



Categorical Eligibility

California

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Definition of Minor Child

To be eligible for TANF cash assistance, families must include a minor child, defined as:
Child under age 18; child age 18 who is a full-time student and will graduate by age 19

Minor Children in the Assistance Unit

All minor children who live in the home and who are full or half siblings are required to be included in the assistance unit, with the following exceptions:

- SSI Recipient
- Foster child
- Child excluded under a family cap policy
- Not dependent (e.g., not deprived of parental support)
- Child receiving Refugee Repatriate Assistance

When an individual acts as a caretaker of children, some of whom are neither full nor half siblings (for example, the caretaker's own children and a nephew, niece, or grandchild), the caretaker must establish a single assistance unit for all children in her/his care.

Temporary Absence of Minor from Home

A family can continue to receive assistance for a child who is absent from the home for a period not to exceed: 30 days

The allowable period can be extended under the following circumstances:
Child in public hospital (up to two calendar months)

Non-Parent Caretakers

(Circumstances under which non-parent caretakers can receive benefits on behalf of a child)

In order to qualify as a non-parent caretaker, an individual need not be related to the child(ren) for whom assistance is sought. In addition to relatives, the following non-relative adults can receive assistance for a child:

- A legal guardian (whether or not related to the child)

Non-parent caretakers have the option of choosing to be included in the assistance unit if they wish to be.

Eligibility of Pregnant Women

A pregnant woman with no other children is eligible for assistance, beginning:
Sixth month

Eligibility of Two-Parent Families

Two-parent families can be eligible to receive assistance only if one parent is incapacitated or meets the "unemployed" parent requirements.

The "unemployed" parent requirement includes:

- Neither applicant parent can be working more than 100 hours per month
- The state eliminated the AFDC work history test

Treatment of Parents of Minor Parents

The grandparent of a child of a minor parent is required to be in the same assistance unit with the minor parent and child if the grandparent resides in the same home and receives assistance.

Other Adults in the Assistance Unit

(e.g., step-parents, spouses of non-parent caretakers, or single parents' partners)

Adults other than parents or non-parent caretakers are allowed to be in the assistance unit at family option as follows:

Stepparent; senior parent of minor parent. The household may choose whether they are in the assistance unit, but their income is counted under the "family" formula even if they are not in the assistance unit.

Other adults who are not parents or non-parent caretakers are not allowed or required to be in the assistance unit.