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# Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): Eligibility and Benefit Amounts in State TANF Cash Assistance Programs

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## Summary

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant helps states fund, among other benefits and services, cash assistance for needy families with children. While there are some federal rules that determine who may qualify for TANF-funded cash assistance (e.g., the family must have a dependent child), states determine the financial eligibility criteria and cash assistance benefit amounts. There is a large amount of variation among the states in the income thresholds that determine whether a family is eligible for cash assistance and in the benefit amounts paid.

Most states only admit very poor families onto the benefit rolls. In July 2012, the majority of states (28 states and the District of Columbia) required that a single mother caring for two children earn less than \$795 per month to gain entry to the benefit rolls—an earnings level representing about half of 2012 poverty-level income. States often permit families with a working member who obtains a job while on the rolls to remain eligible for TANF at higher earnings levels, though in many states such eligibility is retained for a limited period of time.

States also usually require that a family has assets below a specified amount in order to qualify for benefits. In July 2012, 27 states and the District of Columbia required applicant families to have \$2,000 or less in assets to gain entry to the benefit rolls. In most states, the value of at least one of the family's cars is not counted toward the state's asset limit.

In July 2012, the state with the lowest maximum benefit paid to a family consisting of a single parent and two children was Mississippi, with a benefit of \$170 per month (11% of poverty-level income). Among the contiguous 48 states and the District of Columbia, the highest maximum benefit was paid in New York: \$770 per month for a single parent of two children in New York City (48% of poverty-level income). The benefit for such a family in the median state (North Dakota, whose maximum benefit ranked 26<sup>th</sup> among the 50 states and District of Columbia), was \$427, a benefit amount that represented 27% of monthly poverty-level income in 2012. TANF maximum benefits vary greatly by state; there is also a very apparent regional pattern to benefit amounts. States in the South tend to have the lowest benefit payments; states in the Northeast have the highest benefits.

Though the 1996 welfare reform law that created TANF revamped many of the rules for cash assistance for needy families, states determined income eligibility rules and maximum benefit amounts even before enactment of the law. There were large variations among the states in benefit amounts before the 1996 welfare law. The regional pattern to benefit amounts—with relatively low benefits in the South—also existed under pre-TANF law.

Additionally, cash assistance benefit amounts for needy families are not automatically adjusted for inflation by the states, and have lost considerable value in terms of their purchasing power over time. From 1981 to 2012, the inflation-adjusted value of cash assistance benefits for needy families in the median state declined by 44%. Some of this decline occurred before the 1996 welfare law: between 1981 and 1996 the value of cash assistance benefits had already declined by 28%. Food assistance benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, the program formerly known as food stamps) offset some of this decline. However, from 1981 to 2012 the value of the combined cash and food assistance benefit for a family of three in the median state declined by 18% in inflation-adjusted terms.

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## Introduction

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant helps fund, among other benefits and services, state cash assistance programs to needy families with children.<sup>1</sup> Cash assistance generally represents a benefit paid monthly to help meet a family’s ongoing basic needs. Federal law prescribes the general eligible population for state cash assistance programs. For example, a family receiving assistance must have a dependent child. However, there are no federal rules defining what makes a family financially “needy” or determining what benefit amounts are paid. Financial need and benefit amounts are determined by the states.

Cash assistance programs for needy families were a major focus of the “welfare reform” debates that led to the enactment of the 1996 welfare reform law (the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, P.L. 104-193). TANF, which was created in that law, has as its overarching purpose “to increase the flexibility of states” in operating programs to achieve its statutory goals. State TANF cash assistance programs vary greatly in their design, some of which is attributable to the flexibility afforded states in the 1996 law. Before the law, cash assistance for needy families with children was provided through the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program. Though TANF increased the flexibility of states in designing their cash assistance programs, states determined income eligibility thresholds and benefit amounts under AFDC as well.

This report describes state TANF financial eligibility rules and maximum benefit amounts. The information represents Congressional Research Service (CRS) calculations based on data from the Urban Institute’s *Welfare Rules Database*<sup>2</sup>. That information is supplemented by historical information on maximum AFDC benefits from a CRS survey of the states for selected years from 1981 to 1996.<sup>3</sup>

## Family Circumstances and TANF Eligibility and Benefits

A family’s circumstances determine whether it is eligible for TANF cash assistance and the amount of benefits it may receive. TANF cash assistance is a need-tested benefit (i.e., it is intended to pay benefits and reflect a family’s financial need). The factors that affect family

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<sup>1</sup> For an overview of benefits and services funded by TANF, see CRS Report R40946, *The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant: An Introduction*, by Gene Falk.

<sup>2</sup> The Urban Institute’s *Welfare Rules Database* provides detailed rules on state TANF cash assistance programs. It currently contains information on these rules from 1996 (as they existed under the pre-TANF AFDC program) to 2012. The database is currently funded by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). For a description of the database, see the Urban Institute website. HHS has annually published summary information from the database. See David Kassabian, Erika Huber, and Elissa Cohen, et al., *Welfare Rules Databook: State TANF Policies as of July 2012*, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, OPRE Report 2013-27, Washington, DC, November 2013.

<sup>3</sup> Some of the information in this report differs from that published in the *Welfare Rules Databook* cited above. Some states pay different benefits in different regions within the state. The *Welfare Rules Databook* provides income eligibility and benefit thresholds for the region that has the most recipient families. However, to maintain consistency with information collected in the earlier CRS survey of the states, a different region of the state (the one with the highest benefit levels) is reported for Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Virginia in this CRS report.

financial need include its size (larger families “need” more income to attain a specified standard of living), income, assets, and expenses. State rules for TANF cash assistance take into account those factors—which differ from family to family. State rules also often differ in terms of how different types of income and expenses are considered in determining financial eligibility and benefits for TANF cash assistance.

This report will use the rules of state TANF cash assistance programs to describe eligibility standards and benefit amounts. To simplify the descriptions of TANF cash assistance eligibility and benefits, most examples in this report will depict the rules that apply to a single mother caring for two children. Families that are headed by a recipient single parent have historically been the focus of much of cash assistance policy for needy families. However, the current TANF cash assistance caseload is diverse, with large shares of the caseload representing different family settings and benefits paid to the family only on behalf of a child.<sup>4</sup> The descriptions in this report also assume that the family’s sole source of other cash income is earnings. They will not take into account any expenses that might change TANF cash assistance amounts or eligibility, such as child care expenses.

TANF cash assistance income eligibility thresholds and benefit amounts vary greatly from state to state. To provide some context for the dollar amounts associated with income eligibility thresholds and benefit amounts, comparison will be made to the federal poverty level (FPL), which is uniform across the contiguous 48 states and the District of Columbia. (The federal poverty level is higher in Alaska and Hawaii.) For a single mother with two children in the 48 states and the District of Columbia, the 2012 federal poverty level was \$19,090—or \$1,591 per month.

Additionally, because there is a great deal of variation in income eligibility thresholds and benefit amounts among the states, this report will discuss the states with the highest and lowest eligibility threshold or benefit amount, as well as the amounts for the “median state.” If states are ranked by their eligibility thresholds or benefit amounts from 1 to 51 (50 states and District of Columbia), with 1 being the lowest and 51 being the highest, the state that ranked 26<sup>th</sup> would be the “median state.”

## Eligibility for TANF Cash Assistance

Federal law limits TANF eligibility to needy families with a dependent child. It defines a dependent child as a person under the age of 18, or age 18 if a full-time student in secondary school. Individuals and couples without children are ineligible for TANF-funded cash assistance. Federal law also prohibits states from providing TANF-funded assistance to certain individuals in families with children.<sup>5</sup> Aside from these rules, states have broad discretion in designing their cash assistance programs.

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<sup>4</sup> For example, TANF cash assistance “child-only” families include those with adults who are parents receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI); noncitizen, nonrecipient parents; and nonparent relative caregivers. See CRS Report R43187, *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): Characteristics of the Cash Assistance Caseload*, by Gene Falk. The Urban Institute’s *Welfare Rules Databook*, cited above, includes detail on the rules that apply to these families receiving cash assistance.

<sup>5</sup> Federal law prohibits states from using federal TANF funds to provide cash assistance to (1) families with an adult who has received assistance for 60 months (the five-year time limit); (2) teen parents not living in a supervised setting; (continued...)

## Income Eligibility Criteria for New Applicants

Federal law requires states to restrict TANF-funded cash assistance to “needy” families. Therefore, states must require that TANF families meet a test of financial need. However, there is no federal definition of need. States define the criteria for determining whether a family is financially needy and eligible for TANF cash assistance.

States typically limit entry to the cash assistance program to families with only a fraction of poverty-level income. **Figure 1** shows, by state, the maximum monthly earnings a single parent with two children applying for TANF cash assistance may have and gain entry to the benefit rolls. The figure provides as a reference the monthly federal poverty level (with the higher levels for Alaska and Hawaii).

As shown on the figure, the maximum earnings thresholds for applicants in July 2012 were below the federal poverty level in all states except Wisconsin. In that state, it was technically possible for families with incomes as high as 115% of the FPL to be eligible for TANF, but the circumstances that would permit a working Wisconsin parent to receive TANF cash are limited.<sup>6</sup> For the other contiguous 47 states and the District of Columbia, maximum earnings thresholds for a single mother caring for two children ranged from \$1,447 per month in Nevada (91% of poverty-level income) to \$268 per month in Alabama (16% of poverty-level income). The median state was South Dakota, at \$772 per month (about 48% of poverty-level income). In a majority of states (28 states and the District of Columbia), earnings of \$795 per month—representing half of poverty-level income—disqualify a family of three from coming onto the assistance rolls.

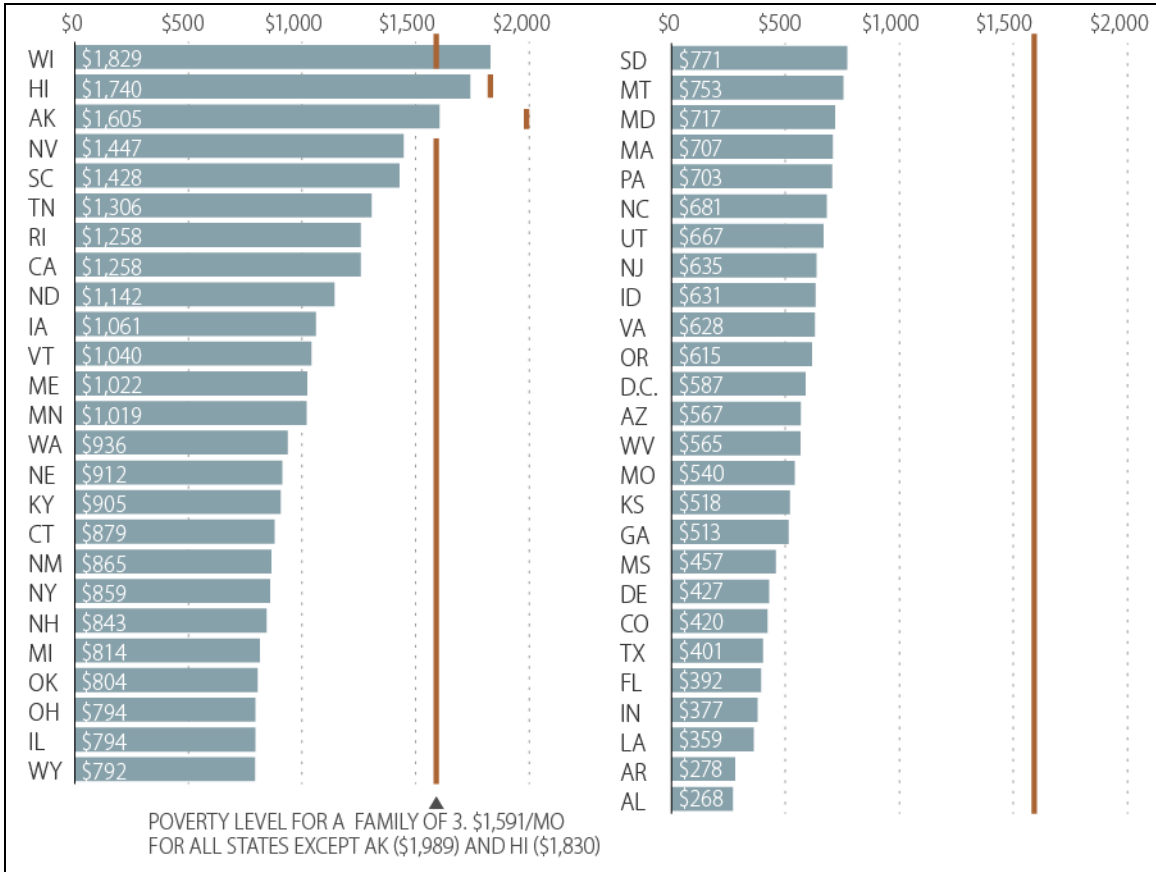
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(...continued)

(3) married teen parents or teen heads of households (with a child 13 weeks or older) who are not in high school or alternative education or training; (4) families that have not legally assigned their right (turned over rights) to child support to the state paid on behalf of children receiving assistance; (5) felons and parole violators; (6) those who misrepresented their residence to receive benefits; and (7) certain noncitizens. In many of these cases, states may use state funds countable toward the TANF maintenance of effort (MOE) state spending requirement to aid such families.

<sup>6</sup> A low-income parent working under 30 hours per week may participate in a community service job if he or she has barriers to employment that preclude full-time work. That community service job would be part-time, with benefits prorated based on the number of hours of participation in the job.

**Figure I. Maximum Monthly Earnings An Applicant Family May Have and Be Eligible for TANF Cash Assistance: Single Parent Caring for Two Children: July 2012**



**Source:** Congressional Research Service (CRS), based on data from the Urban Institute’s Welfare Rules Database

**Notes:** Maximum earnings levels shown on the figure differ from those shown in the Urban Institute’s *Welfare Rules Databook for July 2012* for two reasons. First, the *Databook* showed the maximum earnings allowed to be “technically” eligible for assistance (sometimes used for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, rather than qualifying for a cash benefit). This figure shows the maximum earnings a family may have and still receive cash. In addition, the maximum earnings a family may have can vary within a state. For Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, the *Databook* uses the eligibility and benefit schedules for a different sub-state region than does this figure. The information in this figure is also presented in tabular form in the **Appendix, Table A-1.**

## Income Eligibility for Families Already on the Rolls

Many states provide financial incentives for those already on the rolls to gain employment. This is done by allowing recipients to retain eligibility and keep some of their TANF cash assistance while working through disregarding some earnings in the financial eligibility and benefit determination calculations. States have adopted very different forms of these “earnings disregards,” with the effect being substantial variation among the states in whether and how much TANF cash assistance is provided to families with a working parent. Some states provide generous earnings disregards for only a short period of time (e.g., three months)—even disregarding all earnings and allowing families to keep all of their cash assistance for that



period—providing the TANF cash assistance as only a short transitional earnings supplement. Other states provide for the same earnings disregard no matter how many months a recipient is working, supplementing earnings on an ongoing rather than a transitional basis.

**Table A-2** in the **Appendix** shows maximum monthly earnings thresholds by state for both applicants and recipients.<sup>7</sup> It shows that the maximum earnings thresholds are often higher for recipients than applicants. For example, applicant single parents with two children with earnings up to \$795 per month (half of poverty-level income) are eligible for TANF cash assistance in 22 states. However, at that earnings level a recipient single parent with two children who gets a job may retain TANF eligibility in the first month on the job in 39 states and the District of Columbia, and even retain eligibility in the 13<sup>th</sup> month on the job in 30 states and the District of Columbia.

## Asset Limits for New Applicant Financial Eligibility

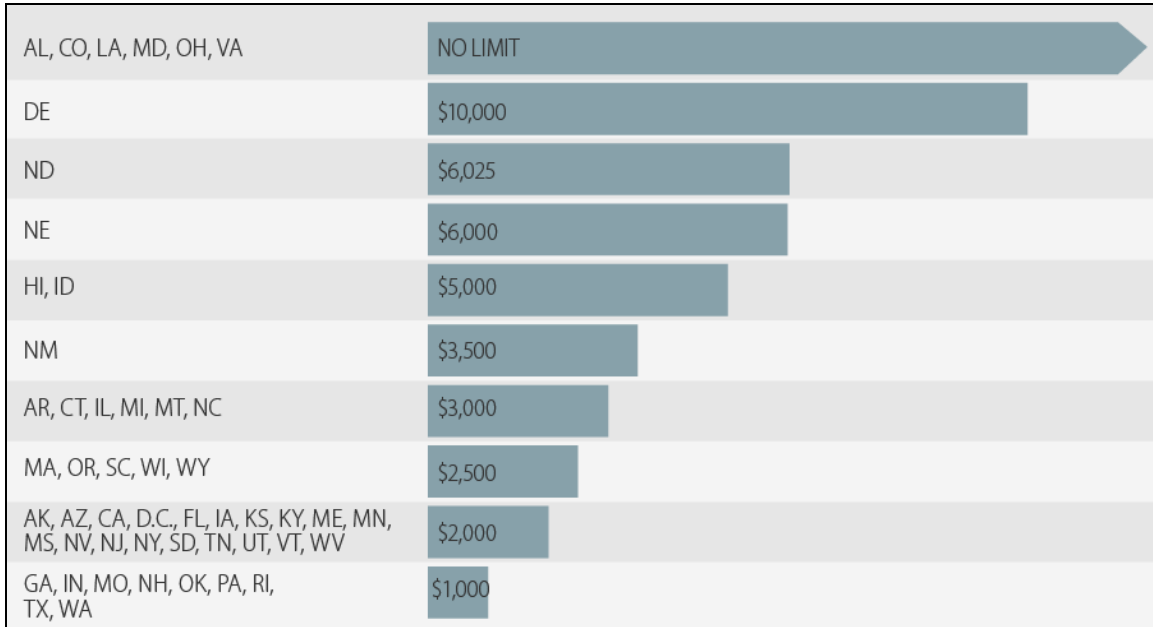
Assets represent the value of liquid financial assets such as bank accounts and certain property. Federal law and regulations do not require states to administer an asset test to determine if a family is financially needy. Most states do require families applying for TANF cash assistance to both meet income eligibility criteria and have assets below a certain amount. However, in recent years a number of states have eliminated asset tests for eligibility and base financial eligibility on income alone.

**Figure 2** categorizes states by their asset limit for new applicant families comprising a single parent with two children in July 2012. In that month, a total of six states (Alabama, Colorado, Louisiana, Maryland, Ohio, and Virginia) had eliminated their asset limits entirely. The remaining states and the District of Columbia retained an asset test. The most common asset limit in July 2012 was \$2,000, the amount in 18 states and the District of Columbia.

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<sup>7</sup> The rules are described in the *Welfare Rules Databook*, cited above. See Table I.E.2, p. 84, for a description of the earned income disregards used for income eligibility. See Table II.A.1, p. 98, for a description of the earned income disregards used for computing benefits.

**Figure 2. State TANF Cash Assistance Program Asset Limits for New Applicant Single Parents Caring for Two Children, July 2012**



**Source:** Congressional Research Service (CRS), based on data from the Urban Institute’s Welfare Rules Database, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

In states with asset tests, the value of vehicles is either fully or partially disregarded. **Table 1** categorizes states by their state TANF cash assistance program vehicle disregards for new applicant families in July 2012. A total of 18 states and the District of Columbia disregarded the value of all vehicles in determining financial eligibility (including the six states without asset limits). Another 18 states disregarded the full value of at least one vehicle.

The remaining 14 states disregarded a portion of the value of vehicles, which was determined at either their fair market values or equity values. Fair market value represents an estimate of what a vehicle could be sold for. Equity value represents its fair market value minus any outstanding loans that financed its purchase. The vehicle disregards varied from \$4,600 in equity value (Tennessee) to \$15,000 in equity value (Minnesota).

**Table 1. State TANF Cash Assistance Program Vehicles Disregards from Asset Limits for New Applicant Families, July 2012**

Disregard	States
All vehicles in the household (18 states and DC)	AL, CO, LA, MD, OH, VA (states with no asset limits) AK, AZ, DE, DC, HI, KS, KY, MI, MS, NJ, NM, NC, UT
One vehicle per household (14 states)	AR, ID, IL, IA, ME, MO, MT, NE, NV, ND, PA, SD, WV, WY
One vehicle per adult (2 states)	RI, VT
One vehicle per licensed driver (2 states)	NH, SC

Disregard	States
A portion of the value of vehicles (14 states)	TN: \$4,600 in equity value CA: \$4,650 fair market value per vehicle GA: \$4,650 in equity value MA, NY: Greater of \$4,650 in fair market value or \$9,300 in equity value TX: \$4,650 in equity value IN, OK, WA: \$5,000 in equity value FL: \$8,500 in equity value CT: \$9,500 in equity value OR, WI: \$10,000 in equity value MN: \$15,000 in fair market value

**Source:** Congressional Research Service (CRS), based on data from the Urban Institute’s Welfare Rules Database, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Additionally, states usually do not count the value of a home toward their asset limits. Some states also exclude the value of certain other assets, such as restricted savings accounts (e.g., Individual Development Accounts (IDAs)).

## TANF Maximum Cash Benefit Amounts

The TANF maximum cash benefit amount is generally what is paid to a family that has no other income and complies with program rules. Families that have additional sources of cash income, such as Social Security, receive a reduced benefit because some of their need is met by that other form of cash income. States have adopted a wide range of policies for determining benefits paid to families with earnings; though typically such families also receive a reduced benefit, particularly after they have been working a certain number of months. Additionally, families not in compliance with a state’s TANF rules (e.g., work requirements) might be financially sanctioned, and thus receive a reduced benefit.

TANF maximum cash benefits generally vary by family size, on the presumption that larger families have greater financial need. Only Idaho and Wisconsin pay the same maximum benefit regardless of family size. This section will focus on maximum benefits for a family headed by a single parent caring for two children (family size of three). See **Table A-4** in the **Appendix** for TANF maximum benefits for families headed by a single parent caring for one through five children.

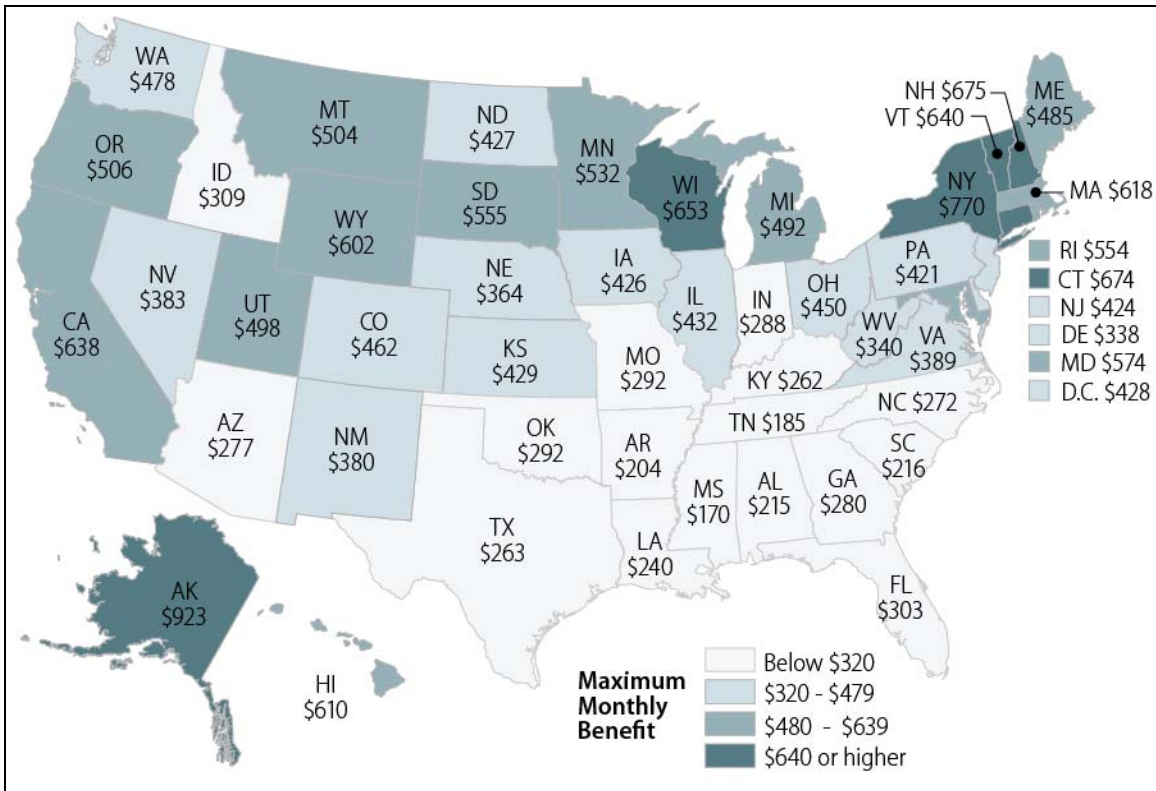
## State and Regional Variation in TANF Cash Assistance Maximums

There is a great deal of variation in maximum benefits by state. For a single parent caring for two children, the TANF cash assistance maximum monthly benefits ranged from a high of \$923 in Alaska to a low of \$170 in Mississippi in July 2012. The highest maximum monthly benefit outside of Alaska for such a family was in New York, \$770 per month; the median state maximum benefit was \$427 per month in North Dakota.

In July 2012, all states paid monthly maximum benefits for a single parent caring for two children that were less than half of federal poverty-level income. New York's \$770 per month represented 48.4% of the FPL. Alaska had a higher monthly FPL, \$1,989 per month, for a family of three; its maximum benefit of \$923 was 46.4% of the FPL.

**Figure 3** provides a map showing the TANF maximum monthly cash assistance benefit by state in July 2012 for a single parent caring for two children. The map shows the states categorized by their maximum benefits. The categories themselves are based on benefits as a percent of monthly poverty-level income. For example, a state with a maximum benefit of less than \$320 per month paid less than about 20% of poverty-level income for a family of three in 2012. The map shows that not only do benefits vary widely among the states, but there is a pronounced regional pattern in benefit amounts. States in the South paid the lowest benefits. States in the Northeast paid the highest benefits.

**Figure 3. TANF Maximum Monthly Benefits for a Single Parent Caring for Two Children, by State, July 2012**



**Source:** Congressional Research Service (CRS), based on data from the Urban Institute's *Welfare Rules Database*, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

**Notes:** The map's shading categories are based on monthly benefits as a percent of the federal poverty level for the 48 states and District of Columbia. Under \$320 per month was less than 20% of poverty-level income; \$320 to \$479 per month was 20% to 30% of poverty-level income; \$480 to \$639 per month was 30% to 40% of poverty-level income; and \$640 per month or more was more than 40% of poverty-level income. The information in this map is also shown in tabular form in the **Appendix, Table A-3**.

## Combined TANF Cash and SNAP Food Assistance

Families receiving TANF cash assistance are automatically financially eligible for food benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Thus, a more complete picture of the benefits a TANF family might receive is the combined TANF cash and SNAP food benefit.

**Figure 4** shows the combined TANF cash and SNAP food assistance benefit for a single parent caring for two children for July 2012. It shows that in all states, the combined TANF and SNAP benefits for such a family fall short of the federal poverty threshold. In New York, the combined TANF cash and SNAP benefit totaled \$1,109, reflecting 69.7% of the FPL.

SNAP policy is generally predicated on households using 30% of their net income (after deductions for allowable expenses) for food.<sup>8</sup> The SNAP benefits make up any deficit between what is needed to purchase a low-cost but nutritionally adequate diet and 30% of net income. A family's TANF cash benefit is counted in determining income for the purposes of SNAP. Thus, for a family with no income other than TANF, SNAP benefits are higher in states with lower TANF cash benefits, and lower in states with higher TANF cash benefits. Therefore, SNAP mitigates some of the differences in income produced by the variation in TANF cash benefits across the states. Though historically the SNAP benefit was thought of as a supplement to the TANF cash benefit, in July 2012 a family of three without any other income was eligible for a greater SNAP benefit than TANF cash benefit in 28 states and the District of Columbia.

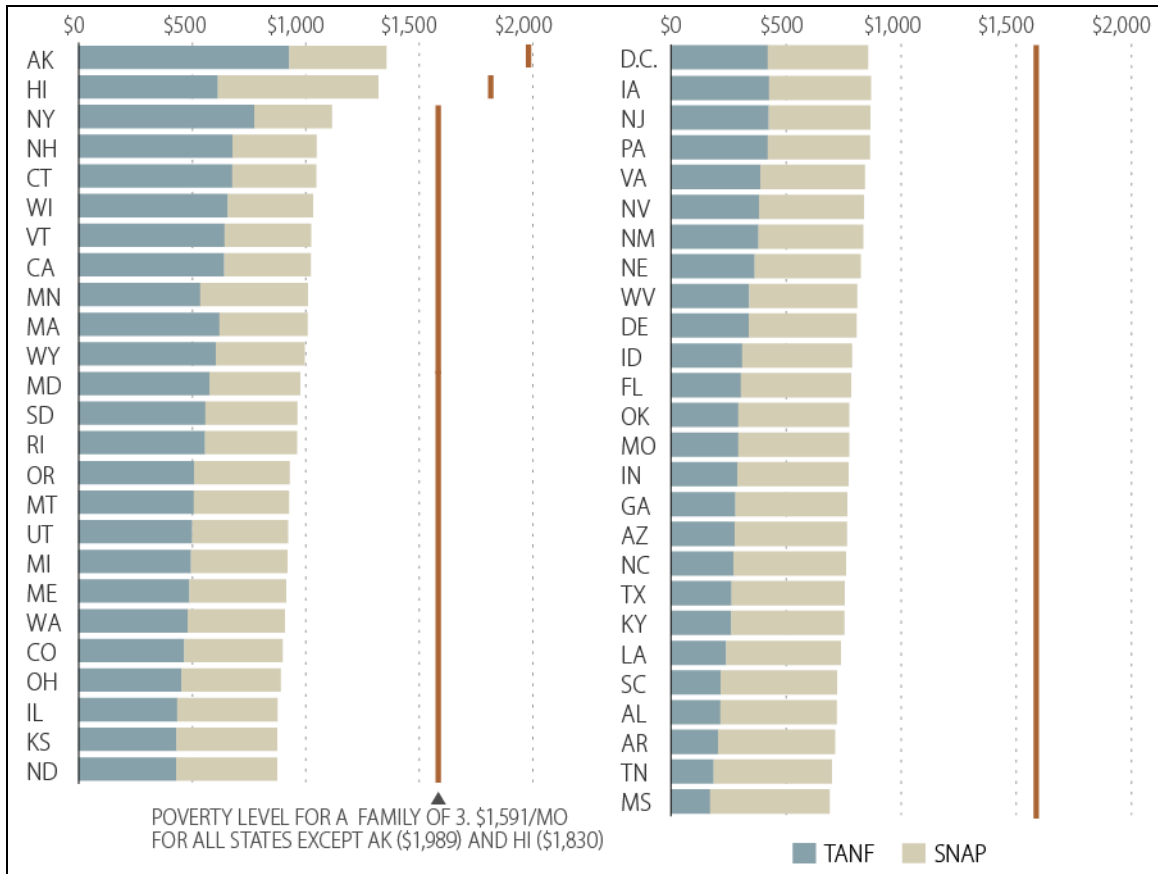
It should be noted that in July 2012, the SNAP benefit was higher than usual because of a temporary SNAP benefit increase enacted in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-5).<sup>9</sup> That increase expired in November 2013, and monthly SNAP benefits were reduced by approximately 5.5% for a family of three.

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<sup>8</sup> See CRS Report R42505, *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): A Primer on Eligibility and Benefits*, by Randy Alison Aussenberg.

<sup>9</sup> CRS Report R43257, *Background on the Scheduled Reduction to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits*, by Randy Alison Aussenberg and Gene Falk.

**Figure 4. Combined TANF Cash Assistance and SNAP Benefit, Single Parent Caring for Two Children: July 2012**



**Source:** Congressional Research Service (CRS) calculations based on data from the Urban Institutes *Welfare Rules Database* and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

**Notes:** SNAP benefit assumes that a household receives only the SNAP standard deduction, and no deductions for expenses allowed under SNAP law (high shelter costs, dependent care deductions). The information in this figure is also shown in tabular form in the **Appendix, Table A-5**.

## Change in Benefits Over Time

The amount paid to a family under TANF is decided by states—there are no federal rules for how states determine the amount of TANF cash assistance. Before the 1996 welfare reform law, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) paid cash assistance to needy families with children. States also determined the maximum amount of cash assistance paid to a family under AFDC.

Examining maximum cash assistance benefits for 1981 through 2012, AFDC and TANF cash assistance maximum benefits increased over time, but not enough to compensate for price increases.

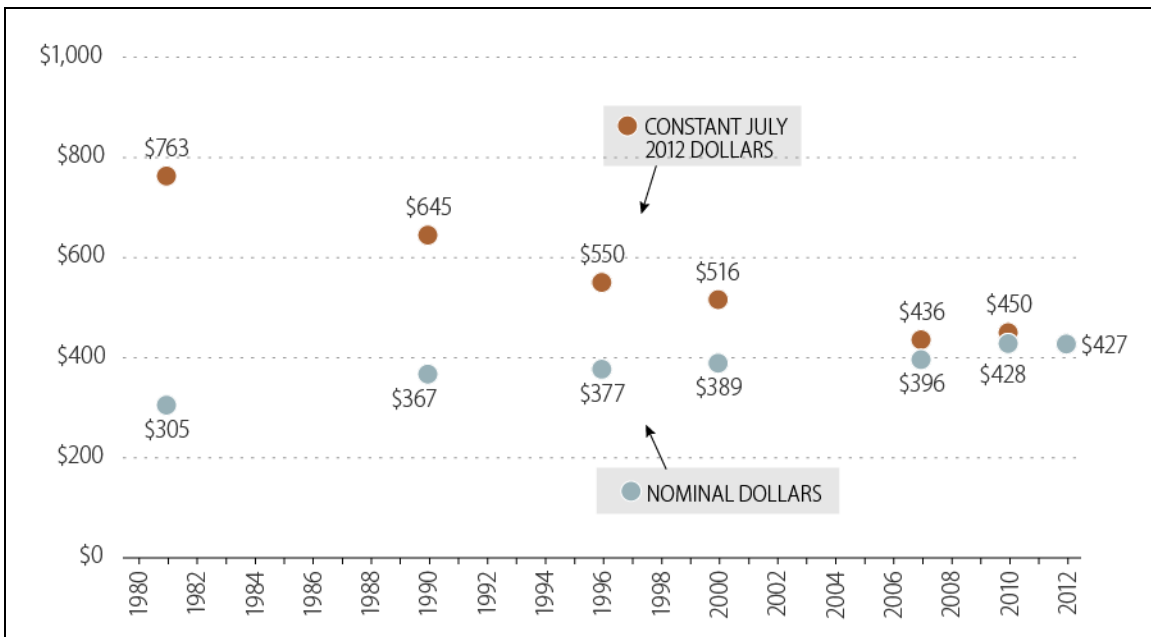
## AFDC and TANF Maximum Benefits

**Figure 5** shows the maximum cash assistance benefit for a single parent caring for two children in the median state for selected years from 1981 to 2012. In 1981, the maximum monthly benefit in the median state was \$305, an amount that increased to \$427 by 2012. However, this increase was not enough to compensate for inflation over this period. In July 2012 dollars (past dollars adjusted to reflect what they could purchase in July 2012), the maximum cash assistance benefit for such a family declined from \$763 in 1981 to \$427 in 2012. This represents a decline in the purchasing power of the maximum benefit in the median state of 44% since 1981. A large share of that decline occurred under AFDC—before the enactment of the 1996 welfare reform law. From 1981 to 1996, the maximum AFDC cash benefit in the median state declined from \$763 per month to \$550 in 2012 dollars—a 28% reduction.

The figure shows that between July 2010 and July 2012, the benefit paid to a single parent caring for two children in the median state declined slightly, from \$428 per month to \$427 per month even in nominal (not inflation-adjusted) dollars. In July 2012, the maximum benefit for such a family was lower than it had been in July 2010 in nominal dollars in seven states: California, Delaware<sup>10</sup>, New Mexico, Oregon, South Carolina, Washington, and Wisconsin.

**Figure 5. AFDC/TANF Maximum Benefits for a Family of Three in the Median State, July of Selected Years 1981-2012**

In Nominal Dollars and in Constant July 2012 Dollars



**Source:** Congressional Research Service (CRS). Information for the TANF years (i.e., after 1996) is based on data from the Urban Institute's *Welfare Rules Database*, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

<sup>10</sup> Delaware temporarily raised its TANF benefits effective November 1, 2009, based on additional TANF funding provided to the state through the TANF Emergency Contingency Fund (ECF). The temporary benefit increase expired on September 30, 2010, when funding for the TANF ECF ended. The decline in Delaware's maximum benefit between July 2010 and July 2012 reflects the end of that temporary benefit increase.



Services (HHS). Information for AFDC (1996 and earlier years) is from the CRS survey of state AFDC financial eligibility and benefit amounts.

**Notes:** Constant dollars were computed using the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U), not seasonally adjusted for July of selected years. State-by-state information on maximum benefit amounts for the selected years shown in this figure are shown in tabular form in the **Appendix, Table A-6** and **Table A-7**. Additionally, **Table A-8** shows state-by-state maximum benefits for a single parent caring for two children for the selected years as a percent of the FPL.

## Trends in Cash and Food Assistance

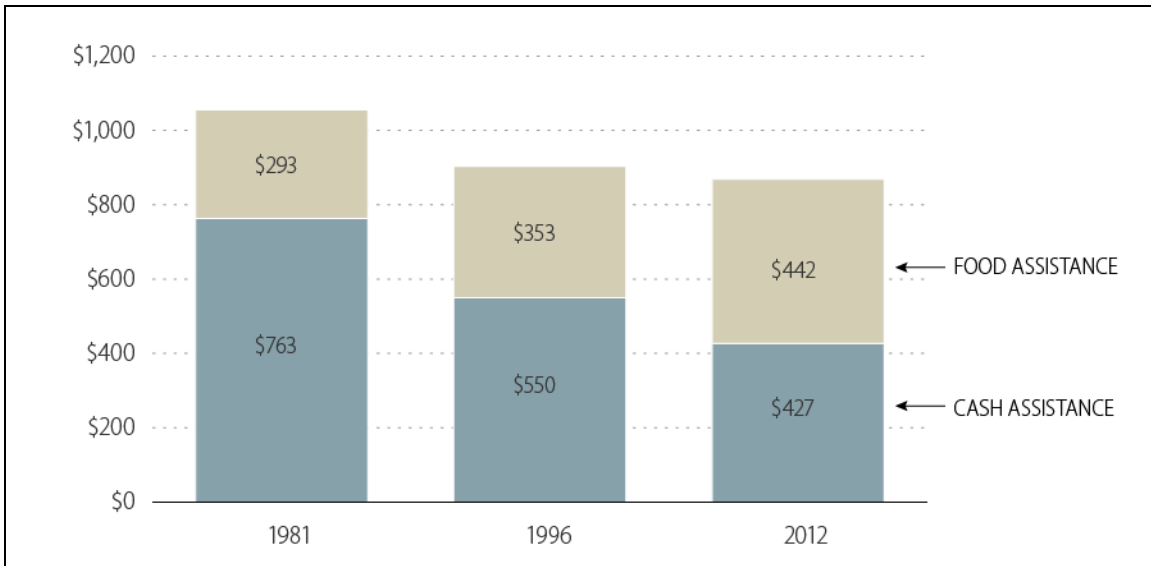
Unlike AFDC and TANF cash assistance, benefit amounts for SNAP food assistance (formerly called Food Stamps) are set in federal law, and generally have been adjusted over time for inflation. SNAP benefits are tied to the “Thrifty Food Plan,” a market basket of foods to provide a low-cost, nutritionally adequate diet. Over time, Congress has periodically adjusted SNAP benefits to be higher (or slightly lower) than the Thrifty Food Plan. An ad-hoc increase in SNAP benefits was legislated in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-5); that increase was effective April 1, 2009, and expired on October 31, 2013.

Over time, the decline in the value of AFDC and TANF cash benefits was partially compensated for by an increase in SNAP benefits. Just as SNAP pays higher benefits in states with lower TANF cash assistance benefits at a point in time, the erosion of the cash assistance benefit relative to inflation has resulted in higher SNAP benefits paid to families that receive cash assistance over time.

**Figure 6** shows the combined AFDC or TANF cash assistance benefits and SNAP food assistance benefits for a single parent caring for two children in the median state for July 1981, July 1996, and July 2012 in constant July 2012 dollars. Over this period, the value of the combined benefit declined by 17.7%. Additionally, the food assistance portion of the benefit increased as a share of the combined benefit—to the point where the SNAP benefit was greater than the TANF cash benefit in the median state in July 2012. The July 2012 SNAP benefit includes the increase in ARRA; that increase subsequently expired and SNAP benefits are lower in 2014.



**Figure 6. Combined Cash Assistance and Food Assistance for a Family of Three:  
July 1981, July 1996, and July 2012**  
Constant July 2012 Dollars



**Source:** Congressional Research Service (CRS). Information for TANF cash assistance (2012) is based on data from the Urban Institute’s *Welfare Rules Database*, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Information for AFDC cash assistance (1981 and 1996) is from the CRS survey of state AFDC financial eligibility and benefit amounts. SNAP food assistance benefits are based on information from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

**Notes:** Food assistance benefits were calculated based on the cash assistance amount in the median state for the selected years. SNAP benefit assumes that a household receives only the SNAP standard deduction, and no deductions for expenses allowed under SNAP law (high shelter costs, dependent care deductions). Constant dollars were computed using the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U), not seasonally adjusted for July of selected years.

## Appendix. State Tables

**Table A-1. Maximum Monthly Earnings an Applicant Family Comprising a Single Parent Caring for Two Children May Have to Gain Eligibility for TANF Cash Assistance: July 2012**

State	Maximum Earnings	Maximum Earnings as a Percent of the Federal Poverty Level
Alabama	\$268	16.8%
Alaska	1,605	80.7
Arizona	567	35.6
Arkansas	278	17.5
California	1,258	79.1
Colorado	420	26.4
Connecticut	879	55.3
Delaware	427	26.8
District of Columbia	587	36.9
Florida	392	24.6
Georgia	513	32.2
Hawaii	1,740	95.1
Idaho	631	39.7
Illinois	794	49.9
Indiana	377	23.7
Iowa	1,061	66.7
Kansas	518	32.6
Kentucky	905	56.9
Louisiana	359	22.6
Maine	1,022	64.2
Maryland	717	45.1
Massachusetts	707	44.4
Michigan	814	51.2
Minnesota	1,019	64.1
Mississippi	457	28.7
Missouri	540	33.9
Montana	753	47.3
Nebraska	912	57.3
Nevada	1,447	91.0
New Hampshire	843	53.0

State	Maximum Earnings	Maximum Earnings as a Percent of the Federal Poverty Level
New Jersey	635	39.9
New Mexico	865	54.4
New York	859	54.0
North Carolina	681	42.8
North Dakota	1,142	71.8
Ohio	794	49.9
Oklahoma	804	50.5
Oregon	615	38.7
Pennsylvania	703	44.2
Rhode Island	1,258	79.1
South Carolina	1,428	89.8
South Dakota	771	48.5
Tennessee	1,306	82.1
Texas	401	25.2
Utah	667	41.9
Vermont	1,040	65.4
Virginia	628	39.5
Washington	936	58.8
West Virginia	565	35.5
Wisconsin	1,829	115.0
Wyoming	792	49.8

**Source:** Congressional Research Service (CRS) calculations based on information in the Urban Institute's *Welfare Rules Database*, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

**Table A-2. Maximum Monthly Earnings a Single Parent Caring for Two Children May Have for Applicants or for Recipients to Retain Eligibility for TANF Cash Assistance, July 2012**

For Recipients, Eligibility is Based on Number of Months on the Job

State	Applicant	Recipients, by Months on the Job		
		First	Fourth	13 <sup>th</sup>
Alabama	\$268	No Limit	No Limit	256
Alaska	1,605	2,388	2,388	2,149
Arizona	567	567	567	567
Arkansas	278	696	696	696
California	1,258	1,368	1,368	1,368
Colorado	420	1,357	1,357	420

State	Applicant	Recipients, by Months on the Job		
		First	Fourth	13 <sup>th</sup>
Connecticut	879	1,589	1,589	1,589
Delaware	427	1,818	1,818	1,228
District of Columbia	587	1,415	1,415	1,415
Florida	392	786	786	786
Georgia	513	740	740	504
Hawaii	1,740	1,916	1,916	1,916
Idaho	631	631	631	631
Illinois	794	1,724	1,724	1,724
Indiana	377	1,112	1,112	1,112
Iowa	1,061	1,238	1,238	1,238
Kansas	518	1,137	1,137	1,137
Kentucky	905	No Limit	881	627
Louisiana	359	1,250	1,250	350
Maine	1,022	1,022	1,022	1,022
Maryland	717	940	940	940
Massachusetts	707	1,143	1,143	1,143
Michigan	814	1,164	1,164	1,164
Minnesota	1,019	1,019	1,019	1,019
Mississippi	457	No Limit	No Limit	441
Missouri	540	1,094	1,094	372
Montana	753	753	753	753
Nebraska	912	912	912	912
Nevada	1,447	No Limit	2,486	466
New Hampshire	843	1,330	1,330	1,330
New Jersey	635	No Limit	1,692	846
New Mexico	865	865	865	865
New York	859	1,424	1,424	1,424
North Carolina	681	No Limit	681	681
North Dakota	1,142	1,142	1,142	761
Ohio	794	1,130	1,130	1,130
Oklahoma	804	804	804	804
Oregon	615	615	615	615
Pennsylvania	703	822	822	822
Rhode Island	1,258	1,258	1,258	1,258
South Carolina	1,428	1,428	1,428	836
South Dakota	771	771	771	771

State	Recipients, by Months on the Job			
	Applicant	First	Fourth	13 <sup>th</sup>
Tennessee	1,306	1,306	1,306	1,306
Texas	401	1,707	1,707	307
Utah	667	1,050	1,050	1,050
Vermont	1,040	1,040	1,040	1,040
Virginia	628	1,589	1,589	1,589
Washington	936	936	936	936
West Virginia	565	565	565	565
Wisconsin	1,829	1,829	1,829	1,829
Wyoming	792	792	792	792

**Source:** Congressional Research Service (CRS) calculations based on information in the Urban Institute's *Welfare Rules Database*, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

**Notes:** "No Limit" represents months where 100% of earnings are disregarded.

**Table A-3. Maximum Monthly TANF Cash Assistance Benefit for a Single Parent Caring for Two Children, July 2012**

Benefit Amounts and Benefit as a Percent of the 2012 Poverty Guidelines

State	Maximum Benefit	Maximum Benefit as a Percent of the 2012 Poverty Guidelines
Alabama	\$215	13.5%
Alaska	923	46.4
Arizona	277	17.4
Arkansas	204	12.8
California	638	40.1
Colorado	462	29.0
Connecticut	674	42.4
Delaware	338	21.2
District of Columbia	428	26.9
Florida	303	19.0
Georgia	280	17.6
Hawaii	610	33.3
Idaho	309	19.4
Illinois	432	27.2
Indiana	288	18.1
Iowa	426	26.8
Kansas	429	27.0
Kentucky	262	16.5

State	Maximum Benefit	Maximum Benefit as a Percent of the 2012 Poverty Guidelines
Louisiana	240	15.1
Maine	485	30.5
Maryland	574	36.1
Massachusetts	618	38.8
Michigan	492	30.9
Minnesota	532	33.4
Mississippi	170	10.7
Missouri	292	18.4
Montana	504	31.7
Nebraska	364	22.9
Nevada	383	24.1
New Hampshire	675	42.4
New Jersey	424	26.7
New Mexico	380	23.9
New York	770	48.4
North Carolina	272	17.1
North Dakota	427	26.8
Ohio	450	28.3
Oklahoma	292	18.4
Oregon	506	31.8
Pennsylvania	421	26.5
Rhode Island	554	34.8
South Carolina	216	13.6
South Dakota	555	34.9
Tennessee	185	11.6
Texas	263	16.5
Utah	498	31.3
Vermont	640	40.2
Virginia	389	24.5
Washington	478	30.0
West Virginia	340	21.4
Wisconsin	653	41.0
Wyoming	602	37.8

**Source:** Congressional Research Service (CRS) calculations based on information in the Urban Institute's *Welfare Rules Database*, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

**Table A-4. Maximum Monthly TANF Cash Assistance Benefits Paid to a Family Headed by a Single Parent, By Family Size, July 2012**

State	Number of Children				
	One	Two	Three	Four	Five
Alabama	\$190	\$215	\$245	\$275	\$305
Alaska	821	923	1,025	1,127	1,229
Arizona	220	277	334	392	448
Arkansas	162	204	247	286	331
California	516	638	762	866	972
Colorado	364	462	561	665	767
Connecticut	544	674	786	886	992
Delaware	270	338	407	475	544
District of Columbia	336	428	523	602	708
Florida	241	303	364	426	487
Georgia	235	280	330	378	410
Hawaii	486	610	736	861	986
Idaho	309	309	309	309	309
Illinois	318	432	474	555	623
Indiana	230	288	346	405	464
Iowa	361	426	495	548	610
Kansas	352	429	497	558	619
Kentucky	225	262	325	361	398
Louisiana	188	240	284	327	366
Maine	363	485	611	733	856
Maryland	453	574	695	805	885
Massachusetts	518	618	713	812	912
Michigan	403	492	597	694	828
Minnesota	437	532	621	697	773
Mississippi	146	170	194	218	242
Missouri	234	292	342	388	431
Montana	401	504	606	709	812
Nebraska	293	364	435	506	577
Nevada	318	383	448	513	578
New Hampshire	606	675	738	798	879
New Jersey	322	424	488	552	616
New Mexico	304	380	459	536	613
New York	562	770	928	1,091	1,204
North Carolina	236	272	297	324	349

State	Number of Children				
	One	Two	Three	Four	Five
North Dakota	328	427	523	620	717
Ohio	368	450	555	650	723
Oklahoma	225	292	361	422	483
Oregon	432	506	621	721	833
Pennsylvania	330	421	514	607	687
Rhode Island	449	554	634	714	794
South Carolina	171	216	261	307	350
South Dakota	496	555	613	671	730
Tennessee	142	185	226	264	305
Texas	228	263	316	351	404
Utah	399	498	583	663	731
Vermont	536	640	726	817	879
Virginia	323	389	451	537	570
Washington	385	478	562	648	736
West Virginia	301	340	384	420	460
Wisconsin	653	653	653	653	653
Wyoming	567	602	602	638	638

**Source:** Congressional Research Service (CRS) calculations based on information in the Urban Institute's *Welfare Rules Database*, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

**Table A-5. Maximum Combined TANF and SNAP Benefit for a Single Parent Caring for Two Children, July 2012**

Benefit Amounts as a Percent of the 2012 Federal Poverty Level

State	Benefits as a Percent of the 2012 FPL					
	TANF	SNAP	Combined Benefit	TANF	SNAP	Combined Benefit
Alabama	\$215	\$505	\$720	13.5%	31.7%	45.3%
Alaska	923	425	1,348	46.4	21.4	67.8
Arizona	277	487	764	17.4	30.6	48.0
Arkansas	204	508	712	12.8	31.9	44.8
California	638	378	1,016	40.1	23.8	63.9
Colorado	462	431	893	29.0	27.1	56.1
Connecticut	674	367	1,041	42.4	23.1	65.4
Delaware	338	468	806	21.2	29.4	50.7
District of Columbia	428	441	869	26.9	27.7	54.6
Florida	303	479	782	19.0	30.1	49.2



State	TANF	SNAP	Combined Benefit	Benefits as a Percent of the 2012 FPL		
				TANF	SNAP	Combined Benefit
Georgia	280	486	766	17.6	30.5	48.1
Hawaii	610	703	1,313	33.3	38.4	71.7
Idaho	309	477	786	19.4	30.0	49.4
Illinois	432	440	872	27.2	27.7	54.8
Indiana	288	483	771	18.1	30.4	48.5
Iowa	426	442	868	26.8	27.8	54.6
Kansas	429	441	870	27.0	27.7	54.7
Kentucky	262	491	753	16.5	30.9	47.3
Louisiana	240	498	738	15.1	31.3	46.4
Maine	485	424	909	30.5	26.6	57.1
Maryland	574	397	971	36.1	25.0	61.0
Massachusetts	618	384	1,002	38.8	24.1	63.0
Michigan	492	422	914	30.9	26.5	57.4
Minnesota	532	473	1,005	33.4	29.7	63.2
Mississippi	170	519	689	10.7	32.6	43.3
Missouri	292	482	774	18.4	30.3	48.6
Montana	504	418	922	31.7	26.3	58.0
Nebraska	364	460	824	22.9	28.9	51.8
Nevada	383	455	838	24.1	28.6	52.7
New Hampshire	675	367	1,042	42.4	23.1	65.5
New Jersey	424	442	866	26.6	27.8	54.4
New Mexico	380	456	836	23.9	28.7	52.5
New York	770	339	1,109	48.4	21.3	69.7
North Carolina	272	488	760	17.1	30.7	47.8
North Dakota	427	442	869	26.8	27.8	54.6
Ohio	450	435	885	28.3	27.3	55.6
Oklahoma	292	482	774	18.4	30.3	48.6
Oregon	506	418	924	31.8	26.3	58.1
Pennsylvania	421	443	864	26.5	27.8	54.3
Rhode Island	554	403	957	34.8	25.3	60.2
South Carolina	216	505	721	13.6	31.7	45.3
South Dakota	555	403	958	34.9	25.3	60.2
Tennessee	185	514	699	11.6	32.3	43.9
Texas	263	491	754	16.5	30.9	47.4
Utah	498	420	918	31.3	26.4	57.7

State	TANF	SNAP	Combined Benefit	Benefits as a Percent of the 2012 FPL		
				TANF	SNAP	Combined Benefit
Vermont	640	378	1,018	40.2	23.8	64.0
Virginia	389	453	842	24.5	28.5	52.9
Washington	478	426	904	30.0	26.8	56.8
West Virginia	340	468	808	21.4	29.4	50.8
Wisconsin	653	374	1,027	41.0	23.5	64.6
Wyoming	602	389	991	37.8	24.5	62.3
Median State	427	442	869	26.8	27.8	54.6
Maximum	923	703	1,348	48.4	38.4	71.7
Minimum	170	339	689	10.7	21.3	43.3

**Source:** Congressional Research Service (CRS) calculations based on information in the Urban Institute's *Welfare Rules Database*, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); and from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service.

**Notes:** SNAP benefits are computed based on the TANF household taking only the standard deduction in determining countable income.

**Table A-6. Maximum Monthly AFDC/TANF Cash Assistance Benefits for a Single Parent Caring for Two Children, July of Selected Years**

State	1981	1990	1996	2000	2007	2010	2012
Alabama	\$118	\$118	\$164	\$164	\$215	\$215	\$215
Alaska	571	846	923	923	923	923	923
Arizona	202	293	347	347	347	277	277
Arkansas	161	204	204	204	204	204	204
California	506	694	596	626	750	694	638
Colorado	379	356	356	356	356	462	462
Connecticut	498	680	636	636	656	656	674
Delaware	266	333	338	338	338	416	338
District of Columbia	286	409	415	379	407	428	428
Florida	195	294	303	303	303	303	303
Georgia	183	273	280	280	280	280	280
Hawaii	468	632	712	570	570	610	610
Idaho	305	317	317	293	309	309	309
Illinois	302	367	377	377	396	432	432
Indiana	255	288	288	288	288	288	288
Iowa	360	426	426	426	426	426	426
Kansas	353	409	429	429	429	429	429

State	1981	1990	1996	2000	2007	2010	2012
Kentucky	188	228	262	262	262	262	262
Louisiana	173	190	190	240	240	240	240
Maine	301	453	418	461	485	485	485
Maryland	270	406	373	417	549	574	574
Massachusetts	379	539	565	618	618	618	618
Michigan	397	442	459	459	489	492	492
Minnesota	446	532	532	532	532	532	532
Mississippi	96	120	120	170	170	170	170
Missouri	248	292	292	292	292	292	292
Montana	259	370	438	477	375	504	504
Nebraska	350	364	364	364	364	364	364
Nevada	241	330	348	348	383	383	383
New Hampshire	326	506	550	600	625	675	675
New Jersey	360	424	424	424	424	424	424
New Mexico	220	310	389	439	389	447	380
New York	429	577	577	577	691	753	770
North Carolina	192	272	272	272	272	272	272
North Dakota	334	401	431	457	477	427	427
Ohio	263	334	341	373	410	434	450
Oklahoma	282	325	307	292	292	292	292
Oregon	321	444	460	503	514	528	506
Pennsylvania	332	421	421	421	421	421	421
Rhode Island	367	543	554	554	554	554	554
South Carolina	129	206	200	205	240	270	216
South Dakota	321	385	430	430	508	555	555
Tennessee	122	195	185	185	185	185	185
Texas	118	184	188	201	236	260	263
Utah	348	387	426	451	474	498	498
Vermont	476	630	597	622	640	640	640
Virginia	310	354	354	389	389	389	389
Washington	415	501	546	546	546	562	478
West Virginia	206	249	253	353	340	340	340
Wisconsin	444	517	517	673	673	673	653
Wyoming	315	360	360	340	340	561	602
Median	305	367	377	389	396	428	427

**Source:** Congressional Research Service (CRS). Information for the TANF years (after 1996) is based on data in the Urban Institute's *Welfare Rules Database*, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Information for AFDC (1996 and earlier years) is from the CRS survey of state AFDC financial eligibility and benefit amounts.

**Table A-7. Maximum Monthly AFDC/TANF Cash Assistance Benefit for a Single Parent Caring for Two Children in Constant July 2012 Dollars**

State	1981	1990	1996	2000	2007	2010	2012
Alabama	\$295	\$207	\$239	\$217	\$236	\$226	\$215
Alaska	1,428	1,486	1,347	1,224	1,015	970	923
Arizona	505	515	506	460	382	291	277
Arkansas	403	358	298	270	224	214	204
California	1,266	1,219	870	830	825	729	638
Colorado	948	625	519	472	392	486	462
Connecticut	1,246	1,195	928	843	722	689	674
Delaware	665	585	493	448	372	437	338
District of Columbia	715	719	606	502	448	450	428
Florida	488	517	442	402	333	318	303
Georgia	458	480	409	371	308	294	280
Hawaii	1,171	1,110	1,039	756	627	641	610
Idaho	763	557	463	388	340	325	309
Illinois	755	645	550	500	436	454	432
Indiana	638	506	420	382	317	303	288
Iowa	900	748	622	565	469	448	426
Kansas	883	719	626	569	472	451	429
Kentucky	470	401	382	347	288	275	262
Louisiana	433	334	277	318	264	252	240
Maine	753	796	610	611	533	510	485
Maryland	675	713	544	553	604	603	574
Massachusetts	948	947	824	819	680	649	618
Michigan	993	777	670	609	538	517	492
Minnesota	1,116	935	776	705	585	559	532
Mississippi	240	211	175	225	187	179	170
Missouri	620	513	426	387	321	307	292
Montana	648	650	639	632	412	530	504
Nebraska	875	640	531	483	400	383	364
Nevada	603	580	508	461	421	402	383
New Hampshire	815	889	803	796	687	709	675
New Jersey	900	745	619	562	466	446	424
New Mexico	550	545	568	582	428	470	380

State	1981	1990	1996	2000	2007	2010	2012
New York	1,073	1,014	842	765	760	791	770
North Carolina	480	478	397	361	299	286	272
North Dakota	835	705	629	606	525	449	427
Ohio	658	587	498	495	451	456	450
Oklahoma	705	571	448	387	321	307	292
Oregon	803	780	671	667	565	555	506
Pennsylvania	830	740	614	558	463	442	421
Rhode Island	918	954	808	735	609	582	554
South Carolina	323	362	292	272	264	284	216
South Dakota	803	676	627	570	559	583	555
Tennessee	305	343	270	245	203	194	185
Texas	295	323	274	266	260	273	263
Utah	870	680	622	598	521	523	498
Vermont	1,191	1,107	871	825	704	673	640
Virginia	775	622	517	516	428	409	389
Washington	1,038	880	797	724	601	591	478
West Virginia	515	437	369	468	374	357	340
Wisconsin	1,111	908	754	892	740	707	653
Wyoming	788	632	525	451	374	590	602
Median	763	645	550	516	436	450	427

**Source:** Congressional Research Service (CRS). Information for the TANF years (after 1996) is based on data in the Urban Institute's *Welfare Rules Database*, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Information for AFDC (1996 and earlier years) is from the CRS survey of state AFDC financial eligibility and benefit amounts.

**Notes:** July 2012 constant dollars were computed using the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U), not seasonally adjusted data.

**Table A-8. Maximum Monthly AFDC/TANF Cash Assistance Benefit for a Single Parent Caring for Two Children, as a Percent of the Federal Poverty Level, July of Selected Years**

State	1981	1990	1996	2000	2007	2010	2012
Alabama	20.0%	13.4%	15.2%	13.9%	15.0%	14.1%	13.5%
Alaska	77.4	76.9	68.3	62.6	51.6	48.4	46.4
Arizona	34.3	33.3	32.1	29.4	24.3	18.2	17.4
Arkansas	27.3	23.2	18.9	17.3	14.3	13.4	12.8
California	85.9	78.9	55.1	53.1	52.4	45.5	40.1
Colorado	64.3	40.5	32.9	30.2	24.9	30.3	29.0
Connecticut	84.5	77.3	58.8	53.9	45.8	43.0	42.4

State	1981	1990	1996	2000	2007	2010	2012
Delaware	45.1	37.8	31.2	28.7	23.6	27.3	21.2
District of Columbia	48.5	46.5	38.4	32.1	28.4	28.1	26.9
Florida	33.1	33.4	28.0	25.7	21.2	19.9	19.0
Georgia	31.1	31.0	25.9	23.7	19.6	18.4	17.6
Hawaii	69.0	62.4	57.2	42.0	34.6	34.8	33.3
Idaho	51.8	36.0	29.3	24.8	21.6	20.3	19.4
Illinois	51.3	41.7	34.9	32.0	27.7	28.3	27.2
Indiana	43.3	32.7	26.6	24.4	20.1	18.9	18.1
Iowa	61.1	48.4	39.4	36.1	29.8	27.9	26.8
Kansas	59.9	46.5	39.7	36.4	30.0	28.1	27.0
Kentucky	31.9	25.9	24.2	22.2	18.3	17.2	16.5
Louisiana	29.4	21.6	17.6	20.4	16.8	15.7	15.1
Maine	51.1	51.5	38.6	39.1	33.9	31.8	30.5
Maryland	45.8	46.1	34.5	35.4	38.4	37.6	36.1
Massachusetts	64.3	61.3	52.2	52.4	43.2	40.5	38.8
Michigan	67.4	50.2	42.4	38.9	34.2	32.2	30.9
Minnesota	75.7	60.5	49.2	45.1	37.2	34.9	33.4
Mississippi	16.3	13.6	11.1	14.4	11.9	11.1	10.7
Missouri	42.1	33.2	27.0	24.8	20.4	19.1	18.4
Montana	44.0	42.0	40.5	40.5	26.2	33.0	31.7
Nebraska	59.4	41.4	33.7	30.9	25.4	23.9	22.9
Nevada	40.9	37.5	32.2	29.5	26.8	25.1	24.1
New Hampshire	55.3	57.5	50.8	50.9	43.7	44.2	42.4
New Jersey	61.1	48.2	39.2	36.0	29.6	27.8	26.7
New Mexico	37.3	35.2	36.0	37.2	27.2	29.3	23.9
New York	72.8	65.6	53.3	48.9	48.3	49.4	48.4
North Carolina	32.6	30.9	25.1	23.1	19.0	17.8	17.1
North Dakota	56.7	45.6	39.8	38.8	33.3	28.0	26.8
Ohio	44.6	38.0	31.5	31.6	28.7	28.4	28.3
Oklahoma	47.9	36.9	28.4	24.8	20.4	19.1	18.4
Oregon	54.5	50.5	42.5	42.7	35.9	34.6	31.8
Pennsylvania	56.4	47.8	38.9	35.7	29.4	27.6	26.5
Rhode Island	62.3	61.7	51.2	47.0	38.7	36.3	34.8
South Carolina	21.9	23.4	18.5	17.4	16.8	17.7	13.6
South Dakota	54.5	43.8	39.8	36.5	35.5	36.4	34.9
Tennessee	20.7	22.2	17.1	15.7	12.9	12.1	11.6
Texas	20.0	20.9	17.4	17.0	16.5	17.0	16.5

State	1981	1990	1996	2000	2007	2010	2012
Utah	59.1	44.0	39.4	38.2	33.1	32.6	31.3
Vermont	80.8	71.6	55.2	52.7	44.7	41.9	40.2
Virginia	52.6	40.2	32.7	33.0	27.2	25.5	24.5
Washington	70.4	56.9	50.5	46.3	38.2	36.8	30.0
West Virginia	35.0	28.3	23.4	29.9	23.8	22.3	21.4
Wisconsin	75.4	58.8	47.8	57.1	47.0	44.1	41.0
Wyoming	53.5	40.9	33.3	28.8	23.8	36.8	37.8
Median	51.8	41.7	34.9	33.0	27.7	28.1	26.8

**Source:** Congressional Research Service (CRS). Information for the TANF years (after 1996) is based on data in the Urban Institute's *Welfare Rules Database*, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Information for AFDC (1996 and earlier years) is from the CRS survey of state AFDC financial eligibility and benefit amounts.

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