



Categorical Eligibility

Delaware

Definition of Minor Child

Minor Children in the Assistance Unit

Temporary Absence of Minor from Home

Non-Parent Caretakers

Eligibility of Pregnant Women

Eligibility of Two-Parent Families

Treatment of Parents of Minor Parents

Other Adults in the Assistance Unit

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 receiving adoption assistance

An individual who 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), is:

Required to establish separate assistance units for the children

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: 120 days

The allowable period can be extended under the following circumstances:

Child receiving medical care or attending school elsewhere because of special needs, such as school for the deaf, provided that the caretaker responsible for the child maintains responsibility for the child's care, continues to maintain a home for the child, and plans for the child to return to the home at the end of the absence.

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:
First day of the month the child is expected to be born

Eligibility of Two-Parent Families

All two-parent families are eligible for assistance based on the same eligibility criteria as single parent families.

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 not allowed or required to be in the assistance unit.