



Reproductive Health and TANF Teens and TANF

Texas

Family Cap

The state does not have a family cap policy.

Minor Teen Parent Living Arrangement

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.	Y
	TANF staff are trained in assessment.	N
	The child welfare agency assesses minors seeking independent living.	N
	Community non-profits assess minors seeking independent living.	N
	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	Y
	If no permanent housing is available	N
	If there is housing overcrowding	N
	Other: State policy provides guidance on a good deal of discretion on the part of caseworkers in providing exemptions for minor teen parents. The handbook states: "the worker, using the prudent person principle, determines if the unmarried minor parent's current living arrangement is in their best interest."	
Assistance in Locating Adult Supervision	State policy establishes what assistance will be provided.	Y
	Referral to child welfare	Y
	Case management	N
	List of possible "second chance" homes	Y
	State-funded cash assistance during assessment period	N
	Other: List of youth organizations that might help	
Approvable Adult-Supervised Settings	State rules specify which types of adult supervision are allowed.	Y
	Group home	Y
	Group home through the foster care system	Y
	With a family through the foster care system	Y
	With an adult non-relative	Y
	Other:	
"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.	Y
	No supervised living slot available	Y
	Minor is successfully living on own	Y
	Minor is about to turn 18	N

Funding	The state created a state-funded program for teens denied TANF. Since 1996, the state uses federal sources to fund "second chance" homes.	N --
Interagency Collaboration	<p>Child Welfare Agency</p> <p>Limited to assisting only those documented as abused or neglected</p> <p>Has a waiting list for placements</p> <p>Allows placement of minor mother and child in the same foster home</p> <p>Estimates these joint placements occur:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">More than 50% of the time</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Between 25 and 50% of the time</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Between 5 and 25% of the time</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Less than 5% of the time</p> <p>Housing Agency</p> <p>State housing agency/local authority has been engaged in discussions regarding the living arrangement policy.</p>	Y N Y Y N N N --
Evaluation	The living arrangement provision is being/will be evaluated.	--

School/Training Participation Rules

Participation Required of Teen Parents	A school/training requirement applies to all single and married teen parents under age: 19	Y
Participation Required of Students Who Are Not Parents	<p>A school/training requirement applies to non-parents who are:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Elementary school students</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Middle school students</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">High school/equivalent students up to age: 18</p>	Y Y Y Y

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.	Y
	The first sanction for teen parents is:	
	A reduction in the family's grant: \$25	Y
	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
	Until compliance (no minimum length)	Y
	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	Other TANF/child welfare coordination: No formal coordination agreements exist but individual caseworkers suspecting abuse or neglect have some discretion on the imposition of penalties and will refer cases to the child welfare agency.	
	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 young child N
- Caring for a disabled child N
- 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 N

Other:

Eligible to participate in a school district's special education program; physical or mental condition of a temporary and remediable nature that makes it unfeasible to attend school; age 16 or older and attending a course to prepare for the high school equivalency exam; enrolled in the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science or Leadership in the Humanities; specifically exempted under another law

Alternative Education
Placement for Minor Teen
Parents

For minor parents not participating in school/training, eligibility criteria for alternative placements have been established. Y

Custodial parents between the ages of 16 and 20 who do not meet the school attendance requirement must participate in the state's employment services program when one is available in the area.

Approvable alternative placements:

- Mentoring programs N
- Youth employment training Y

Others:

GED program or home schooling that lead to a high school diploma or equivalent.

State policy requires assessment of the need for an alternative placement for:

	Any individual having difficulty meeting the standard	N
	Any individual who has already dropped out	Y
	Criteria for determining the need for an alternative placement are set by:	
	Texas Workforce Commission	
Teen Parent Case Management	The state spent additional funds to add case management for teen parents subject to TANF school/training requirement.	Y
	Case management is provided.	
	Prior to sanctioning	Y
	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

State Match	<p>Funds counted towards the state match for abstinence education include:</p> <p>Existing state funds:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Existing abstinence-only, state funded school education programs</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Existing state-funded abstinence media campaigns</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Other existing state-funded programs:</p> <p>New state funds:</p> <p>In-kind support:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Local/regional groups across the state could apply for the Title V Abstinence Education funds through a competitive Request for Proposal. Any organization submitting a response to the request for Proposal was required to provide the match, which could be in-kind.</p> <p>Local support:</p>	<p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>Y</p> <p>Y</p>
State Grant Process	<p>The state's design of its grants program included:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Creation of a state officials/citizen advisory group</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Issuance of an RFP for local program administration</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Issuance of an RFP for statewide abstinence-only activities</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Utilization of a scale to weigh competing proposals</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Memorandum of Agreement with state education agency</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Memorandum of Agreement with state health agency</p> <p>Other:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Conducted a Request for Information</p>	<p>N</p> <p>Y</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p>
Funded Activities	<p>State policy identifies activities that are ineligible for abstinence education funding.</p>	<p>N</p>
Funded Groups	<p>State allows abstinence education funding to be awarded to:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Organizations that provide "abstinence plus" education or other reproductive health information through other funding</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Religious organizations</p>	<p>Y</p> <p>Y</p>

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:	
	Contractor	
	The state will require grantees to evaluate their projects.	Y

Answer Key:

Y = Yes -- = Not answered
N = No Y* = Not answered; policy inferred from other survey answers
N/A = Not applicable