



Reproductive Health and TANF Teens and TANF

Mississippi

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	N
	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	N
	Conceived as a result of failed contraception	N
	Eligible for state's family violence option	N
Other(s): Custody changes.		
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.	N
	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.	N
A family with a "capped" child is referred to family planning services.	Y
Informed of availability	

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.	Y
	TANF staff are trained in assessment.	N
	The child welfare agency assesses minors seeking independent living.	Y
	Community non-profits assess minors seeking independent living.	N
	Other:	
	Investigation may be joint effort of TANF and Child Welfare Agency.	
	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	N
	If current caretaker abuses alcohol or drugs	N
	If no permanent housing is available	N
	If there is housing overcrowding	N
	Other:	

Determined on a case-by-case basis

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	N
	State-funded cash assistance during assessment period	N
Approvable Adult-Supervised Settings	State rules specify which types of adult supervision are allowed.	N
"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.	N
	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:	
	Regular case reviews	
Payments	The state automatically considers a minor teen parent living in an adult-supervised setting a "head of household."	N
	When minor parents receive their own assistance, the cash grant is given to:	
	The teen directly	N
	The parent	N
	A supervisory adult	N
	Other:	
	Protective payee	
State Data	The number of minor parent recipients is collected.	Y
	The number of minor parent recipients is reported.	N
	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	--
	Has a waiting list for placements	--
	Allows placement of minor mother and child in the same foster home	--
	Estimates these joint placements occur:	
	More than 50% of the time	--
	Between 25 and 50% of the time	--
	Between 5 and 25% of the time	--
	Less than 5% of the time	--
	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: 18	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:	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.	Y
	The first sanction for teen parents is:	
	A reduction in the family's grant:	N
	Elimination of the family's grant	Y
	Vendor payments for rent and utilities	N
	The duration of the first sanction is:	
	One month or until compliance, whichever is longer	N
	Until compliance (no minimum length)	Y
	The sanction escalates for subsequent infractions.	N
	When a family might be subject to the sanction, state policy requires integrated case management between the TANF and child welfare agencies:	N
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	Y
	Employed full-time	N
	Caring for a child under age 12 weeks	Y
	Caring for a disabled child	Y
	Expelled from school	Y
	Over a specified age	N
	In need of an alternative program that is not available	N
	Necessary child care or transportation not available	Y
Alternative Education Placement for Minor Teen Parents	For minor parents not participating in school/training, eligibility criteria for alternative placements have been established.	N
	State policy requires assessment of the need for an alternative placement for:	
	Any individual having difficulty meeting the standard	N
	Any individual who has already dropped out	N
Teen Parent Case Management	The state spent additional funds to add case management for teen parents subject to TANF school/training requirement.	N
	Special case management "retrieves" dropouts for participation in alternative activities.	N
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
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
	Other:	
	Reporting unexcused absences	

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	N
	Existing state-funded abstinence media campaigns	N
	Other existing state-funded programs:	N
	New state funds:	N
	In-kind support:	N
	Local support:	Y
	Nearly every community based organization (CBO) selected used in-kind support of time, space or equipment as match. Only one CBO had a cash match.	
State Grant Process	The state's design of its grants program included:	
	Creation of a state officials/citizen advisory group	N
	Issuance of an RFP for local program administration	Y
	Issuance of an RFP for statewide abstinence-only activities	Y

	Utilization of a scale to weigh competing proposals	Y
	Memorandum of Agreement with state education agency	N
	Memorandum of Agreement with state health agency	N
Funded Activities	State policy identifies activities that are ineligible for abstinence education funding. All activities or curriculums involving sex education are prohibited for CBO's planning to participate in the state's	Y
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 Religious organizations	N Y
Monitoring/Evaluation	The state expects to conduct an evaluation of activities funded by the abstinence education block grant. The evaluation will be conducted by: State health agency State academic institution Other: CBOs were required to have an evaluation component for their program within the proposals submitted to MSDH. The state will require grantees to evaluate their projects.	Y Y N Y

Answer Key:

Y = Yes	-- = Not answered
N = No	Y* = Not answered; policy inferred from other survey answers
N/A = Not applicable	