



Reproductive Health and TANF Teens and TANF

Connecticut

Family Cap

Benefits to Family with Excluded Child	The traditional incremental cash increase is denied.	N
	The traditional incremental cash increase is reduced. \$50 for each family cap child	Y
	The benefit for the child is in the form of vouchers.	N
	The benefit for the child is in the form of a third party payment.	N
Exemptions from the Family Cap	A child may be exempt from the family cap if:	
	Born less than 10 months after case opened	Y
	First-born child of minor TANF parent	Y
	Conceived between spells of assistance	N
	Conceived as a result of rape or incest	Y
	Not living with biological parent	Y
	Conceived as a result of failed contraception	N
Eligible for state's family violence option	N	
Different Treatment of "Capped" Families	A parent with a "capped" child is required to work when that child is younger compared to a parent with a non-capped child. No exemption for parent of family cap child	Y
	A family with a "capped" child retains more income from earnings.	N

A family retains more of the child support collected on behalf of a "capped " child. N

A family with a "capped" child is referred to family planning services. N

Minor Teen Parent Living Arrangement

Rules Issued The TANF agency issued rules/guidance. Y

Eligibility of Minors
Not Living with Parents Eligible if living with an adult relative or guardian Y

Eligible if living with a supervisory adult Y

Eligible if living independently in an approved arrangement Y*

Assessment The TANF agency assesses minors seeking independent living. Y

TANF staff are trained in assessment. N

The child welfare agency assesses minors seeking independent living. N

Community non-profits assess minors seeking independent living. N

State policy describes circumstances in which adult supervision by non-relatives is appropriate. Y

If no parent/guardian willing to be responsible for teen Y

If there is reported abuse/neglect Y

If there is concern about abuse/neglect Y

If current caretaker abuses alcohol or drugs Y

If no permanent housing is available Y

If there is housing overcrowding Y

Other:

Minor teen parent is a runaway

Assistance in Locating
Adult Supervision State policy establishes what assistance will be provided. Y

Referral to child welfare Y

for 12/97

	A separate number is reported for those “embedded” or “nested” within adult households.	N
	A separate number is reported for those who head households.	N
	A separate number is reported for minors ineligible due to TANF living arrangement rule.	N
	The state estimates the need for adult supervised settings.	N
	The state reports the number of minor parents by living arrangement type.	N
	The state tracks reasons minor parents are not living with a parent, guardian, or adult.	Y
	The state reports on reasons for living independently.	N
Funding	The state created a state-funded program for teens denied TANF.	N
	Since 1996, the state uses federal sources to fund “second chance” homes.	N
Interagency Collaboration	Child Welfare Agency	
	Limited to assisting only those documented as abused or neglected	Y
	Has a waiting list for placements	Y
	Allows placement of minor mother and child in the same foster home	Y
	Estimates these joint placements occur:	
	More than 50% of the time	--
	Between 25 and 50% of the time	--
	Between 5 and 25% of the time	--
	Less than 5% of the time	--
	Housing Agency	
	State housing agency/local authority has been engaged in discussions regarding the living arrangement policy.	N
Evaluation	The living arrangement provision is being/will be evaluated.	N

School/Training Participation Rules

Participation Required of Teen Parents	A school/training requirement applies to all single and married teen parents under age: 18	Y
Participation Required of Students Who Are Not Parents	A school/training requirement applies to non-parents who are:	Y
	Elementary school students	Y
	Middle school students	Y
	High school/equivalent students up to age: 17	Y
How Participation is Measured	School attendance	Y
	Grades in class work	N
	Completion of the current grade	N
Sanctions	Teen parents and non-parents are subject to the same sanction for non-compliance with school attendance requirement.	Y
	The first sanction for teen parents is:	
	A reduction in the family's grant: 20%	Y
	Elimination of the family's grant	N
	Vendor payments for rent and utilities	N
	The duration of the first sanction is:	
	One month or until compliance, whichever is longer	N
	Until compliance (no minimum length)	N
	Other: 3 months	
	The sanction escalates for subsequent infractions.	Y

2nd sanction is a 35% reduction for 3 months. Subsequent sanction is benefit termination for 3 months.

When a family might be subject to the sanction, state policy requires integrated case management between the TANF and child welfare agencies: N

Bonuses

Teen parents receive a monetary bonus for:

- School enrollment N
- School attendance N
- Each grade completed N
- GED completion N
- Graduation N

Exemptions for Teen Parents

Teen parents can be exempted from the school/training requirements under the following circumstances:

- Married N
- Employed full-time Y
- Caring for a child under age 1 year Y
- Caring for a disabled child Y
- Expelled from school N
- Over a specified age N
- In need of an alternative program that is not available N
- Necessary child care or transportation not available N
- Other:
 - Good cause, on a case by case basis

Alternative Education Placement for Minor Teen Parents

For minor parents not participating in school/training, eligibility criteria for alternative placements have been established. N

Approvable alternative placements:

- Mentoring programs N
- Youth employment training N

Others:
 Technical and vocational schools

	The state has established a policy regarding assessment of the need for an alternative placement.	N
Teen Parent Case Management	The state spent additional funds to add case management for teen parents subject to TANF school/training requirement.	N
	Case management is provided.	
	Prior to sanctioning	Y
	Special case management "retrieves" dropouts for participation in alternative activities.	Y
Prioritizing Teen Parents for Services	Teen parents meeting TANF school/training requirement receive priority for:	
	Child care assistance	Y
	Transportation assistance	N
	Specialized case management	N
State Education Agency Role	State policy indicates the state education agency's role regarding the TANF school/training requirement.	Y
	The state education agency has been actively involved in:	
	Determining what is being measured (i.e., attendance)	N
	Designing procedures for reaching dropouts	N
	Assessing students for alternative placements	N
	Designing new alternative placements	N

Abstinence Education Program

State Match	<p>Funds counted towards the state match for abstinence education include:</p> <p>Existing state funds:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Existing abstinence-only, state funded school education programs</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Existing state-funded abstinence media campaigns</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Other existing state-funded programs:</p> <p>New state funds:</p> <p>In-kind support:</p> <p>Local support:</p> <p>Other:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">A media campaign, Campaign for our Children, is focused on teen pregnancy prevention. This campaign is being used as the state "match" for the abstinence education funds.</p>	<p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p>
State Grant Process	<p>The state's design of its grants program included:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Creation of a state officials/citizen advisory group</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Issuance of an RFP for local program administration</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Issuance of an RFP for statewide abstinence-only activities</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Utilization of a scale to weigh competing proposals</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Memorandum of Agreement with state education agency</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Memorandum of Agreement with state health agency</p> <p>Other:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">The initial year of the five-year abstinence education grant will be a media campaign on abstinence as a positive option for unmarried adolescents. Subsequent to that, in years two to five, RFPs will be developed for local programs to apply for abstinence-only education funds. At that time, an evaluation "scale" will be developed to weight competing proposals.</p>	<p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p>
Funded Activities	<p>State policy identifies activities that are ineligible for abstinence education funding.</p>	<p>N</p>

Funded Groups	State allows abstinence education funding to be awarded to:	
	Organizations that provide "abstinence plus" education or other reproductive health information through other funding	N
	Religious organizations	Y
Monitoring/Evaluation	The state expects to conduct an evaluation of activities funded by the abstinence education block grant.	Y
	The evaluation will be conducted by:	
	State health agency	N
	State academic institution	N
	Other: A contractor	
	The state will require grantees to evaluate their projects.	N

Answer Key:

Y = Yes

-- = Not answered

N = No

Y* = Not answered; policy inferred from other survey answers

N/A = Not applicable