



The ABCs of AFDC

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Aid to Families with Dependent Children

- Requirements fall under two categories:
 - Technical Requirements
 - Residency
 - Citizenship
 - Age
 - Deprivation
 - Specified Relative (Living With/Removed From)
 - Financial Requirements
 - Income
 - Assets

AFDC Technical Requirements

Residency

- Child must be considered residing or intending to reside in Florida
 - Families in Florida for vacation do not meet criteria

Citizenship

- United States Citizen
- Qualified Non-Citizen status
 - 5 year restriction applies except for Haitian or Cuban entrants

Age

- 18 years old for Foster Care
- 21 years old for Extended Foster Care

AFDC Technical Requirements

Deprivation

- Always made in relation to legal parents
- Criteria
 - Death
 - Continued Absence from the Home
 - Nature of this absence either interrupts or terminates the parent's functioning as a provider of maintenance, physical care, or guidance for the child
 - Military deployment does not qualify
 - Physical or mental incapacity of a parent
 - Physical or mental defect, illness, or impairment that is expected to last at least 30 days, is supported by competent medical testimony, and substantially reduces or eliminates the parent's ability to support or care for the child.
 - Unemployment/Underemployment
 - Principal wage earner is not employed or employed less than 100 hours a month or exceeds that standard for a particular month if the work is intermittent and the excess work is temporary



AFDC Technical Requirements

Specified Relative (Living With/Removed From)

- Determined by who is the subject of the Contrary to Welfare finding
- If not clear in Order, utilize shelter petition. If not clear in either, assumption is the parent(s).
- Must meet the 5th degree of relationship to the child

AFDC Technical Requirements

Specified Relative (Living With/Removed From)

- If not physically living with Specified Relative, child must have lived with Specified Relative within 6 calendar months of the initiation of court proceedings (filing of petition or court order-which ever is first OR execution of a VPA)
 - Exception: Parent(s) voluntarily placed child in a residential facility as the parent(s) still exercise care and control
 - A child born to a mother who was a hospital patient or a prison inmate would be considered to be living with the mother at the time of birth
- Accuracy of Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA) and Petition is crucial.

AFDC Technical Requirements

Specified Relative (Living With/Removed From)

- Motion/Petitions for a “Pick Up” or “Take into Custody” Order or Orders issued by a Juvenile Court Judge apply
 - Removal Episode starts upon physically taking child into custody, AFDC month based upon initiation of court proceedings

Assistance Group (AG)

The child, parent(s), and siblings residing in the Removal Home.

Note: Additional rules apply for a stepparent.

Standard Filing Unit (SFU)

The persons in the AG minus those excluded due to one of the following:

- SSI recipient
- Adoption Subsidy recipient (child)
- Alien: Non-Qualified Non-Citizen or Qualified Non-Citizen if within 5 year restriction period

SFU Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1996 CNS	\$645	\$864	\$1082	\$1300	\$1519	\$1737	\$1955	\$2174
185%	\$1194	\$1598	\$2002	\$2405	\$2809	\$3213	\$3617	\$4021

AFDC Financial Requirements

Step 1

- Calculate ALL Earned Income for SFU Members
- Calculate ALL Unearned Income for SFU Members
 - Disregard the amount up to \$50 from Child Support for the SFU as a whole
- Add Applied Income
 - Stepparent, alien parent, grandparent, sponsor
- Round down to whole dollar, compare to 185% of CNS

If less, move to step 2. If more, Financial requirement not met.

Step 2

- Calculate ALL Earned Income for SFU Members
 - Deduct up to \$90 from employment income for each SFU unless “Reduced Income Without Good Cause”
 - Deduct Care Expenses (up to \$175 for over 2, \$200 for under 2)
- Calculate ALL Unearned Income for SFU members
 - Disregard the amount up to \$50 from Child Support for the SFU as a whole
- Add Applied Income
 - Stepparent, alien parent, grandparent, sponsor
- Round down to whole dollar, compare to 100% of CNS

If less, potentially eligible if Asset limit met. If more, Financial requirement not met.



AFDC Financial Requirements

Income

- Gross wages, not Net
 - Enter rate as received (i.e. hourly, annual)
 - Allow FSFN to calculate conversions
- Start dates should reflect earliest date when income became available based on supporting documentation
- All available sources shall be utilized to verify information
 - FLORIDA, DEO Connect, Family Functioning Assessment (FFA), TANFs, SUNTAX (if appropriate)
- Abandoned children – unable to determine parents' income

AFDC Financial Requirements

Income Excluded

- Child Support is income of the child – enter under the child
- Adoption Subsidy Payment value is being inactivated – cease use
- TANF (Cash Assistance) payments nor value of Food Stamps
- Gifts that do not exceed \$30 in the quarter
- Full-Time student or part-time student who is not a full-time employee
- Principal of a loan

AFDC Financial Requirements

Assets

- Count only if available or access can be gained
 - Even if a penalty would be incurred
- Based on equity value (market value minus amount owed/penalty) or liquid amount
- Start dates should reflect date of equity value or amount in AFDC month



AFDC Financial Requirements

Assets Excluded

- Homestead property
- Personal possessions
- Real Property in which a “good faith effort” is being made to sell.
- Scholarships, grants, work study
- Crops or live stock for home use
- \$1500 of equity value from automobile/vehicle, funeral agreement (FSFN will deduct with upcoming release)
- Inherited property not probated
- Trust if not revocable

Title IV-E Key Points



Other Title IV-E Key Points

Contrary to Welfare

- Must be in 1st order that sanctions removal
 - Continuances in which no testimony is heard may not apply
 - Pick Up/Take Into Custody orders apply
 - DJJ orders apply
 - A finding that a child is a “threat to himself” satisfies requirement; “threat to the community” does not

Effective Dates

- Initial Determination:
 - If removal/placement occurs in one month and shelter hearing occurs in next, the effective date of the initial will be the 1st day in the month the CTW was obtained.
- Redeterminations:
 - Shall be the first date in the month in which all criteria is met or not met.

Policy Updates Anticipated

30

Calendar days to complete (including approval) Title IV-E Eligibility and Case TANF determinations from date of removal

30

Calendar days to complete (including approval) Case TANF determinations from start date of living arrangement

10

Calendar days to complete (including approval) Title IV-E Eligibility and Case TANF redeterminations from date of activity that required the redetermination or expiration

QUESTIONS?