



Categorical Eligibility

Tennessee

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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 age 18 who is a full-time student and will graduate by age 19

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)

An individual who 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), is:

Required to establish separate units for the children

Temporary Absence of Minor from Home

There is no specified time limit on the period during which a family can continue to receive assistance for a child who is absent from the home.

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 eligible for assistance, beginning:
Sixth month

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 required to be included in the assistance unit as follows:

If a parent marries while on TANF, the new stepparent must be included if s/he has income above 185 percent of the need standard.

Adults other than parents or non-parent caretakers are allowed to be in the assistance unit at family option as follows:
Incapacitated stepparent; stepparent with income below 185 percent of the need standard