

P-2210 HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

P-2210A Determining the Reach Up Household (Reach Up rule 2235) (6/1/25, 25-06)

In order to determine the Reach Up Household, follow these steps:

- Identify the dependent eligible child or children.
- Identify the siblings related to the dependent child by blood, marriage (step-siblings), or adoption in the household, who meet age requirements.
- Identify parent(s) of the dependent child or children in the household, and any parent(s) of the related siblings to the dependent child(ren).

These are the required members of the Reach Up Household.

Example: Single Parent, One Child With Income

A mother has three children; ages 18, 15, and 10; by two different fathers, both absent. Her oldest child receives monthly Social Security benefits (SSDI) based on the noncustodial parent's disability. The mother wants to apply for Reach Up for the two other children.

- The two younger children are eligible children, because they are under 18.
- The oldest child, who is 18 and is scheduled to graduate before his 22nd birthday, is a sibling to these two by blood through the mother.
- The mother is the parent in the household, and is related to all the children

The mother and her three children must be included in the Reach Up Household, and the income and resources of all members, including the Social Security (SSDI) received by the eldest child, must be considered as available to the family.

Example: Unmarried Parents; Child-in-Common; Half Siblings

The household consists of two unmarried parents, Mother and Father. The mother has two minor children, Jane and John by a previous marriage. The father, who is working part-time, has a child of his own, Peter, by a previous marriage. The parents, in addition to the children listed above, have a child in common, Mary.

The mother is applying for Reach Up for her two children from her previous marriage.

- Jane and John are eligible children because they are under 18.
- Mary is related by blood to Jane and John. Mary is an eligible dependent child. Therefore, Mary must be included in the Reach Up Household.

- Peter is related to Mary by blood therefore, he must be included in the Household as a sibling of an eligible dependent child.
- Mother is eligible as the parent of Jane, John, and Mary the eligible dependent children.
- Father is eligible as the parent of Mary and Peter.

The Reach Up household is Mother, Father, John, Jane, Mary, and Peter.

Special Circumstances

Termination of Parental Rights

Termination of parental rights does not sever the legal relationship between siblings. The children remain siblings unless they are adopted by different parents.

Example: Caretaker household with half siblings, one with terminated parental rights

Bill has been living with his grandmother, Lena. Lena is receiving a child only Reach Up grant for Bill. Both of Bill's parents have had their parental rights terminated. Jen and Bill have the same birth mother and different fathers. Jen's parents have not had their parental rights terminated. Jen has moved in with Bill and Lena.

Bill and Jen can be on the same Child Only Reach Up grant because they remain siblings.

Children receiving SSI

Siblings of a child receiving SSI do not get pulled into the same household because the SSI child is not in the assistance group (unless their shared parent is in household).

Example: Eric receives SSI and lives with his father, Jim. Jim takes on care of Eric's two half siblings Cecilia and Zoey (shared mother, different fathers than Eric).

Jim is able to receive a Child Only Reach Up grant for Cecilia and Zoey because Eric is not on the grant.

Child in household is between 18-22 year old and full-time student

When there is a child in the household that is between 18-22 years old and is a full-time student, they are considered a mandatory household member and should be included in the Reach Up benefit determination as a member. They would be considered an eligible dependent. This applies to Reach Up and PSE programs ONLY.

The child between 18-22 years old can remain as an eligible dependent for Reach Up and PSE as long as they are attending school full time and will either graduate by the time they turn 22 or have a disability that impacts their ability to graduate by the time they turn 22. If the child is attending an alternative school program as long as they are considered a full-

time student by their program, they are eligible to continue receiving Reach Up benefits. See Procedure [P2201I 18 year old in school letter](#) for more information.

Vermont Parentage Act (VPA)

Vermont Parentage Act (VPA) defines the categories of individuals recognized as parents under Vermont law. Once a Voluntary Acknowledgement of Parentage (VAP) is signed the individual is considered a parent under the Vermont Parentage Act and should be included as a mandatory member in the Reach Up Household. The VPA recognizes the following individuals as parents:

- A person who gave birth to the child
- A person who is the alleged genetic parent of the child
- A person who is an intended parent of the child.
- An intended parent is a person who has manifested an intent to be legally bound as a parent of child resulting from assisted reproduction or surrogacy.
- A person who has adopted the child
- A person who was married to the person who gave birth to the child when the child was born
- A person who was married to the person who gave birth to child and the child was born not later than 300 days after the termination of the marriage
- A person who was married to the person who gave birth to the child after the child's birth and is named as a parent on the birth certificate
- A person who lived in the same household with the child for the first two years of the child's life and, together with the child's other parent, openly acknowledged the child as their child
- A person who has been adjudicated to be a parent of the child (a court has issued an order adjudicating the person as a parent)

NOTE: Sperm, egg, and embryo donors and gestational carriers (surrogates) are not recognized as parents under the VPA and should not be listed as noncustodial parents on the 137.

BPS Support

Entering a PARE panel

See ACCESS Eligibility Training Video: [Entering a PARE Panel](#).

PARE panel

01/14/16 16:04 OTHER PARENT-CHILD QUESTION 06 (PARE . 01)

(ASPADF)

NAME OF PARENT OF CHILD IN HOME (NOT HEAD/SPOUSE)	** FIRST **	NAME OF CHILD ** I **** LAST *****	MOD	LAST UPDATE
JEFFREY M STEIN	BRYAN	W EDWARDS		

USER: 084 FNX: STAT MODE: C RPTGRP: XXX XX XXXX PERIOD: 01 16 COMMAND: _____
DO: M IMS: GM1 REPORTING ADULT: VERONICA E EDWARDS 3