Documentation for Table 1: Overview of Major Means-Tested Transfer Programs (2017) for:

Means-Tested transfers, Asset Limits, and Universal Basic Income by:

André Victor D. Luduvice and Cornelius Johnson

Table 1: Overview of Major Means-Tested Transfer Programs (2017)

	Description	Asset limit	Income limit	Maximum Benefit
EITC	Federal tax credit for low- and moderate-income working people	$3,450 (investment income)	$15,010 - $53,930 (AGI)	$510 to $6,318 per year
SNAP	Federal food assistance program	$2,250 or $3,250 with elderly or disabled person in household	$1,287 – $4,430 gross monthly income	$194 to $1,169 per month
TANF	State-dependent time-limited assistance to needy families with children	$1,000 to $10,000; some states do not have a limit	$881 average monthly income	$374 to $679 per month
SSI	Federal income supplement program designed to assist low-income, aged, blind, and disabled people	$2,000 for an individual; $3,000 for eligible couples	$1,555 for an individual, $2,291 for eligible couples	$735 to $1,103 per month

Sources: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Welfare Rules Databook, Social Security Administration (SSA), Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and authors' calculations.

Notes: The table shows, for each program, a brief description and details regarding eligibility and benefits. For TANF, the listed maximum benefit is the calculated average maximum benefit across all 50 states and the District of Columbia. For more details on the EITC, see Appendix 3.

For the EITC, all values are taken directly from the EITC table for Tax Year 2017, at the time of writing this table is hosted at the following address: https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/earned-income-tax-credit/earned-income-and-earned-income-tax-credit-eitc-tables. This document is also available as a reference in our repository, titled "Earned_Income_and_Earned_Income_Tax_Credit_(EITC)_Tables _ Internal_Revenue_Service.pdf".

Continuing with the EITC, values in the "Asset limit" cell of our table were taken from the statement "Investment income limit: $3,450 or less" on the IRS webpage. Values in the "Income Limit" cell of our table are reflective of the maximum AGI of $15,010 for a filer of status "Filing as Single, Head of Household, or Widowed" and with Zero "Children or Relatives Claimed", ranging up to the maximum AGI of $53,930 for a filer of status "Filing as Married Filing Jointly" and with Three "Children or Relatives Claimed". Lastly, values in the "Maximum Benefit" cell of our table were taken from the bulleted list titled "Maximum Credit Amounts" on the document – the list defines these credit amounts as: $510 for "No qualifying children", $3,400 for "1 qualifying child", $5,616 for "2 qualifying children", and $6,318 for "3 or more qualifying children".

For SNAP, all values are taken directly from the August 10th, 2016 memorandum titled "SNAP – Fiscal Year 2017 Cost-of-Living Adjustments" issued by Director Lizbeth Silbermann, hosted at the following web address: https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/snap/SNAP-Fiscal-Year-2017-Cost-of-Living-Adjustments.pdf. This document is also available as a reference in our repository, titled "SNAP_Fiscal_Year_2017_Cost_of_Living_Adjustments.pdf".

Continuing with SNAP, values in the "Asset limit" cell of our table are reflective of the second to last paragraph of the memorandum, which states: "The resource limit for households will remain unchanged for the 48 States and the District of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands at $2,250. The resource limit for households where at least one person is age 60 or older, or is disabled, will remain unchanged at $3,250.". Values in the "Income limit" cell of our table are reflective of those values given for the 48 States, DC, Guam, and the Virgin Islands in the table titled "Gross Monthly Income Eligibility Standards (130 Percent of Poverty Level)" found within the memorandum, where a household size of 1 has value $1,287 and a household size of 8 has value $4,430. Values in the "Maximum Benefit" cell of our table are reflective of those found in the "Maximum SNAP Allotments" table of the memorandum, where a household size of 1 has value $194 and a household size of 8 has value $1,169.

For TANF, values listed are taken directly from data provided in tables I.C.1, I.E.4, and II.A.4, by Urban Institute's Welfare Rules Database, funded by HHS/ACF for the year 2017, hosted at the following web address: https://wrd.urban.org/wrd/tables.cfm.

Continuing with TANF, values in the "Asset limit" cell of our table are reflective of the range of the "Asset limit" column in Table I.C.1, where the minimum is $1,000 and the maximum is $10,000 (in some cases, there is no limit). Values in the "Income limit" cell of our table are taken directly from the "Mean" calculated within the table: This is the second-to-last row of table I.E.4, with value $881. Values in the "Maximum Benefit" cell of our table are taken directly from the "Mean" calculated within the table: This is the second-to-last row of table II.A.4, where the minimum value of $374 is reflective of the average maximum monthly benefit for a family with no income of size 2, and the maximum value of $679 is reflective of the average maximum monthly benefit for a family with no income of size 6.

For SSI, values for the "Asset limit" and "Maximum Benefit" cells of our table are taken directly from the "OASDI and SSI Program Rates & Limits" 2017 document published by the SSA, hosted at the following web address: https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/quickfacts/prog_highlights/RatesLimits2017.pdf. Values for the "Income limit" are calculated by the authors based upon information provided in the "Annual Statistical Supplement" 2017 document published by the SSA, hosted at the following web address: https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/2017/ssi.html. The documents are available as references in our repository, titled "OASDI_and_SSI_Program_Rates_&_Limits_2017.pdf" and "Annual_Statistical_Supplement_2017.pdf", respectively.

Continuing with SSI, values in the "Asset limit" cell of our table are reflective of the values listed under "Resource Limits (dollars)" on the OASDI and SSI Program Rates & Limits document, which state a limit of $2,000 for an individual and $3,000 for a couple. Values in the "Income limit" cell of our table are calculated by the authors according to the SSA's formula template for countable income on the Annual Statistical supplement, interpreted as: $B = 735 - |c|$ where $c = \frac{(i-85)}{2}$, with B defined as SSI benefit, c defined as countable earnings, and i defined as income from earnings (replace 735 with 1,103 for a couple, and let $B = 0$ when solving). Values in the "Maximum Benefit" cell of our table are reflective of the values listed under "Monthly Federal Payment Standard (dollars) on the OASDI and SSI Program Rates & Limits document, which state a value of $735 for an individual and $1,103 for a couple.