



802-1 Incrementing MT Time Clock

Supersedes:	TANF 802-1 (01/01/07)
References:	45 CFR 264.1; ARM 37.78.102; 38.78.202
Overview:	<p>GENERAL RULE-- Montana’s TANF-60 month time clock began incrementing February 1, 1997 for all ongoing and new Cash Assistance cases. Each adult, teen parent living independently, or minor parent, who is not eligible for an exemption or exclusion, will have their clock advance each month they receive TANF cash assistance.</p> <p>There are two circumstances in which the Montana TANF time clock will not increment. These are the participating teen parent exemption and the Indian Country exclusion. In addition to these two circumstances there are five categories of individuals who are also not subject to an <u>individual</u> time limit.</p>
PARTICIPANTS NOT SUBJECT TO TIME-LIMITS	<p>The following participants are NOT subject to the individual time-limits imposed by federal and state regulation and rule. However, the individual will not be eligible if another required filing unit member has exhausted their 60-month time-limit. The only exception is when all adults in the filing unit qualify for TANF extended benefits. (See section 801-3 Extended Benefit Policy and Procedure.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 <u>Minor children</u> living with a caretaker relative, who are under age 18 or under age 19 and attending school full-time. (FIA/EP--NO) 2 <u>Minor children</u> living with a caretaker relative who are age 16 through the month of his/her 18th birthday and are not attending school full-time, whether or not complying with his/her Family Investment Agreement/WoRC Employability Plan (FIA/EP). (FIA/EP--YES) 3 <u>Teen parent (under age 18, unmarried)</u> through the month of his/her 18th birthday who is <u>not living independently</u> and is attending school full-time. FIA/EP--NO); (see section 200 for independent living policy) 4 <u>Teen parent (under age 18, unmarried)</u> through the month of his/her 18th birthday who is <u>not living independently</u> and is not attending school full-time, as long as the teen parent is in compliance with his/her FIA/EP. FIA/EP--YES); 5 Adults who are not included in the assistance unit for any reason <u>other than a sanction</u>.
SANCTIONS	<p>Individuals who are sanctioned are considered to be receiving benefits and their clock will advance during the sanction penalty month if benefits are issued. During the period of a sanction penalty month the time clock:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will not increment for those receiving a time clock exclusion (living in Indian Country).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> will increment for those receiving a time clock exemption (teen parents living independently and for minor parents). See policy guidance below “Loss of Exemption”.
EXEMPTION	The only exemption from the time clock is for a teen parent (under age 18, unmarried) living independently or minor parent (under age 18, married). Provided these individuals are in compliance with his/her Family Investment Agreement/WoRC Employability Plan (FIA/EP) activities, they will be exempt from the TANF time clock through the month of their 18th birthday.
END/LOSS OF EXEMPTION	The time clock must increment the month following the 18th birthday <u>and</u> while the individual is sanctioned for non-compliance with FIA/EP activities.(see section 702-3).
EXCLUSION	<p>The only exclusion from the Montana TANF time clock is for individuals (regardless of race) living in Indian Country. Indian Country is defined as <u>within the geographical boundaries</u> of a reservation that has an unemployment rate above a federally specified amount. Exclusion status is reviewed by tribal officials and reported to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) who in turn publishes this as their labor force statistics. When households <u>live within the geographical boundaries</u> of the following reservations they qualify for this exclusion: Blackfeet, Fort Peck, Fort Belknap, Rocky Boy’s, Northern Cheyenne and Crow.</p> <p>NOTE: Due to the Flathead Reservation’s current unemployment rate, there is NOT a time clock exclusion for participants living on the Flathead Reservation.</p>
PREVIOUS COUNTABLE TRIBAL TANF	<p>When a household that was receiving Tribal TANF applies for Montana TANF Cash Assistance, the time clock must be evaluated to determine if Tribal TANF months need to be added to the Montana TANF time clock.</p> <p>Receipt of Tribal TANF by those living outside the geographical boundaries of the reservation, is treated as if TANF had been received in another state. (See Section 803-1 Out-of-State TANF Requests for guidance on completing verification requests forms.)</p> <p>NOTE: Even though some Tribal TANF programs serve families that live both inside and outside the geographical boundaries of the reservation, the Indian Country time clock exclusion only applies to those families that live on the reservation.</p> <p>Please see section 103-7 Tribal TANF Plans for guidance on the countable and excluded areas each Montana Tribal TANF program serves.</p>
Date Revised	July 1, 2009