



Categorical Eligibility

District of Columbia

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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 in a secondary school or in the equivalent level of vocational/technical training and is expected to 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 receiving adoption assistance
- Not dependent (e.g., not deprived of parental support)

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 may establish separate assistance units for the non-siblings 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: 90 days

The allowable period can be extended under the following circumstances:

Child participating in a training program, including Job Corps; attending a residential school, including schools that also provide medical care, if the parent or caretaker relative still must maintain a home for the minor during periods of non-residence at the home; child participating in a residential treatment center for drug or alcohol abuse or addiction; hospitalized, including certain situations in which newborns remain in the hospital after the mother is discharged; brief visits away from home, including joint or shared custody or visitation arrangements, which require the minor to be absent from the home for more than 90 consecutive days but less than 100 days, with the expectation that the applicant or recipient of TANF will maintain a home for the minor.

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 must be related to the child(ren) for whom assistance is sought.

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:
Fifth 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:

- Work history test: the principal wage earner must have received or been eligible for unemployment compensation, or have had earnings of \$50 or more, in at least six of 13 quarters ending within a year of applying for cash assistance
- Neither applicant parent can be working more than 100 hours per month
- Neither recipient parent can be working more than 100 hours per month

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:

Individual necessary for the maintenance of the household

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