benefits are treated as Disaster Payments and exempt as income and a resource for the first 26 weeks of receipt; after 26 weeks, they are counted.

⁶ FPUC benefits are treated as Disaster Payments and exempt as income and a resource for the first 26 weeks of receipt; after 26 weeks, they are counted.

⁷ FPUC benefits are treated as Disaster Payments and exempt as income.

⁸ The FPUC benefit is excluded as income and as a resource.

⁹ The FPUC benefit is excluded as income and as a resource.

¹⁰ The FPUC benefit is excluded as income and as a resource.

¹¹ The FPUC benefit is excluded as income and as a resource for 12 months. After the 12-month period, if the individual is over the asset limit, then the case is closed.

APPENDIX TABLE 2B

Treatment of Expanded Unemployment Insurance Income, 2020 - 2021 (continued)¹

State	Additional CARES Act UI benefits (PUA and PEUC) at any point during the COVID-19 pandemic	Additional CARES Act UI benefits (PUA and PEUC), as of May 1, 2021
Alabama	Counted	Counted
Alaska	Counted	Counted
Arizona	Not counted	Not counted
Arkansas	Counted	Counted
California	Counted	Counted
Colorado	Counted	Counted
Connecticut	Counted	Counted
Delaware	Counted	Counted
D.C.	Counted	Counted
Florida	Counted	Counted
Georgia	Counted	Counted
Hawaii	Not counted	Not counted
Idaho	Counted	Counted
Illinois	Counted	Counted
Indiana	Counted	Counted
Iowa	Counted	Counted
Kansas	Not counted ²	Not counted ³
Kentucky	Not counted	Not counted
Louisiana	Not counted ⁴	Not counted ⁵
Maine	Counted	Counted
Maryland	Not counted	Counted ⁶
Massachusetts	Counted	Counted
Michigan	Counted	Counted
Minnesota	Counted	Counted
Mississippi	Counted	Counted
Missouri	Counted	Counted
Montana	Counted	Counted
Nebraska	Not counted	Not counted
Nevada	Counted	Counted
New Hampshire	Counted	Counted
New Jersey	Counted	Counted
New Mexico	Not counted	Not counted
New York	Counted	Counted
North Carolina	Not counted	Not counted
North Dakota	Counted	Counted
Ohio	Counted	Counted
Oklahoma	Counted	Counted
Oregon	Counted	Counted
Pennsylvania	Counted	Counted
Rhode Island	Counted	Counted
South Carolina	Counted	Counted
South Dakota	Counted	Counted
Tennessee	Counted	Counted
Texas	Counted	Counted
Utah	Counted	Counted
Vermont	Counted	Counted
Virginia	Counted	Counted
Washington	Counted	Counted
West Virginia	Counted	Counted

State	Additional CARES Act UI benefits (PUA and PEUC) at any point during the COVID-19 pandemic	Additional CARES Act UI benefits (PUA and PEUC), as of May 1, 2021
Wisconsin	Counted	Counted
Wyoming	Counted	Counted
Total states counting this income	42	43

Source: Welfare Rules Database.

¹ This table describes how unemployment insurance is counted in determining eligibility and benefits. In the states that did not count some or all unemployment insurance, those policies were in place for at least some of the months. The table captures instances in which income is counted for initial eligibility determination, continuing eligibility determination, and benefit computation; if those policies differ, the continuing eligibility policies are reflected in the table, and the initial eligibility or benefit computation policies are footnoted. These columns capture the treatment of expanded unemployment insurance benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act expanded unemployment insurance benefits to include Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC). These benefits were extended under the December 2020 relief bill, and again under the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). PUA provides benefits to unemployed workers who are ineligible for any regular unemployment insurance, for example because they are self-employed. PEUC provides additional weeks of benefits to unemployed workers who have exhausted their available weeks of regular benefits. PUA and PEUC were extended under the 2021 ARPA to include weeks ending through September 6, 2021, but some states ended participation prior to this date. See the full underlying database for more information on policy end dates.

² PUA and PEUC are treated as Disaster Payments and are exempt as income and as a resource. Disaster Payments are limited to 26 weeks.

³ PUA and PEUC are treated as Disaster Payments and are exempt as income and as a resource for the first 26 weeks of receipt; after 26 weeks, they are counted.

⁴ PUA and PEUC are treated as Disaster Payments and are exempt as income.

⁵ PUA and PEUC are treated as Disaster Payments and are exempt as income.

⁶ PUA and PEUC were not counted as income or resources through March 2021. The state counted PUA and PEUC beginning April 2021.

APPENDIX TABLE 3A

Work Requirements and Exemptions, 2020 – 2021¹

State	Suspension of work requirements for single-parent head of unit at any point during the COVID-19 pandemic ²	Suspension of work requirements for single-parent head of unit as of July 1, 2021 ³
Alabama	No	No
Alaska	No	No
Arizona	Yes	Yes
Arkansas	No	No
California	No	No
Colorado	No	No
Connecticut	Yes	No
Delaware ⁴		
Time-limited assistance	n.a. ⁵	n.a. ⁶
Non-time-limited assistance	Yes ⁷	Yes ⁸
D.C.	No	No
Florida	Yes	No
Georgia	Yes	Yes
Hawaii	No	No
Idaho	No	No
Illinois	Yes ⁹	Yes ¹⁰
Indiana	Yes	Yes
Iowa	Yes	No
Kansas	No	No
Kentucky	No ¹¹	No ¹²
Louisiana	No ¹³	No ¹⁴
Maine	No	No
Maryland	Yes	Yes
Massachusetts ¹⁵		
Exempt	n.a. ¹⁶	n.a. ¹⁷
Non-exempt	No ¹⁸	No ¹⁹
Michigan	Yes ²⁰	No ²¹
Minnesota	Yes	Yes
Mississippi	No ²²	No ²³
Missouri	Yes	No
Montana ²⁴		
All, except PAS	No	No
PAS	No	No
Nebraska ²⁵		
Time-limited assistance	No	No
Non-time-limited assistance	n.a. ²⁶	n.a. ²⁷
Nevada	Yes	No
New Hampshire ²⁸		
NHEP	No	No
FAP	n.a. ²⁹	n.a. ³⁰
New Jersey	Yes	Yes
New Mexico ³¹		
NMW	No	No
EWP	No	No

State	Suspension of work requirements for single-parent head of unit at any point during the COVID-19 pandemic ²	Suspension of work requirements for single-parent head of unit as of July 1, 2021 ³
New York	Yes ³²	Yes ³³
North Carolina	Yes	Yes
North Dakota	Yes	Yes
Ohio	No	No
Oklahoma	No ³⁴	No ³⁵
Oregon ³⁶		
All, except JOBS Plus	No	No
JOBS Plus	n.a. ³⁷	n.a. ³⁸
Pennsylvania	No ³⁹	No ⁴⁰
Rhode Island	No	No
South Carolina ⁴¹		
All, except CARES	Yes ⁴²	No ⁴³
CARES	n.a. ⁴⁴	n.a. ⁴⁵
South Dakota	No	No
Tennessee	No	No
Texas	Yes	Yes
Utah	No	No
Vermont	Yes	Yes
Virginia ⁴⁶		
All, except VIEW	n.a. ⁴⁷	n.a. ⁴⁸
VIEW	Yes ⁴⁹	Yes ⁵⁰
Washington	No	No
West Virginia	No	No
Wisconsin ⁵¹		
W-2T	No	No
CSJ	No	No
TEMP	No ⁵²	No ⁵³
UE	n.a. ⁵⁴	n.a. ⁵⁵
Wyoming	No	No
Total states with policy	21	14

Source: Welfare Rules Database.

¹ The WRD defines a state's TANF program as having a component when the state divides its entire caseload into mutually exclusive groups that are treated differently across more than one policy area. These groups are usually defined by more than one characteristic. Not every state uses components. Components are described in more detail in the Welfare Rules Databook. For the 2021 Welfare Rules Databook, see Knowles, Sarah, Ilham Dehry, Katie Shantz, and Linda Giannarelli (2023). Welfare Rules Databook: State TANF Policies as of July 2021, OPRE Report 2023-001, Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

² This column contains the policy for single-parent recipients 21 years old or older with children at least 6 years of age, in cases when the parents are not exempt from work-related activity requirements.

³ This column contains the policy for single-parent recipients 21 years old or older with children at least 6 years of age, in cases when the parents are not exempt from work-related activity requirements.

⁴ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

⁵ In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals are placed in an alternative component that is exempt from employment-related activities requirements.

⁶ In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals are placed in an alternative component that is exempt from employment-related activities requirements.

⁷ Recipients in this component may participate in the Transitional Work Program (TWP). If they participate, they must develop an individualized transitional work plan with their case manager and comply with the activities requirements and deadlines established in the plan.

⁸ Recipients in this component may participate in the Transitional Work Program (TWP). If they participate, they must develop an individualized transitional work plan with their case manager and comply with the activities requirements and deadlines established in the plan.

⁹ The state distinguishes between those with and without a high school diploma or GED. The requirements shown here are for TANF recipients who have obtained at least a high school diploma or GED.

¹⁰ The state distinguishes between those with and without a high school diploma or GED. The requirements shown here are for TANF recipients who have obtained at least a high school diploma or GED.

¹¹ Participants are granted good cause for non-compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹² Participants are granted good cause for non-compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹³ The state distinguishes between those with and without a high school diploma or GED. The requirements shown here are for TANF recipients who have obtained at least a high school diploma or GED.

¹⁴ The state distinguishes between those with and without a high school diploma or GED. The requirements shown here are for TANF recipients who have obtained at least a high school diploma or GED.

¹⁵ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

¹⁶ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in activities requirements.

¹⁷ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in activities requirements.

¹⁸ Participants are granted good cause for non-compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹⁹ Participants are granted good cause for non-compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

²⁰ The state distinguishes between those with and without a high school diploma or GED. The requirements shown here are for TANF recipients who have obtained at least a high school diploma or GED.

²¹ The state distinguishes between those with and without a high school diploma or GED. The requirements shown here are for TANF recipients who have obtained at least a high school diploma or GED.

²² The state distinguishes between those with and without a high school diploma or GED. The requirements shown here are for TANF recipients who have obtained at least a high school diploma or GED.

²³ The state distinguishes between those with and without a high school diploma or GED. The requirements shown here are for TANF recipients who have obtained at least a high school diploma or GED.

²⁴ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

²⁵ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

²⁶ Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from activities requirements.

²⁷ Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from activities requirements.

²⁸ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

²⁹ Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from activities requirements.

³⁰ Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from activities requirements.

³¹ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

³² The state suspended mandatory in-person activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Districts may exercise discretion when reinstating requirements due to local COVID-19 conditions, operational constraints, and other factors.

³³ The state suspended mandatory in-person activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Districts may exercise discretion when reinstating requirements due to local COVID-19 conditions, operational constraints, and other factors.

³⁴ Participants are granted good cause for non-compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- ³⁵ Participants are granted good cause for non-compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ³⁶ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.
- ³⁷ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in activities requirements.
- ³⁸ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in activities requirements.
- ³⁹ Participants are granted good cause on a case-by-case basis for non-compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ⁴⁰ Participants are granted good cause on a case-by-case basis for non-compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ⁴¹ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.
- ⁴² The state distinguishes between those with and without a high school diploma or GED and those with and without full-time employment. The policy shown here is for TANF recipients who have obtained at least a high school diploma or GED and are not employed full time.
- ⁴³ The state distinguishes between those with and without a high school diploma or GED and those with and without full-time employment. The policy shown here is for TANF recipients who have obtained at least a high school diploma or GED and are not employed full time.
- ⁴⁴ Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from activities requirements.
- ⁴⁵ Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from activities requirements.
- ⁴⁶ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.
- ⁴⁷ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in activities requirements.
- ⁴⁸ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in activities requirements.
- ⁴⁹ Participants are not assigned to activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, unless they are able to participate in remote activities.
- ⁵⁰ Participants are not assigned to activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, unless they are able to participate in remote activities.
- ⁵¹ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.
- ⁵² This applies to non-exempt recipients who are unemployed.
- ⁵³ This applies to non-exempt recipients who are unemployed.
- ⁵⁴ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in activities requirements.
- ⁵⁵ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in activities requirements.

APPENDIX TABLE 3B

Work Requirements and Exemptions, 2020 - 2021 (continued)¹

State	Suspension of work requirements for parents outside the unit and nonparent caretakers at any point during the COVID-19 pandemic ²	Suspension of work requirements for parents outside the unit and nonparent caretakers as of July 1, 2021 ³
Alabama	n.a., no requirements	n.a., no requirements
Alaska	No	No
Arizona	Yes	Yes
Arkansas	No	No
California	No	No
Colorado	No	No
Connecticut	Yes	No
Delaware ⁴		
Time-limited assistance	n.a. ⁵	n.a. ⁶
Non-time-limited assistance	Yes	Yes
D.C.	No	No
Florida	Yes	No
Georgia	Yes	Yes
Hawaii	No	No
Idaho	No	No
Illinois	Yes	Yes
Indiana	Yes	Yes
Iowa	Yes	No
Kansas	No	No
Kentucky	No ⁷	No ⁸
Louisiana	No	No
Maine	No	No
Maryland	Yes	Yes
Massachusetts ⁹		
Exempt	n.a. ¹⁰	n.a. ¹¹
Non-exempt	No ¹²	No ¹³
Michigan	Yes	No
Minnesota	Yes	Yes
Mississippi	No	No
Missouri	Yes	No
Montana ¹⁴		
All, except PAS	No	No
PAS	No	No
Nebraska ¹⁵		
Time-limited assistance	No	No
Non-time-limited assistance	n.a. ¹⁶	n.a. ¹⁷
Nevada	Yes	No
New Hampshire ¹⁸		
NHEP	No	No
FAP	n.a. ¹⁹	n.a. ²⁰
New Jersey	Yes	Yes
New Mexico ²¹		
NMW	No	No
EWP	No	No
New York	Yes ²²	Yes ²³

State	Suspension of work requirements for parents outside the unit and nonparent caretakers at any point during the COVID-19 pandemic ²	Suspension of work requirements for parents outside the unit and nonparent caretakers as of July 1, 2021 ³
North Carolina	n.a., no requirements	n.a., no requirements
North Dakota	Yes	Yes
Ohio	No	No
Oklahoma	No ²⁴	No ²⁵
Oregon ²⁶		
All, except JOBS Plus	No	No
JOBS Plus	n.a. ²⁷	n.a. ²⁸
Pennsylvania	No ²⁹	No ³⁰
Rhode Island	No	No
South Carolina ³¹		
All, except CARES	Yes	No
CARES	n.a. ³²	n.a. ³³
South Dakota	No	No
Tennessee	No	No
Texas	Yes	Yes
Utah	No	No
Vermont	Yes	Yes
Virginia ³⁴		
All, except VIEW	n.a. ³⁵	n.a. ³⁶
VIEW	Yes ³⁷	Yes ³⁸
Washington	No	No
West Virginia	No	No
Wisconsin ³⁹		
W-2T	n.a., no requirements	n.a., no requirements
CSJ	n.a., no requirements	n.a., no requirements
TEMP	n.a., no requirements	n.a., no requirements
UE	n.a. ⁴⁰	n.a. ⁴¹
Wyoming	No	No
Total states with policy	20	13

Source: Welfare Rules Database.

¹ The WRD defines a state's TANF program as having a component when the state divides its entire caseload into mutually exclusive groups that are treated differently across more than one policy area. These groups are usually defined by more than one characteristic. Not every state uses components. Components are described in more detail in the Welfare Rules Databook. For the 2021 Welfare Rules Databook, see Knowles, Sarah, Ilham Dehry, Katie Shantz, and Linda Giannarelli (2023). Welfare Rules Databook: State TANF Policies as of July 2021, OPRE Report 2023-001, Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

² This column refers to certain parents and nonparent caretakers who are not included in the assistance unit as defined by the state but are still required by the state to participate in activity requirements. States may require parents who are excluded from the assistance unit due to immigrant/citizenship status or reaching the time limit to comply with activity requirements. Some states prohibit nonparent caretakers from being included in the unit because of their nonparent status, and therefore have the option to require these nonparent caretakers to participate in activity requirements.

³ This column refers to certain parents and nonparent caretakers who are not included in the assistance unit as defined by the state but are still required by the state to participate in activity requirements. States may require parents who are excluded from the assistance unit due to immigrant/citizenship status or reaching the time limit to comply with activity requirements. Some states prohibit nonparent caretakers from being included in the unit because of their nonparent status, and therefore have the option to require these nonparent caretakers to participate in activity requirements.

⁴ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

⁵ In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals are placed in an alternative component that is exempt from employment-related activities requirements.

⁶ In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals are placed in an alternative component that is exempt from employment-related activities requirements.

⁷ Participants are granted good cause for non-compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁸ Participants are granted good cause for non-compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁹ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

¹⁰ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in activities requirements.

¹¹ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in activities requirements.

¹² Participants are granted good cause for non-compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹³ Participants are granted good cause for non-compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹⁴ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

¹⁵ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

¹⁶ Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from activities requirements.

¹⁷ Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from activities requirements.

¹⁸ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

¹⁹ Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from activities requirements.

²⁰ Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from activities requirements.

²¹ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

²² Recipients in this component are not required to participate in activities requirements.

²³ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in activities requirements.

²⁴ Participants are granted good cause for non-compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

²⁵ Participants are granted good cause for non-compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

²⁶ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

²⁷ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in activities requirements.

²⁸ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in activities requirements.

²⁹ Participants are granted good cause on a case-by-case basis for non-compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

³⁰ Participants are granted good cause on a case-by-case basis for non-compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

³¹ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

³² Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from activities requirements.

³³ Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from activities requirements.

³⁴ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

³⁵ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in activities requirements.

³⁶ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in activities requirements.

³⁷ Participants are not assigned to activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, unless they are able to participate in remote activities.

³⁸ Participants are not assigned to activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, unless they are able to participate in remote activities.

³⁹ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

⁴⁰ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in activities requirements.

⁴¹ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in activities requirements.

APPENDIX TABLE 3C

Work Requirements and Exemptions, 2020 - 2021 (continued)¹

State	Blanket exemption for good cause from work requirements at any point during the COVID-19 pandemic ²	Blanket exemption for good cause from work requirements as of July 1, 2021 ³
Alabama	n.a. ⁴	No
Alaska	n.a. ⁵	No
Arizona	Yes	Yes
Arkansas	No	No
California	Yes	Yes
Colorado	Yes ⁶	Yes ⁷
Connecticut	Yes ⁸	Yes ⁹
Delaware ¹⁰		
Time-limited assistance	n.a. ¹¹	n.a. ¹²
Non-time-limited assistance	Yes ¹³	Yes ¹⁴
D.C.	No	No
Florida	n.a. ¹⁵	No
Georgia	Yes ¹⁶	Yes ¹⁷
Hawaii	No ¹⁸	No ¹⁹
Idaho	No	No
Illinois	Yes ²⁰	No
Indiana	n.a. ²¹	n.a. ²²
Iowa	n.a. ²³	No
Kansas	No	No
Kentucky	Yes ²⁴	Yes ²⁵
Louisiana	n.a. ²⁶	No
Maine	n.a. ²⁷	No
Maryland	n.a. ²⁸	n.a. ²⁹
Massachusetts ³⁰		
Exempt	n.a. ³¹	n.a. ³²
Non-exempt	Yes ³³	Yes ³⁴
Michigan	n.a. ³⁵	No
Minnesota	n.a. ³⁶	n.a. ³⁷
Mississippi	No	No
Missouri	n.a. ³⁸	No
Montana ³⁹		
All, except PAS	n.a. ⁴⁰	No
PAS	n.a. ⁴¹	No
Nebraska ⁴²		
Time-limited assistance	n.a. ⁴³	No
Non-time-limited assistance	n.a. ⁴⁴	n.a. ⁴⁵
Nevada	Yes ⁴⁶	Yes ⁴⁷
New Hampshire ⁴⁸		
NHEP	Yes	No
FAP	n.a. ⁴⁹	n.a. ⁵⁰
New Jersey	Yes ⁵¹	Yes ⁵²
New Mexico ⁵³		
NMW	Yes ⁵⁴	Yes ⁵⁵
EWP	Yes ⁵⁶	Yes ⁵⁷
New York	n.a. ⁵⁸	n.a. ⁵⁹
North Carolina	Yes ⁶⁰	Yes ⁶¹

State	Blanket exemption for good cause from work requirements at any point during the COVID-19 pandemic ²	Blanket exemption for good cause from work requirements as of July 1, 2021 ³
North Dakota	n.a. ⁶²	n.a. ⁶³
Ohio	Yes ⁶⁴	Yes ⁶⁵
Oklahoma	Yes ⁶⁶	Yes ⁶⁷
Oregon ⁶⁸		
All, except JOBS Plus	n.a. ⁶⁹	No
JOBS Plus	n.a. ⁷⁰	n.a. ⁷¹
Pennsylvania	Yes ⁷²	Yes ⁷³
Rhode Island	Yes	Yes
South Carolina ⁷⁴		
All, except CARES	n.a. ⁷⁵	No
CARES	n.a. ⁷⁶	n.a. ⁷⁷
South Dakota	No	No
Tennessee	No	No
Texas	Yes ⁷⁸	Yes ⁷⁹
Utah	Yes ⁸⁰	Yes ⁸¹
Vermont	n.a. ⁸²	n.a. ⁸³
Virginia ⁸⁴		
All, except VIEW	n.a. ⁸⁵	n.a. ⁸⁶
VIEW	n.a. ⁸⁷	n.a. ⁸⁸
Washington	Yes	Yes
West Virginia	No	No
Wisconsin ⁸⁹		
W-2T	Yes ⁹⁰	Yes ⁹¹
CSJ	Yes ⁹²	Yes ⁹³
TEMP	Yes ⁹⁴	Yes ⁹⁵
UE	n.a. ⁹⁶	n.a. ⁹⁷
Wyoming	No	No
Total states with policy	22	20

Source: Welfare Rules Database.

¹ The WRD defines a state's TANF program as having a component when the state divides its entire caseload into mutually exclusive groups that are treated differently across more than one policy area. These groups are usually defined by more than one characteristic. Not every state uses components. Components are described in more detail in the Welfare Rules Databook. For the 2021 Welfare Rules Databook, see Knowles, Sarah, Ilham Dehry, Katie Shantz, and Linda Giannarelli (2023). Welfare Rules Databook: State TANF Policies as of July 2021, OPRE Report 2023-001, Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

² This column refers to single-parent unit heads over 21 years old. In some cases, recipients meeting certain criteria are placed in alternative components.

³ This column refers to single-parent unit heads over 21 years old. In some cases, recipients meeting certain criteria are placed in alternative components.

⁴ The state suspended sanctions for noncompliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁵ The state suspended sanctions for noncompliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁶ Participants are granted good cause for non-compliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁷ Participants are granted good cause for non-compliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁸ The state granted good cause exemptions to all work mandatory recipients due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁹ The state granted good cause exemptions to all work mandatory recipients due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹⁰ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

¹¹ In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals are placed in an alternative component that is exempt from employment-related activities requirements.

¹² In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals are placed in an alternative component that is exempt from employment-related activities requirements.

¹³ Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from employment-related activities requirements. If recipients participate in the Transitional Work Program (TWP), they must develop an individualized transitional work plan with their case manager and comply with the activities requirements and deadlines established in the plan.

¹⁴ Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from employment-related activities requirements. If recipients participate in the Transitional Work Program (TWP), they must develop an individualized transitional work plan with their case manager and comply with the activities requirements and deadlines established in the plan.

¹⁵ The state suspended activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹⁶ Participants are granted good cause for non-compliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹⁷ Participants are granted good cause for non-compliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹⁸ Applicants are exempt from participation in activity requirements as a condition of eligibility due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Once approved to receive benefits, participants are no longer exempt from activity requirements, but may receive a good cause exemption on a case-by-case basis if participants are unable to comply with activity requirements.

¹⁹ Applicants are exempt from participation in activity requirements as a condition of eligibility due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Once approved to receive benefits, participants are no longer exempt from activity requirements, but may receive a good cause exemption on a case-by-case basis if participants are unable to comply with activity requirements.

²⁰ A temporary good cause exemption from activity requirements was implemented prior to suspending activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

²¹ The state suspended activity requirements and sanctions for noncompliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

²² The state suspended activity requirements and sanctions for noncompliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

²³ The state suspended activity requirements and sanctions for noncompliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

²⁴ Participants are granted good cause for non-compliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

²⁵ Participants are granted good cause for non-compliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

²⁶ The state suspended sanctions for noncompliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

²⁷ The state suspended sanctions for noncompliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

²⁸ The state suspended activities requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

²⁹ The state suspended activities requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

³⁰ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

³¹ Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from activities requirements.

³² Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from activities requirements.

³³ Participants are granted good cause for non-compliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If a client is unable to meet program requirements due to health and safety concerns or a lack of childcare related to COVID-19, they are granted good cause for 30 days.

³⁴ Participants are granted good cause for non-compliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If a client is unable to meet program requirements due to health and safety concerns or a lack of childcare related to COVID-19, they are granted good cause for 30 days.

³⁵ The state suspended activities requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

³⁶ The state suspended activity requirements and sanctions for noncompliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

³⁷ The state suspended activity requirements and sanctions for noncompliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

³⁸ The state suspended activity requirements and sanctions for noncompliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

³⁹ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

⁴⁰ The state suspended sanctions for noncompliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁴¹ The state suspended sanctions for noncompliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁴² This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

⁴³ The state suspended sanctions for noncompliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁴⁴ Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from activities requirements.

⁴⁵ Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from activities requirements.

⁴⁶ Good cause for failure to meet activities requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic is determined on a case-by-case basis.

⁴⁷ Good cause for failure to meet activities requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic is determined on a case-by-case basis.

⁴⁸ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

⁴⁹ Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from activities requirements.

⁵⁰ Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from activities requirements.

⁵¹ Participants are granted good cause for non-compliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁵² Participants are granted good cause for non-compliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁵³ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

⁵⁴ The state did not provide an exemption for activity requirements, but granted good cause for 30 days due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The good cause is re-evaluated every 30 days.

⁵⁵ The state did not provide an exemption for activity requirements, but granted good cause for 30 days due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The good cause is re-evaluated every 30 days.

⁵⁶ The state did not provide an exemption for activity requirements, but granted good cause for 30 days due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The good cause is re-evaluated every 30 days.

⁵⁷ The state did not provide an exemption for activity requirements, but granted good cause for 30 days due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The good cause is re-evaluated every 30 days.

⁵⁸ The state suspended activity requirements and sanctions for noncompliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁵⁹ The state suspended activity requirements and sanctions for noncompliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁶⁰ Participants are granted good cause if they are unable to meet activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁶¹ Participants are granted good cause if they are unable to meet activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁶² The state suspended activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁶³ The state suspended activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁶⁴ The state does not consider participants technically exempt due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants may meet the state's criteria for good cause for noncompliance. Good cause for noncompliance is determined on a case-by-case basis.

⁶⁵ The state does not consider participants technically exempt due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants may meet the state's criteria for good cause for noncompliance. Good cause for noncompliance is determined on a case-by-case basis.

⁶⁶ Participants are granted good cause for non-compliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁶⁷ Participants are granted good cause for non-compliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁶⁸ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

⁶⁹ The state suspended sanctions for noncompliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁷⁰ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in activities requirements.

⁷¹ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in activities requirements.

⁷² Participants are granted good cause on a case-by-case basis for non-compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁷³ Participants are granted good cause on a case-by-case basis for non-compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁷⁴ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

- ⁷⁵ The state suspended activity requirements and sanctions for noncompliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ⁷⁶ Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from activities requirements.
- ⁷⁷ Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from activities requirements.
- ⁷⁸ Participants are granted good cause if they are unable to meet activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ⁷⁹ Participants are granted good cause if they are unable to meet activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ⁸⁰ Two-parent households that have applied for benefits due to the COVID-19 pandemic and are unable to work due to the pandemic are able to be determined incapacitated and are exempt from activity requirements.
- ⁸¹ Two-parent households that have applied for benefits due to the COVID-19 pandemic and are unable to work due to the pandemic are able to be determined incapacitated and are exempt from activity requirements.
- ⁸² The state suspended activity requirements and sanctions for noncompliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ⁸³ The state suspended activity requirements and sanctions for noncompliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ⁸⁴ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.
- ⁸⁵ Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from activities requirements.
- ⁸⁶ Recipients in this component are automatically exempt from activities requirements.
- ⁸⁷ The state suspended activity requirements and sanctions for noncompliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ⁸⁸ The state suspended activity requirements and sanctions for noncompliance with activity requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ⁸⁹ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.
- ⁹⁰ The state does not consider participants technically exempt due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The amount of participation required is determined on a case-by-case basis depending on activities previously assigned and current activities that may be completed in the virtual environment. Participants may meet the state's criteria for good cause for noncompliance.
- ⁹¹ The state does not consider participants technically exempt due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The amount of participation required is determined on a case-by-case basis depending on activities previously assigned and current activities that may be completed in the virtual environment. Participants may meet the state's criteria for good cause for noncompliance.
- ⁹² The state does not consider participants technically exempt due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The amount of participation required is determined on a case-by-case basis depending on activities previously assigned and current activities that may be completed in the virtual environment. Participants may meet the state's criteria for good cause for noncompliance.
- ⁹³ The state does not consider participants technically exempt due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The amount of participation required is determined on a case-by-case basis depending on activities previously assigned and current activities that may be completed in the virtual environment. Participants may meet the state's criteria for good cause for noncompliance.
- ⁹⁴ The state does not consider participants technically exempt due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The amount of participation required is determined on a case-by-case basis depending on activities previously assigned and current activities that may be completed in the virtual environment. Participants may meet the state's criteria for good cause for noncompliance.
- ⁹⁵ The state does not consider participants technically exempt due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The amount of participation required is determined on a case-by-case basis depending on activities previously assigned and current activities that may be completed in the virtual environment. Participants may meet the state's criteria for good cause for noncompliance.
- ⁹⁶ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in activities requirements.
- ⁹⁷ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in activities requirements.

APPENDIX TABLE 4A

Sanction Policies for Noncompliance with Work Requirements, 2020 – 2021¹

State	New sanctions suspended at any point during the COVID-19 pandemic ²	New sanctions suspended as of July 1, 2021 ³
Alabama	Yes	No
Alaska	Yes	No
Arizona	n.a., state suspended activities requirements	n.a., state suspended activities requirements
Arkansas	No	No
California	No ⁴	No ⁵
Colorado	No	No
Connecticut	n.a., state suspended activities requirements	No
Delaware ⁶		
Time-limited assistance	n.a. ⁷	n.a. ⁸
Non-time-limited assistance	Yes ⁹	Yes ¹⁰
D.C.	No	No
Florida	n.a., state suspended activities requirements	No
Georgia	Yes	Yes
Hawaii	No	No
Idaho	No	No
Illinois	n.a., state suspended activities requirements	n.a., state suspended activities requirements
Indiana	Yes	Yes
Iowa	Yes	No
Kansas	No	No
Kentucky	No ¹¹	No ¹²
Louisiana	Yes	No
Maine	Yes	No
Maryland	n.a., state suspended activities requirements	n.a., state suspended activities requirements
Massachusetts ¹³		
Exempt	n.a. ¹⁴	n.a. ¹⁵
Non-exempt	No ¹⁶	No ¹⁷
Michigan	n.a., state suspended activities requirements	No
Minnesota	Yes	Yes
Mississippi	No	No
Missouri	Yes	No
Montana	Yes	No
Nebraska	Yes	No
Nevada	Yes	No
New Hampshire ¹⁸		
NHEP	Yes	No
FAP	n.a. ¹⁹	n.a. ²⁰
New Jersey	Yes	Yes
New Mexico ²¹		
NMW	Yes	Yes
EWP	No	No
New York	Yes ²²	Yes ²³
North Carolina	Yes	Yes

State	New sanctions suspended at any point during the COVID-19 pandemic ²	New sanctions suspended as of July 1, 2021 ³
North Dakota	n.a., state suspended activities requirements	n.a., state suspended activities requirements
Ohio	No	No
Oklahoma	No	No
Oregon	Yes	No
Pennsylvania	No ²⁴	No ²⁵
Rhode Island	Yes	Yes
South Carolina ²⁶		
All, except CARES	Yes	No
CARES	n.a. ²⁷	n.a. ²⁸
South Dakota	No	No
Tennessee	No	No
Texas	n.a., state suspended activities requirements	n.a., state suspended activities requirements
Utah	No	No
Vermont	Yes	n.a., state suspended activities requirements ²⁹
Virginia ³⁰		
All, except VIEW	n.a. ³¹	n.a. ³²
VIEW	Yes	Yes
Washington	Yes	Yes
West Virginia	No	No
Wisconsin ³³		
W-2T and CSJ	No	No
TEMP	No	No
UE	n.a. ³⁴	n.a. ³⁵
Wyoming	No	No
Total states with policy	24	11

Source: Welfare Rules Database.

¹ The WRD defines a state's TANF program as having a component when the state divides its entire caseload into mutually exclusive groups that are treated differently across more than one policy area. These groups are usually defined by more than one characteristic. Not every state uses components. Components are described in more detail in the Welfare Rules Databook. For the 2021 Welfare Rules Databook, see Knowles, Sarah, Ilham Dehry, Katie Shantz, and Linda Giannarelli (2023). Welfare Rules Databook: State TANF Policies as of July 2021, OPRE Report 2023-001, Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

² If the state suspended sanctions, families will not be newly sanctioned for failure to comply with activities requirements. In some cases, recipients in certain components are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they have no sanctions.

³ If the state suspended sanctions, families will not be newly sanctioned for failure to comply with activities requirements. In some cases, recipients in certain components are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they have no sanctions.

⁴ Participants are transitioned to alternative activities or granted an exemption or good cause for non-compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁵ Participants are transitioned to alternative activities or granted an exemption or good cause for non-compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁶ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

⁷ In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals are placed in an alternative component that is exempt from employment-related activities requirements.

⁸ In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals are placed in an alternative component that is exempt from employment-related activities requirements.

⁹ Recipients in this component may participate in the Transitional Work Program (TWP). If they participate, they must develop an individualized transitional work plan with their case manager and comply with the activities requirements and deadlines established in the plan.

¹⁰ Recipients in this component may participate in the Transitional Work Program (TWP). If they participate, they must develop an individualized transitional work plan with their case manager and comply with the activities requirements and deadlines established in the plan.

¹¹ Participants are granted good cause for non-compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹² Participants are granted good cause for non-compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹³ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

¹⁴ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they are not subject to sanctions.

¹⁵ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they are not subject to sanctions.

¹⁶ Participants are granted good cause for non-compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹⁷ Participants are granted good cause for non-compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹⁸ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

¹⁹ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they are not subject to sanctions.

²⁰ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they are not subject to sanctions.

²¹ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

²² Districts must not take negative action against applicants or recipients for non-compliance with an employment requirement that requires in-person contact. Districts may sanction individuals who fail to comply with assigned in-home employment activities.

²³ Districts must not take negative action against applicants or recipients for non-compliance with an employment requirement that requires in-person contact. Districts may sanction individuals who fail to comply with assigned in-home employment activities. Districts may exercise discretion when reinstating requirements due to local COVID-19 conditions, operational constraints, and other factors.

²⁴ Participants are granted good cause on a case-by-case basis for non-compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

²⁵ Participants are granted good cause on a case-by-case basis for non-compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

²⁶ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

²⁷ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they are not subject to sanctions.

²⁸ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they are not subject to sanctions.

²⁹ The state lifted the limit on sanction conciliations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the state's standard policies, participants are allowed one conciliation per year.

³⁰ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

³¹ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they are not subject to sanctions.

³² Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they are not subject to sanctions.

³³ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

³⁴ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they are not subject to sanctions.

³⁵ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they are not subject to sanctions.

APPENDIX TABLE 4B

Sanction Policies for Noncompliance with Work Requirements, 2020 - 2021 (continued)¹

State	Existing sanctions lifted at any point in the COVID-19 pandemic ²	Existing sanctions lifted as of July 1, 2021 ³
Alabama	No	No
Alaska	Yes	No
Arizona	Yes	n.a. ⁴
Arkansas	No	No
California	Yes ⁵	Yes ⁶
Colorado	No	No
Connecticut	No	No
Delaware ⁷		
Time-limited assistance	n.a. ⁸	n.a. ⁹
Non-time-limited assistance	Yes ¹⁰	Yes ¹¹
D.C.	No	No
Florida	No	No
Georgia	Yes	n.a. ¹²
Hawaii	No	No
Idaho	No	No
Illinois	Yes ¹³	Yes ¹⁴
Indiana	No	No
Iowa	Yes ¹⁵	No ¹⁶
Kansas	No	No
Kentucky	Yes ¹⁷	Yes ¹⁸
Louisiana	Yes ¹⁹	Yes ²⁰
Maine	No	No
Maryland	Yes ²¹	No
Massachusetts ²²		
Exempt	n.a. ²³	n.a. ²⁴
Non-exempt	No ²⁵	No ²⁶
Michigan	No	No
Minnesota	Yes ²⁷	Yes ²⁸
Mississippi	No	No
Missouri	No	No
Montana	No	No
Nebraska	No	No
Nevada	No	No
New Hampshire ²⁹		
NHEP	Yes	No
FAP	n.a. ³⁰	n.a. ³¹
New Jersey	Yes	n.a. ³²
New Mexico ³³		
NMW	Yes	n.a. ³⁴
EWP	No	No
New York	Yes ³⁵	Yes ³⁶
North Carolina	Yes	n.a. ³⁷
North Dakota	No	No
Ohio	No	No
Oklahoma	No	No
Oregon	Yes	No
Pennsylvania	No	No
Rhode Island	No	No

State	Existing sanctions lifted at any point in the COVID-19 pandemic ²	Existing sanctions lifted as of July 1, 2021 ³
South Carolina ³⁸		
All, except CARES	No	No
CARES	n.a. ³⁹	n.a. ⁴⁰
South Dakota	No	No
Tennessee	No	No
Texas	No	No
Utah	No	No
Vermont	Yes	No
Virginia ⁴¹		
All, except VIEW	n.a. ⁴²	n.a. ⁴³
VIEW	Yes ⁴⁴	n.a. ⁴⁵
Washington	Yes	n.a. ⁴⁶
West Virginia	No	No
Wisconsin ⁴⁷		
W-2T and CSJ	No	No
TEMP	No	No
UE	n.a. ⁴⁸	n.a. ⁴⁹
Wyoming	No	No
Total states with policy	20	7

Source: Welfare Rules Database.

¹ The WRD defines a state's TANF program as having a component when the state divides its entire caseload into mutually exclusive groups that are treated differently across more than one policy area. These groups are usually defined by more than one characteristic. Not every state uses components. Components are described in more detail in the Welfare Rules Databook. For the 2021 Welfare Rules Databook, see Knowles, Sarah, Ilham Dehry, Katie Shantz, and Linda Giannarelli (2023). Welfare Rules Databook: State TANF Policies as of July 2021, OPRE Report 2023-001, Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

² States that removed sanctions allow families with active sanctions to receive benefits if otherwise eligible. In some cases, recipients in certain components are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they have no sanctions.

³ States that removed sanctions allow families with active sanctions to receive benefits if otherwise eligible. In some cases, recipients in certain components are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they have no sanctions.

⁴ All sanctions were previously lifted, therefore there are no existing sanctions in place. Sanctions that were previously lifted will not be reinstated when the state's activities requirement is reinstated.

⁵ The state lifted in-process and existing sanctions. Participants are transitioned to alternative activities or granted an exemption or good cause for non-compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁶ The state lifted in-process and existing sanctions. Participants are transitioned to alternative activities or granted an exemption or good cause for non-compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁷ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

⁸ In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals are placed in an alternative component that is exempt from employment-related activities requirements.

⁹ In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals are placed in an alternative component that is exempt from employment-related activities requirements.

¹⁰ Recipients in this component may participate in the Transitional Work Program (TWP). If they participate, they must develop an individualized transitional work plan with their case manager and comply with the activities requirements and deadlines established in the plan.

¹¹ Recipients in this component may participate in the Transitional Work Program (TWP). If they participate, they must develop an individualized transitional work plan with their case manager and comply with the activities requirements and deadlines established in the plan.

- ¹² All sanctions were previously lifted, therefore there are no existing sanctions in place. Sanctions that were previously lifted will not be reinstated when the state's activities requirement is reinstated.
- ¹³ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, recipients with existing sanctions have the opportunity to cure their sanction by contacting the department and agreeing to cooperate.
- ¹⁴ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, recipients with existing sanctions have the opportunity to cure their sanction by contacting the department and agreeing to cooperate.
- ¹⁵ The state suspended existing sanctions if the failure to comply with activity requirements was due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ¹⁶ The state previously lifted some existing sanctions if the failure to comply with activity requirements was due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Sanctions that were previously lifted will not be reinstated when the state's activities requirement is reinstated.
- ¹⁷ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, recipients with existing sanctions have the opportunity to cure their sanction by contacting the department and agreeing to cooperate. If the recipients sought to cure their sanction and begin complying with the requirements but were unable to because of COVID-19 restrictions, then they were granted good cause. If a participant has their existing sanction lifted it will be reinstated when the state's COVID-19 good cause exemption policy ends.
- ¹⁸ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, recipients with existing sanctions have the opportunity to cure their sanction by contacting the department and agreeing to cooperate. If the recipients sought to cure their sanction and begin complying with the requirements but were unable to because of COVID-19 restrictions, then they were granted good cause. If a participant has their existing sanction lifted it will be reinstated when the state's COVID-19 good cause exemption policy ends.
- ¹⁹ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, re-applicants with existing sanctions are temporarily exempt from curing their sanction if they have served the minimum ineligibility period and demonstrated a willingness to comply with activities requirements.
- ²⁰ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, re-applicants with existing sanctions are temporarily exempt from curing their sanction if they have served the minimum ineligibility period and demonstrated a willingness to comply with activities requirements.
- ²¹ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, re-applicants with existing sanctions are temporarily exempt from curing their sanction if they have served the minimum ineligibility period and demonstrated a willingness to comply with activities requirements.
- ²² This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.
- ²³ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they are not subject to sanctions.
- ²⁴ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they are not subject to sanctions.
- ²⁵ Participants are granted good cause for non-compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ²⁶ Participants are granted good cause for non-compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ²⁷ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, recipients with existing sanctions would be granted good cause and have their existing sanctions lifted if they reapply for benefits. Sanctions that were previously lifted will not be reinstated when the state's sanction policy is reinstated.
- ²⁸ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, recipients with existing sanctions would be granted good cause and have their existing sanctions lifted if they reapply for benefits. Sanctions that were previously lifted will not be reinstated when the state's sanction policy is reinstated.
- ²⁹ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.
- ³⁰ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they are not subject to sanctions.
- ³¹ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they are not subject to sanctions.
- ³² All sanctions were previously lifted, therefore there are no existing sanctions in place.
- ³³ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

³⁴ All existing sanctions were previously lifted, therefore there are no sanctions in place to lift. Sanctions that were previously lifted will not be reinstated when the standard sanctions policy is reinstated.

³⁵ An individual may only request their durational sanction is lifted after the duration has ended and if the district does not have an appropriate in-home employment activity available. An individual with a non-durational sanction who wishes to demonstrate compliance and is unable to do so due to the COVID-19 pandemic may have their sanction lifted if the district does not have an appropriate in-home employment activity available.

³⁶ An individual may only request their durational sanction is lifted after the duration has ended and if the district does not have an appropriate in-home employment activity available. An individual with a non-durational sanction who wishes to demonstrate compliance and is unable to do so due to the COVID-19 pandemic may have their sanction lifted if the district does not have an appropriate in-home employment activity available. An individual may only be required to participate in an in-home activity to demonstrate compliance. Districts may exercise discretion when reinstating requirements due to local COVID-19 conditions, operational constraints, and other factors.

³⁷ All sanctions were previously lifted, therefore there are no existing sanctions in place. Sanctions that were previously lifted will be reinstated when the state's activities requirement is reinstated.

³⁸ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

³⁹ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they are not subject to sanctions.

⁴⁰ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they are not subject to sanctions.

⁴¹ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

⁴² Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they are not subject to sanctions.

⁴³ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they are not subject to sanctions.

⁴⁴ Participants with an existing sanction had their sanction lifted once the minimum sanction period had passed.

⁴⁵ All sanctions were previously lifted, therefore there are no existing sanctions in place. Sanctions that were previously lifted will not be reinstated when the state's sanction policy is reinstated.

⁴⁶ All existing sanctions were previously lifted, therefore there are no sanctions in place to lift. Sanctions that were previously lifted will not be reinstated when the standard sanctions policy is reinstated.

⁴⁷ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

⁴⁸ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they are not subject to sanctions.

⁴⁹ Recipients in this component are not required to participate in work activities; therefore, they are not subject to sanctions.

APPENDIX TABLE 5

Mandatory Job Search at Application, 2020 - 2021¹

State	Job search requirements suspended at any point in the COVID-19 pandemic	Job search requirements suspended as of July, 1 2021
Alabama	Yes	No
Alaska	No	No
Arizona	n.a.	n.a.
Arkansas	n.a.	n.a.
California	n.a.	n.a.
Colorado	n.a.	n.a.
Connecticut	n.a.	n.a.
Delaware	n.a.	n.a.
D.C.	n.a.	n.a.
Florida	n.a.	n.a.
Georgia	Yes	Yes
Hawaii	Yes	Yes
Idaho	No	No
Illinois	n.a.	n.a.
Indiana	Yes	Yes
Iowa	n.a.	n.a.
Kansas	n.a.	n.a.
Kentucky	n.a.	n.a.
Louisiana	n.a.	n.a.
Maine	n.a.	n.a.
Maryland	No	No
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes
Michigan	No	No
Minnesota	Yes	Yes
Mississippi	No	No
Missouri	No	No
Montana	n.a.	n.a.
Nebraska	n.a.	n.a.
Nevada	Yes	Yes
New Hampshire	n.a.	n.a.
New Jersey	No	No
New Mexico	n.a.	n.a.
New York	Yes	Yes ²
North Carolina	n.a.	n.a.
North Dakota	n.a.	n.a.
Ohio	n.a.	n.a.
Oklahoma	n.a.	n.a.
Oregon	n.a.	n.a.
Pennsylvania	n.a.	n.a.
Rhode Island	n.a.	n.a.
South Carolina	Yes	No
South Dakota	n.a.	n.a.
Tennessee	n.a.	n.a.
Texas	n.a.	n.a.
Utah	n.a.	n.a.
Vermont	n.a.	n.a.
Virginia	n.a.	n.a.
Washington	n.a.	n.a.
West Virginia	n.a.	n.a.
Wisconsin	No	No

State	Job search requirements suspended at any point in the COVID-19 pandemic	Job search requirements suspended as of July, 1 2021
Wyoming	n.a.	n.a.
Total states with policy	9	7

Source: Welfare Rules Database.

¹ This table refers to single-parent unit heads over 21 years old.

² Districts may exercise discretion when reinstating requirements due to local COVID-19 conditions, operational constraints, and other factors.

APPENDIX TABLE 6

Behavioral Requirements, 2020 – 2021¹

State	Behavioral requirements suspended at any point in the COVID-19 pandemic	Behavioral requirements suspended as of July, 1 2021
Alabama	n.a.	n.a.
Alaska	n.a.	n.a.
Arizona	Yes ²	No
Arkansas	No	No
California	No	No
Colorado	No	No
Connecticut	n.a.	n.a.
Delaware	No	No
D.C.	No	No
Florida	No	No
Georgia	No	No
Hawaii	n.a.	n.a.
Idaho	No	No
Illinois	No	No
Indiana	No	No
Iowa	n.a.	n.a.
Kansas	No	No
Kentucky	No	No
Louisiana	No	No
Maine	No	No
Maryland	No	No
Massachusetts	Yes ³	Yes ⁴
Michigan	No	No
Minnesota	n.a.	n.a.
Mississippi	No	No
Missouri	n.a.	n.a.
Montana	n.a.	n.a.
Nebraska	No	No
Nevada	Yes ⁵	Yes ⁶
New Hampshire	No	No
New Jersey	No	No
New Mexico	No	No
New York	No	No
North Carolina	Yes	Yes
North Dakota	No	No
Ohio	No	No
Oklahoma	No	No
Oregon	n.a.	n.a.
Pennsylvania	n.a.	n.a.
Rhode Island	n.a.	n.a.
South Carolina	No	No
South Dakota	No	No
Tennessee	No	No
Texas	Yes ⁷	Yes ⁸
Utah	No	No
Vermont	No	No
Virginia	No	No
Washington	No	No
West Virginia	No	No
Wisconsin	Yes	Yes

State	Behavioral requirements suspended at any point in the COVID-19 pandemic	Behavioral requirements suspended as of July, 1 2021
Wyoming	No	No
Total states with policy	6	5

Source: Welfare Rules Database.

¹ Behavioral requirements for this table include school requirements, school bonuses, immunization requirements, and health screening requirements. School requirements apply only to requirements for dependent children, not minor parents. These policies may require children to attend school or to achieve a minimum grade point average; they may also require parents to be involved in their children's education in some way. The requirements may apply only to a subset of children; for additional detail, see the Welfare Rules Database. School bonuses refer to financial incentives for assistance units whose children meet specific attendance or achievement standards, and can apply to both dependent children and minor parents. Immunization requirements include information on standard immunizations for children. Health screening requirements include information on regular checkups for both children and adults, although the requirements usually apply only to children.

² The requirement to sign and comply with the Personal Responsibility Agreement was temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Both the school requirements and immunization requirements are part of the Personal Responsibility Agreement.

³ School requirements are temporarily suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁴ School requirements are temporarily suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁵ Good cause for failure to meet behavioral requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic is determined on a case-by-case basis.

⁶ Good cause for failure to meet behavioral requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic is determined on a case-by-case basis.

⁷ Participants are allowed a good cause exemption for failure to meet behavioral requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁸ Participants are allowed a good cause exemption for failure to meet behavioral requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

APPENDIX TABLE 7

Asset Limits for Applicants and Recipients, 2020 – 2021¹

State	Changes made to asset limits at any point in the COVID-19 pandemic	Changes made to asset limits as of July, 1 2021
Alabama	n.a., no limit	n.a., no limit
Alaska	No	No
Arizona	No	No
Arkansas	No	No
California	No	No
Colorado	n.a., no limit	n.a., no limit
Connecticut	No	No
Delaware	No	No
D.C.	No	No
Florida	No	No
Georgia	No	No
Hawaii	n.a., no limit	n.a., no limit
Idaho	No	No
Illinois	n.a., no limit	n.a., no limit
Indiana	No	No
Iowa	No	No
Kansas	No	No
Kentucky	No	No
Louisiana	n.a., no limit	n.a., no limit
Maine	No	No
Maryland	n.a., no limit	n.a., no limit
Massachusetts	No	n.a., no limit
Michigan	No	No
Minnesota	No	No
Mississippi	No	No
Missouri	No	No
Montana	No	No
Nebraska	No	No
Nevada	No	No
New Hampshire	No	No
New Jersey	No	No
New Mexico	Yes ²	Yes ³
New York	No	No
North Carolina	No	No
North Dakota	No	No
Ohio	n.a., no limit	n.a., no limit
Oklahoma	No	No
Oregon	Yes ⁴	Yes ⁵
Pennsylvania	No	No
Rhode Island	No	No
South Carolina	No	No
South Dakota	No	No
Tennessee	No	No
Texas	No	No
Utah	No	No
Vermont	No	No
Virginia	n.a., no limit	n.a., no limit
Washington	No	No
West Virginia	No	No
Wisconsin	No	No

State	Changes made to asset limits at any point in the COVID-19 pandemic	Changes made to asset limits as of July, 1 2021
Wyoming	No	No
Total states with policy	2	2

Source: Welfare Rules Database.

¹ This table captures temporary policy changes made to states' asset limits due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "N.a., no limit" indicates a state does not place a limit on the amount of assets that can be held by the unit.

² The asset limit is temporarily removed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

³ The asset limit is temporarily removed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁴ During the COVID-19 pandemic, the asset limit is \$10,000 for all new applicants and recipients, regardless of their cooperation with the case plan.

⁵ During the COVID-19 pandemic, the asset limit is \$10,000 for all new applicants and recipients, regardless of their cooperation with the case plan.

APPENDIX TABLE 8

Special Benefit Computation Policies, 2020 – 2021¹

State	Benefit equals:	Date policy was in place:
Alabama	Standard benefit	n.a.
Alaska	Standard benefit	n.a.
Arizona	Standard benefit	n.a.
Arkansas	Standard benefit	n.a.
California	Standard benefit	n.a.
Colorado	Standard benefit	n.a.
Connecticut	Standard benefit	n.a.
Delaware	Maximum monthly benefit for the family size	Recurring payment, March 2020 - December 2021
D.C.	Standard benefit	n.a.
Florida	Standard benefit	n.a.
Georgia	Standard benefit	n.a.
Hawaii	Standard benefit	n.a.
Idaho	Standard benefit	n.a.
Illinois	Standard benefit plus \$500 ²	One-time payment, June 2020
Indiana	Standard benefit	n.a.
Iowa	Standard benefit	n.a.
Kansas	Standard benefit plus the standard benefit using only the number of children in the unit ³	One-time payment, November 2021
Kentucky	Standard benefit	n.a.
Louisiana	Standard benefit	n.a.
Maine	Standard benefit	n.a.
Maryland	Standard benefit plus \$100 for each unit member ⁴	Recurring payment, January 2021 - December 2021
Massachusetts	Standard benefit plus \$683.02 for each child and pregnant person in the unit ⁵	One-time payment, July 2021
Michigan	Standard benefit	n.a.
Minnesota	Standard benefit	n.a.
Mississippi	Standard benefit	n.a.
Missouri	Standard benefit	n.a.
Montana	Standard benefit	n.a.
Nebraska	Standard benefit	n.a.
Nevada	Standard benefit	n.a.
New Hampshire	Standard benefit	n.a.
New Jersey	Standard benefit	n.a.
New Mexico	Standard benefit	n.a.
New York	Standard benefit	n.a.
North Carolina	Standard benefit plus \$265 for each child in the unit ⁶	One-time payment, April 2020
North Dakota	Standard benefit	n.a.
Ohio	Standard benefit	n.a.
Oklahoma	Standard benefit plus \$200 ⁷	Recurring payment, April 2020 - May 2020
Oregon	Standard benefit plus \$735 ⁸	One-time payment, November 2021
Pennsylvania	Standard benefit	n.a.
Rhode Island	Standard benefit	n.a.
South Carolina	Standard benefit	n.a.
South Dakota	Standard benefit	n.a.
Tennessee	Standard benefit plus \$950 for each child-only unit ⁹	One-time payment, December 2021
Texas	Standard benefit	n.a.

State	Benefit equals:	Date policy was in place:
Utah	Standard benefit	n.a.
Vermont	Standard benefit	n.a.
Virginia	Standard benefit	n.a.
Washington	Standard benefit	n.a.
West Virginia	Standard benefit plus \$500 ¹⁰	One-time payment, April 2020
	Standard benefit plus \$400 ¹¹	One-time payment, December 2021
Wisconsin	Standard benefit	n.a.
Wyoming	Standard benefit	n.a.
Total states with policy	10	n.a.

Source: Welfare Rules Database.

¹ This table describes special benefit computation policies at any point during the COVID-19 pandemic. "Standard benefit" refers to the benefit a unit would be eligible for under the state's policies prior to the temporary COVID-19 pandemic policy changes. See tables II.A.1, II.A.2, II.A.3, II.A.4, and II.A.5 in the 2021 Welfare Rules Databook for information on standard benefit computation policies. For the 2021 Welfare Rules Databook, see Knowles, Sarah, Ilham Dehry, Katie Shantz, and Linda Giannarelli (2023). Welfare Rules Databook: State TANF Policies as of July 2021, OPRE Report 2023-001, Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

² This one-time payment has no impact on the computation of eligibility status or benefit levels for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

³ The one-time benefit was calculated based on the number of children in the unit. This payment was treated as a lump sum for all Department of Children and Families programs.

⁴ This one-time payment has no impact on the computation of eligibility status or benefit levels for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

⁵ This one-time payment was distributed to children and pregnant people who received a TANF payment in July 2021. The payment was not counted as income for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

⁶ Recipient units received an additional \$265 payment for each child in the unit. Children not included in the unit and children receiving SSI were not eligible for the payment. The payment applied to units that applied for assistance prior to April 1, 2020 and were approved for a payment for April 2020.

⁷ These payments have no impact on the computation of eligibility status or benefit levels for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

⁸ This one-time payment has no impact on the computation of eligibility status or benefit levels for other benefit programs.

⁹ This benefit applies to child-only cases that were active as of October 2021. The one-time payment was distributed in December 2021. This one-time payment has no impact on the computation of eligibility status or benefit levels for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), or the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program.

¹⁰ Recipient units received a one-time \$500 payment. This payment was made to participants who were active during March and eligible to continue participation in April. This one-time payment has no impact on the computation of eligibility status or benefit levels for other Department of Health and Human Resources Programs, including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), or the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program.

¹¹ Recipient units received a one-time \$400 payment. This payment was made to participants who were active during December 2021 and eligible to continue participation in January 2022. This one-time payment has no impact on the computation of eligibility status or benefit levels for other Department of Health and Human Resources Programs, including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), or the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program.

APPENDIX TABLE 9A

Time Limits, 2020 – 2021¹

State	Time limits suspended or removed at any point in the COVID-19 pandemic ²	Time limits suspended or removed as of July, 1 2021 ³
Alabama	No	No
Alaska	No	No
Arizona	Suspended	Suspended
Arkansas	No	No
California	Suspended	Suspended
Colorado	No	No
Connecticut	Suspended	Suspended
Delaware ⁴		
Time-limited assistance	n.a. ⁵	n.a. ⁶
Non-time-limited assistance	n.a., no limit ⁷	n.a., no limit ⁸
D.C.	n.a., no limit	n.a., no limit
Florida	No	No
Georgia	No	No
Hawaii	No	No
Idaho	No	No
Illinois	No	No
Indiana ⁹		
Termination limit	No	No
Benefit reduction limit	No	No
Iowa	No	No
Kansas	No	No
Kentucky	No	No
Louisiana	No	No
Maine	Removed ¹⁰	No
Maryland	No	No
Massachusetts ¹¹		
Exempt	n.a., no limit	n.a., no limit
Non-exempt	Suspended	Suspended
Michigan	No	No
Minnesota	Suspended	Suspended
Mississippi	No	No
Missouri	No	No
Montana	No	No
Nebraska ¹²		
Time-limited assistance	No	No
Non-time-limited assistance	n.a., no limit	n.a., no limit
Nevada	No	No
New Hampshire ¹³		
NHEP	No	No
FAP	n.a., no limit	n.a., no limit
New Jersey	No	No
New Mexico ¹⁴		
NMW	No	No
EWP	No	No
New York	No	No
North Carolina	No	No

State	Time limits suspended or removed at any point in the COVID-19 pandemic ²	Time limits suspended or removed as of July, 1 2021 ³
North Dakota	No	No
Ohio	No	No
Oklahoma	No	No
Oregon	No	No
Pennsylvania	No	No
Rhode Island	No	No
South Carolina ¹⁵		
All, except CARES	Suspended	No
CARES	n.a., no limit	n.a., no limit
South Dakota	No	No
Tennessee	No	No
Texas	No	No
Utah	No	No
Vermont	Suspended	Suspended
Virginia ¹⁶		
All, except VIEW	n.a.	n.a.
VIEW	Suspended	Suspended
Washington	No	No
West Virginia	No	No
Wisconsin ¹⁷		
W-2T, CSJ, and TEMP ¹⁸	No	No
UE	n.a., no limit	n.a., no limit
Wyoming	No	No
Total states with policy	9	7

Source: Welfare Rules Database.

¹ The WRD defines a state's TANF program as having a component when the state divides its entire caseload into mutually exclusive groups that are treated differently across more than one policy area. These groups are usually defined by more than one characteristic. Not every state uses components. Components are described in more detail in the Welfare Rules Databook. For the 2021 Welfare Rules Databook, see Knowles, Sarah, Ilham Dehry, Katie Shantz, and Linda Giannarelli (2023). Welfare Rules Databook: State TANF Policies as of July 2021, OPRE Report 2023-001, Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

² This column describes time limit policies that apply to units with an adult in the assistance unit. If a state suspended time limits, families do not accrue months or cannot be newly terminated due to reaching the time limit. In states that removed time limits, families that have already reached the time limit may reapply and receive benefits if otherwise eligible. States cannot stop counting months toward the federal time limit for families whose benefits are being paid using federal TANF dollars (although they may extend benefits beyond 60 months for up to 20 percent of their caseload on the basis of hardship).

³ This column describes time limit policies that apply to units with an adult in the assistance unit. If a state suspended time limits, families do not accrue months or cannot be newly terminated due to reaching the time limit. In states that removed time limits, families that have already reached the time limit may reapply and receive benefits if otherwise eligible. States cannot stop counting months toward the federal time limit for families whose benefits are being paid using federal TANF dollars (although they may extend benefits beyond 60 months for up to 20 percent of their caseload on the basis of hardship).

⁴ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

⁵ In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals were placed in an alternative component that is exempt from time limits.

⁶ In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals were placed in an alternative component that is exempt from time limits.

⁷ All recipients are considered medically exempt during the COVID-19 pandemic and were moved to the non-time-limited component, which is exempt from time limits.

⁸ All recipients are considered medically exempt during the COVID-19 pandemic and were moved to the non-time-limited component, which is exempt from time limits.

⁹ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

¹⁰ Families that have already reached the time limit can reapply and be granted extensions if otherwise eligible.

¹¹ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

¹² This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

¹³ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

¹⁴ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

¹⁵ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

¹⁶ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

¹⁷ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

¹⁸ Recipients in the TEMP component are exempt from the federal lifetime limit.

APPENDIX TABLE 9B

Time Limits, 2020 - 2021 (continued)¹

State	Time limit exemptions for months of benefit receipt during the pandemic at any point in the COVID-19 pandemic ²	Time limit exemptions for months of benefit receipt during the pandemic as of July, 1 2021 ³
Alabama	No	No
Alaska	No	No
Arizona	Yes ⁴	Yes ⁵
Arkansas	No	No
California	Yes	Yes
Colorado	No	No
Connecticut	No	No
Delaware ⁶		
Time-limited assistance	No	No
Non-time-limited assistance	n.a. ⁷	n.a. ⁸
D.C.	n.a. ⁹	n.a. ¹⁰
Florida	No	No
Georgia	No	No
Hawaii	No	No
Idaho	No	No
Illinois	No	No
Indiana ¹¹		
Termination limit	No	No
Benefit reduction limit	No	No
Iowa	No	No
Kansas	No	No
Kentucky	No	No
Louisiana	No	No
Maine	No	No
Maryland	No	No
Massachusetts ¹²		
Exempt	n.a. ¹³	n.a. ¹⁴
Non-exempt	Yes ¹⁵	Yes ¹⁶
Michigan	No	No
Minnesota	No	No
Mississippi	No	No
Missouri	No	No
Montana	No	No
Nebraska ¹⁷		
Time-limited assistance	No	No
Non-time-limited assistance	n.a. ¹⁸	n.a. ¹⁹
Nevada	No	No
New Hampshire ²⁰		
NHEP	No	No
FAP	n.a. ²¹	n.a. ²²
New Jersey	No	No
New Mexico ²³		
NMW	No	No
EWP	n.a. ²⁴	n.a. ²⁵
New York	No	No
North Carolina	No	No

State	Time limit exemptions for months of benefit receipt during the pandemic at any point in the COVID-19 pandemic ²	Time limit exemptions for months of benefit receipt during the pandemic as of July, 1 2021 ³
North Dakota	No	No
Ohio	No	No
Oklahoma	No	No
Oregon	No	No
Pennsylvania	No	No
Rhode Island	No	No
South Carolina ²⁶		
All, except CARES	No	No
CARES	n.a. ²⁷	n.a. ²⁸
South Dakota	No	No
Tennessee	No	No
Texas	No	No
Utah	No	No
Vermont	No	No
Virginia ²⁹		
All, except VIEW	No ³⁰	No ³¹
VIEW	No	No
Washington	No	No
West Virginia	No	No
Wisconsin ³²		
W-2T, CSJ, and TEMP ³³	No	No
UE	n.a. ³⁴	n.a. ³⁵
Wyoming	No	No
Total states with policy	3	3

Source: Welfare Rules Database.

¹ The WRD defines a state's TANF program as having a component when the state divides its entire caseload into mutually exclusive groups that are treated differently across more than one policy area. These groups are usually defined by more than one characteristic. Not every state uses components. Components are described in more detail in the Welfare Rules Databook. For the 2021 Welfare Rules Databook, see Knowles, Sarah, Ilham Dehry, Katie Shantz, and Linda Giannarelli (2023). Welfare Rules Databook: State TANF Policies as of July 2021, OPRE Report 2023-001, Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

² Exemption policies apply to months in which the state does not count a month of assistance toward the state's time limit. These policies are potential exemptions and may not be granted to all that are eligible. In most states, caseworkers have discretion in applying the exemptions. If a state has multiple time limits (for example, a periodic limit and a lifetime limit) and applies the exemption policies differently to the time limits, the differences are footnoted. In almost all states, time limits apply only to months when adults receive what is considered TANF assistance, which includes all regular monthly cash aid and some other types of help. Some types of aid considered non-assistance are subsidized jobs programs and child care and transportation help for employed families. Months in which only non-assistance is received are always exempt from the TANF time limits. See section 260.31 of the final TANF rule for more information on assistance and non-assistance. The federal government requires that states disregard months during which an adult lived on a Native American reservation or in an Alaskan Native village with an adult unemployment rate of at least 50 percent. Furthermore, since time limits generally only apply to families that include adults (or minor heads of household), months in which an adult received assistance as a dependent child do not count. States cannot stop counting months toward the federal time limit for families whose benefits are being paid using federal TANF dollars (although they may extend benefits beyond 60 months for up to 20 percent of their caseload on the basis of hardship).

³ Exemption policies apply to months in which the state does not count a month of assistance toward the state's time limit. These policies are potential exemptions and may not be granted to all that are eligible. In most states, caseworkers have discretion in applying the exemptions. If a state has multiple time limits (for example, a periodic limit and a lifetime limit) and applies the exemption policies differently to the time limits, the differences are footnoted. In almost all states,

time limits apply only to months when adults receive what is considered TANF assistance, which includes all regular monthly cash aid and some other types of help. Some types of aid considered non-assistance are subsidized jobs programs and child care and transportation help for employed families. Months in which only non-assistance is received are always exempt from the TANF time limits. See section 260.31 of the final TANF rule for more information on assistance and non-assistance. The federal government requires that states disregard months during which an adult lived on a Native American reservation or in an Alaskan Native village with an adult unemployment rate of at least 50 percent. Furthermore, since time limits generally only apply to families that include adults (or minor heads of household), months in which an adult received assistance as a dependent child do not count. States cannot stop counting months toward the federal time limit for families whose benefits are being paid using federal TANF dollars (although they may extend benefits beyond 60 months for up to 20 percent of their caseload on the basis of hardship).

⁴ The exemption of months accrued during the COVID-19 pandemic applies to both the lifetime and periodic limits.

⁵ The exemption of months accrued during the COVID-19 pandemic applies to both the lifetime and periodic limits.

⁶ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

⁷ All recipients are considered medically exempt during the COVID-19 pandemic and were moved to the non-time-limited component, which is exempt from time limits.

⁸ All recipients are considered medically exempt during the COVID-19 pandemic and were moved to the non-time-limited component, which is exempt from time limits.

⁹ Recipients are exempt from time limits.

¹⁰ Recipients are exempt from time limits.

¹¹ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

¹² This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

¹³ Recipients in this component are exempt from time limits.

¹⁴ Recipients in this component are exempt from time limits.

¹⁵ The exemption provided for months accrued during the COVID-19 pandemic applies to the periodic limit.

¹⁶ The exemption provided for months accrued during the COVID-19 pandemic applies to the periodic limit.

¹⁷ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

¹⁸ Recipients in this component are exempt from time limits.

¹⁹ Recipients in this component are exempt from time limits.

²⁰ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

²¹ Recipients in this component are exempt from time limits.

²² Recipients in this component are exempt from time limits.

²³ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

²⁴ Eligible recipients participating in the Education Works Program are exempted from the 60-month lifetime limit. There is a 24-month time limit on participation in this component.

²⁵ Eligible recipients participating in the Education Works Program are exempted from the 60-month lifetime limit. There is a 24-month time limit on participation in this component.

²⁶ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

²⁷ Recipients in this component are exempt from time limits.

²⁸ Recipients in this component are exempt from time limits.

²⁹ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

³⁰ Units placed in this component are exempt from the benefit waiting period that applies to the VIEW component, but they are not exempt from the lifetime limit.

³¹ Units placed in this component are exempt from the benefit waiting period that applies to the VIEW component, but they are not exempt from the lifetime limit.

³² This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

³³ Recipients in the TEMP component are exempt from the federal lifetime limit.

³⁴ Recipients in this component do not have their months counted toward the federal, state, or placement lifetime limits.

³⁵ Recipients in this component do not have their months counted toward the federal, state, or placement lifetime limits.

APPENDIX TABLE 9C

Time Limits, 2020 - 2021 (continued)¹

State	Time limit extension for months of benefit receipt during the pandemic at any point in the COVID-19 pandemic ²	Time limit extension for months of benefit receipt during the pandemic as of July, 1 2021 ³
Alabama	No	No
Alaska	Yes ⁴	No
Arizona	No	No
Arkansas	No	No
California	No	No
Colorado	No	No
Connecticut	No	No
Delaware ⁵		
Time-limited assistance	No	No
Non-time-limited assistance	n.a. ⁶	n.a. ⁷
D.C.	n.a. ⁸	n.a. ⁹
Florida	No	No
Georgia	Yes ¹⁰	Yes ¹¹
Hawaii	No	No
Idaho	No	No
Illinois	No	No
Indiana ¹²		
Termination limit	No	No
Benefit reduction limit	No	No
Iowa	No	No
Kansas	No	No
Kentucky	Yes	Yes
Louisiana	No	No
Maine	Yes ¹³	No
Maryland	Yes ¹⁴	Yes ¹⁵
Massachusetts ¹⁶		
Exempt	n.a. ¹⁷	n.a. ¹⁸
Non-exempt	No	No
Michigan	No	No
Minnesota	No	No
Mississippi	No	No
Missouri	Yes ¹⁹	No
Montana	No	No
Nebraska ²⁰		
Time-limited assistance	No	No
Non-time-limited assistance	n.a. ²¹	n.a. ²²
Nevada	Yes ²³	No
New Hampshire ²⁴		
NHEP	Yes ²⁵	No
FAP	n.a. ²⁶	n.a. ²⁷
New Jersey	No	No
New Mexico ²⁸		
NMW	Yes ²⁹	Yes ³⁰
EWP	n.a. ³¹	n.a. ³²
New York	No ³³	No ³⁴
North Carolina	Yes ³⁵	Yes ³⁶

State	Time limit extension for months of benefit receipt during the pandemic at any point in the COVID-19 pandemic ²	Time limit extension for months of benefit receipt during the pandemic as of July, 1 2021 ³
North Dakota	No	No
Ohio	No	No
Oklahoma	No	No
Oregon	No	No
Pennsylvania	No	No
Rhode Island	Yes	Yes
South Carolina ³⁷		
All, except CARES	Yes ³⁸	No
CARES	n.a. ³⁹	n.a. ⁴⁰
South Dakota	No	No
Tennessee	No	No
Texas	No	No
Utah	No	No
Vermont	No	No
Virginia ⁴¹		
All, except VIEW	n.a. ⁴²	n.a. ⁴³
VIEW	No	No
Washington	Yes ⁴⁴	Yes ⁴⁵
West Virginia	No	No
Wisconsin ⁴⁶		
W-2T, CSJ, and TEMP ⁴⁷	Yes ⁴⁸	Yes ⁴⁹
UE	n.a. ⁵⁰	n.a. ⁵¹
Wyoming	No	No
Total states with policy	14	8

Source: Welfare Rules Database.

¹ The WRD defines a state's TANF program as having a component when the state divides its entire caseload into mutually exclusive groups that are treated differently across more than one policy area. These groups are usually defined by more than one characteristic. Not every state uses components. Components are described in more detail in the Welfare Rules Databook. For the 2021 Welfare Rules Databook, see Knowles, Sarah, Ilham Dehry, Katie Shantz, and Linda Giannarelli (2023). Welfare Rules Databook: State TANF Policies as of July 2021, OPRE Report 2023-001, Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

² Extension policies apply to months in which the state provides additional benefits to families after they have reached their time limit. These policies are potential extensions and may not be granted to all that are eligible. In most states, caseworkers have discretion in applying the extensions. If a state has multiple time limits (for example, a periodic limit and a lifetime limit) and applies the extension policies differently to the time limits, the differences are footnoted. The federal government requires that states disregard months during which an adult lived on a Native American reservation or in an Alaskan Native village with an adult unemployment rate of at least 50 percent. Furthermore, since time limits generally only apply to families that include adults (or minor heads of household), months in which an adult received assistance as a dependent child do not count.

³ Extension policies apply to months in which the state provides additional benefits to families after they have reached their time limit. These policies are potential extensions and may not be granted to all that are eligible. In most states, caseworkers have discretion in applying the extensions. If a state has multiple time limits (for example, a periodic limit and a lifetime limit) and applies the extension policies differently to the time limits, the differences are footnoted. The federal government requires that states disregard months during which an adult lived on a Native American reservation or in an Alaskan Native village with an adult unemployment rate of at least 50 percent. Furthermore, since time limits generally only apply to families that include adults (or minor heads of household), months in which an adult received assistance as a dependent child do not count.

⁴ A six-month hardship extension was granted to participants due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- ⁵ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.
- ⁶ All recipients are considered medically exempt during the COVID-19 pandemic and were moved to the non-time-limited component, which is exempt from time limits.
- ⁷ All recipients are considered medically exempt during the COVID-19 pandemic and were moved to the non-time-limited component, which is exempt from time limits.
- ⁸ Recipients are exempt from time limits.
- ⁹ Recipients are exempt from time limits.
- ¹⁰ Extensions beyond the lifetime limit will be granted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ¹¹ Extensions beyond the lifetime limit will be granted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ¹² This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.
- ¹³ Extensions beyond the lifetime limit will be granted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ¹⁴ Termination of cash assistance due to reaching the lifetime limit is temporarily suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ¹⁵ Termination of cash assistance due to reaching the lifetime limit is temporarily suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ¹⁶ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.
- ¹⁷ Recipients in this component are exempt from time limits.
- ¹⁸ Recipients in this component are exempt from time limits.
- ¹⁹ Participants reaching the lifetime limit during March, April, and May of 2020 are eligible for a three-month extension due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ²⁰ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.
- ²¹ Recipients in this component are exempt from time limits.
- ²² Recipients in this component are exempt from time limits.
- ²³ Participants who were nearing their 24th or 48th month of benefits and participants who were already facing the 12-month waiting period were granted an extension due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ²⁴ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.
- ²⁵ Hardship extensions are extended by 90 days due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ²⁶ Recipients in this component are exempt from time limits.
- ²⁷ Recipients in this component are exempt from time limits.
- ²⁸ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.
- ²⁹ Termination of cash assistance due to reaching the lifetime limit is temporarily suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ³⁰ Termination of cash assistance due to reaching the lifetime limit is temporarily suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ³¹ Eligible recipients participating in the Education Works Program are exempted from the 60-month lifetime limit. There is a 24-month time limit on participation in this component.
- ³² Eligible recipients participating in the Education Works Program are exempted from the 60-month lifetime limit. There is a 24-month time limit on participation in this component.
- ³³ New York continues to provide noncash assistance to all units that have reached the 60-month federal time limit. These extensions apply to the 60-month limit for receiving regular cash assistance. 15 Hardship extensions are extended by 90 days due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ³⁴ New York continues to provide noncash assistance to all units that have reached the 60-month federal time limit. These extensions apply to the 60-month limit for receiving regular cash assistance. 15 Hardship extensions are extended by 90 days due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

³⁵ Termination of cash assistance due to reaching the lifetime limit and benefit waiting period is temporarily suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic.

³⁶ Termination of cash assistance due to reaching the lifetime limit and benefit waiting period is temporarily suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic.

³⁷ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

³⁸ The assistance unit may receive an extension to the periodic time limit for reaching the time limit during the COVID-19 pandemic.

³⁹ Recipients in this component are exempt from time limits.

⁴⁰ Recipients in this component are exempt from time limits.

⁴¹ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

⁴² Units placed in this component are exempt from the benefit waiting period that applies to the VIEW component, but they are not exempt from the lifetime limit.

⁴³ Units placed in this component are exempt from the benefit waiting period that applies to the VIEW component, but they are not exempt from the lifetime limit.

⁴⁴ Residents receive an extension during a declared state of emergency, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁴⁵ Residents receive an extension during a declared state of emergency, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁴⁶ This state divides the caseload into mutually exclusive groups (components) with different policies for the information shown in this table. We show each component separately. For more information about the components, see the Welfare Rules Database.

⁴⁷ Recipients in the TEMP component are exempt from the federal lifetime limit.

⁴⁸ Extensions beyond the state lifetime limit are granted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁴⁹ Extensions beyond the state lifetime limit are granted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁵⁰ Recipients in this component do not have their months counted toward the federal, state, or placement lifetime limits.

⁵¹ Recipients in this component do not have their months counted toward the federal, state, or placement lifetime limits.

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