



Categorical Eligibility

North Carolina

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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
- Foster child
- Child excluded under a family cap policy
- 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: 90 days

The allowable period can be extended under the following circumstances:
Child absent due to health care, mental health treatment, or substance abuse treatment, provided that parent continues to be responsible for child

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

All two-parent families are eligible for assistance based on the same eligibility criteria as single parent families.

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

Must complete required hours of work activities before receiving a check (pay-after-performance)

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:

Essential person (individual who provides child care to support full-time employment, training, or high school/GED enrollment for anyone receiving Work First, or provides care for an incapacitated family member)

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