
 VERMONT		
DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES Child Care Financial Assistance Resource Manual		
Chapter:	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	
Subject:	Income Eligibility Standards	
Approved:	Miranda Gray, Deputy Commissioner	Updated: 07/03/2022

PURPOSE

To assure income is determined in accordance with state regulations in a consistent and equal process throughout the state.

POLICY

To receive child care financial assistance the primary caretaker(s) must have a “service need” and meet “**income eligibility standards**”.

Families must have monthly gross income at or below the levels listed on the Child Care Financial Assistance Program Income Guidelines

PROCEDURE

1. In determining the eligibility of a family in which a child is residing with only one of his/her primary caretakers and with an “unrelated” male or female, eligibility is established based on the income of the primary caretaker only, and the unrelated male or female is not considered to be a member of the household.
2. In determining the eligibility of a family in which a child is residing with both of his/her unmarried or married primary caretakers, eligibility is established based on the income of both primary caretakers.
3. In determining the eligibility of a family in which some of the children within the same “family” are the legal responsibility of one primary caretaker and some of the children are the legal responsibility of both primary caretakers’ separate determinations may be made based on the income of each primary caretaker.

Exceptions to Income Eligibility Standards

1. **Reach Up/TANF** - Families receiving a TANF grant/Reach Up, with an established service need, are eligible for child care financial assistance with no assigned “Family Share”. Any additional amount that the provider charges, beyond the zero family share, is the responsibility of the family
2. **PROTECTIVE SERVICES** – Children whose “Service Need” is established as a result of the need for Protective Services Child Care are eligible for child care financial assistance with no assigned “Family Share”. In addition, the Child Development Division will pay the child care provider’s rate in full.
3. **FAMILY SUPPORT** – Families whose service need is established as a result of risk or stress factors are eligible for child care financial assistance with no assigned “Family Share”. Any additional amount that the provider charges, beyond the zero family share is the responsibility of the family.