



# Reproductive Health and TANF Teens and TANF

## Rhode Island

### Family Cap

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The state does not have a family cap policy.

### Minor Teen Parent Living Arrangement

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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.	N
	The child welfare agency assesses minors seeking independent living.	N
	Community non-profits assess minors seeking independent living.	Y
	Other: Adolescent Self-Sufficiency Collaborative assesses minors seeking independent living.	

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	Y
If current caretaker abuses alcohol or drugs	N
If no permanent housing is available	N
If there is housing overcrowding	N
Other:	
The requirement that teen parent live with parent or relative applies only to the never married. Requirement does not apply if: no parent/relative living whose whereabouts are known; DHS determines that physical or emotional health or safety of mother or child would be jeopardized; minor lived apart from parent/guardian at least one year from pregnancy/birth, or other good cause not yet defined by DHS regulation. Note also that supervised supportive living arrangements can be required only "to extent available".	

Assistance in Locating Adult Supervision

State policy establishes what assistance will be provided.	Y
Referral to child welfare	N
Case management	N
List of possible "second chance" homes	N
State-funded cash assistance during assessment period	N
Other:	
Adolescent Self-Sufficiency Collaboratives (ASSC), community agencies that contract with the state, provide case management and assistance to minors in locating adult supervised living arrangements.	

Approvable Adult-Supervised Settings

State rules specify which types of adult supervision are allowed.	Y
Group home	N
Group home through the foster care system	Y
With a family through the foster care system	Y

	With an adult non-relative	N
	Other:	
	Maternity homes, New Opportunity Homes for pregnant and parenting cash assistance eligible minors (15 slots available 1/99), or DCYF certified arrangements.	
"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	Y
	Minor must report to TANF or other agency	N
Payments	The state automatically considers a minor teen parent living in an adult-supervised setting a "head of household."	Y
	When minor parents receive their own assistance, the cash grant is given to:	
	The teen directly	Y
	The parent	N
	A supervisory adult	N
State Data	The number of minor parent recipients is collected.	Y
	The number of minor parent recipients is reported.	Y
	Latest total number: 110 for 12/97	
	A separate number is reported for those "embedded" or "nested" within adult households.	N
	A separate number is reported for those who head households.	Y
	Latest number of "heads": 110	
	A separate number is reported for minors ineligible due to TANF living arrangement rule.	Y
	Latest number ineligible: 47 from 05-97 to 02-98	
	The state estimates the need for adult supervised settings.	Y

	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.	Y
	The state reports on reasons for living independently.	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
	Second chance homes funded with state dollars (\$289,000 for FY 98; \$579,000 for FY 99 proposed for "New Opportunity Homes")	
Interagency Collaboration	Child Welfare Agency	
	Limited to assisting only those documented as abused or neglected	Y
	Has a waiting list for placements	Y
	Allows placement of minor mother and child in the same foster home	Y
	Estimates these joint placements occur:	
	More than 50% of the time	N
	Between 25 and 50% of the time	N
	Between 5 and 25% of the time	Y
	Less than 5% of the time	N
	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 teen parents under age: 20	Y
Participation Required of Students Who Are Not Parents	The state requires school/training of students who are not parents.	N
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.	N/A
	The first sanction for teen parents is:	
	A reduction in the family's grant:	Y
	Minor parent's share of the grant	
	Elimination of the family's grant	N
	Vendor payments for rent and utilities	N
	The duration of the first sanction is:	
	One month or until compliance, whichever is longer	N
	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	N
	Employed full-time	N
	Caring for a child under age 12 weeks	Y
	Caring for a disabled child	Y
	Expelled from school	N
	Over a specified age	N
	In need of an alternative program that is not available	N
	Necessary child care or transportation not available	Y
	Until compliance (no minimum length)	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
	The state has established a policy regarding assessment of the need for an alternative placement.	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.	Y
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.	N
	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

### **Abstinence Education Program**

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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:	Y
	\$21,794 state in-kind match provided by RI Department of Health, as Title V Agency for support of administrative functions, project development maintenance and expansion. This accounts for less than 20% of required matching funds.	
	Local support:	Y
	The remaining \$75,400 of matching funds will come from local agency in-kind contributions. In-kind contributions will cover operating expenditures and fees for local expert training fees, CBO hospitals, universities, state department and other non-profits.	
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	N
	Utilization of a scale to weigh competing proposals	N
	Memorandum of Agreement with state education agency	N
	Memorandum of Agreement with state health agency	N
	Other: Used existing health advisory groups and open forums for community involvement in project planning and design.	
Funded Activities	State policy identifies activities that are ineligible for abstinence education funding.	N
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	Y
	Religious organizations	Y
Monitoring/Evaluation	The state expects to conduct an evaluation of activities funded by the abstinence education block grant.	Y
	The evaluation will be conducted by: State health agency	N
	State academic institution	N
	Other: Local grantees will report on project results.	
	The state will require grantees to evaluate their projects.	Y

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Answer Key:

Y = Yes

-- = Not answered

N = No

Y\* = Not answered; policy inferred from other survey answers

N/A = Not applicable