



Reproductive Health and TANF Teens and TANF

Washington

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	Y
	If there is housing overcrowding	N
	Other:	
	There is a "best interest of the teen parent's child or the pregnant teen" to waive the requirement of living in the home of a parent, legal guardian or other adult relative. This requires administrator approval and is the rare exception.	
Assistance in Locating Adult Supervision	State policy establishes what assistance will be provided.	Y
	Referral to child welfare	Y
	Case management	Y
	List of possible "second chance" homes	N
	State-funded cash assistance during assessment period	Y
	Other:	
	Local case managers know about resources which in some parts of Washington include "second chance" homes and youth organizations.	
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
"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.	N
	State policy requires agency interaction with minor parents living independently, as follows:	Y
	Specialized case management	Y
	Minor must report to TANF or other agency	N
	Other:	
	This case management is provided under state policy	

even if teen is off the grant due to a living situation that the department will not approve.

Payments	The state automatically considers a minor teen parent living in an adult-supervised setting a "head of household."	N
	When minor parents receive their own assistance, the cash grant is given to:	
	The teen directly	N
	The parent	N
	A supervisory adult	N
	Other:	
	Rebuttable presumption that a minor is unable to handle funds and must have a protective payee.	
State Data	The number of minor parent recipients is collected.	N
	The number of minor parent recipients is reported.	--
	A separate number is reported for those "embedded" or "nested" within adult households.	N
	A separate number is reported for those who head households.	N
	A separate number is reported for minors ineligible due to TANF living arrangement rule.	Y
	Latest number ineligible: 57	
	for 05-98	
	The state estimates the need for adult supervised settings.	N
	The state reports the number of minor parents by living arrangement type.	N
	The state tracks reasons minor parents are not living with a parent, guardian, or adult.	N
Funding	The state created a state-funded program for teens denied TANF.	N
	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 N

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

Estimates these joint placements occur:

More than 50% of the time N

Between 25 and 50% of the time N

Between 5 and 25% of the time Y

Less than 5% of the time N

Housing Agency

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

Evaluation

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

School/Training Participation Rules

Participation Required of
Teen Parents

A school/training requirement applies to all single teen parents under age: 18 Y

For teens under age 20, attending high school full-time allows them to be deferred from job search and counts as WorkFirst participation.

Participation Required of
Students Who Are Not
Parents

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

Elementary school students N

Middle school students N

High school/equivalent students up to age: 16 Y

How Participation is Measured	School attendance	Y
	Grades in class work	N
	Completion of the current grade	N
	Other: Must be progressing towards high school diploma or GED. School district defines "progressing."	
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:	Y
	Teen parent's needs removed from TANF grant, or grant is not opened for a pregnant teen. School attendance is a condition of eligibility for teen parents. Children of teen parents who fail to comply can receive assistance as child-only cases.	
	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:	Y	
For minor teen parents receiving TANF		
Other TANF/child welfare coordination:		
There is informal communication with the child welfare system before doing a teen parent assessment.		
Bonuses	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	Y
	Employed full-time	Y
	Caring for a child under age 12 weeks	Y
	Caring for a disabled child	Y
	Expelled from school	Y
	Over a specified age	N
	In need of an alternative program that is not available	Y
	Necessary child care or transportation not available	Y
Alternative Education Placement for Minor Teen Parents	For minor parents not participating in school/training, eligibility criteria for alternative placements have been established.	N
	Approvable alternative placements:	
	Mentoring programs	N
	Youth employment training	N
	Others:	
	Alternative high schools, home school approved through local school district	
	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

<p>Prioritizing Teen Parents for Services</p>	<p>Teen parents meeting TANF school/training requirement receive priority for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child care assistance Transportation assistance Specialized case management 	<p>N N N</p>
<p>State Education Agency Role</p>	<p>State policy indicates the state education agency's role regarding the TANF school/training requirement.</p> <p>The state education agency has been actively involved in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determining what is being measured (i.e., attendance) Designing procedures for reaching dropouts Assessing students for alternative placements Designing new alternative placements Other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department has met and continues to meet with Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction on how to keep teens in school. 	<p>N N N N N</p>

Abstinence Education Program

<p>State Match</p>	<p>Funds counted towards the state match for abstinence education include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing state funds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing abstinence-only, state funded school education programs Existing state-funded abstinence media campaigns Other existing state-funded programs: New state funds: In-kind support: Local support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds for local projects require a local match of funds or in-kind support. 	<p>Y N N N N Y</p>
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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	Y
	Issuance of an RFP for statewide abstinence-only activities	N
	Utilization of a scale to weigh competing proposals	Y
	Memorandum of Agreement with state education agency	Y
	Memorandum of Agreement with state health agency	N
	Legislative oversight committee	
Funded Activities	State policy identifies activities that are ineligible for abstinence education funding.	N
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	Y
	Religious organizations	N
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	Y
	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