



# **Categorical Eligibility**

## **Texas**

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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; emancipated minor who meets the TANF age criteria and has a caretaker/payee who exercises parental control

### **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

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 may establish separate assistance units for the non-siblings 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: Six months

The allowable period can be extended under the following circumstances:

May be continued up to 12 months for situations which are beyond the family's control, including hospitalization, receiving outpatient services, or attending school/training.

### **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.

### **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:

Stepparent who wants to be included if s/he is the only parent in the home, or if both the legal parent and the stepparent are in the home and the legal parent is disabled and unable to care for the children.

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