



Reproductive Health and TANF Teens and TANF

Massachusetts

Family Cap

Benefits to Family with Excluded Child	The traditional incremental cash increase is denied.	Y
	The traditional incremental cash increase is reduced.	N
	The benefit for the child is in the form of vouchers.	N
	The benefit for the child is in the form of a third party payment.	N
Exemptions from the Family Cap	A child may be exempt from the family cap if:	
	Born less than 10 months after case opened	Y
	First-born child of minor TANF parent	Y
	Conceived between spells of assistance lasting at least 12 months	Y
	Conceived as a result of rape or incest	Y
	Not living with biological parent Parent must be dead, institutionalized, incarcerated, or custody/guardianship must have been transferred to current caretaker	Y
	Conceived as a result of failed contraception	N
	Eligible for state's family violence option	Y
	Other(s): "Extraordinary circumstances" at discretion of Commissioner	

Different Treatment of "Capped" Families	A parent with a "capped" child is required to work when that child is younger compared to a parent with a non-capped child. Parent with non-capped child under age 6 (or school age, whichever is later) or excluded child under 3 months old is exempt from work requirement.	Y
	A family with a "capped" child retains more income from earnings.	N
	A family retains more of the child support collected on behalf of a "capped " child.	Y
	A family with a "capped" child is referred to family planning services.	N

Minor Teen Parent Living Arrangement

Rules Issued	The TANF agency issued rules/guidance.	Y
Eligibility of Minors Not Living with Parents	Eligible if living with an adult relative or guardian	Y
	Eligible if living with a supervisory adult	Y
	Eligible if living independently in an approved arrangement	Y*
Assessment	The TANF agency assesses minors seeking independent living.	N
	The child welfare agency assesses minors seeking independent living.	N
	Community non-profits assess minors seeking independent living.	N
	Other: Community Welfare Reform Advisory Council	
	State policy describes circumstances in which adult supervision by non-relatives is appropriate.	Y
	If no parent/guardian willing to be responsible for teen	Y
	If there is reported abuse/neglect	Y
	If there is concern about abuse/neglect	Y

	If current caretaker abuses alcohol or drugs	Y
	If no permanent housing is available	Y
	If there is housing overcrowding	Y
	Other: "Extraordinary circumstances."	
Assistance in Locating Adult Supervision	State policy establishes what assistance will be provided.	Y
	Referral to child welfare	Y
	Case management	N
	List of possible "second chance" homes	Y
	State-funded cash assistance during assessment period	Y
	Other: Worker is supposed to contact teen's parents or relatives, if teen requests such help, to see if teen can live with them.	
Approvable Adult- Supervised Settings	State rules specify which types of adult supervision are allowed.	Y
	Group home	Y
	Group home through the foster care system	Y
	With a family through the foster care system	Y
	With an adult non-relative	Y
	Other: Married and living with spouse (of any age)	
"Best Interest" Exemption	State policy defines when it is in the "best interest" of the minor to make an exception to the adult supervision rule.	Y
	No supervised living slot available	N
	Minor is successfully living on own	N
	Minor is about to turn 18	Y
	Other: Minor parent was in the custody of the Department of Social Services (child protective service), is a graduate of a DSS independent living program, is making satisfactory educational progress, and is approved by DSS	
	State policy requires agency interaction with minor parents living independently, as follows:	Y

	Specialized case management	N
	Minor must report to TANF or other agency	N
	Other:	
	Child welfare agency must approve waivers for 17-year-olds and independent living for teens who are "graduates" of child welfare agency and meet other requirements.	
Payments	The state automatically considers a minor teen parent living in an adult-supervised setting a "head of household."	Y
	When minor parents receive their own assistance, the cash grant is given to:	
	The teen directly	Y
	The parent	N
	A supervisory adult	N
State Data	The number of minor parent recipients is collected.	Y
	The number of minor parent recipients is reported.	Y
	Latest total number: Not provided	
	A separate number is reported for those "embedded" or "nested" within adult households.	N
	A separate number is reported for those who head households.	N
	A separate number is reported for minors ineligible due to TANF living arrangement rule.	N
	The state estimates the need for adult supervised settings.	N
	The state reports the number of minor parents by living arrangement type.	N
	The state tracks reasons minor parents are not living with a parent, guardian, or adult.	N
Funding	The state created a state-funded program for teens denied TANF.	N
	Since 1996, the state uses federal sources to fund "second chance" homes.	N

Interagency Collaboration	Child Welfare Agency	Limited to assisting only those documented as abused or neglected	N
		Has a waiting list for placements	N
		Allows placement of minor mother and child in the same foster home	Y
		Estimates these joint placements occur:	
		More than 50% of the time	N
		Between 25 and 50% of the time	Y
		Between 5 and 25% of the time	N
		Less than 5% of the time	N
	Housing Agency	State housing agency/local authority has been engaged in discussions regarding the living arrangement policy.	N
Evaluation		The living arrangement provision is being/will be evaluated.	N

School/Training Participation Rules

Participation Required of Teen Parents	A school/training requirement applies to all single and married teen parents under age: 20	Y
Participation Required of Students Who Are Not Parents	A school/training requirement applies to non-parents who are:	Y
	Elementary school students	Y
	Middle school students	Y
	High school/equivalent students up to age: 18	Y

How Participation is Measured	School attendance	Y
	Grades in class work	N
	Completion of the current grade	N
Sanctions	Teen parents and non-parents are subject to the same sanction for non-compliance with school attendance requirement.	N
	The first sanction for teen parents is:	
	A reduction in the family's grant:	Y
	\$90 plus loss of earnings disregards if teen is working	
	Elimination of the family's grant	N
	Vendor payments for rent and utilities	N
	The duration of the first sanction is:	
	One month or until compliance, whichever is longer	Y
	Until compliance (no minimum length)	N
	The sanction escalates for subsequent infractions.	Y
	In 2nd month of noncompliance, benefits are terminated.	
When a family might be subject to the sanction, state policy requires integrated case management between the TANF and child welfare agencies:	N	
Other TANF/child welfare coordination:		
State has contracted with child welfare agency to track some teen parents terminated from cash assistance.		
Bonuses	Teen parents receive a monetary bonus for:	
	School enrollment	N
	School attendance	N
	Each grade completed	N
	GED completion	N
	Graduation	N

Exemptions for Teen
Parents

Teen parents can be exempted from the school/training requirements under the following circumstances:

Married	N
Employed full-time	N
Caring for a child under age 3 months	Y
Caring for a disabled child	N
Expelled from school	N
Over a specified age	N
In need of an alternative program that is not available	Y
Necessary child care or transportation not available	Y
Other:	
Lack of transportation, bad weather, health issues may provide temporary "good cause" exception.	

Alternative Education
Placement for Minor Teen
Parents

For minor parents not participating in school/training, eligibility criteria for alternative placements have been established.	Y
Approvable alternative placements:	
Mentoring programs	N
Youth employment training	N
Others:	
20 hour per week program (GED or combination of GED and other activities); teen structured living program	
The state has established a policy regarding assessment of the need for an alternative placement.	N

Teen Parent Case
Management

The state spent additional funds to add case management for teen parents subject to TANF school/training requirement.	N
Case management is provided.	
Prior to sanctioning	Y

	Special case management "retrieves" dropouts for participation in alternative activities.	Y
Prioritizing Teen Parents for Services	Teen parents meeting TANF school/training requirement receive priority for:	
	Child care assistance	N
	Transportation assistance	N
	Specialized case management	N
	Other:	
	Everyone who is in approved program (including teens) receives a child care subsidy and transportation services assuming child care is available.	
State Education Agency Role	State policy indicates the state education agency's role regarding the TANF school/training requirement.	Y
	The state education agency has been actively involved in:	
	Determining what is being measured (i.e., attendance)	N
	Designing procedures for reaching dropouts	N
	Assessing students for alternative placements	N
	Designing new alternative placements	N

Abstinence Education Program

State Match	Funds counted towards the state match for abstinence education include:	
	Existing state funds:	
	Existing abstinence-only, state funded school education programs	Y
	Existing state-funded abstinence media campaigns	N
	Other existing state-funded programs:	Y
	Programs which meet criteria (are not school education programs and are not redirected or scaled-back).	
	New state funds:	N

	In-kind support:	N
	Local support:	N
	Other:	
	Donated air time from media buys.	
State Grant Process	The state's design of its grants program included:	
	Creation of a state officials/citizen advisory group	Y
	Issuance of an RFP for local program administration	N
	Issuance of an RFP for statewide abstinence-only activities	Y
	Utilization of a scale to weigh competing proposals	N
	Memorandum of Agreement with state education agency	N
	Memorandum of Agreement with state health agency	N
	Other:	
	Needs assessment; also use for MCH Title V block grant.	
Funded Activities	State policy identifies activities that are ineligible for abstinence education funding.	Y
	Only activities that fit definitions are allowable.	
	Media campaign selected as focus since Massachusetts has millions in school health education funds and community-based coalitions and programs.	
Funded Groups	State allows abstinence education funding to be awarded to:	
	Organizations that provide "abstinence plus" education or other reproductive health information through other funding	N
	Religious organizations	N
Monitoring/Evaluation	The state expects to conduct an evaluation of activities funded by the abstinence education block grant.	Y
	The evaluation will be conducted by:	
	State health agency	Y
	State academic institution	N
	Other:	
	Potentially with others - will seek advice from academics.	
	The state will require grantees to evaluate their projects.	--

Answer Key:

Y = Yes

-- = Not answered

N = No

Y* = Not answered; policy inferred from other survey answers

N/A = Not applicable