

A P P E N D I X B
WELFARE-TO-WORK ELIGIBILITY
CRITERIA FOR FISCAL YEARS
1999 AND 2000

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR NMDOL WELFARE-TO-WORK PROGRAM
(Fall 1999)**

Welfare to Work Client—A person who is considered among the “hardest to employ TANF recipients” and who meets the following criteria:

- (a) A recipient who has been receiving assistance (TANF) for at least 30 months or is within 12 months of reaching time limits; AND,
- (b) Meets two or more of the following characteristics:
 - 1. Lacks a high school diploma or GED and has low math or reading skills (below grade level 8.9).
 - 2. Has a poor work history.
 - 3. Requires substance abuse treatment for employment.

A non-custodial parent of a minor is eligible to participate under the 70% provision if that parent meets the requirements of each of the following:

- 1. At least two of the following conditions apply:
 - (a) lacks a high school diploma or certificate of general equivalency (GED) and has a math or reading skill at the 8.9 grade level or below;
 - (b) requires substance abuse treatment for employment;
 - (c) has a poor work history (worked no more than three consecutive months in the past 12 calendar months).
- 2. The minor children of the non-custodial parent:
 - (a) have received cash assistance under the State program for at least 30 months (whether or not consecutive); or
 - (b) within 12 months will become ineligible for cash assistance under the State program by reason of durational limits.

A non-custodial parent of a minor child is eligible if the custodial parent is receiving TANF assistance and the non-custodial parent has one or more of the following characteristics:

- 1. School dropout;
- 2. Teenage pregnancy; or
- 3. Poor work history.

NEW NMDOL WELFARE-TO-WORK ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
(Effective Summer 2000)

TANF recipients are eligible (under the 70% provision) if they meet one the following criteria:

- 30 months or more on TANF *
- Within 12 months of reaching their TANF time limit *
- Exhausted their receipt of TANF due to time limits.

Noncustodial parents are eligible if they meet the following criteria:

- **No longer served under 30%** --- now served under general WTW eligibility provisions;
- May be served if unemployed, underemployed, or having difficulty paying child support; and their
- Minor children are eligible for or receiving TANF benefits during the preceding year, or receiving Food Stamps, Supplemental Security Income, Medicaid, or Children's Health Insurance Program, and
- They enter into a personal responsibility contract committing to establishing paternity and paying child support and participating in services to increase their employment and earnings.

In general the original 30% criteria are retained.

Formula Grantees may implement the new eligibility criteria and begin serving individuals under these criteria, as of July 1, 2000, except that federal formula funds may not be expended for these purposes until October 1, 2000 (State appropriated funds may be expended utilizing the new eligibility criteria as of July 1, 2000).

Source: Larry Roybal, Planner III, New Mexico Department of Labor, (2000, January 27).