



Reproductive Health and TANF Teens and TANF

Vermont

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.	Y
	The child welfare agency assesses minors seeking independent living.	N
	Community non-profits assess minors seeking independent living.	Y
	Other: Through contracted agreement	

	State policy describes circumstances in which adult supervision by non-relatives is appropriate.	Y
	If no parent/guardian willing to be responsible for teen	N
	If there is reported abuse/neglect	N
	If there is concern about abuse/neglect	N
	If current caretaker abuses alcohol or drugs	N
	If no permanent housing is available	N
	If there is housing overcrowding	N
	Other: A teen never has to give a reason for rejecting a parent or legal guardian. If there is a problem with placing a teen because the teen will not agree to alternatives, the teen will be sanctioned by having grant vendored and requiring monthly home visits.	
Assistance in Locating Adult Supervision	State policy establishes what assistance will be provided.	Y
	Referral to child welfare	N
	Case management	Y
	List of possible "second chance" homes	N
	State-funded cash assistance during assessment period	N
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: Department-approved congregate housing or transitional housing.	
"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

Since 1996, the state uses federal sources to fund "second chance" homes. N

Interagency
Collaboration

Child Welfare Agency

Limited to assisting only those documented as abused or neglected Y

Has a waiting list for placements --

Allows placement of minor mother and child in the same foster home Y

Estimates these joint placements occur:

More than 50% of the time --

Between 25 and 50% of the time --

Between 5 and 25% of the time --

Less than 5% of the time --

Housing Agency

State housing agency/local authority has been engaged in discussions regarding the living arrangement policy. Y

Some areas are coordinating housing agencies with other human service providers to create approved residential facilities for teen parents.

Evaluation

The living arrangement provision is being/will be evaluated. Y

The evaluation is funded by:
The state

School/Training Participation Rules

Participation Required of
Teen Parents

A school/training requirement applies to all single and married teen parents under age: 20 Y

Participation Required of
Students Who Are Not
Parents

A school/training requirement applies to non-parents who are:

	Elementary school students	N
	Middle school students	N
	High school/equivalent students up to age:	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.	N
	The first sanction for teen parents is:	
	A reduction in the family's grant:	N
	Elimination of the family's grant	N
	Vendor payments for rent and utilities	Y
	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	Teen parents receive a monetary bonus for:	
	School enrollment	N
	School attendance	N
	Each grade completed	Y
	GED completion	Y
	Graduation	Y
	Other:	
	Each successful test toward GED; GED pre-assessment test; small awards for homework completion and classroom participation	

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:
 - Good cause

Alternative Education Placement for Minor Teen Parents

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

Vermont does not apply a standardized educational approach for minor parents. Every teen has an individualized plan, which could include return to public school, participation in a PCC-based education program funded by DSW, Homeroom Model, tutorial services and GED preparation through ABE, etc.

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. Y

Case management is provided.

Prior to sanctioning Y

Special case management "retrieves" dropouts for participation in alternative activities. N

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. Y

The state education agency has been actively involved in:

- Determining what is being measured (i.e., attendance) Y
- Designing procedures for reaching dropouts Y
- Assessing students for alternative placements Y
- Designing new alternative placements Y

Other:

Designing vocational readiness assessment, defining incentive payment process standards, and designing a secondary education planning process for each individual teen.

Abstinence Education Program

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: N
- Local support: N

Other:

Funds that were planned for an alcohol prevention media campaign

State Grant Process	The state's design of its grants program included:	
	Creation of a state officials/citizen advisory group	Y
	Issuance of an RFP for local program administration	N
	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
Funded Activities	State policy identifies activities that are ineligible for abstinence education funding.	--
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	N
	Religious organizations	N
Monitoring/Evaluation	The state expects to conduct an evaluation of activities funded by the abstinence education block grant.	--
	The state will require grantees to evaluate their projects.	--

Answer Key:

Y = Yes

-- = Not answered

N = No

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

N/A = Not applicable