



Categorical Eligibility

Maine

Definition of Minor Child

Minor Children in the Assistance Unit

Temporary Absence of Minor from Home

Non-Parent Caretakers

Eligibility of Pregnant Women

Eligibility of Two-Parent Families

Treatment of Parents of Minor Parents

Other Adults in the Assistance Unit

Definition of Minor Child

To be eligible for TANF cash assistance, families must include a minor child, defined as:

Child under age 18; child under age 21 who is a full-time student attending 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
- Not dependent (e.g., not deprived of parental support)

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: 45 days

The allowable period can be extended under the following circumstances:

A child may be absent provided the caretaker relative has full responsibility for the supervision and guidance of the child, offers the child a home during vacation and delegation of authority is temporary, voluntary, and revocable. The child must return home at the completion of the reason for separation unless there is good cause. Examples of extended absences include: to secure education when high school facilities are not maintained in the area of residence or when existing facilities do not meet their educational and/or social needs; to receive therapy in a private treatment center; to attend School for the Deaf provided there are no services available in the child's own community; to attend a vocational technical school, college, or university until the child's 18th birthday; to obtain care for a terminal illness; to voluntarily place a child in an approved foster home when the plan is to return to the child and when there is no foster care payment being made for that child; certain absences due to moving or visiting.

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:

- Work history test: the principal wage earner must have received or been eligible for unemployment compensation, or have had earnings of \$50 or more, in at least six of 13 quarters ending within a year of applying for cash assistance
- Neither applicant parent can be working more than 100 hours per month
- Neither recipient parent can be working more than 130 hours per month

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:

 Stepparent; non-caretaker or spouse of caretaker relative who is an essential person

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