



Categorical Eligibility

Vermont

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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; child who is disabled and is not expected to graduate from secondary school by age 19 due to disability

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

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

There are no circumstances under which the allowable period can be extended.

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 need not be related to the child(ren) for whom assistance is sought. In addition to relatives, the following non-relative adults can receive assistance for a child:

- Any unrelated adult residing with and caring for the child

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:
Ninth month unless she can show evidence of high risk pregnancy, in which case eligibility begins in the seventh month

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

A grandparent who resides in the same home with the child of a minor parent and receives assistance for another child is not required to be in the same assistance unit with the minor parent and her/his child.

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:

Stepparent

Adults other than parents or non-parent caretakers are allowed to be in the assistance unit at family option as follows:

Essential person caring for a member of the assistance unit