



Categorical Eligibility

Illinois

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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

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
- Recipient of government disability payments that exceed the increment between the benefit with the individual in the unit and the individual out of the unit

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 in a special facility

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 month

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 who resides in the same home and receives assistance for another child may be in a separate assistance unit under the following circumstances:

If the grandparent is otherwise eligible for cash assistance and if the minor parent lives in the same household as the father of her child or is married to the father, then the minor parent can have a separate filing unit from the grandparent. If the grandparent is not otherwise eligible for cash assistance, then the grandparent can only qualify if s/he is part of the minor parent's unit.

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:

Spouse of caretaker

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