

P-2280 Reach Ahead Pilot Program (24-16)

The Reach Ahead Pilot program is a 2-year program starting July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025 with an implementation date of August 1, 2023. The purpose of the program is to help families who have recently left the Reach Up (RU) or the Post Secondary Education (PSE) program due to unsubsidized employment maintain their employment by providing supports and incentives. The Reach Ahead Pilot program will replace the current Reach Ahead program during the duration of the Pilot and will have an increase in incentives (work support payments), eligibility window, and food benefit.

Reach Ahead Pilot Program Overview

The following is an overview of Reach Ahead Pilot program eligibility, timelines, incentives (work support payments) and supports that will be in place for the duration of the Pilot. Additional and in-depth Reach Ahead Pilot program processes and guidance are outlined in [Reach Ahead procedures](#) 2280A, 2280B, 2280C, 2281, 2281A, 2282, 2282A, 2282B, 2283, 2284, 2284A and 2285. Unless otherwise stated in Reach Ahead Pilot program procedures and guidance, all [Reach Ahead rules](#) remain in place.

Reach Ahead Eligibility

To be eligible for the Reach Ahead Pilot program families must meet the following criteria:

- Household must live in Vermont.
- Household must include minor children.
- At least one eligible adult in the household must meet the [work requirement](#) through paid employment (Reach Ahead rule 2502.1).
- At least one eligible adult in the household must have been active on Reach Up or Post Secondary Education (PSE) program within the prior 12 months from the date of application (starting July 1, 2023).
- Reach Ahead households are eligible under temporary absence rules if children or parents are absent from the home for up to 180 days (Reach Ahead rule 2501B, Reach Up rule 2228).
- Reach Ahead reviews during the Pilot will continue as scheduled following existing procedures.
- Unless otherwise stated in Reach Ahead Pilot program procedures and guidance, all [Reach Ahead rules](#) remain in place.

Reach Ahead Pilot Program Timelines and Months

- Participants that are currently active Reach Ahead as of July 1, 2023 will be automatically enrolled in the Reach Ahead Pilot program.
- Anyone eligible for Reach Ahead after July 1, 2023 would be automatically enrolled following same procedures under the existing Reach Ahead program. Please see [P-2281](#) for more detail.
- Families who have closed Reach Up or PSE and are eligible for Reach Ahead will have 12 months to apply for Reach Ahead from the date they closed Reach Up or PSE.
- Participants will have a total of 24 consecutive months (one month after the other with no break in between) to remain on the Reach Ahead Pilot program starting from July 1, 2023.
- All families will start at a count of 0 months when entering the Reach Ahead Pilot program as of July 1, 2023 or when entering the program during the 2 years of the Pilot.

Reach Ahead Pilot Case Management and Career Coaching

All Reach Ahead households are eligible to receive case management and/or career coaching services to support employment and employment related goals (Reach Ahead rule 2505.1). Reach Ahead households are also eligible for support services and referrals. Please see [P-2285](#) for additional information and guidance for Reach Ahead case management and career coaching services and expectations.