



Categorical Eligibility

Missouri

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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 and will graduate by age 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
- Foster child
- Child receiving adoption assistance
- 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 may establish separate assistance units for the non-siblings in her/his care.

Temporary Absence of Minor from Home

There is no specified time limit on the period during which a family can continue to receive assistance for a child who is absent from the home.

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 need not be related to the child(ren) for whom assistance is sought. In addition to relatives, the following non-relative adults can receive assistance for a child:

- A legal guardian (whether or not related to the child)

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 not eligible for assistance.

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 100 hours per month

The following two-parent families are also eligible to receive assistance:

If both parents are under age 21, family is exempt from the work history and 100 hour rules.

Two-parent families are subject to the following additional eligibility restrictions:

Both parents are mandatory referrals to FUTURES from the day of application

Treatment of Parents of Minor Parents

A grandparent who resides in the same home with the child of a minor parent and receives assistance for another child is not required to be in the same assistance unit with the minor parent and her/his child.

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 not allowed or required to be in the assistance unit.