Using the CCDF Policies Database in Child Care Research

Annual Meeting of the Child Care Policy Research Consortium
October 25, 2012

OPRE
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation
Administration for Children and Families

URBAN INSTITUTE

Today's Discussion

- What kinds of research projects might use information from the CCDF Policies Database?

- Overview of the CCDF Policies Database

- Two projects currently using the Database
  - Microsimulation: Estimating CCDF eligibility
  - Statistical analysis: CCDF and child welfare

- Using the CCDF Policies Database for *your* research
  - Book of Tables
  - Full Database detail

Kinds of Research that Might Use the CCDF Policies Database

Projects that need...

- Detailed information (beyond the information in the State Plans)

- Cross-time information

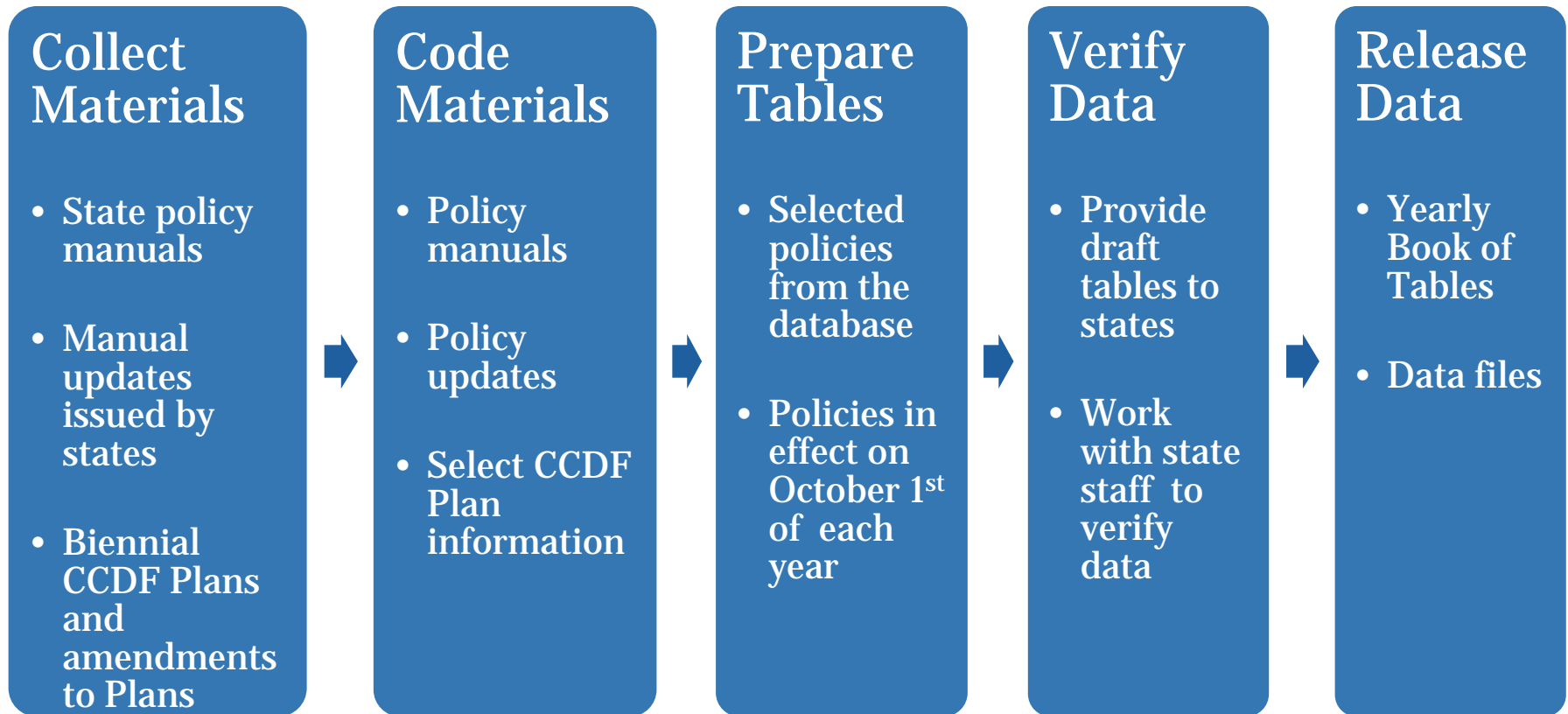- Information across States and Territories

Examples

- **Do differences in CCDF policies across States affect which families receive subsidies?**
  - Database data with 801 data

- **What state policies affect labor force participation?**
  - Database data with CPS, ACS, or SIPP data and other state-level explanatory variables

- **What are the CCDF policies for TANF families in State X (for example, prior to a site visit)?**
  - Database information alone

The CCDF Policies Database Project

- Detailed information on CCDF policies

- Information on all 50 states, D.C., territories and outlying areas

- Captures changes across time

- Data collected mainly from states' policy manuals

CCDF Policies Database Process

Collect Materials

- State policy manuals

- Manual updates issued by states

- Biennial CCDF Plans and amendments to Plans

Code Materials

- Policy manuals

- Policy updates

- Select CCDF Plan information

Prepare Tables

- Selected policies from the database

- Policies in effect on October 1st of each year

Verify Data

- Provide draft tables to states

- Work with state staff to verify data

Release Data

- Yearly Book of Tables

- Data files

Information in the Database

- **Eligibility requirements**

- **Application and reporting information**

- **Priority and waiting list policies**

- **Copayments**

- **Reimbursement rates and provider policies**

Eligibility Policies

- Age limits for subsidized children

- Approved activities

- Defining the family unit
  - Treatment of older siblings, teen parents, step-parents, other adults

- Income disregards and deductions

- Income eligibility thresholds
  - By family size
  - Initial and continuing

- Assets tests

Age Requirements for Most Children
October 1, 2011
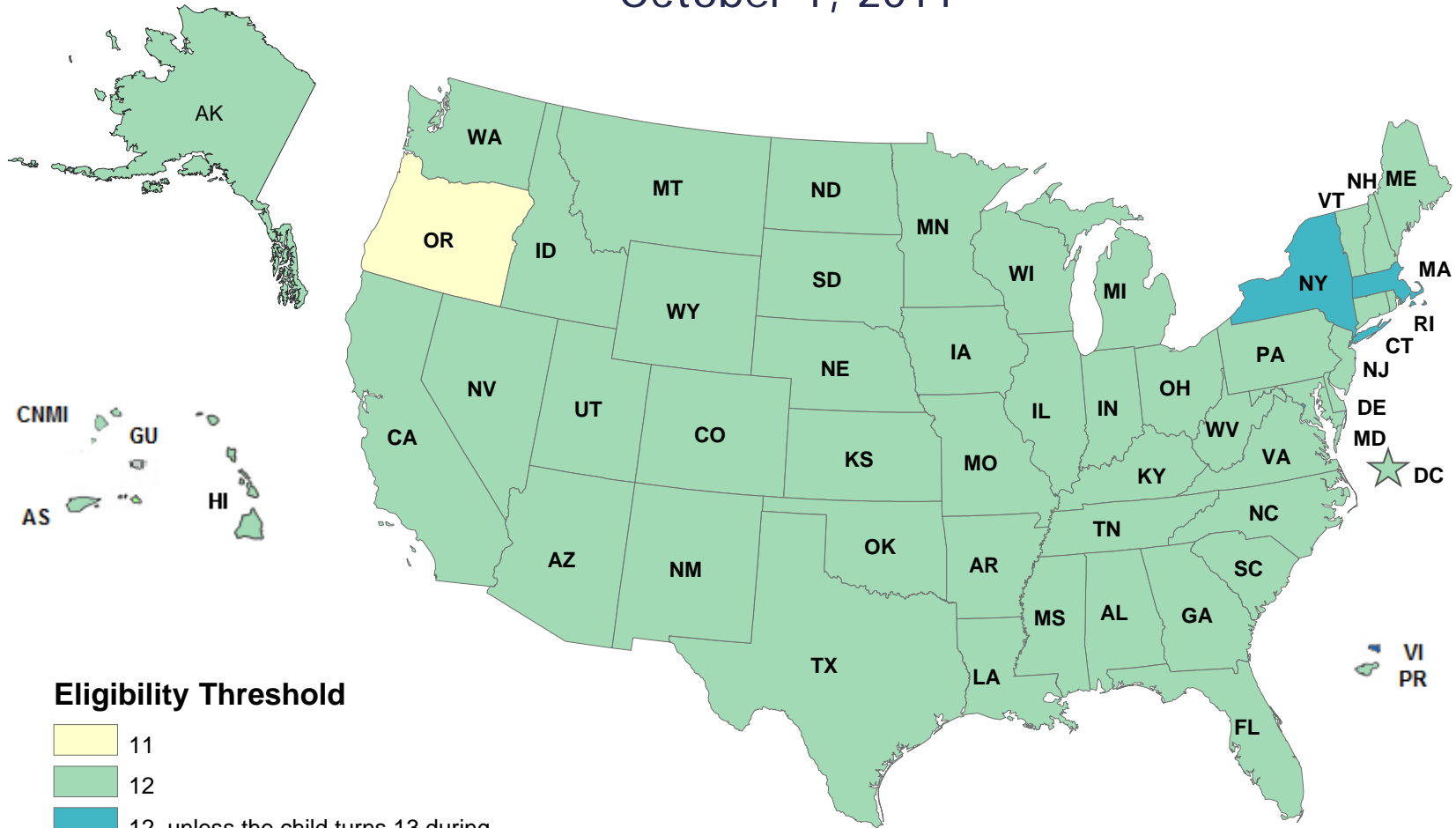
Eligibility Threshold

- 11
- 12
- 12, unless the child turns 13 during school year
- 13

For full details, see the CCDF Policies Database.

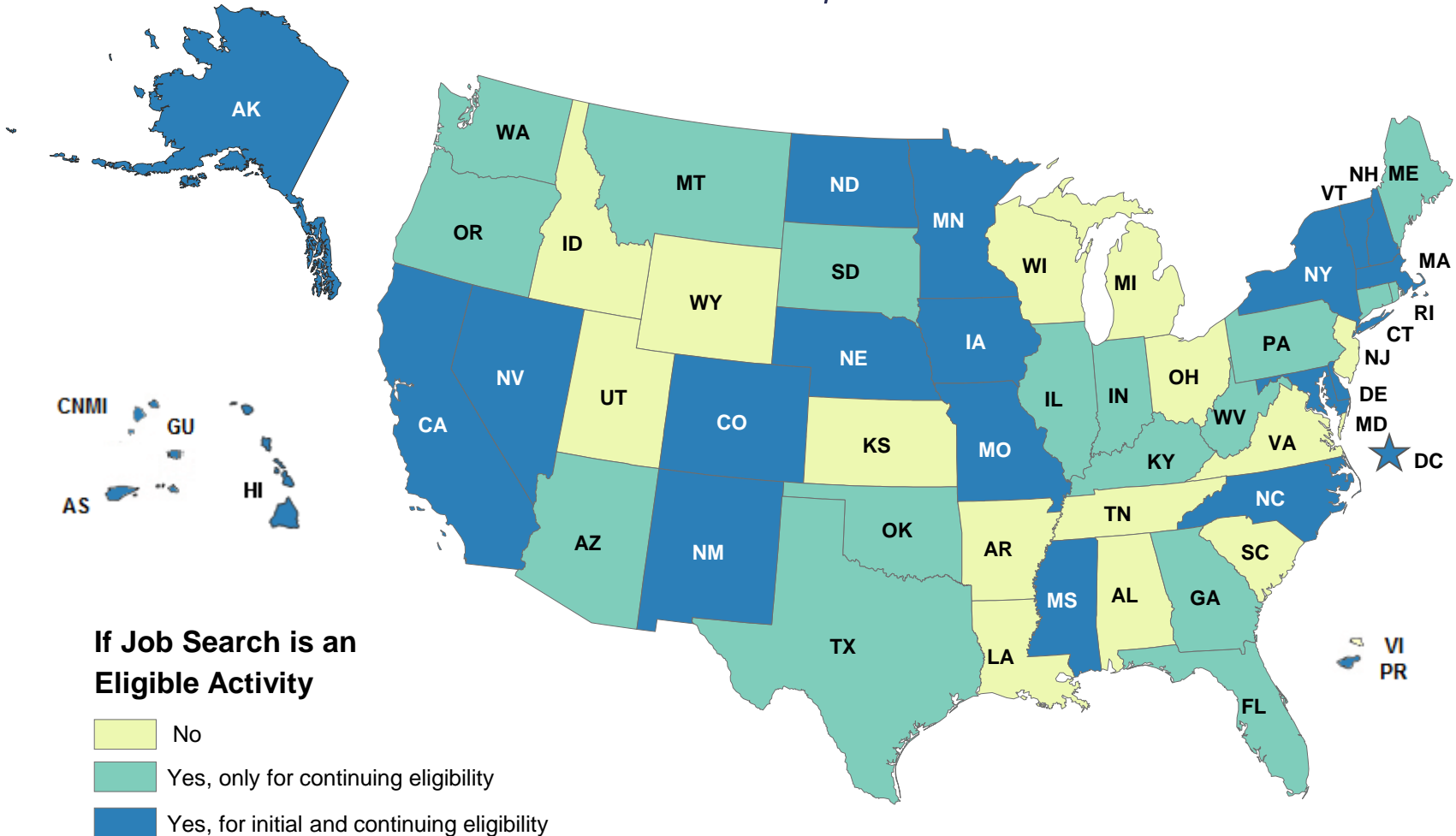# Age Requirement for Children with Special Needs
October 1, 2011

Maximum Age for Child With Special Needs

- 12
- 14
- 15
- 17
- 18
- 21
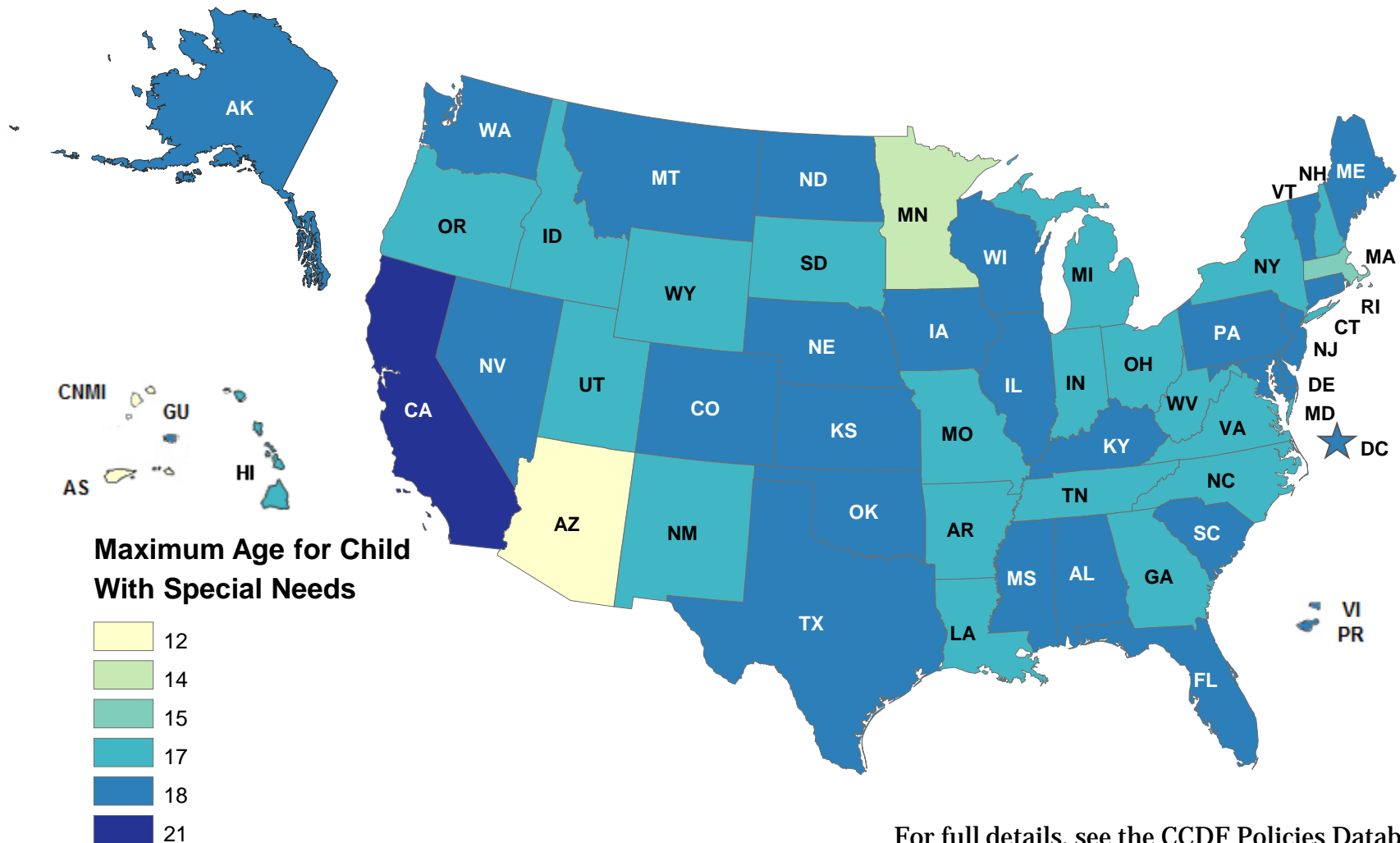
For full details, see the CCDF Policies Database.

Eligible Activities: Job Search
October 1, 2011

If Job Search is an Eligible Activity

- No
- Yes, only for continuing eligibility
- Yes, for initial and continuing eligibility

For full details, see the CCDF Policies Database.

Eligible Activities: Education and Training
October 1, 2011

Eligible Education and Training Activities

- None of the below
- High School/GED only
- High School/GED and Training
- High School/GED, Training, and Post-Secondary Education
- High School/GED, ESL, Training, and Post-Secondary Education
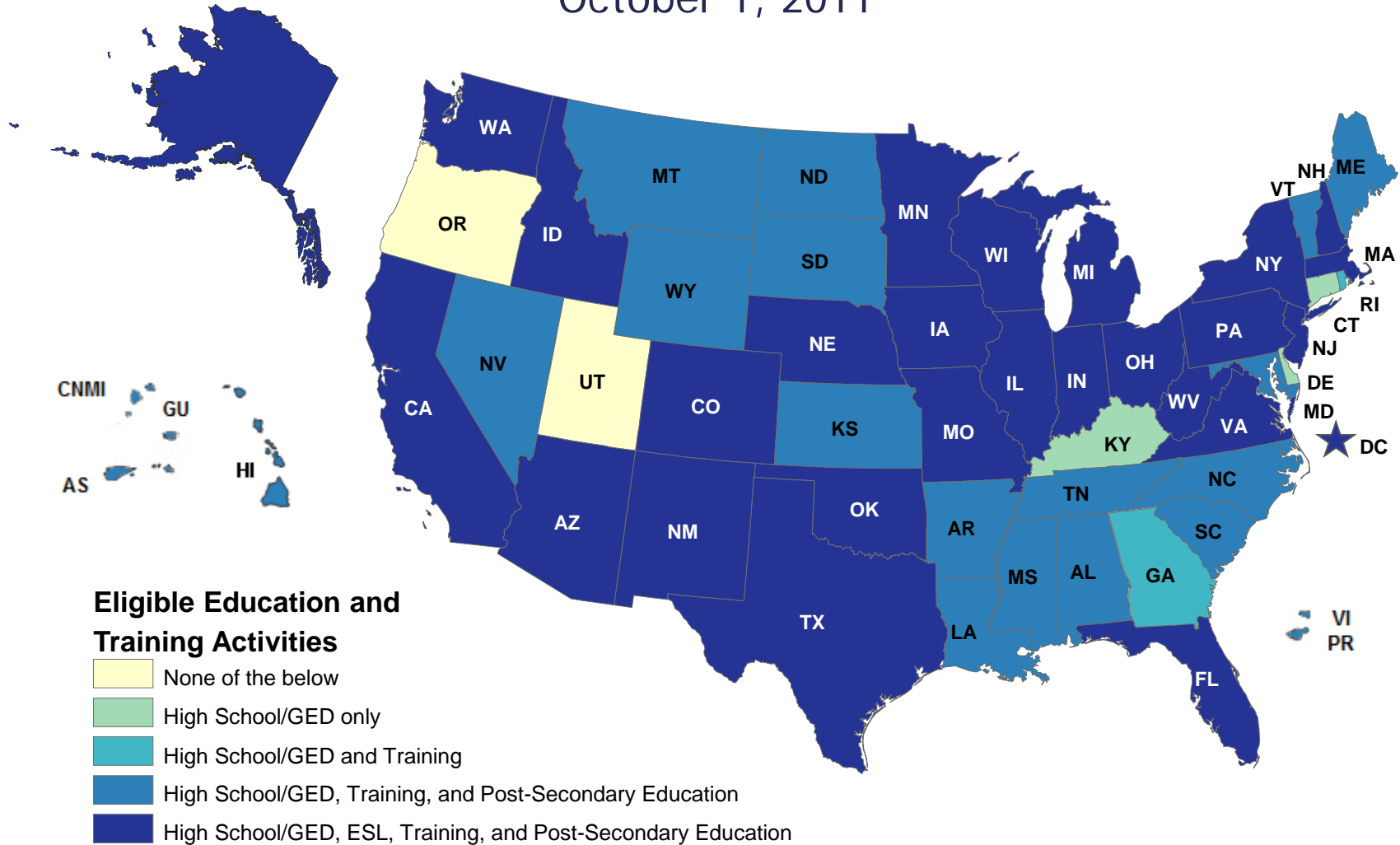
For full details, see the CCDF Policies Database.

Treatment of Family Members' Earnings
October 1, 2011
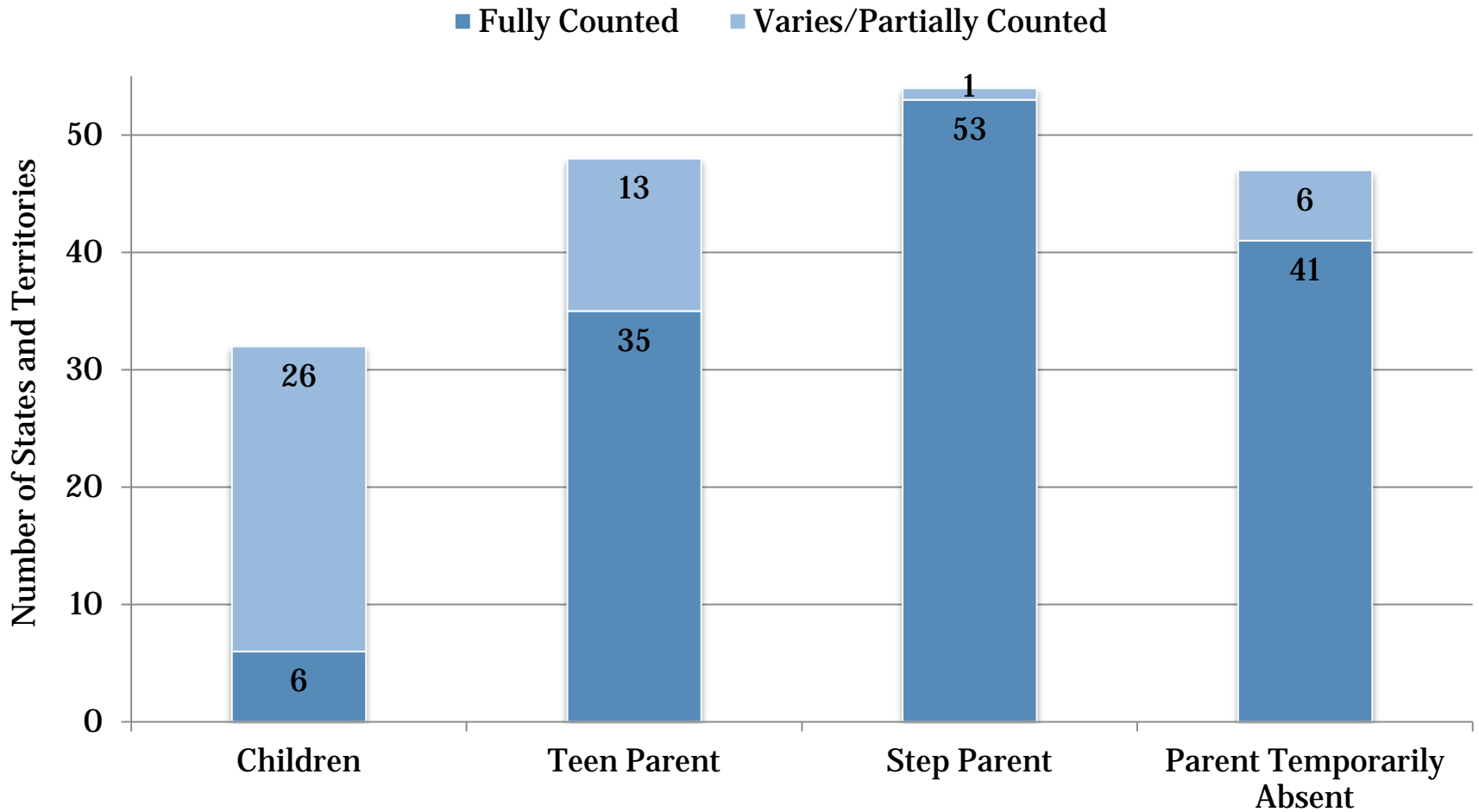
For full details, see the CCDF Policies Database.
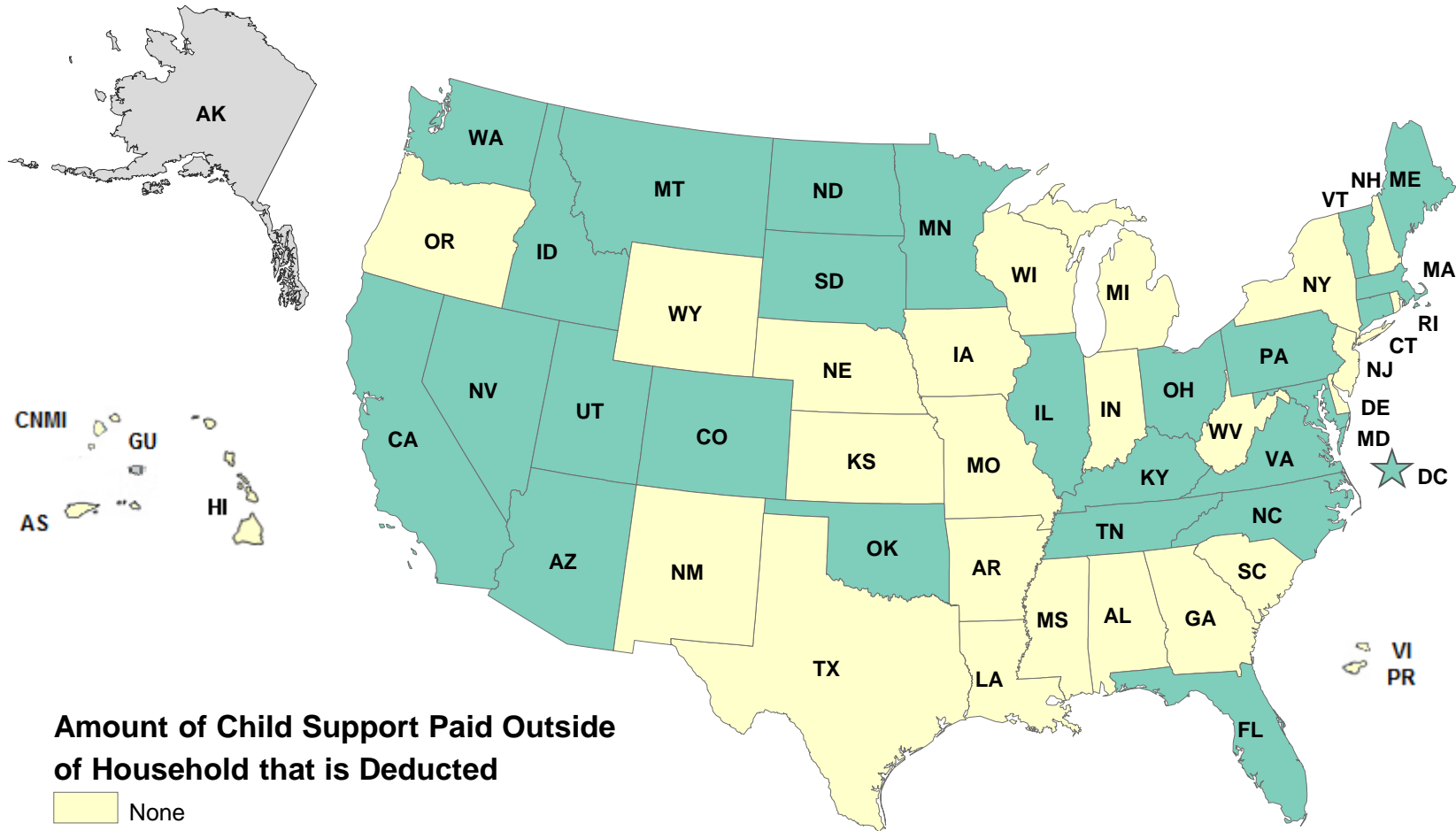
Treatment of Different Types of Income and Benefits
October 1, 2011
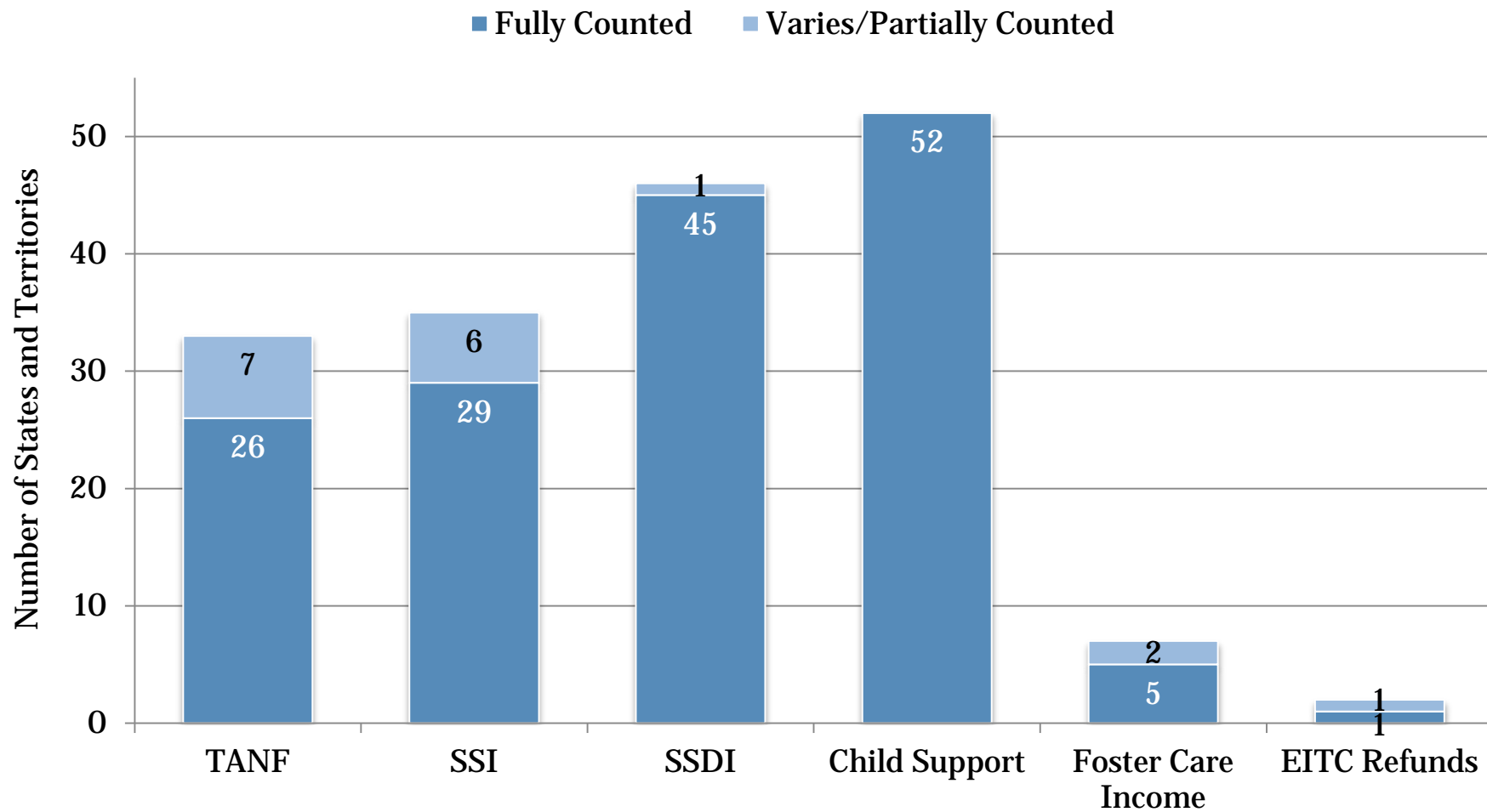
For full details, see the CCDF Policies Database.

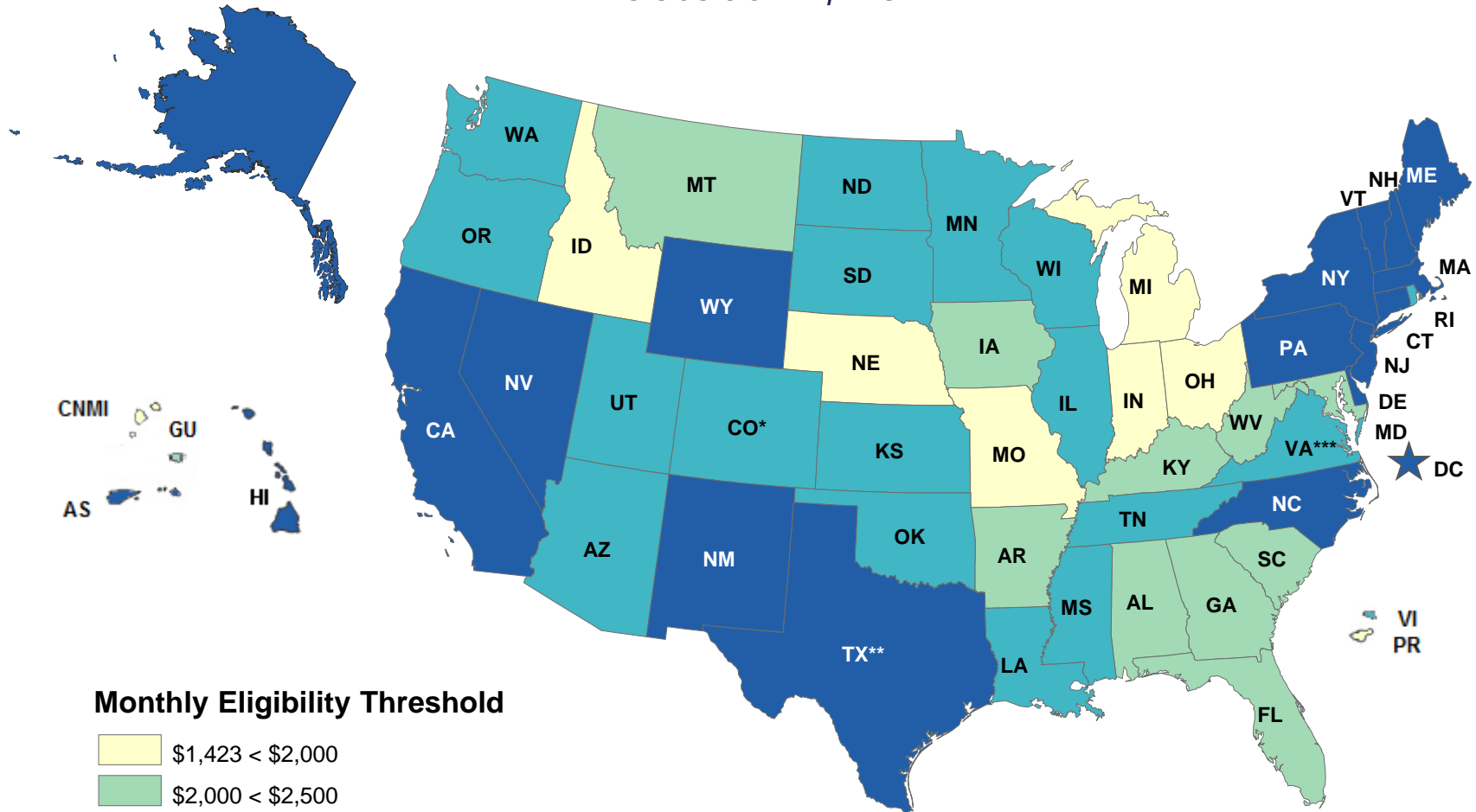# Deduction for Child Support Paid
October 1, 2011

Amount of Child Support Paid Outside of Household that is Deducted

- None
- All
- Information not available

For full details, see the CCDF Policies Database.

Initial Eligibility Thresholds for a Three Person Family
October 1, 2011

Monthly Eligibility Threshold

- $1,423 < $2,000
- $2,000 < $2,500
- $2,550 < $3,000
- $3,000 < $4,524

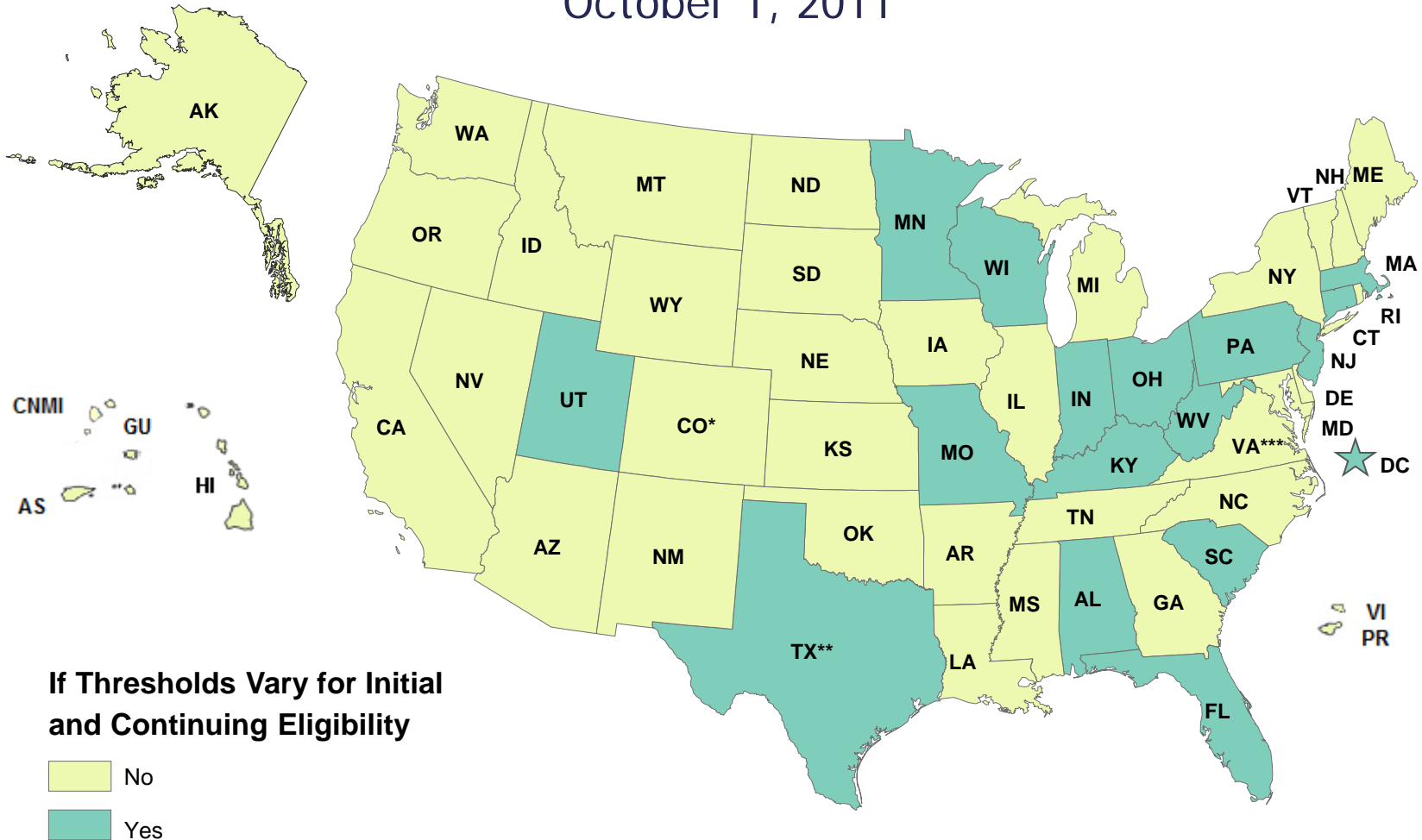For full details, see the CCDF Policies Database.
*Policies coded for Denver, Colorado.
**Policies coded for the Gulf Coast Region.
***Policies coded for Group III areas.

Continuing Eligibility Thresholds
October 1, 2011

If Thresholds Vary for Initial and Continuing Eligibility

- No
- Yes

For full details, see the CCDF Policies Database.
*Policies coded for Denver, Colorado.
**Policies coded for the Gulf Coast Region.
***Policies coded for Group III areas.

Application and Reporting Policies

- Application procedures

- Information that must be verified with documentation

- Requirements for reporting changes

- If families receiving different types of benefits/services are exempt from redetermination

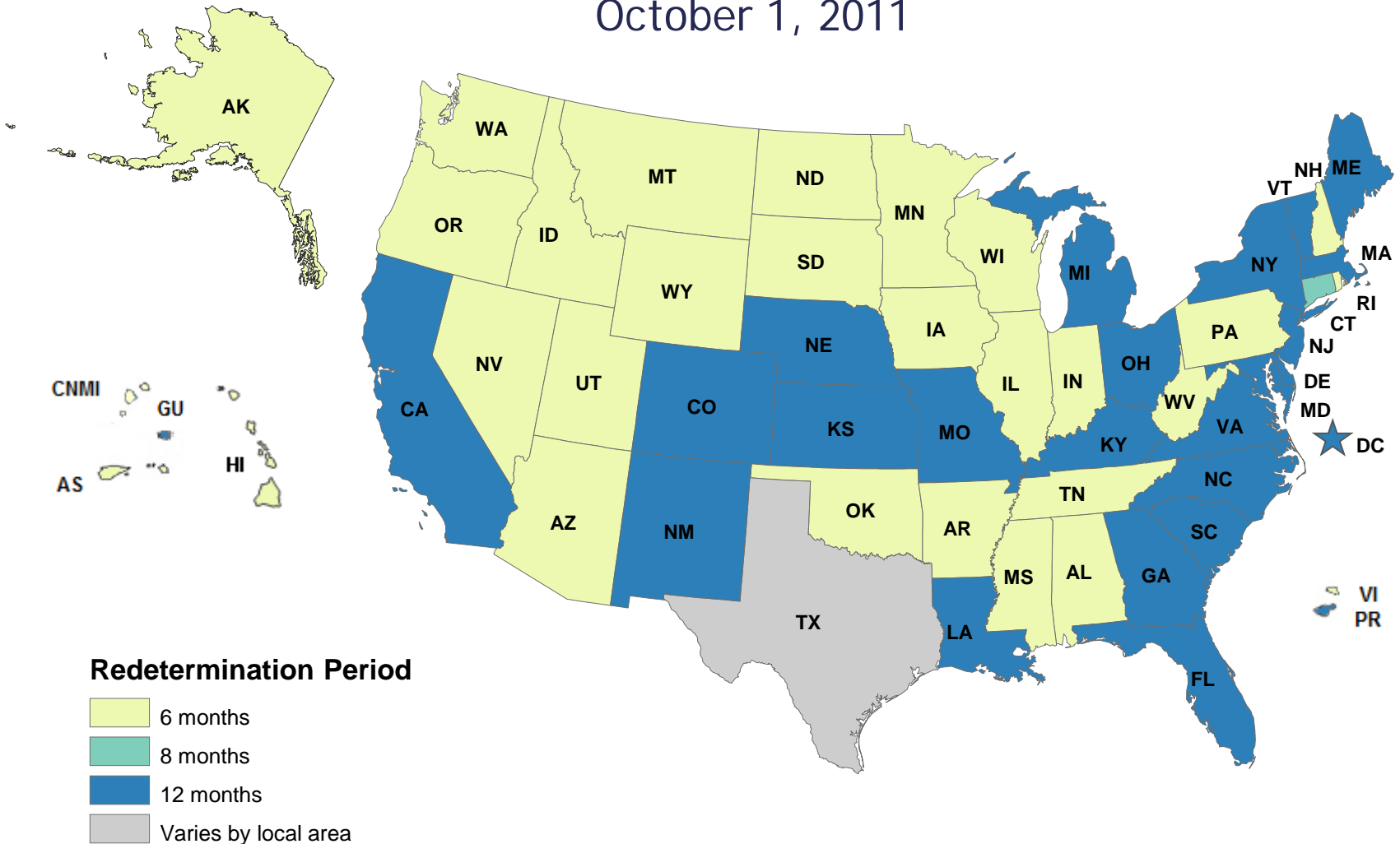- Terms of authorization

Verification Requirements
October 1, 2011
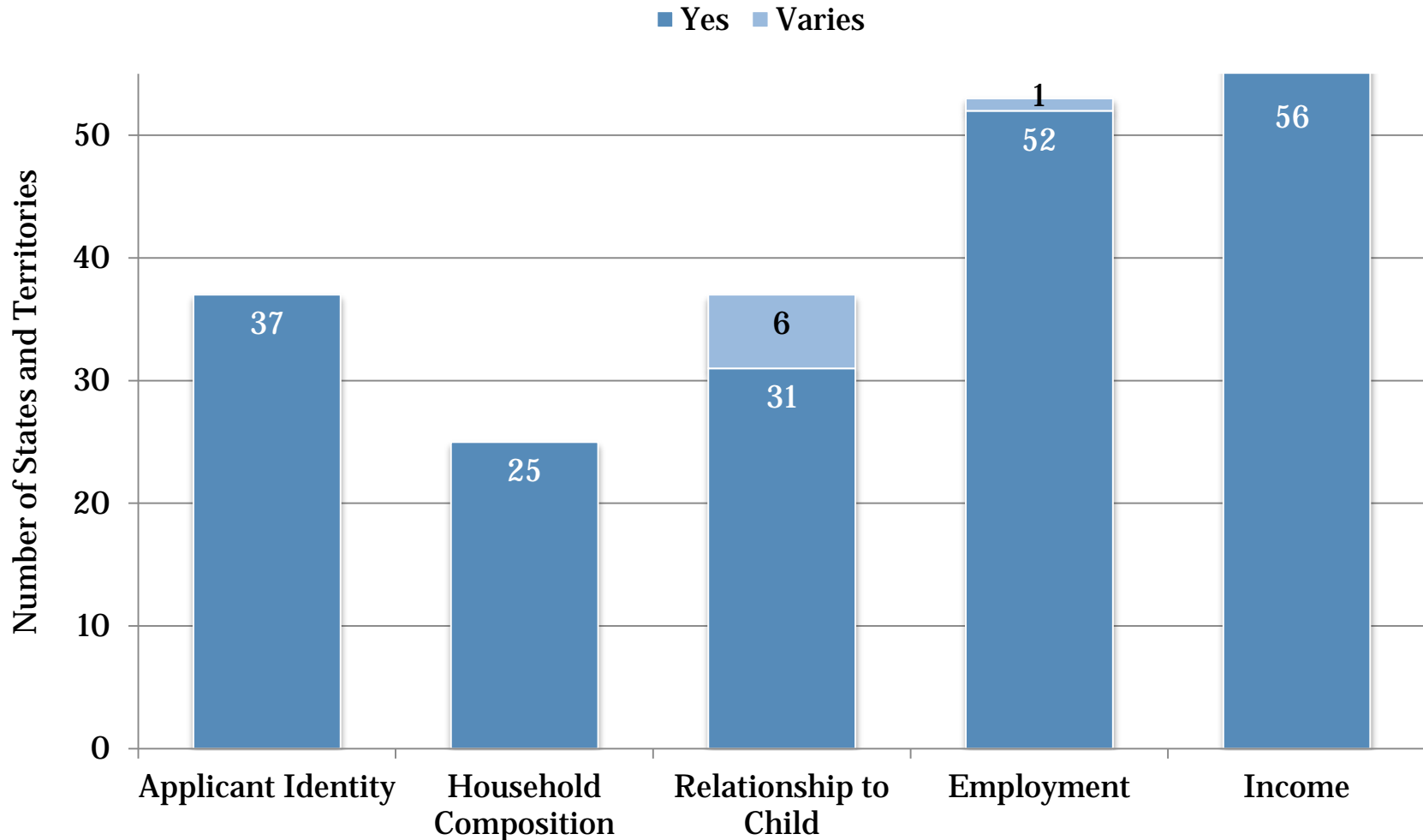
For full details, see the CCDF Policies Database.

Redetermination Period
October 1, 2011

Redetermination Period

- 6 months
- 8 months
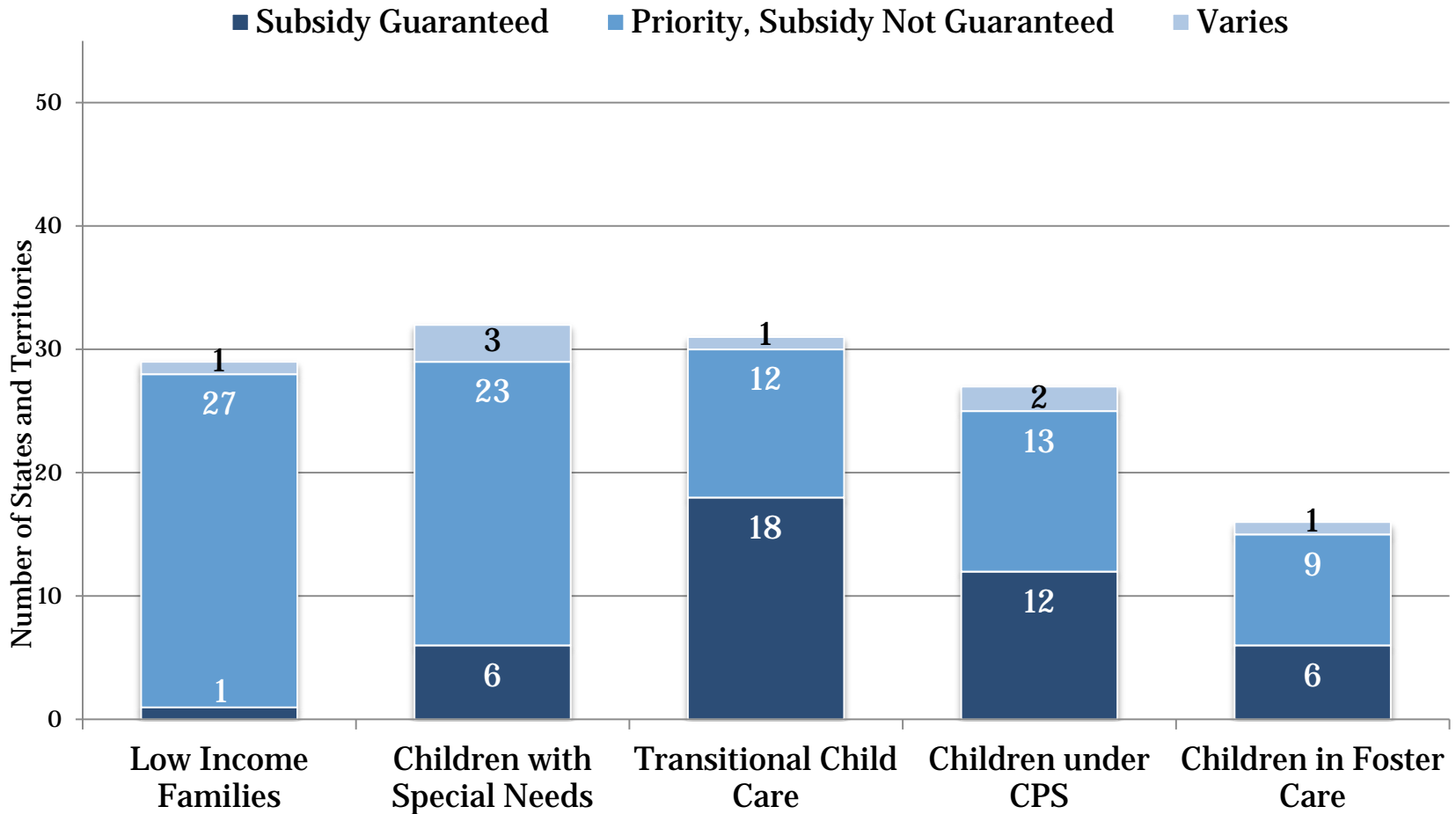- 12 months
- Varies by local area

For full details, see the CCDF Policies Database.

Priority and Waiting List Policies

- **Priority policies for different groups**

- **Waiting list policies**

Priority Policies
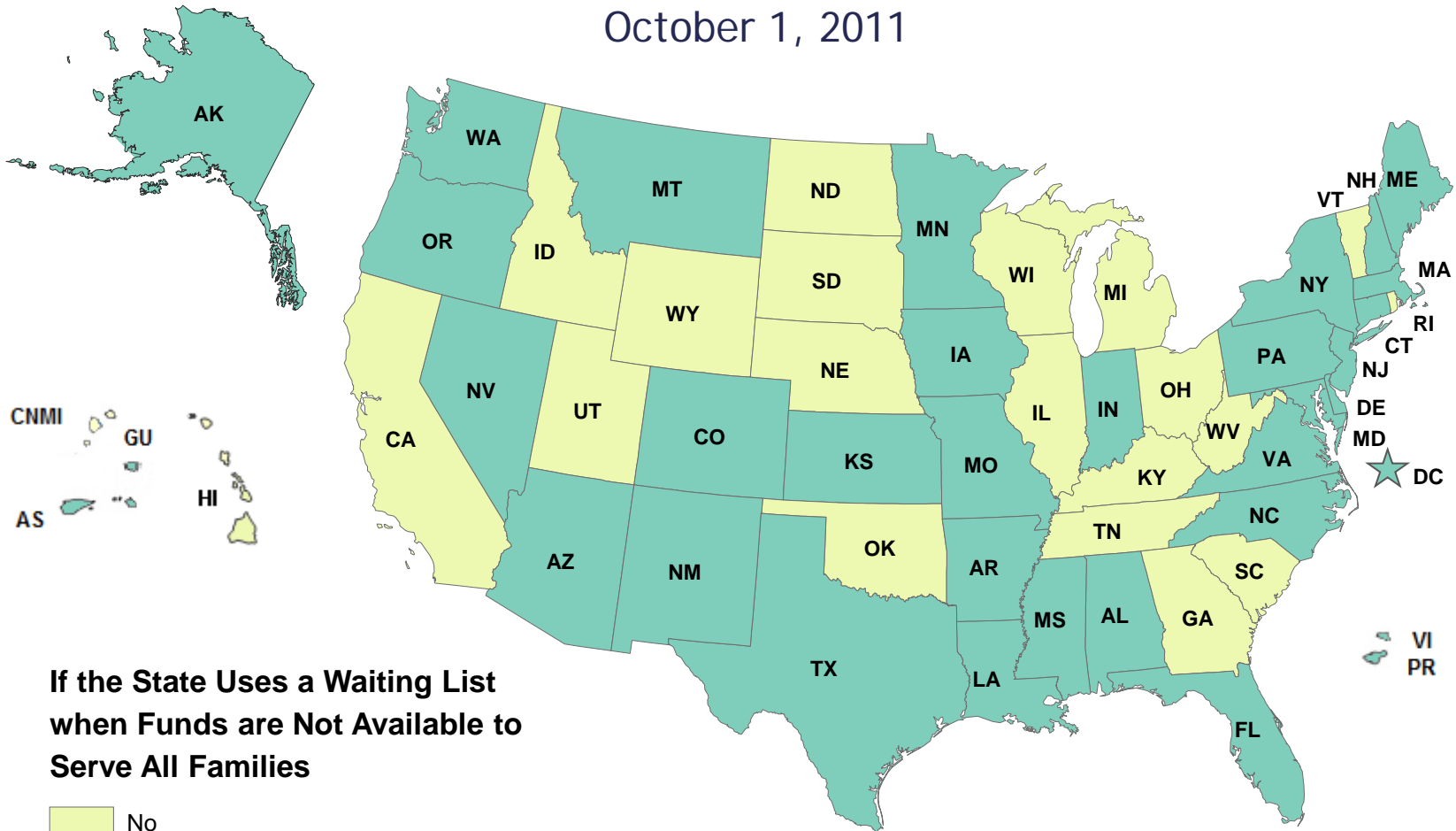## October 1, 2011

For full details, see the CCDF Policies Database.

If a Waiting List is Used When Funds are Not Available to Serve All Families

October 1, 2011

If the State Uses a Waiting List when Funds are Not Available to Serve All Families

- No
- Yes

For full details, see the CCDF Policies Database. A state may appear on this list as having waiting list policies, even if no family is currently on the waiting list.
*Policies coded for New York City.

Copayment Policies

- Copayment exemptions

- Copayment administration

- Basic calculation method

- Detailed "table" of income ranges and copayment amounts or percents, by family size

- Adjustments for multiple children

- Other adjustments
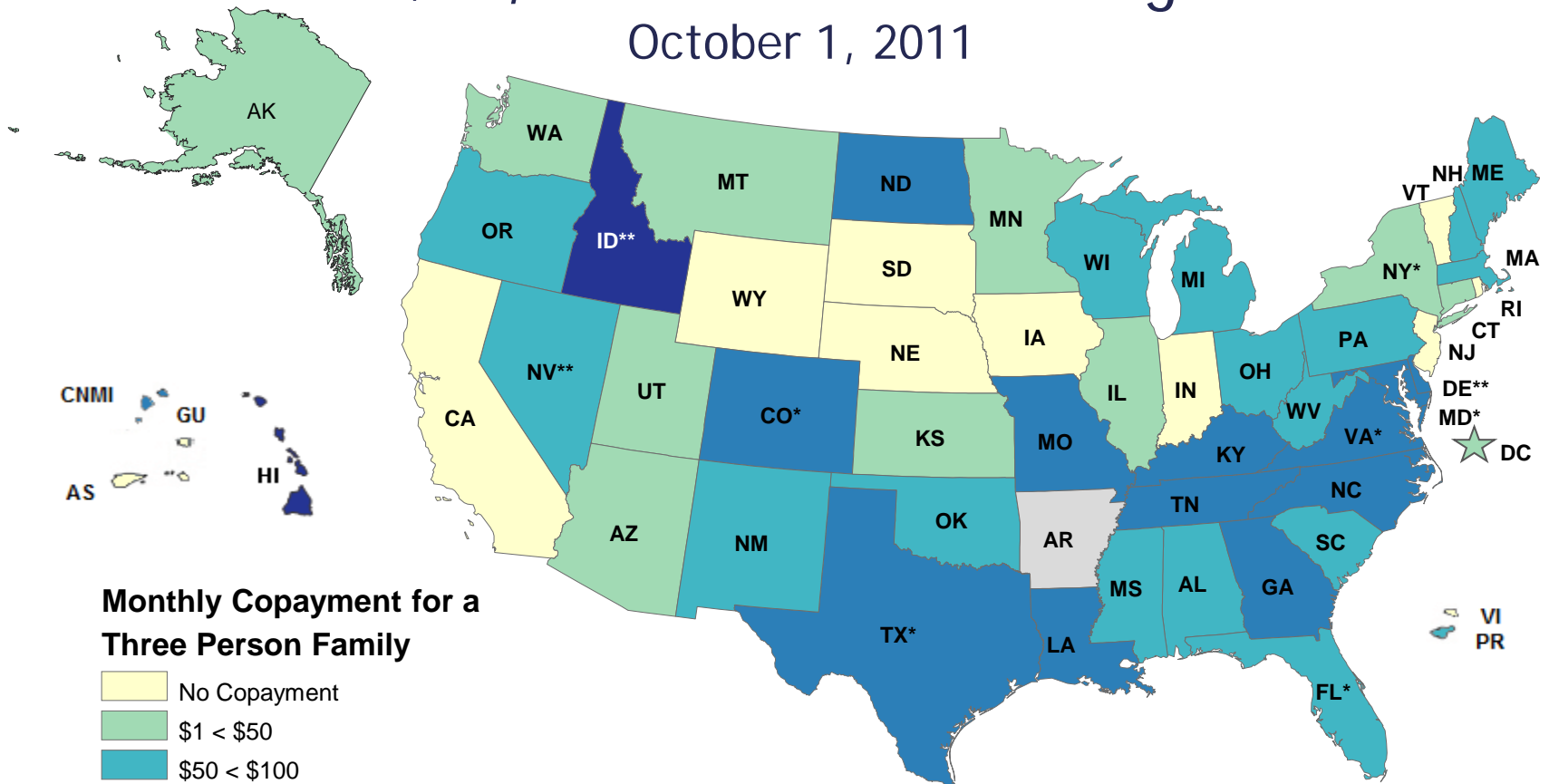
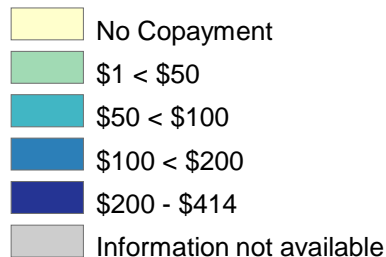# If Families Are Exempt from Copayments
October 1, 2011
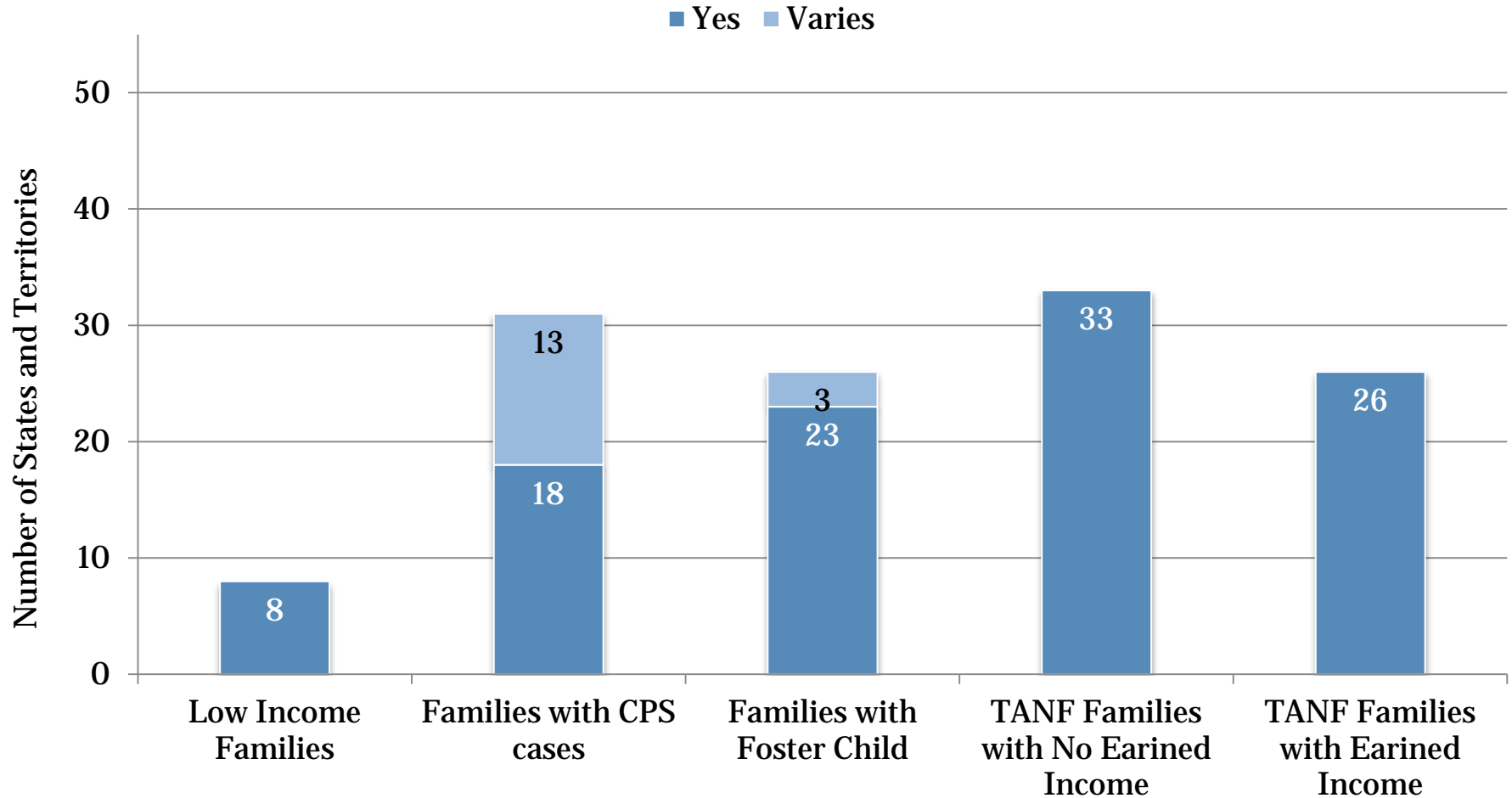
For full details, see the CCDF Policies Database.

Copayments for a Three Person Family with $15,000 in Annual Earnings

October 1, 2011

Monthly Copayment for a Three Person Family

- No Copayment
- $1 < $50
- $50 < $100
- $100 < $200
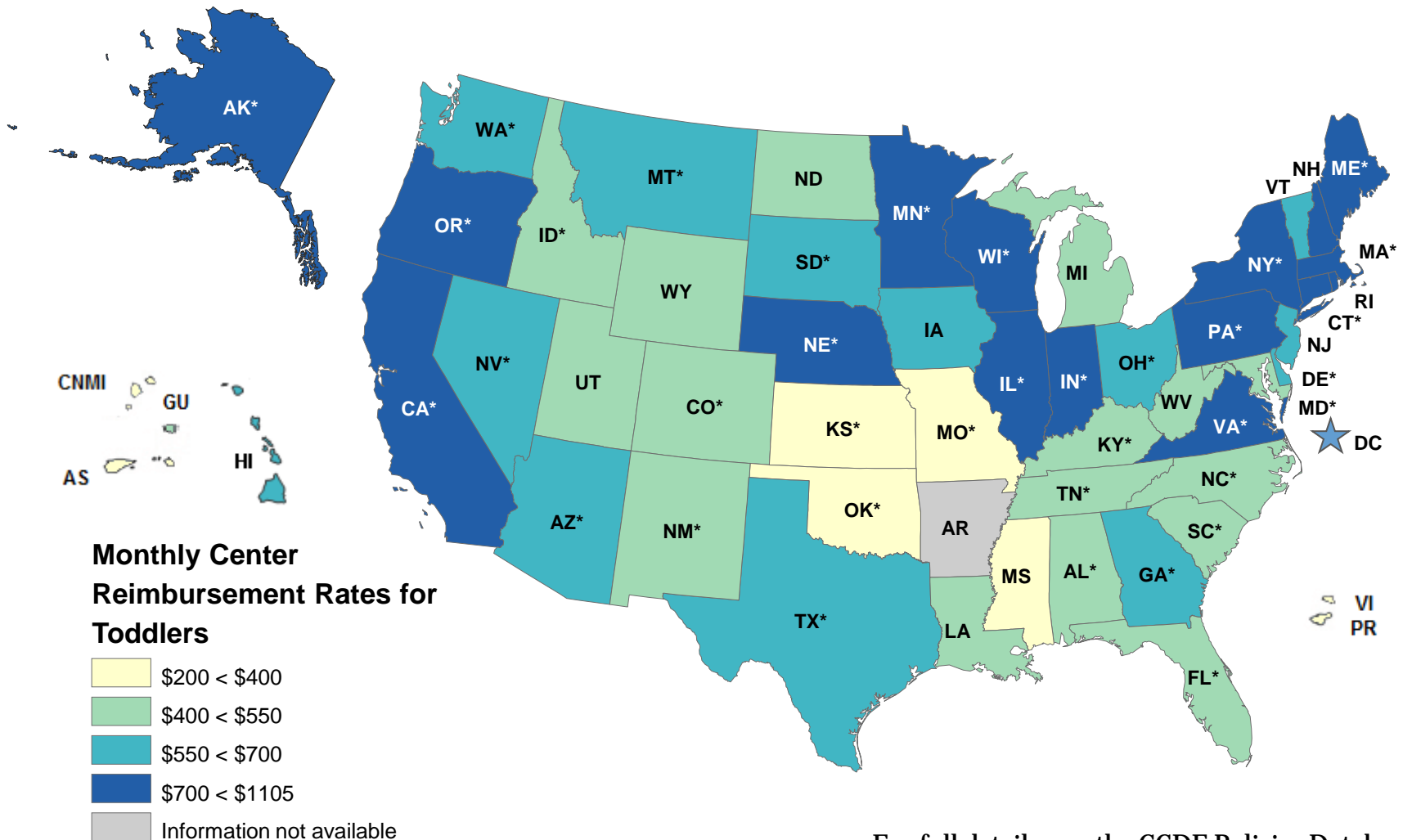- $200 - $414
- Information not available

For full details, see the CCDF Policies Database.
*Copayments coded at the local level.
**Copayments based on local level reimbursement rates.

Reimbursement Rate and Other Provider Policies

- **Reimbursements rates by provider type**

- **Higher rates in tiered systems**

- **Information for legally unregulated providers**
  - Background checks
  - Training requirements
  - Age requirements

Center Maximum Reimbursement Rates for Toddlers
October 1, 2011

Monthly Center Reimbursement Rates for Toddlers

- $200 < $400
- $400 < $550
- $550 < $700
- $700 < $1105
- Information not available

For full details, see the CCDF Policies Database.
*Rates coded at the local level.

States with Tiered Reimbursement
October 1, 2011

If the State Has Tiered Rates for Center Care

- No
- Yes
- Information not available
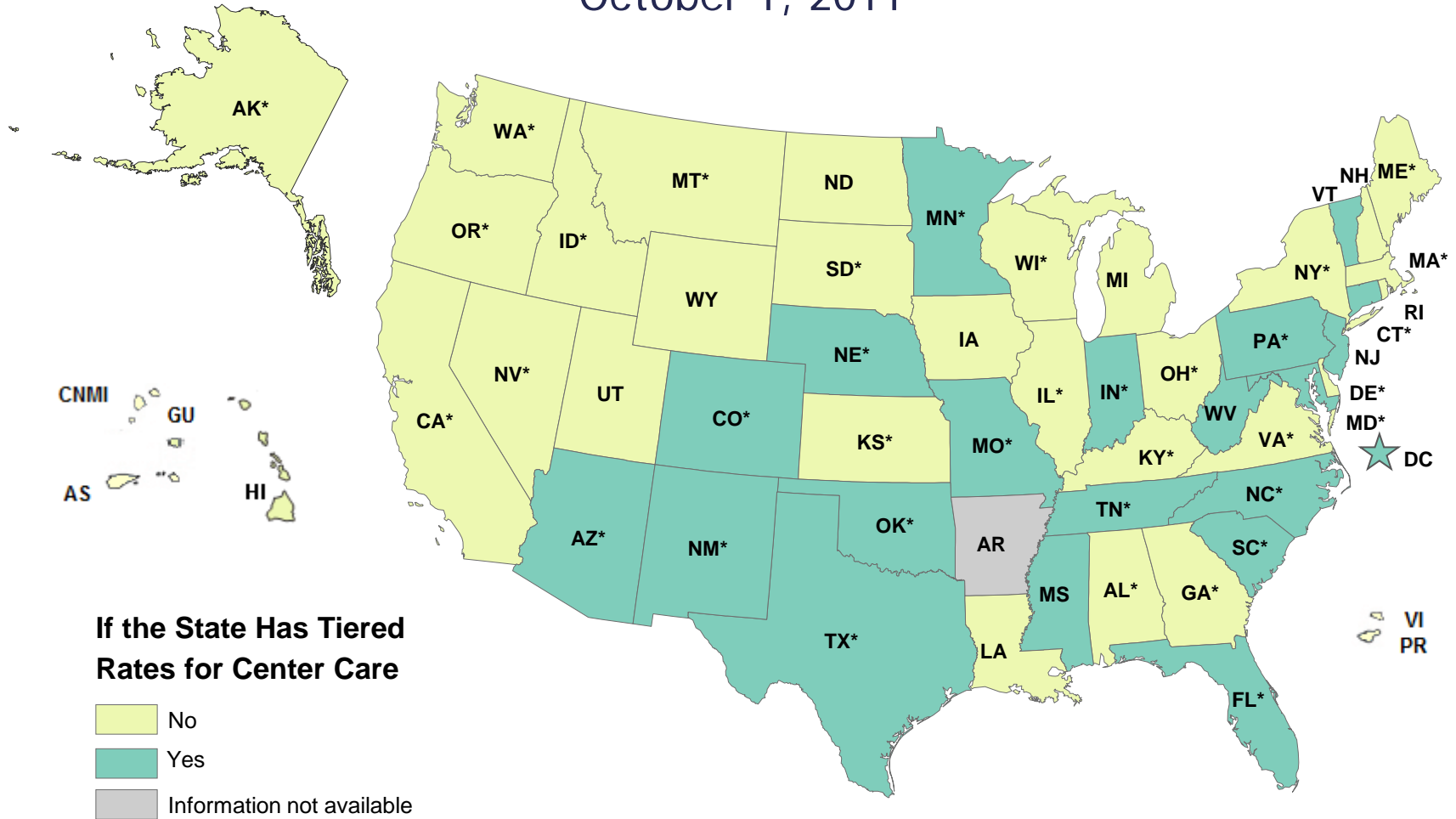
For full details, see the CCDF Policies Database.
*Policy based on local level reimbursement rates.

Two Examples of Uses of the Database

- **Microsimulation Analysis**
  - How many children are eligible for CCDF?
  - An HHS/ASPE project, conducted at U.I. with the TRIM3 model

- **Statistical Analysis**
  - What are the ways in which CCDF policies treat children/families involved in child welfare?
  - A project conducted by researchers at Oregon State University, the Society for Research in Child Development, and Georgetown University

Two Ways for YOU to Access the Database Information

1. **Book of Tables**

2. **Detailed Data Files**

Book of Tables

- Selected policies from the CCDF Policies Database

- Policies in effect on October 1 of each year

- Second Book of Tables shows policies in effect on October 1, 2011
  - Includes complete set of October 1, 2010 tables

Examples from the 2011 Book of Tables

Table 3. Approved Activities for CCDF Eligibility, 2011							
		Job Search Activities					
State	Employment	Job Search	Job Search Time Limit	High School/GED [2]	ESL [2]	Training [2]	Post-Secondary Education [2]
Alabama	Yes	No	NA	Yes	No	Yes [3]	Yes [3]
Alaska	Yes	Yes, for initial and continuing eligibility	80 hours in a year [4]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arizona	Yes	Yes, only for continuing eligibility	60 days in a year [5]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes [6]
Arkansas	Yes	No	NA	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
California	Yes	Yes, for initial and continuing eligibility	60 days in a year [7]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Colorado	Yes	Yes, for initial and continuing eligibility	30 days in a year [8]	Yes [9]	Yes [9]	Yes [9]	Yes [9]
Connecticut	Yes	Yes, only for continuing eligibility	Other [10]	Yes [11]	No	No	No
Delaware	Yes	Yes, for initial and continuing eligibility	3 months per job loss occurrence	Yes	No	No	No [12]
DC	Yes	Yes, for initial and continuing eligibility	NA [13]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Florida	Yes	Yes, only for continuing eligibility [14]	30 days per job loss occurrence	Yes [15]	Yes [15]	Yes [15]	Yes [15]
Georgia	Yes	Yes, only for continuing eligibility	8 weeks per job loss occurrence [16]	Yes	No	Yes	No [17]
Hawaii	Yes	Yes, for initial and continuing eligibility	30 days in a year [18]	Yes	No [19]	Yes	Yes

Examples from the 2011 Book of Tables

Table 31. Copayment Amounts for a Single Parent with a Two-Year-Old Child in Full-Time Care (Monthly Dollar Amounts), 2011 [2]

State	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$30,000
	Annual Earnings			
Alabama	78	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible
Alaska	38	50	104	150
Arizona	65	108	Not eligible	Not eligible
Arkansas	---[1]	---[1]	---[1]	Not eligible
California	0	0	76	167
Colorado [3]	113	183	250	325
Connecticut	50	67	125	200
Delaware [4]	100	210	287	Not eligible
DC	44	75	134	192
Florida [5]	78	119	Not eligible	Not eligible
Georgia	113	143	Not eligible	Not eligible
Hawaii [6]	419	698	977	1256
Idaho [7]	194	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible
Illinois	47	85	134	Not eligible
Indiana	63	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible
Iowa	9	128	Not eligible	Not eligible
Kansas	46	110	175	Not eligible
Kentucky	87	173	Not eligible	Not eligible
Louisiana [8]	160	160	240	Not eligible
Maine	100	150	208	250

Examples from the 2011 Book of Tables

Table 34. Maximum Reimbursement Rates for Licensed Child Care Centers (Monthly Dollar Amounts), 2011 [2]								
	Full-Time Care						Before-and-After Care	
	Infant (11 months)		Toddler (35 months)		Preschool (59 months)		School-Age (84 months)	
State	Base Rate	Highest Rate	Base Rate	Highest Rate	Base Rate	Highest Rate	Base Rate	Highest Rate
Alabama [3]	481	481	442	442	442	442	204	204
Alaska [4]	850	850	800	800	650	650	375	375
Arizona [5]	654	720	576	634	516	567	347	381
Arkansas	---[1]	---[1]	---[1]	---[1]	---[1]	---[1]	---[1]	---[1]
California [6]	1029	1029	744	744	744	744	386	386
Colorado [7]	714	902	520	697	520	697	286	383
Connecticut [8]	976	1025	976	1025	770	808	460	483
Delaware [9]	708	708	574	574	574	574	275	275
DC [10]	882	1179	863	1102	633	910	265	416
Florida [11]	507	608	429	515	403	484	273	328
Georgia [12]	602	602	559	559	494	494	282	282
Hawaii [13]	1395	1395	675	710	675	710	155	155
Idaho [14]	594	594	492	492	440	440	151	151
Illinois [15]	978	978	826	826	688	688	344	344
Indiana [16]	945	1040	815	897	693	763	377	416
Iowa	685	685	552	552	552	552	249	249
Kansas [17]	588	588	395	395	395	395	197	197
Kentucky [18]	520	520	520	520	455	455	282	282
Louisiana [19]	407	407	407	407	385	385	193	193
Maine [20]	1018	1018	910	910	810	810	347	347

Book of Tables Available from OPRE

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/research/project/child-care-and-development-fund-ccdf-policies-database-2008-2013

Detailed Data Files

- Full Database detail (beyond detail provided in Book of Tables)

- Files capture policy changes over time

- Available as Excel, SAS, Stata, SPSS, ASCII, and delimited files

Detailed Data Files Available from Research Connections

http://www.researchconnections.org

Using the Book of Tables

- Is the information in the Book of Tables sufficient?
  - Point-in-time
  - No sub-state detail
  - Does not include all details

- You can obtain the Book of Tables columns in electronic format from Research Connections

Using the Detailed Database

- When the Book of Tables isn't sufficient

- Things you need to do:
  - Decide what variables you need to look at
  - Understand how the variables are coded
  - Understand when the Database has more than one "record" of information for the same state
  - Download the data

Identifying Variables

20. Priority Policies

General Notes/Concepts:
If there are more children eligible for subsidies (meeting all eligibility requirements) than can be served, some children or families may be given priority over others.

Subgroup Issues:
None

Additional Coding Notes:
None

Variables and Notes:

Variable	Variable Options and Notes
Priority Policies	
If any groups are given priority for the subsidy. (PriorGroups)	Variable Options 0 - NA 1 - Yes 2 - No 91 - ? 92 - Not in manual Coding Notes 1. If this variable is coded No, all other priority variables are coded NA, with the exception of definition variables.

How Variables are Coded

Variable	Variable Options and Notes
Families Whose Copayments are Waived	
If families below 100 percent of the federal poverty level are categorically exempt from copayment requirements. (CopayPovertyExempt)	<u>Variable Options</u> 0 - NA 1 - Yes 2 - No 92 - Not in manual <u>Coding Notes</u> 1. This policy must be explicitly stated. 2. This variable is only coded Yes if the state exempts all families below 100 percent of the federal poverty level. If the state exempts some other subset of families in poverty, this policy is described in the notes field.

Understanding Multiple "Records"

- Example:
  Copayment Adjustments for Texas

State	County	Program	Family Group	Provider Type	Provider Subtype	BeginDat	EndDat	Begin Majority	End Majority
48	192	34	98	99	0	2007/05/16	2008/08/03	8888/88/88	8888/88/88
48	192	34	98	99	0	2008/08/04	2012/03/20	8888/88/88	8888/88/88
48	44	31	98	99	0	2008/09/08	9999/12/31	2008/09/08	9999/12/31

When there are Multiple "Records"

- Something changed in that area of policy, or

- Different policies in different sub-state area

- Different policies for different types of providers or different groups of families

- Different policies for different CCDF-funded programs

Downloading the Data

- Available formats:
  - Excel
  - SPSS
  - SAS
  - Stata
  - ASCII
  - delimited

- Same general procedures as downloading any other Research Connections data

Contact Us

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