



## **Categorical Eligibility**

### **Mississippi**

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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

#### **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 excluded under a family cap policy
- 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**

A family can continue to receive assistance for a child who is absent from the home for a period not to exceed: 30 days

The allowable period can be extended under the following circumstances:  
Hospitalization, medical treatment, etc., when the child is not considered a resident of a public institution

### **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 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

### **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 not allowed or required to be in the assistance unit.