



Categorical Eligibility

Maryland

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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 or equivalent and will graduate by the end of the calendar year in which child turns 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
- Child receiving adoption assistance

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 must establish a single assistance unit for all children 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: 180 days

The allowable period can be extended under the following circumstances:
For "good cause", as approved by the Secretary

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 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:

Unmarried adults living as a family if they have a child together or either unmarried adult has a biological or adopted child; stepparent who shares a common child with parent

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