



Work Requirements: Exemptions

As of October 1999

Individuals exempt from participating in all work activities*

State	Caring for young child (up to age)	Disabled / Temporary illness or incapacity	Caring for disabled household member	Advanced age	Domestic violence victim	Child care unavailable** (up to age)	Pregnant (months)	Other
Totals	44	34	28	27	24	19	20	23
4 states have no exemption criteria	5 More than 1 year 23 1 year 16 Less than 1 year 2 County discretion up to 1 year					13 Up to age 6 or younger 5 Up to age 12 or 13 years 1 No limit		
Alabama	No exemption criteria							
Alaska	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Arizona	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Arkansas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 months	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
California	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6 months ¹	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Colorado	No exemption criteria							
Connecticut	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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State	Caring for young child (up to age)	Disabled / Temporary illness or incapacity	Caring for disabled household member	Advanced age	Domestic violence victim	Child care unavailable** (up to age)	Pregnant (months)	Other
Delaware	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13 weeks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dist of Columbia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 months	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Georgia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hawaii	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6 months	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idaho	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Iowa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kansas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Kentucky	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Louisiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maryland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Massachusetts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michigan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 months	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 65	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No limit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mississippi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Missouri	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Montana	No exemption criteria							

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State	Caring for young child (up to age)	Disabled / Temporary illness or incapacity	Caring for disabled household member	Advanced age	Domestic violence victim	Child care unavailable** (up to age)	Pregnant (months)	Other
Nebraska	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12 weeks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nevada	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Hampshire	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Jersey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12 weeks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New Mexico	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/>
New York	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 months ²	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
North Dakota	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 months	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ohio ³	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oklahoma	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Oregon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 months ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pennsylvania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhode Island	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
South Carolina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
South Dakota	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12 weeks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tennessee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 months	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Texas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 59	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Utah	No exemption criteria							
Vermont ⁵	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18 months	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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Washington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wisconsin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wyoming	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 65	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Notes:

* Separate and apart from exemption categories, states frequently identify "good cause" criteria that temporarily excuse an individual from participation in assigned work activities. Good cause criteria are described in the Sanctions section of SPDP.

** Federal law prohibits states from reducing or terminating assistance to a single custodial parent who refuses to work, if the parent is caring for a child under age 6 and proves that he or she is unable to obtain needed child care.

1. California counties have discretion to set the age of the exemption for caring for a young child, between the ages of 12 weeks and 1 year.
2. New York counties have discretion to increase the age of the exemption for caring for a young child up to 1 year.
3. Ohio counties have discretion to provide additional exemptions from work requirements.
4. Oregon's exemption is for a parent caring for a child for 90 days after giving birth.
5. Vermont has a different set of exemptions once families are within two months of reaching the time limit: caring for a child under age 6 months; if support services necessary for participation are unavailable.

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Other exemption criteria:

Transportation not available: 10 states--Alaska, Arkansas, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Jersey, N. Carolina, S. Carolina, S. Dakota, Tennessee

Recipient nonparents: 6 states--Alaska, Arizona, Maryland, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia

Living in remote area: 5 states--Indiana, Missouri, Nebraska, Oregon, Texas

VISTA or Americorps volunteers: 4 states--California, Indiana, Nebraska, Oregon

Support services not available: 2 states--Arkansas, Tennessee

Caretaker of child at risk of placement in foster care: 1 state--California

Determined unemployable by a health care professional: 1 state--Delaware

Determined unemployable during employment assessment: 1 state--Wyoming

Personal or family crisis: 2 states--Mississippi, South Dakota

Participating in drug, alcohol, or mental health treatment program: 1 state--South Dakota

Victim of rape: 1 state--South Dakota