



## **Categorical Eligibility**

### **West Virginia**

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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

#### **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 must establish a single assistance unit for all children 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: 30 days

The allowable period can be extended under the following circumstances:

Mental or physical illness of parent/caretaker or child that requires other living arrangement for child; child receiving education or training at a special needs school requiring residency out of home; natural disaster forces child to live apart from parent/caretaker; PRC has targeted a problem requiring longer absence

### **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 who resides in the same home and receives assistance for another child may be in a separate assistance unit under the following circumstances:

If minor parent is emancipated

### **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:

Spouse of parent (stepparent) is required to be included. Spouse of non-parent caretaker is required when the non-parent caretaker chooses to be included.

Children of spouse and children of stepparent are required to be included.

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