



Categorical Eligibility

New York

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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 between ages 18 and 19 who is a full-time student in a secondary school or equivalent level of vocational/technical training

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
- Stepbrother/sister; ineligible sponsored alien; alien who fails to meet citizenship and alien age requirements; child ineligible due to the lump sum rule

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:

Foster care placement, provided that the goal is return to the household; visits to friends or relatives; attendance at school, camp or hospital

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.

-- Unrelated person "who is acting on behalf of a relative." Only allowed in an emergency situation when a relative has been receiving assistance, but child is now deprived of the relative's care. Assistance will only be provided to unrelated persons for a temporary period.

Non-parent caretakers are required to be included in the assistance unit.

Eligibility of Pregnant Women

A pregnant woman with no other children is eligible for assistance, beginning:
When medically verified

Eligibility of Two-Parent Families

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

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 whose presence is essential to the applicant's or recipient's well-being) who applies and is eligible for cash assistance

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