

NLWJC - Kagan

DPC - Box 065 - Folder-006

Welfare-Time Limits

Welfare Participation Rates

9/29/97

Question: Are you concerned that states won't meet the welfare law's work participation rates, particularly the ones for two parent families? Aren't states supposed to report data by October 1st?

Answer: States must report data on work participation by November 14th for the fiscal year 1997, which ends September 30th. Thus, we will not know for several months which states met the work participation rates (which in 1997 were 75% for two parent families and 25% for all welfare families). Not all states will report data on November 14th, because of different TANF plan start dates, and those that do will report only three months or less (see chart below).

We believe the welfare law's work rates are tough but fair. The law gives states new flexibility to spend funds on innovative programs to promote work but holds states accountable for results.

Background: State Data Reporting Requirements

States must report welfare program data every quarter. The quarter ending September 30th is the first one for which some states will report work participation data (see chart below). States have until November 14th (45 days after the end of the quarter) to report the data. The 34 states that began TANF before January 1, 1997 will report three months of data (7/1/97-9/30/97); the 6 states plus D.C. that began TANF between January and March will report less than three months of data; the 10 states that began TANF in April or later won't report any data this quarter. (These differences are due the provision which subjects states to reporting requirements after six months of program operation.)

States Reporting 3 Months of Data by 11/14			States Reporting Less than 3 Months of Data by 11/14	States Reporting No Data by 11/14
Alabama	Maryland	Oklahoma	Delaware	Alaska
Arizona	Massachusetts	Oregon	D.C.	Arkansas
California	Michigan	South Carolina	New Jersey	Colorado
Connecticut	Mississippi	South Dakota	Pennsylvania	Hawaii
Florida	Missouri	Tennessee	Virginia	Idaho
Georgia	Montana	Texas	Washington	Illinois
Indiana	Nebraska	Utah	West Virginia	Minnesota
Iowa	Nevada	Vermont		New Mexico
Kansas	New Hampshire	Wisconsin		North Dakota
Kentucky	New York	Wyoming		Rhode Island
Louisiana	North Carolina			
Maine	Ohio			

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