



## **Categorical Eligibility**

### **Iowa**

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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 exception:

-- SSI Recipient

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: Three months

The allowable period can be extended under the following circumstances:

Child in medical institution (up to 12 months); child out of the home to secure education or training (no limit)

## **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 not eligible for assistance.

## **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 allowed to be in the assistance unit at family option as follows:

Incapacitated stepparent when stepparent is legal spouse of parent and stepparent does not have a child in the eligible group; needy relative assuming the role of the parent; needy relative who acts as payee when the parent cannot do so; stepparent married to parent who is required in the home to care for dependent children

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