



State Time Limits on TANF Cash Assistance

State	Date families first reach any time limit	Fixed-period time limit			Lifetime time limit		
		Time limit	Benefits continue to children	Benefits from other states count	Time limit	Benefits continue to children	Benefits from other states count
Totals	16 Prior to January 2000 4 2000 29 2001 and after 2 No time limit	14 states	2 Yes 12 No	2 Yes 12 No	44 states	5 Yes 39 No	39 Yes 5 No
Alabama	December 2001	N/A			60 months	No	Yes
Alaska	July 2002	N/A			60 months	No	Yes
Arizona	November 1997	24 in 60 months	Yes	No	N/A		
Arkansas	July 2000	N/A			24 months	No	Yes
California	January 2003	N/A			60 months	Yes	Yes
Colorado	July 2002	N/A			60 months	No	Yes
Connecticut	November 1997	N/A			21 months	No	No
Delaware	October 1999	96 months of ineligibility after 48 months	No	No	N/A		
Dist of Columbia	March 2002	N/A			60 months	No	Yes
Florida	October 1998 ¹	24 in 60 or 36 in 72 months ²	No	Yes	48 months	No	Yes

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Georgia	January 2001	N/A			48 months	No	Yes
Hawaii	December 2001	N/A			60 months	No	Yes
Idaho	July 1999	N/A			24 months	No	Yes
Illinois	July 2002	N/A			60 months	No	Yes
Indiana	August 1997	N/A			24 months	Yes	No
Iowa	January 2002	N/A			60 months	No	Yes
Kansas	October 2001	N/A			60 months	No	Yes
Kentucky	November 2001	N/A			60 months	No	Yes
Louisiana	January 1999	24 in 60 months	No	No	60 months	No	Yes
Maine	November 2001	N/A			60 months	Yes	Yes
Maryland	January 2002	N/A			60 months	Yes	Yes
Massachusetts	December 1998	24 in 60 months	No	No	N/A		
Michigan	No time limit	N/A			N/A		
Minnesota	July 2002	N/A			60 months	No	Yes
Mississippi	October 2001	N/A			60 months	No	Yes
Missouri	July 2002	N/A			60 months	No	Yes

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Montana	February 2002	N/A			60 months	No	Yes
Nebraska	December 1998 ¹	24 in 48 months	No	No	N/A		
Nevada	January 2000	12 months of ineligibility after 24 months	No	No	60 months	No	Yes
New Hampshire	October 2001	N/A			60 months	No	Yes
New Jersey	April 2002	N/A			60 months	No	Yes
New Mexico	July 2002	N/A			60 months	No	Yes
New York	December 2001	N/A			60 months	No ³	Yes
North Carolina	August 1998	36 months of ineligibility after 24 months	No	No	60 months	No	Yes
North Dakota	July 2002	N/A			60 months	No	Yes
Ohio	October 2000	24 months of ineligibility after 36 months	No	Yes	60 months	No	Yes
Oklahoma	October 2001	N/A			60 months	No	Yes
Oregon	July 1998	24 in 84 months	No	No	N/A		
Pennsylvania	March 2002	N/A			60 months	No	Yes
Rhode Island	May 2002	N/A			60 months	Yes	No

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South Carolina	October 1998	24 in 120 months	No	No	60 months	No	No
South Dakota	December 2001	N/A			60 months	No	Yes
Tennessee	April 1998	3 months of ineligibility after 18 months	No	No	60 months	No	No
Texas	January 1998 ¹	60 months of ineligibility after 12, 24 or 36 months ⁴	Yes	No	60 months	No	Yes
Utah	January 2000	N/A			36 months	No	Yes
Vermont	No time limit	N/A			N/A		
Virginia	October 1999 ¹	24 months of ineligibility after 24 months	No	No	60 months	No	Yes
Washington	August 2002	N/A			60 months	No	Yes
West Virginia	January 2002	N/A			60 months	No	Yes
Wisconsin	October 2001 ⁵	N/A			60 months	No	Yes
Wyoming	January 1999	N/A			60 months	No	Yes

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Notes:

1. Some families will reach or have reached time limits earlier due to a pilot or phased-in implementation. The date given is based on statewide implementation of the time limit.
2. Florida has a variable time limit. Long-term recipients (families that have received AFDC or TANF for 36 months in past 5 years) and custodial parents under age 24 who have not finished high school or have little or no recent work experience are limited to 36 months of aid in a 72-month period. Other families are limited to 24 months of aid in a 60-month period.
3. After the TANF time limit is reached, New York provides Safety net assistance (SNA) to the family in the same amount as the family's TANF grant. Twenty percent of the monthly payment standard is paid in cash for a personal needs allowance. The rest is paid on a non-cash basis.
4. Texas has a variable time limit of 12, 24 or 36 months (each followed by a 60-month period of ineligibility or "freeze out") depending upon the caretakers education and work experience. The 12-month limit applies to families in which the caretaker has at least a high school diploma or equivalency or recent work experience of at least 18 months. The 24-month limit applies to families in which the caretaker has completed three years of high school or has recent work experience of not less than six or more than 18 months. The 36-month limit applies to families in which the caretaker has less than 6 months of recent work experience and less than 3 completed years of high school.
5. While this date is based upon the statewide implementation of the TANF 60-month time limit for many families, those families that were exempt from the JOBS program were not subject to this 60-month clock until they were transitioned to W-2 sometime between September 1997 and March 31, 1998. Therefore, they will not reach this time limit until later. In addition, families in Wisconsin could lose benefits prior to reaching the 60-month limit due to reaching a 24-month limit for participation in a particular W-2 component.