

Appendix - AFDC Overview

Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) was Wisconsin's cash assistance program prior to 1997. In September 1997, Wisconsin Works (W-2) replaced AFDC. The chart below highlights the primary differences between AFDC and W-2.

AFDC	W-2
Non-financial Eligibility	
<p>AFDC was limited to parent(s) or caretakers with children deprived of the support of one or both of their parents due to death, divorce, separation, or continued absence.</p> <p>Two parent households could be eligible if one of the parents was physically or mentally unable to provide parental care or support to their children; or a parent who was the designated primary wage earner for the family was unemployed, or working less than 100 hours a month.</p> <p>Additional eligibility requirements included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizenship; • Legal alien status; • Cooperation with child support; • Wisconsin residency; and • Providing social security numbers for family members. 	<p>W-2 replaced the AFDC program in September 1997 and offers job placement assistance to parents with dependent children, including non-custodial parents and two-parent households.</p> <p>Other eligibility requirements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wisconsin residency; • Citizenship or qualified legal alien status; • Cooperation with the child support agency; and • Providing social security numbers for family members.
Financial Eligibility	
<p>Income and asset eligibility was tested for families that passed the non-financial eligibility requirements. The family income could not exceed 185% of the AFDC Assistance Standard of need (based on family size) in order to proceed to the next step, which considered certain income deductions, and then compared any budgetable income to a family allowance to determine the AFDC grant amount. In addition, the family assets could not exceed \$1000 in available assets, excluding \$1500 vehicle equity, and homestead property.</p>	<p>A less complicated financial eligibility test requires that the family's gross income must be at or below 115% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). A family is permitted to have \$2500 in available assets, excluding vehicle equity of \$10,000 and homestead property.</p>

Cash Benefits	
The AFDC cash benefit amount was based on family size and counted other income the family received against the family allowance. AFDC was considered an entitlement program which meant that applicants who met the specified eligibility criteria were guaranteed program benefits.	There are four paid placements within the W-2 program: Community Service Job (CSJ), W-2 Transition (W-2 T), Custodial Parent of an Infant (CMC), and At-Risk Pregnancy (ARP). Each paid placement has a set grant amount that is not based on family size or the family's other income.
Time Limits	
<p>Until October 1996 AFDC did not impose time limits on receipt of benefits. Beginning in October 1996, AFDC recipients who were required to participate in employment and training programs were limited to 60 months of AFDC eligibility.</p> <p>AFDC participation counted toward the 60-month state lifetime limit if the individual was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included in the SFU in an open AFDC assistance group (includes sanctioned adults); • Age 18 or older; • Coded with a JOBS registration code of mandatory (M), voluntary (V), or PFR Demonstration with a code of (P) or (R); and • Enrolled in JOBS under experimental or non-experimental PFP, WNW, Experimental or Control PFR. 	<p><u>Until November 1, 2021</u>, W-2 had has a lifetime eligibility limit of 60 months. <u>Beginning November 1, 2021, the state lifetime limit changed to 48 months.</u> Participation in the work components of Trial Employment Match Program (TEMP) jobs, CSJ, or W-2 T is limited to 24 months each. In limited circumstances, extensions may be granted for someone who has extreme barriers to becoming employed, or if local labor market conditions prevent an individual from finding employment. (See 2.10.6)</p>

No change to remainder of Appendix – AFDC Overview