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Informational Letter

Section 1

Transmittal:	02 INF 1
To:	Local District Commissioners
Issuing Division/Office:	Transitional Supports and Policy
Date:	January 3, 2002
Subject:	Expansion of the Eligibility of Certain Minors for TANF Services Programs
Suggested Distribution:	TANF Services Coordinators Temporary Assistance Directors Services Directors
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Filing References

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
					01 LCM-10 00 LCM-20

Section 2

I. Purpose

This INF outlines the program criteria for extending TANF Services to minor children (a child under the age of 18 or under 19 and attending secondary school or an equivalent level of technical training) who were not eligible for TANF Services under 00 LCM-20. Specifically, this INF extends TANF Services to certain minor children who are:

- In foster care and not expected to return to the home of a TANF eligible relative, or
- Living with a person(s) who is not a TANF eligible relative, or
- Living on their own;

and meet the additional requirements outlined below.

II. Background

00 LCM-20 limited the eligibility of minor children for TANF Services to those living with a TANF eligible relative or in foster care with a plan to return the child to a relative's home. This restriction has been amended; now any minor over the age of 10 regardless of living situation may be eligible for TANF Services. This INF provides the guidelines under which TANF Services can be provided to these minor children.

III. Program Implications

TANF funding may now be used for minors who previously could not be served under the following conditions.

- The minor meets the 200% of poverty income and citizenship/alien criteria, and
- The program/service the minor will be attending is a pregnancy prevention program, and
- The program/service otherwise meets the criteria in TANF purpose three, "to prevent and reduce out-of wedlock pregnancies."

Federal rules allow states to use TANF funds without regard to income or the living with a TANF eligible relative rule for programs that meet TANF purpose three. However, the State enabling legislation limits the use of TANF funds to individuals and families whose income is below 200% of the federal poverty level. Therefore, the minor's income must meet the 200% of poverty criteria.

Pregnancy prevention programs and programs that meet TANF purpose three include a large number of programs and services, but not every program that serves children meets this definition. Below are general guidelines as to which programs meet the above criteria and can be paid for using TANF funding:

- The program is primarily designed to serve minors 10 years of age or older. In the event that the program also serves younger children, some other funding stream must be found for the younger children, and
- The program's components must be generally recognized as meeting TANF purpose three. Potential activities that would be reasonably calculated to accomplish this purpose include abstinence programs, visiting nurse services, and programs and services for youth such as counseling, teen pregnancy prevention campaigns, and after-school programs that provide supervision when school is not in session. A local district may also fund a media campaign for the general population on abstinence or preventing out-of-wedlock childbearing.

Many programs for pre-teens and teens meet these criteria, especially programs whose purpose is to keep children in school, increase educational achievement, obtain or maintain employment, or build self-esteem. In addition, programs that are currently funded or have been funded under the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Services (APPS) are good examples of the types of allowable programs. Also, independent living programs meet the criteria. However, it is important to note that not *all* programs directed at pre-teens and teens will meet the criteria to be considered a TANF purpose 3 program; a program must have some connection to pregnancy prevention that is more than incidental to meet the criteria. If you have a specific question about a program, please call your agency contact for the program you are operating.

The Youth Application for TANF Services (LDSS-4770) form and the TANF Services Application/Certification (LDSS-4726) form can both be used to certify the minor child for TANF Services. Both of these forms should state “TANF Purpose 3 – Pregnancy Prevention Program” at the top of the form. This will indicate to any reviewer that:

- The minor child does not have to be living with a TANF eligible relative, and
- The child must be age 10 or older.

However, all minor children must also:

- Be a US citizen or a TANF qualified non-citizen, and
- Meet the 200% of Poverty income guidelines as specified in 00 LCM-20.

Both of the second two criteria (citizenship and income) must be met and recorded on the application form.

Additional Information

Maintenance of Effort (MOE)

This INF cannot be used as a guideline for maintenance of effort credits. Such programs must meet the TANF eligible relative criteria.

Issued By

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