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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 2013, the majority of states (29 states and the District of Columbia (DC)) required that a single mother caring for two children earn less than $814 per month to gain entry to the benefit rolls—an earnings level representing about half of 2013 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 2013, 27 states and DC 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 2013, 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 (10% of poverty-level income). Among the contiguous 48 states and DC, the highest maximum benefit was paid in New York: $789 per month for a single parent of two children in New York City (49% of poverty-level income). The benefit for such a family in the median jurisdiction (DC, whose maximum benefit ranked 26th among the 50 states and DC), was $428, a benefit amount that represented 26% of monthly poverty-level income in 2013. 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 2013, the inflation-adjusted value of the maximum cash assistance benefit for needy families in the median state declined by 45%. 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 2013 the value of the combined cash and food assistance benefit for a family of three with no other cash income in the median state declined by 19% 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.[1] 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*.[2] 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.[3]

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 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

[1] For an overview of benefits and services funded by TANF, see CRS Report R40946, *The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant: An Overview*, by Gene Falk.

[2] 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 2013. 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 Erika Huber, David Kassabian, and Elissa Cohen, *Welfare Rules Databook: State TANF Policies as of July 2013*, Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, OPRE Report 2014-52, September 2014.

[3] 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.

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.[4] 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 2013 federal poverty level was $19,530—or $1,628 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 26th 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.[5] Aside from these rules, states have broad discretion in designing their cash assistance programs.

[4] 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): Size and 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.

[5] 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; (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.

Income Eligibility Criteria for New Applicants

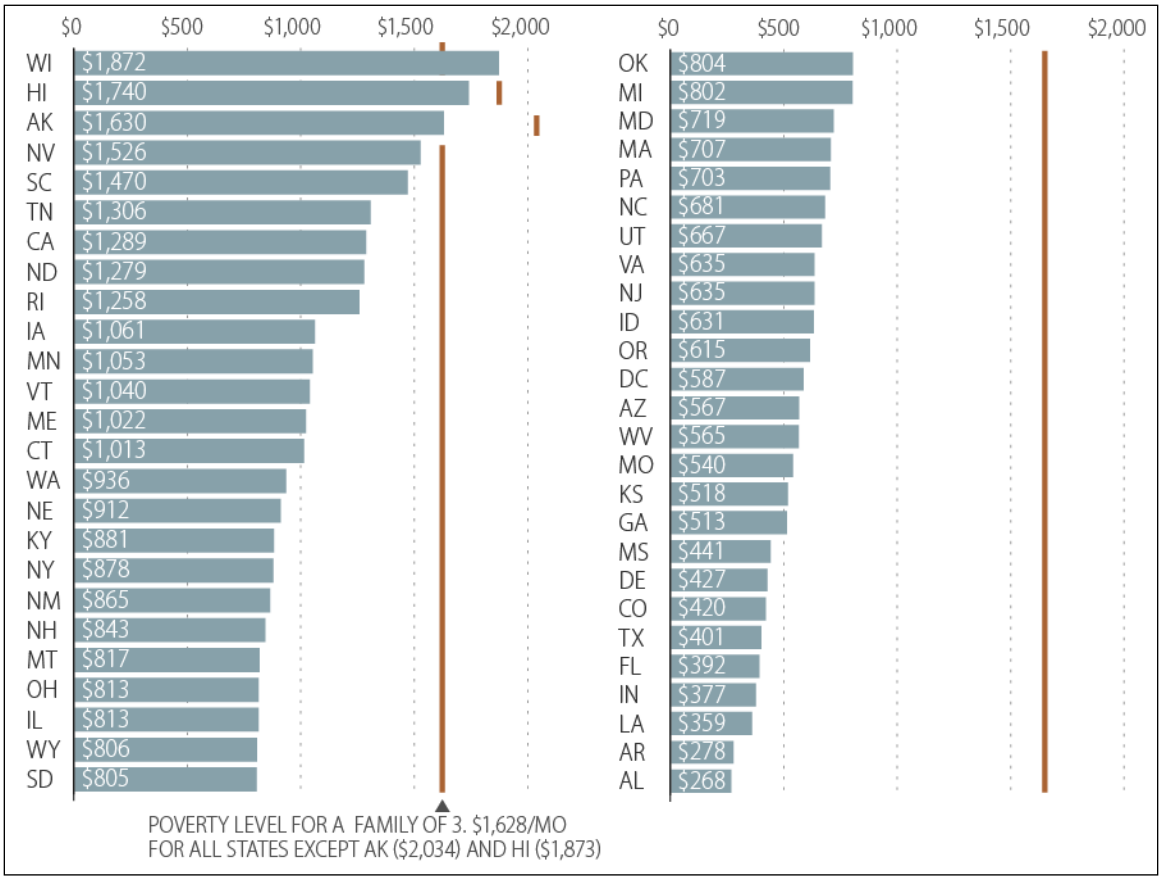
Federal law requires states to restrict TANF-funded cash assistance to "needy" families. Therefore, states must require that TANF families meet a test of financial need. However, there is no federal definition of need. States define the criteria for determining whether a family is financially needy and 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 2013 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.[6] For the other contiguous 47 states and the District of Columbia, maximum earnings thresholds for a single mother caring for two children ranged from $1,526 per month in Nevada (94% of poverty-level income) to $268 per month in Alabama (17% of poverty-level income). The median state was Oklahoma, at $804 per month (about 49% of poverty-level income). In a majority of states (29 states and the District of Columbia), earnings of $814 per month—representing half of poverty-level income—disqualify a family of three from coming onto the assistance rolls.

[6] 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 1. Maximum Monthly Earnings An Applicant Family May Have and Be Eligible for TANF Cash Assistance: Single Parent Caring for Two Children, July 2013



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 2013* 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 **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.

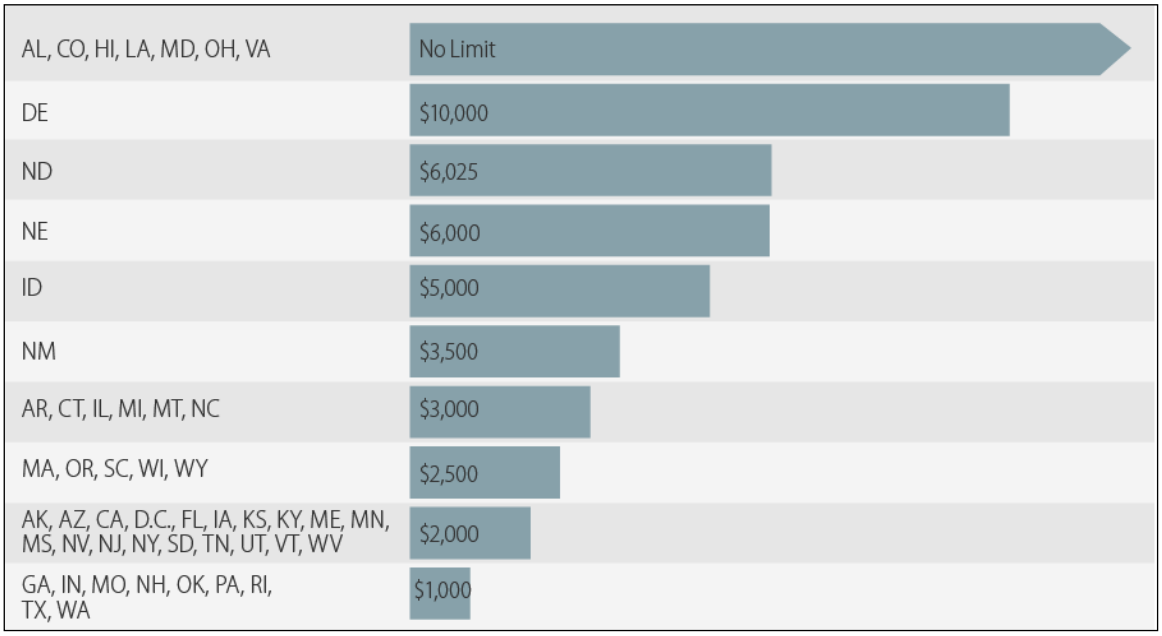
Table A-2 in the **Appendix** shows maximum monthly earnings thresholds by state for both applicants and recipients.[7] It shows that the maximum earnings thresholds are often higher for recipients than applicants. For example, applicant single parents with two children with earnings up to $814 per month (half of poverty-level income) are eligible for TANF cash assistance in 21 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 40 states and the District of Columbia, and even retain eligibility in the 13th month on the job in 31 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 2013. In that month, a total of seven states (Alabama, Colorado, Hawaii, 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 2013 was $2,000, the amount in 18 states and the District of Columbia.

Figure 2. State TANF Cash Assistance Program Asset Limits for New Applicant Single Parents Caring for Two Children, July 2013



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).

[7] The rules are described in the *Welfare Rules Databook*, cited above. See Table I.E.2, p. 88, for a description of the earned income disregards used for income eligibility. See Table II.A.1, p. 104, for a description of the earned income disregards used for computing benefits.

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 2013. 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 $10,000 in fair market value (Minnesota) or $10,000 in equity value (Oregon and Wisconsin).

Table 1. State TANF Cash Assistance Program Vehicle Disregards from Asset Limits for New Applicant Families, July 2013

Disregard	States
All vehicles in the household (18 states and DC)	AL, CO, HI, LA, MD, OH, VA (states with no asset limits)
	AK, AZ, DE, DC, 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
A portion of the value of vehicles (14 states)	TN: $4,600 in equity value
	CA: $4,650 fair market value per licensed driver
	GA: $4,650 in equity value
	NY: Greater of $4,650 in fair market value or $9,300 in equity value
	MA: $5,000 in fair market value or $10,000 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: $10,000 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.

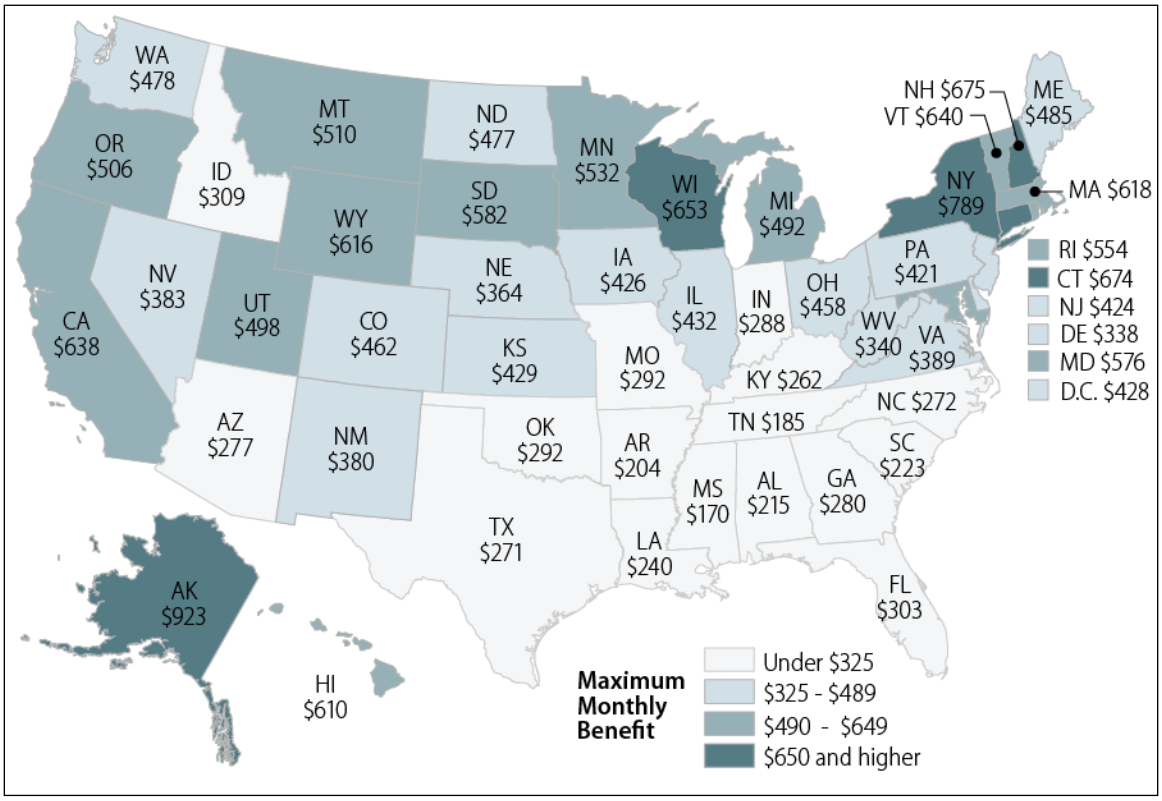
State and Regional Variation in TANF Cash Assistance Maximums

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 2013. The highest maximum monthly benefit outside of Alaska for such a family was in New York, $789 per month; the median jurisdiction maximum benefit was $428 per month in the District of Columbia.

In July 2013, 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 $789 per month represented 48.5% of the FPL. Alaska had a higher monthly FPL, $1,989 per month, for a family of three; its maximum benefit of $923 was 45.4% of the FPL.

Figure 3 provides a map showing the TANF maximum monthly cash assistance benefit by state in July 2013 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 $325 per month paid less than about 20% of poverty-level income for a family of three in 2013. 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 2013



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 $325 per month was less than 20% of poverty-level income; $325 to $489 per month was 20% to 30% of poverty-level income; $490 to $649 per month was 30% to 40% of poverty-level income; and $650 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 and no other cash income for July 2013. 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 $1,123, reflecting 69.0% of the FPL.

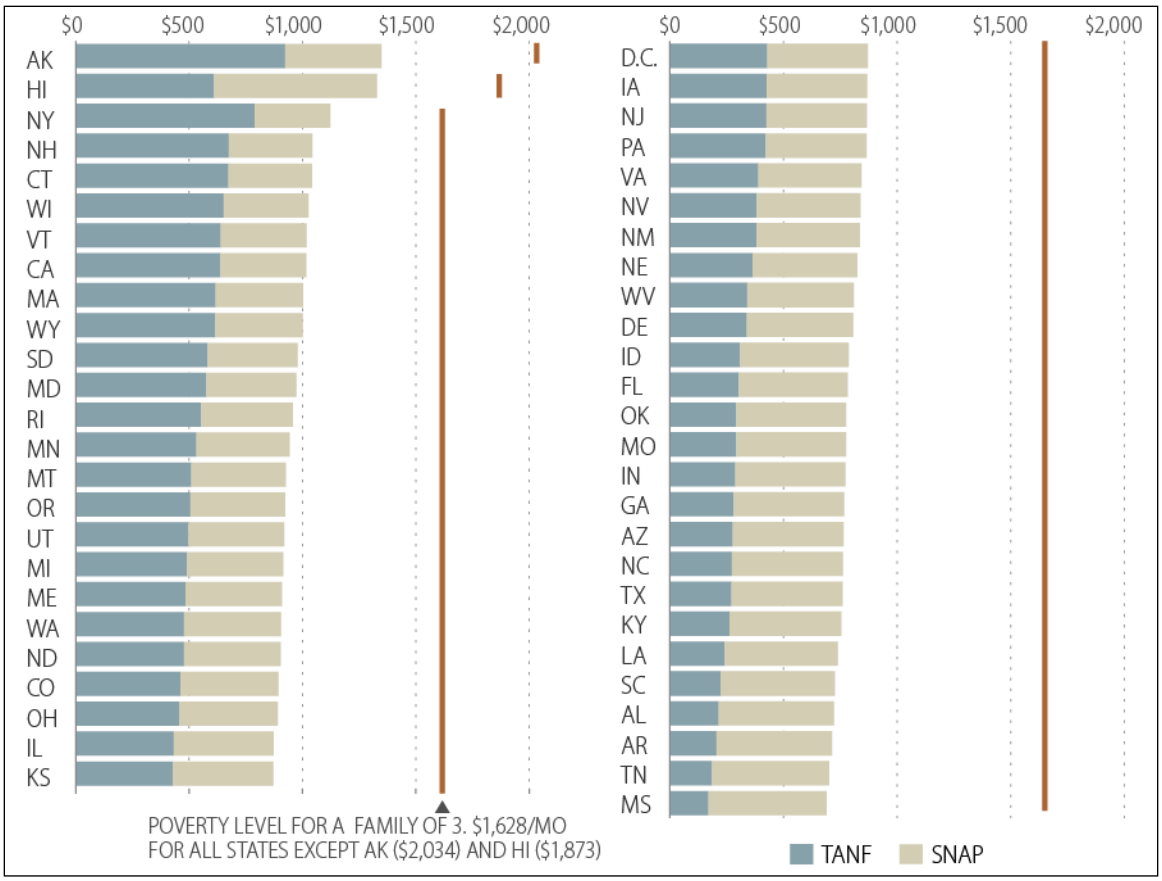
SNAP policy is generally predicated on households using 30% of their net income (after deductions for allowable expenses) for food.[8] The SNAP benefits make up any deficit between what is needed to purchase a low-cost but nutritionally adequate diet and 30% of net income. A

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

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 2013 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 2013, 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).[9] That increase expired in November 2013, and monthly SNAP benefits were reduced by approximately 5.5% for a family of three.

Figure 4. Combined Monthly TANF Cash Assistance and SNAP Benefit, Single Parent Caring for Two Children and No Other Cash Income, July 2013



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 **Appendix**, **Table A-5**.

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

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.

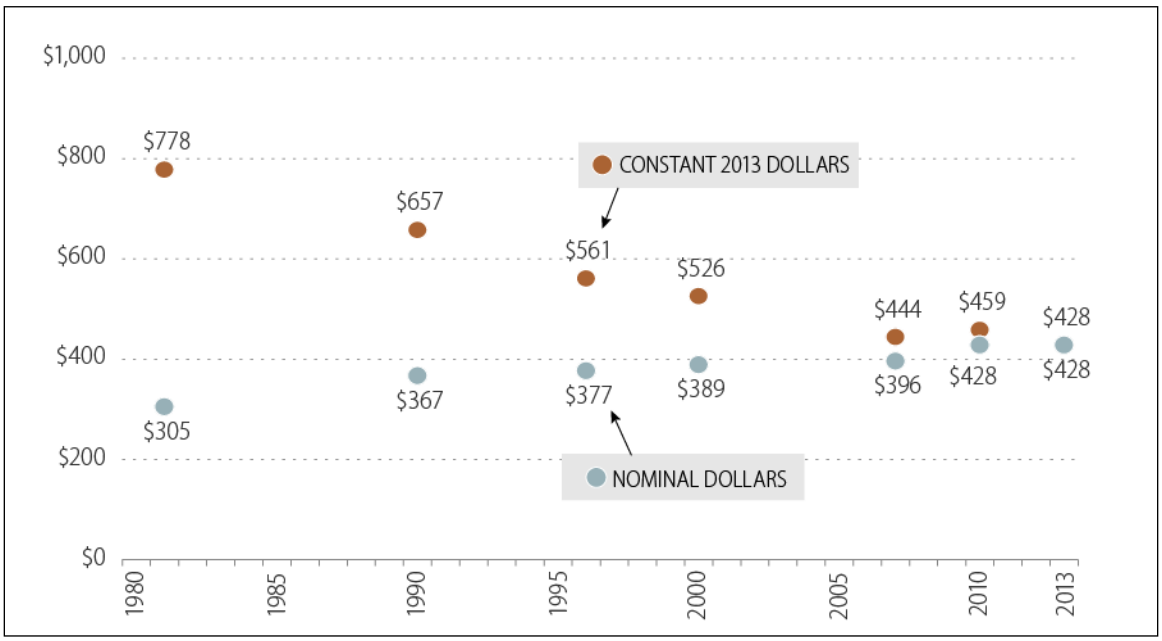
Examining maximum cash assistance benefits for 1981 through 2013, AFDC and TANF cash assistance maximum benefits increased over time, but not enough to compensate for price increases.

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 2013. In 1981, the maximum monthly benefit in the median state was $305, an amount that increased to $428 by 2013. However, this increase was not enough to compensate for inflation over this period. In July 2013 dollars (past dollars adjusted to reflect what they could purchase in July 2013), the maximum cash assistance benefit for such a family declined from $778 in 1981 to $428 in 2013. This represents a decline in the purchasing power of the maximum benefit in the median state of 45% 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 $778 per month to $561 in 2013 dollars—a 28% reduction.

Figure 5. AFDC/TANF Maximum Benefits for a Family of Three in the Median State, July of Selected Years 1981-2013

In Nominal Dollars and in Constant July 2013 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 (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 **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.

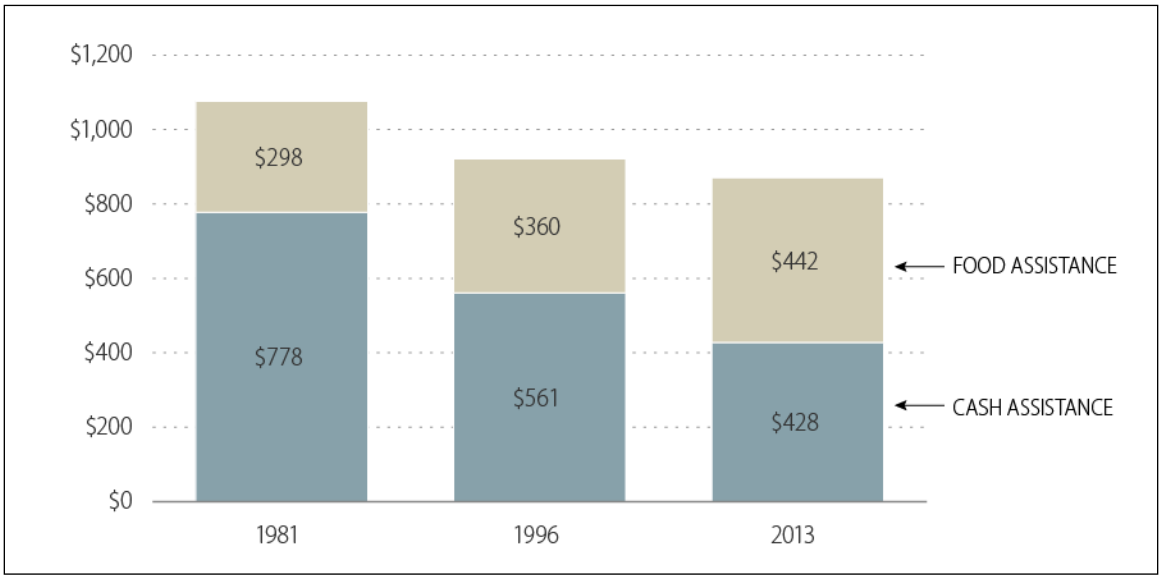
Trends in Cash and Food Assistance

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 with no other cash income in the median state for July 1981, July 1996, and July 2013 in constant July 2013 dollars. Over this period, the value of the combined benefit declined by 19%. 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 2013. The July 2013 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 with No Other Cash Income, July 1981, July 1996, and July 2013



Source: Congressional Research Service (CRS). Information for TANF cash assistance (2013) 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 2013

	Maximum Earnings	Maximum Earnings as a Percent of the Federal Poverty Level
Alabama	$268	16.5%
Alaska	1,630	87.0%
Arizona	567	34.8%
Arkansas	278	17.1%
California	1,289	79.2%
Colorado	420	25.8%
Connecticut	1,013	62.2%
Delaware	427	26.2%
District of Columbia	587	36.1%
Florida	392	24.1%
Georgia	513	31.5%
Hawaii	1,740	92.9%
Idaho	631	38.8%
Illinois	813	50.0%
Indiana	377	23.2%
Iowa	1,061	65.2%
Kansas	518	31.8%
Kentucky	881	54.1%
Louisiana	359	22.1%
Maine	1,022	62.8%
Maryland	719	44.2%
Massachusetts	707	43.4%
Michigan	802	49.3%
Minnesota	1,053	64.7%
Mississippi	441	27.1%
Missouri	540	33.2%
Montana	817	50.2%
Nebraska	912	56.0%
Nevada	1,526	93.8%
New Hampshire	843	51.8%

	Maximum Earnings	Maximum Earnings as a Percent of the Federal Poverty Level
New Jersey	635	39.0%
New Mexico	865	53.1%
New York	878	53.9%
North Carolina	681	41.8%
North Dakota	1,279	78.6%
Ohio	813	50.0%
Oklahoma	804	49.4%
Oregon	615	37.8%
Pennsylvania	703	43.2%
Rhode Island	1,258	77.3%
South Carolina	1,470	90.3%
South Dakota	805	49.5%
Tennessee	1,306	80.2%
Texas	401	24.6%
Utah	667	41.0%
Vermont	1,040	63.9%
Virginia	635	39.0%
Washington	936	57.5%
West Virginia	565	34.7%
Wisconsin	1,872	115.0%
Wyoming	806	49.5%

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 2013

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

		Recipients, by Months on the Job		
	Applicant	First	Fourth	13th
Alabama	$268	No Limit	No Limit	$256
Alaska	1,630	$2,425	$2,425	2,182
Arizona	567	567	567	567
Arkansas	278	696	696	696
California	1,289	1,368	1,368	1,368

		Recipients, by Months on the Job		
	Applicant	**First**	**Fourth**	**13th**
Colorado	420	1,357	1,357	420
Connecticut	1,013	1,627	1,627	1,627
Delaware	427	1,872	1,872	1,264
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	813	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	881	No Limit	881	627
Louisiana	359	1,250	1,250	350
Maine	1,022	1,022	1,022	1,022
Maryland	719	943	943	943
Massachusetts	707	1,143	1,143	1,143
Michigan	802	1,164	1,164	1,164
Minnesota	1,053	1,053	1,053	1,053
Mississippi	441	No Limit	No Limit	441
Missouri	540	1,117	1,117	372
Montana	817	817	817	817
Nebraska	912	912	912	912
Nevada	1,526	No Limit	2,116	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	878	1,459	1,459	1,459
North Carolina	681	No Limit	681	681
North Dakota	1,279	1,279	1,279	852
Ohio	813	1,146	1,146	1,146
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

		Recipients, by Months on the Job		
	Applicant	First	Fourth	13th
South Carolina	1,470	1,470	1,470	859
South Dakota	805	805	805	805
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	635	1,627	1,627	1,627
Washington	936	936	936	936
West Virginia	565	565	565	565
Wisconsin	1,872	1,872	1,872	1,872
Wyoming	806	806	806	806

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 2013

Benefit Amounts and Benefit as a Percent of the 2013 Poverty Guidelines

	Maximum Benefit	Maximum Benefit as a Percent of the 2013 Poverty Guidelines
Alabama	$215	13.2%
Alaska	923	45.4
Arizona	277	17.0
Arkansas	204	12.5
California	638	39.2
Colorado	462	28.4
Connecticut	674	41.4
Delaware	338	20.8
District of Columbia	428	26.3
Florida	303	18.6
Georgia	280	17.2
Hawaii	610	32.6
Idaho	309	19.0
Illinois	432	26.5
Indiana	288	17.7

	Maximum Benefit	Maximum Benefit as a Percent of the 2013 Poverty Guidelines
Iowa	426	26.2
Kansas	429	26.4
Kentucky	262	16.1
Louisiana	240	14.7
Maine	485	29.8
Maryland	576	35.4
Massachusetts	618	38.0
Michigan	492	30.2
Minnesota	532	32.7
Mississippi	170	10.4
Missouri	292	17.9
Montana	510	31.3
Nebraska	364	22.4
Nevada	383	23.5
New Hampshire	675	41.5
New Jersey	424	26.1
New Mexico	380	23.3
New York	789	48.5
North Carolina	272	16.7
North Dakota	477	29.3
Ohio	458	28.1
Oklahoma	292	17.9
Oregon	506	31.1
Pennsylvania	421	25.9
Rhode Island	554	34.0
South Carolina	223	13.7
South Dakota	582	35.8
Tennessee	185	11.4
Texas	271	16.7
Utah	498	30.6
Vermont	640	39.3
Virginia	389	23.9
Washington	478	29.4

	Maximum Benefit	Maximum Benefit as a Percent of the 2013 Poverty Guidelines
West Virginia	340	20.9
Wisconsin	653	40.1
Wyoming	616	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 2013

State	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	485	610	735	860	985
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	455	576	697	808	888
Massachusetts	518	618	713	812	912
Michigan	403	492	597	694	828
Minnesota	437	532	621	697	773
Mississippi	146	170	194	218	242

State	One	Two	Three	Four	Five
Missouri	234	292	342	388	431
Montana	405	510	615	720	825
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	574	789	952	1,120	1,238
North Carolina	236	272	297	324	349
North Dakota	378	477	573	670	767
Ohio	374	458	564	661	735
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	177	223	269	316	362
South Dakota	520	582	643	703	765
Tennessee	142	185	226	264	305
Texas	235	271	326	362	416
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	580	616	616	653	653

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 2013

Benefit Amounts as a Percent of the 2013 Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

				Benefits as a Percent of 2013 FPL		
	TANF	SNAP	Combined Benefit	TANF	SNAP	Combined Benefit
Alabama	$215	$506	$721	13.2%	31.1%	44.3%
Alaska	923	426	1,349	45.4	20.9	66.3
Arizona	277	487	764	17.0	29.9	46.9
Arkansas	204	509	713	12.5	31.3	43.8
California	638	379	1,017	39.2	23.3	62.5
Colorado	462	432	894	28.4	26.5	54.9
Connecticut	674	368	1,042	41.4	22.6	64.0
Delaware	338	469	807	20.8	28.8	49.6
District of Columbia	428	442	870	26.3	27.2	53.5
Florida	303	479	782	18.6	29.4	48.0
Georgia	280	486	766	17.2	29.9	47.1
Hawaii	610	719	1,329	32.6	38.4	71.0
Idaho	309	478	787	19.0	29.4	48.4
Illinois	432	441	873	26.5	27.1	53.6
Indiana	288	484	772	17.7	29.7	47.4
Iowa	426	442	868	26.2	27.2	53.3
Kansas	429	442	871	26.4	27.2	53.5
Kentucky	262	492	754	16.1	30.2	46.3
Louisiana	240	498	738	14.7	30.6	45.3
Maine	485	425	910	29.8	26.1	55.9
Maryland	576	397	973	35.4	24.4	59.8
Massachusetts	618	385	1,003	38.0	23.7	61.6
Michigan	492	423	915	30.2	26.0	56.2
Minnesota	532	411	943	32.7	25.3	57.9
Mississippi	170	519	689	10.4	31.9	42.3
Missouri	292	483	775	17.9	29.7	47.6
Montana	510	417	927	31.3	25.6	57.0
Nebraska	364	461	825	22.4	28.3	50.7
Nevada	383	455	838	23.5	28.0	51.5
New Hampshire	675	368	1,043	41.5	22.6	64.1
New Jersey	424	443	867	26.1	27.2	53.3

				Benefits as a Percent of 2013 FPL		
	TANF	SNAP	Combined Benefit	TANF	SNAP	Combined Benefit
New Mexico	380	456	836	23.3	28.0	51.4
New York	789	334	1,123	48.5	20.5	69.0
North Carolina	272	489	761	16.7	30.0	46.8
North Dakota	477	427	904	29.3	26.2	55.5
Ohio	458	433	891	28.1	26.6	54.7
Oklahoma	292	483	775	17.9	29.7	47.6
Oregon	506	418	924	31.1	25.7	56.8
Pennsylvania	421	444	865	25.9	27.3	53.1
Rhode Island	554	404	958	34.0	24.8	58.9
South Carolina	223	503	726	13.7	30.9	44.6
South Dakota	582	396	978	35.8	24.3	60.1
Tennessee	185	515	700	11.4	31.6	43.0
Texas	271	489	760	16.7	30.0	46.7
Utah	498	421	919	30.6	25.9	56.5
Vermont	640	378	1,018	39.3	23.2	62.5
Virginia	389	454	843	23.9	27.9	51.8
Washington	478	427	905	29.4	26.2	55.6
West Virginia	340	468	808	20.9	28.8	49.6
Wisconsin	653	374	1,027	40.1	23.0	63.1
Wyoming	616	385	1,001	37.8	23.7	61.5

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, 1981-2013

State	1981	1990	1996	2000	2007	2010	2013
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

State	1981	1990	1996	2000	2007	2010	2013
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
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	576
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	510
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	789
North Carolina	192	272	272	272	272	272	272
North Dakota	334	401	431	457	477	427	477
Ohio	263	334	341	373	410	434	458
Oklahoma	282	325	307	292	292	292	292
Oregon	321	444	460	460	471	485	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	223
South Dakota	321	385	430	430	508	555	582
Tennessee	122	195	185	185	185	185	185

State	1981	1990	1996	2000	2007	2010	2013
Texas	118	184	188	201	236	260	271
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	616
Median	305	367	377	389	396	428	428

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, for Selected Years, 1981-2013, in Constant July 2013 Dollars

State	1981	1990	1996	2000	2007	2010	2013
Alabama	$301	$211	$244	$222	$241	$230	$215
Alaska	1,456	1,516	1,373	1,248	1,035	989	923
Arizona	515	525	516	469	389	297	277
Arkansas	411	365	304	276	229	219	204
California	1,290	1,243	887	846	841	744	638
Colorado	967	638	530	481	399	495	462
Connecticut	1,270	1,218	946	860	736	703	674
Delaware	678	597	503	457	379	446	338
District of Columbia	729	733	617	512	456	459	428
Florida	497	527	451	410	340	325	303
Georgia	467	489	417	379	314	300	280
Hawaii	1,193	1,132	1,059	771	639	654	610
Idaho	778	568	472	396	347	331	309
Illinois	770	657	561	510	444	463	432
Indiana	650	516	429	389	323	309	288
Iowa	918	763	634	576	478	456	426
Kansas	900	733	638	580	481	460	429
Kentucky	479	408	390	354	294	281	262
Louisiana	441	340	283	324	269	257	240
Maine	768	811	622	623	544	520	485

State	1981	1990	1996	2000	2007	2010	2013
Maryland	689	727	555	564	616	615	576
Massachusetts	967	966	841	835	693	662	618
Michigan	1,012	792	683	620	548	527	492
Minnesota	1,137	953	792	719	597	570	532
Mississippi	245	215	179	230	191	182	170
Missouri	632	523	434	395	327	313	292
Montana	660	663	652	645	421	540	510
Nebraska	893	652	542	492	408	390	364
Nevada	615	591	518	470	430	410	383
New Hampshire	831	906	818	811	701	723	675
New Jersey	918	760	631	573	475	454	424
New Mexico	561	555	579	593	436	479	380
New York	1,094	1,034	859	780	775	807	789
North Carolina	490	487	405	368	305	291	272
North Dakota	852	718	641	618	535	458	477
Ohio	671	598	507	504	460	465	458
Oklahoma	719	582	457	395	327	313	292
Oregon	819	795	684	622	528	520	506
Pennsylvania	847	754	626	569	472	451	421
Rhode Island	936	973	824	749	621	594	554
South Carolina	329	369	298	277	269	289	223
South Dakota	819	690	640	581	570	595	582
Tennessee	311	349	275	250	207	198	185
Texas	301	330	280	272	265	279	271
Utah	887	693	634	610	532	534	498
Vermont	1,214	1,129	888	841	718	686	640
Virginia	791	634	527	526	436	417	389
Washington	1,058	897	812	738	612	602	478
West Virginia	525	446	376	477	381	364	340
Wisconsin	1,132	926	769	910	755	721	653
Wyoming	803	645	536	460	381	601	616
Median	778	657	561	526	444	459	428

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 2013 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, 1981-2013

State	1981	1990	1996	2000	2007	2010	2013
Alabama	20.0%	13.4%	15.2%	13.9%	15.0%	14.1%	13.2%
Alaska	77.4	76.9	68.3	62.6	51.6	48.4	45.4
Arizona	34.3	33.3	32.1	29.4	24.3	18.2	17.0
Arkansas	27.3	23.2	18.9	17.3	14.3	13.4	12.5
California	85.9	78.9	55.1	53.1	52.4	45.5	39.2
Colorado	64.3	40.5	32.9	30.2	24.9	30.3	28.4
Connecticut	84.5	77.3	58.8	53.9	45.8	43.0	41.4
Delaware	45.1	37.8	31.2	28.7	23.6	27.3	20.8
District of Columbia	48.5	46.5	38.4	32.1	28.4	28.1	26.3
Florida	33.1	33.4	28.0	25.7	21.2	19.9	18.6
Georgia	31.1	31.0	25.9	23.7	19.6	18.4	17.2
Hawaii	69.0	62.4	57.2	42.0	34.6	34.8	32.6
Idaho	51.8	36.0	29.3	24.8	21.6	20.3	19.0
Illinois	51.3	41.7	34.9	32.0	27.7	28.3	26.5
Indiana	43.3	32.7	26.6	24.4	20.1	18.9	17.7
Iowa	61.1	48.4	39.4	36.1	29.8	27.9	26.2
Kansas	59.9	46.5	39.7	36.4	30.0	28.1	26.4
Kentucky	31.9	25.9	24.2	22.2	18.3	17.2	16.1
Louisiana	29.4	21.6	17.6	20.4	16.8	15.7	14.7
Maine	51.1	51.5	38.6	39.1	33.9	31.8	29.8
Maryland	45.8	46.1	34.5	35.4	38.4	37.6	35.4
Massachusetts	64.3	61.3	52.2	52.4	43.2	40.5	38.0
Michigan	67.4	50.2	42.4	38.9	34.2	32.2	30.2
Minnesota	75.7	60.5	49.2	45.1	37.2	34.9	32.7
Mississippi	16.3	13.6	11.1	14.4	11.9	11.1	10.4
Missouri	42.1	33.2	27.0	24.8	20.4	19.1	17.9
Montana	44.0	42.0	40.5	40.5	26.2	33.0	31.3
Nebraska	59.4	41.4	33.7	30.9	25.4	23.9	22.4
Nevada	40.9	37.5	32.2	29.5	26.8	25.1	23.5
New Hampshire	55.3	57.5	50.8	50.9	43.7	44.2	41.5
New Jersey	61.1	48.2	39.2	36.0	29.6	27.8	26.1
New Mexico	37.3	35.2	36.0	37.2	27.2	29.3	23.3
New York	72.8	65.6	53.3	48.9	48.3	49.4	48.5

State	1981	1990	1996	2000	2007	2010	2013
North Carolina	32.6	30.9	25.1	23.1	19.0	17.8	16.7
North Dakota	56.7	45.6	39.8	38.8	33.3	28.0	29.3
Ohio	44.6	38.0	31.5	31.6	28.7	28.4	28.1
Oklahoma	47.9	36.9	28.4	24.8	20.4	19.1	17.9
Oregon	54.5	50.5	42.5	39.0	32.9	31.8	31.1
Pennsylvania	56.4	47.8	38.9	35.7	29.4	27.6	25.9
Rhode Island	62.3	61.7	51.2	47.0	38.7	36.3	34.0
South Carolina	21.9	23.4	18.5	17.4	16.8	17.7	13.7
South Dakota	54.5	43.8	39.8	36.5	35.5	36.4	35.8
Tennessee	20.7	22.2	17.1	15.7	12.9	12.1	11.4
Texas	20.0	20.9	17.4	17.0	16.5	17.0	16.7
Utah	59.1	44.0	39.4	38.2	33.1	32.6	30.6
Vermont	80.8	71.6	55.2	52.7	44.7	41.9	39.3
Virginia	52.6	40.2	32.7	33.0	27.2	25.5	23.9
Washington	70.4	56.9	50.5	46.3	38.2	36.8	29.4
West Virginia	35.0	28.3	23.4	29.9	23.8	22.3	20.9
Wisconsin	75.4	58.8	47.8	57.1	47.0	44.1	40.1
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	26.3

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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