



## **Categorical Eligibility**

### **Louisiana**

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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 working toward attainment of a secondary school diploma, GED, or special education certificate, or participating in FINDWORK program

#### **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

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 units, unless the children are unrelated to caretaker, in which case they can be added to the same assistance unit as essential persons

## **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: 45 days

The allowable period can be extended under the following circumstances:

Any "good cause" reason, including, but not limited to: school; employment; Job Corps; in a medical facility, maternity home, or Long Term Care facility; or on summer vacation

## **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:  
Sixth 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:

## **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 required to be included in the assistance unit as follows:

- "Legal" stepparent

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