States’ Child-Only and Non-Parent Caretaker TANF Rules

Evidence from the Welfare Rules Database

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Importance

- Despite growing slightly in absolute terms...
  - Growing percentage of caseload – about 40% of TANF units are child-only
  - Up from about 15% immediately after the transition to TANF
Types of Child-Only Cases

- Two broad categories:
  - Non-parental cases (no parent in household)
  - Parental cases (parent in household but doesn’t qualify due to non-financial reasons)
Non-parental cases

• Arise when a child lives with a non-parent relative or a non-relative

• States’ TANF program determine:
  - Under which circumstances children’s caregivers can be eligible for TANF
  - Treatment of a caregiver’s income and resources
  - Who is included in the assistance unit
Child-Only Cases With a Parent in the Household

• Three primary causes
  - Supplemental security income (SSI) receipt
  - Immigration status
  - Program rules that remove the parent from the unit
Data Source: The Welfare Rules Database

- Very detailed, state-specific TANF rules
- Longitudinal (1996 onward)
- 30 categories; 1,000+ variables
- Coded from caseworker manuals/updates
- Currently funded by HHS/ACF and HHS/ASPE
- New child-only/NPC variables will be released this fall
Overview of New WRD Variables

• Who is included?
  - Children
  - Non-parent caretakers

• Income/asset eligibility

• Maximum child-only monthly benefits

• Activity requirements

❖ Note: All data presented here are preliminary; final data forthcoming this fall
Are children living with non-relative caretakers potentially eligible for TANF benefits?

- Yes: 20 states
- No: 27 states
In non-parent caretaker families potentially eligible for TANF, is the non-parent caretaker included in the assistance unit?

- Always included: 2 states
- Never included: 4 states
- Caretaker has option: 20 states
- Some mandatory, others optional: 1 state
- Some optional, others prohibited: 24 states
Income and Assets of Non-Parent Caretakers Who Are Not in the Assistance Unit

- **Treatment of income**
  - Included: 5
  - Excluded: 37
  - Other: 7

- **Treatment of assets**
  - Included: 5
  - Excluded: 36
  - Other: 7
Work-Related Activity Requirements for Non-Parent Caretakers and Parents Outside the Unit

- Parents outside - immigrant/citizenship status: 12 (Required), 35 (Not Required), 3 (Optional)
- Parents not counted due to time limit: 7 (Required), 3 (Not Required), 0 (Optional)
- Non-parent caretakers not in unit: 7 (Required), 30 (Not Required), 4 (Optional)
Maximum Monthly Benefit for a Child-Only Unit with One Child, No Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number of States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than $100</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100 - $199</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$200 - $299</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$300 - $399</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$400 and Above</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusion

- New data available in the fall
- Will be state-specific with the ability to query individual states
- New tables in the 2012 Welfare Rules Databook
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