

Final Proposed Filing - Coversheet

Instructions:

In accordance with Title 3 Chapter 25 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated and the "Rule on Rulemaking" adopted by the Office of the Secretary of State, this filing will be considered complete upon filing and acceptance of these forms with the Office of the Secretary of State, and the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules.

All forms shall be submitted at the Office of the Secretary of State, no later than 3:30 pm on the last scheduled day of the work week.

The data provided in text areas of these forms will be used to generate a notice of rulemaking in the portal of "Proposed Rule Postings" online, and the newspapers of record if the rule is marked for publication. Publication of notices will be charged back to the promulgating agency.

**PLEASE REMOVE ANY COVERSHEET OR FORM NOT
REQUIRED WITH THE CURRENT FILING BEFORE DELIVERY!**

Certification Statement: As the adopting Authority of this rule (see 3 V.S.A. § 801 (b) (11) for a definition), I approve the contents of this filing entitled:

Reach First Rules

/s/ Todd W. Daloz , on 4/23/24
(signature) (date)

Printed Name and Title:

Todd W. Daloz, Deputy Secretary
Agency of Human Services

RECEIVED BY: _____

- Coversheet
- Adopting Page
- Economic Impact Analysis
- Environmental Impact Analysis
- Strategy for Maximizing Public Input
- Scientific Information Statement (if applicable)
- Incorporated by Reference Statement (if applicable)
- Clean text of the rule (Amended text without annotation)
- Annotated text (Clearly marking changes from previous rule)
- ICAR Minutes
- Copy of Comments
- Responsiveness Summary

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

Reach First Rules

2. PROPOSED NUMBER ASSIGNED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

24P008

3. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Agency of Human Services

4. PRIMARY CONTACT PERSON:

(A PERSON WHO IS ABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CONTENT OF THE RULE).

Name: Heidi Moreau

Agency: Agency of Human Services, Department for
Children and Families

Mailing Address: 280 State Drive, NOB 1 North, Waterbury,
VT 05671

Telephone: 802-595-9639 Fax:

E-Mail: heidi.moreau@vermont.gov

Web URL *(WHERE THE RULE WILL BE POSTED)*: <https://dcf.vermont.gov/esd/laws-rules/proposed>

5. SECONDARY CONTACT PERSON:

(A SPECIFIC PERSON FROM WHOM COPIES OF FILINGS MAY BE REQUESTED OR WHO MAY ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT FORMS SUBMITTED FOR FILING IF DIFFERENT FROM THE PRIMARY CONTACT PERSON).

Name: Amanda Beliveau

Agency: Agency of Human Services, Department for
Children and Families

Mailing Address: 280 State Drive, HC 1 South, Waterbury,
VT 05671

Telephone: 802-241-0641 Fax:

E-Mail: amanda.beliveau@vermont.gov

6. RECORDS EXEMPTION INCLUDED WITHIN RULE:

(DOES THE RULE CONTAIN ANY PROVISION DESIGNATING INFORMATION AS CONFIDENTIAL; LIMITING ITS PUBLIC RELEASE; OR OTHERWISE, EXEMPTING IT FROM INSPECTION AND COPYING?) No

IF YES, CITE THE STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THE EXEMPTION:

PLEASE SUMMARIZE THE REASON FOR THE EXEMPTION:

7. LEGAL AUTHORITY / ENABLING LEGISLATION:



(THE SPECIFIC STATUTORY OR LEGAL CITATION FROM SESSION LAW INDICATING WHO THE ADOPTING ENTITY IS AND THUS WHO THE SIGNATORY SHOULD BE. THIS SHOULD BE A SPECIFIC CITATION NOT A CHAPTER CITATION).

3 V.S.A. § 801(b) (11); 33 V.S.A. § 105(b) (2)

8. EXPLANATION OF HOW THE RULE IS WITHIN THE AUTHORITY OF THE AGENCY:

33 V.S.A. 105(b) (2) states that the Commissioner has the authority to "fix standards and issue regulations necessary to administer" the laws assigned to the Department. Under 33 V.S.A. § 104(b) (1), the Department is responsible for administering the Reach First program.

9. THE FILING HAS NOT CHANGED SINCE THE FILING OF THE PROPOSED RULE.

10. THE AGENCY HAS NOT INCLUDED WITH THIS FILING A LETTER EXPLAINING IN DETAIL WHAT CHANGES WERE MADE, CITING CHAPTER AND SECTION WHERE APPLICABLE.

11. SUBSTANTIAL ARGUMENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS WERE NOT RAISED FOR OR AGAINST THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL.

12. THE AGENCY HAS NOT INCLUDED COPIES OF ALL WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS AND SYNOPSES OF ORAL COMMENTS RECEIVED.

13. THE AGENCY HAS NOT INCLUDED A LETTER EXPLAINING IN DETAIL THE REASONS FOR THE AGENCY'S DECISION TO REJECT OR ADOPT THEM.

14. CONCISE SUMMARY (150 WORDS OR LESS):

The Reach First program provides cash assistance for up to four months to families experiencing a short-term crisis. The Reach First rules govern the eligibility criteria for the Reach First program. A family that meets eligibility criteria for Reach Up financial assistance (Vermont's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program) and has needs that can be fully addressed by Reach First payments and support services may be eligible for Reach First. The proposed rule reorganizes and renumbers the rules to conform to a standard outline format, updates terminology, updates statutory references, and replaces deficit-based language with strengths-based language (for example, using the term "engagement" instead of "compliance"). To conform to Act 133 of 2022, the proposed rule

replaces references to the "Reach Up work requirement" with "federal work requirement" and eliminates provisions regarding work-requirement based referrals to other programs and mandatory participation in Reach First.

15. EXPLANATION OF WHY THE RULE IS NECESSARY:

The changes in the proposed rule are necessary to update outdated language, improve the readability of the rule, and align with Act 133 of 2022.

16. EXPLANATION OF HOW THE RULE IS NOT ARBITRARY:

The amendments to the Reach First rules are based on: (1) best practices for plain language; and (2) the changes to Reach Up program requirements in Act 133 that impact the Reach First program. The proposed rule is rationally connected to these bases as new language improves the readability of the rule and the removal of references to the "Reach Up work requirement" is necessitated by Act 133. The proposed rule would make sense to a reasonable person because it follows best practices for plain language and is narrowly tailored to conform to Act 133.

17. LIST OF PEOPLE, ENTERPRISES AND GOVERNMENT ENTITIES AFFECTED BY THIS RULE:

Families applying for or receiving Reach First benefits and the Department for Children and Families.

18. BRIEF SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC IMPACT (150 WORDS OR LESS):

The Department anticipates no economic impact. The proposed rule maintains current eligibility criteria and benefit levels.

19. A HEARING WAS HELD.

20. HEARING INFORMATION

(THE FIRST HEARING SHALL BE NO SOONER THAN 30 DAYS FOLLOWING THE POSTING OF NOTICES ONLINE).

IF THIS FORM IS INSUFFICIENT TO LIST THE INFORMATION FOR EACH HEARING, PLEASE ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET TO COMPLETE THE HEARING INFORMATION.

Date: 3/8/2024

Time: 10:00 AM

Street Address: St. Leo's Hall, 109 S Main St, Waterbury, VT

Zip Code:

URL for Virtual: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OGM2ZDdiMjEtNjVmOC00NDE4LWFiZmYtMGMyZmIxNDhiN2U2%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2220b4933b-baad-433c-9c02-70edcc7559c6%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22a7972903-b22b-48ab-91f0-1282d59b4a10%22%7d

Date:
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21. DEADLINE FOR COMMENT (NO EARLIER THAN 7 DAYS FOLLOWING LAST HEARING):

3/15/2024

KEYWORDS (PLEASE PROVIDE AT LEAST 3 KEYWORDS OR PHRASES TO AID IN THE SEARCHABILITY OF THE RULE NOTICE ONLINE).

Reach First

Short-term assistance

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Adopting Page

Instructions:

This form must accompany each filing made during the rulemaking process:

Note: To satisfy the requirement for an annotated text, an agency must submit the entire rule in annotated form with proposed and final proposed filings. Filing an annotated paragraph or page of a larger rule is not sufficient. Annotation must clearly show the changes to the rule.

When possible, the agency shall file the annotated text, using the appropriate page or pages from the Code of Vermont Rules as a basis for the annotated version. New rules need not be accompanied by an annotated text.

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

Reach First Rules

2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Agency of Human Services

3. TYPE OF FILING (*PLEASE CHOOSE THE TYPE OF FILING FROM THE DROPDOWN MENU BASED ON THE DEFINITIONS PROVIDED BELOW*):

- **AMENDMENT** - Any change to an already existing rule, even if it is a complete rewrite of the rule, it is considered an amendment if the rule is replaced with other text.
- **NEW RULE** - A rule that did not previously exist even under a different name.
- **REPEAL** - The removal of a rule in its entirety, without replacing it with other text.

This filing is **AN AMENDMENT OF AN EXISTING RULE** .

4. LAST ADOPTED (*PLEASE PROVIDE THE SOS LOG#, TITLE AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE LAST ADOPTION FOR THE EXISTING RULE*):

Secretary of SOS Log #18-018, Reach First Program, May 8, 2018

Proposed Rule: Reach First Rules, Agency of Human Services, Department for Children and Families

Presented By: Heidi Moreau and Erin Oalican

Motion made to accept the rule by Sean Brown, seconded by Mike Obuchowski, and passed unanimously with the following recommendation:

1. Public Input Maximization Plan, #3: Include participants noted in #4.

DRAFT

Economic Impact Analysis

Instructions:

In completing the economic impact analysis, an agency analyzes and evaluates the anticipated costs and benefits to be expected from adoption of the rule; estimates the costs and benefits for each category of people enterprises and government entities affected by the rule; compares alternatives to adopting the rule; and explains their analysis concluding that rulemaking is the most appropriate method of achieving the regulatory purpose. If no impacts are anticipated, please specify “No impact anticipated” in the field.

Rules affecting or regulating schools or school districts must include cost implications to local school districts and taxpayers in the impact statement, a clear statement of associated costs, and consideration of alternatives to the rule to reduce or ameliorate costs to local school districts while still achieving the objectives of the rule (see 3 V.S.A. § 832b for details).

Rules affecting small businesses (excluding impacts incidental to the purchase and payment of goods and services by the State or an agency thereof), must include ways that a business can reduce the cost or burden of compliance or an explanation of why the agency determines that such evaluation isn’t appropriate, and an evaluation of creative, innovative or flexible methods of compliance that would not significantly impair the effectiveness of the rule or increase the risk to the health, safety, or welfare of the public or those affected by the rule.

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

Reach First Rules

2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Agency of Human Services

3. CATEGORY OF AFFECTED PARTIES:

LIST CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE, ENTERPRISES, AND GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES POTENTIALLY AFFECTED BY THE ADOPTION OF THIS RULE AND THE ESTIMATED COSTS AND BENEFITS ANTICIPATED:

Families applying for or receiving Reach First benefits and the Department for Children and Families - the Department anticipates no economic impact to the affected parties as the rules do not change eligibility criteria or benefit levels and the Reach First program is entirely federally funded.

4. IMPACT ON SCHOOLS:

INDICATE ANY IMPACT THAT THE RULE WILL HAVE ON PUBLIC EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOLS, LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS CLEARLY STATING ANY ASSOCIATED COSTS:

No impact.

5. **ALTERNATIVES:** *CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES TO THE RULE TO REDUCE OR AMELIORATE COSTS TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS WHILE STILL ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE OF THE RULE.*

Not applicable.

6. **IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES:**

INDICATE ANY IMPACT THAT THE RULE WILL HAVE ON SMALL BUSINESSES (EXCLUDING IMPACTS INCIDENTAL TO THE PURCHASE AND PAYMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES BY THE STATE OR AN AGENCY THEREOF):

No impact.

7. **SMALL BUSINESS COMPLIANCE:** *EXPLAIN WAYS A BUSINESS CAN REDUCE THE COST/BURDEN OF COMPLIANCE OR AN EXPLANATION OF WHY THE AGENCY DETERMINES THAT SUCH EVALUATION ISN'T APPROPRIATE.*

Not applicable.

8. **COMPARISON:**

COMPARE THE IMPACT OF THE RULE WITH THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF OTHER ALTERNATIVES TO THE RULE, INCLUDING NO RULE ON THE SUBJECT OR A RULE HAVING SEPARATE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL BUSINESS:

If the proposed rule were not adopted the economic impact would be the same as there is no economic impact associated with the proposed rule.

9. **SUFFICIENCY:** *DESCRIBE HOW THE ANALYSIS WAS CONDUCTED, IDENTIFYING RELEVANT INTERNAL AND/OR EXTERNAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION USED.*

The Department determined that the proposed rule will not impose costs or savings on affected parties because there are no changes to eligibility criteria or benefit levels.

Environmental Impact Analysis

Instructions:

In completing the environmental impact analysis, an agency analyzes and evaluates the anticipated environmental impacts (positive or negative) to be expected from adoption of the rule; compares alternatives to adopting the rule; explains the sufficiency of the environmental impact analysis. If no impacts are anticipated, please specify “No impact anticipated” in the field.

Examples of Environmental Impacts include but are not limited to:

- Impacts on the emission of greenhouse gases
- Impacts on the discharge of pollutants to water
- Impacts on the arability of land
- Impacts on the climate
- Impacts on the flow of water
- Impacts on recreation
- Or other environmental impacts

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

Reach First Rules

2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Agency of Human Services

3. GREENHOUSE GAS: *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS THE EMISSION OF GREENHOUSE GASES (E.G. TRANSPORTATION OF PEOPLE OR GOODS; BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE; LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT, WASTE GENERATION, ETC.):*
No impact.

4. WATER: *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS WATER (E.G. DISCHARGE / ELIMINATION OF POLLUTION INTO VERMONT WATERS, THE FLOW OF WATER IN THE STATE, WATER QUALITY ETC.):*
No impact.

5. LAND: *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS LAND (E.G. IMPACTS ON FORESTRY, AGRICULTURE ETC.):*
No impact.

6. RECREATION: *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS RECREATION IN THE STATE:*
No impact.

7. **CLIMATE:** *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS THE CLIMATE IN THE STATE:*

No impact.

8. **OTHER:** *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACT OTHER ASPECTS OF VERMONT'S ENVIRONMENT:*

None.

9. **SUFFICIENCY:** *DESCRIBE HOW THE ANALYSIS WAS CONDUCTED, IDENTIFYING RELEVANT INTERNAL AND/OR EXTERNAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION USED.*

The proposed rule does not impact any of the areas listed above, and therefore, this analysis sufficiently captures that there will be no environmental impact.

Public Input Maximization Plan

Instructions:

Agencies are encouraged to hold hearings as part of their strategy to maximize the involvement of the public in the development of rules. Please complete the form below by describing the agency's strategy for maximizing public input (what it did do, or will do to maximize the involvement of the public).

This form must accompany each filing made during the rulemaking process:

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

Reach First Rules

2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Agency of Human Services

3. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE AGENCY'S STRATEGY TO MAXIMIZE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED RULE, LISTING THE STEPS THAT HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE TAKEN TO COMPLY WITH THAT STRATEGY:

The Department held a public hearing; published the proposed rule on its website; and notified Reach First participants, community partners, including Vermont Legal Aid, Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, and Designated Agencies, and subscribers of the Department's electronic rules notifications of the proposed rule.

4. BEYOND GENERAL ADVERTISEMENTS, PLEASE LIST THE PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED RULE:

Reach Up and Reach First staff and participants and Integrated Eligibility and Enrollment staff.

Incorporation by Reference

THIS FORM IS ONLY REQUIRED WHEN INCORPORATING MATERIALS BY REFERENCE. PLEASE REMOVE PRIOR TO DELIVERY IF IT DOES NOT APPLY TO THIS RULE FILING:

Instructions:

In completing the incorporation by reference statement, an agency describes any materials that are incorporated into the rule by reference and how to obtain copies.

This form is only required when a rule incorporates materials by referencing another source without reproducing the text within the rule itself (e.g., federal or national standards, or regulations).

Incorporated materials will be maintained and available for inspection by the Agency.

1. **TITLE OF RULE FILING:**

Reach First Rules

2. **ADOPTING AGENCY:**

Agency of Human Services

3. **DESCRIPTION (*DESCRIBE THE MATERIALS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE*):**

The definitions sections of the Reach Up Eligibility rules and Reach Up Services rules.

4. **FORMAL CITATION OF MATERIALS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE:**

Reach Up Eligibility Rule 2201 and Reach Up Services Rule 2301.

5. **OBTAINING COPIES: (*EXPLAIN WHERE THE PUBLIC MAY OBTAIN THE MATERIAL(S) IN WRITTEN OR ELECTRONIC FORM, AND AT WHAT COST*):**

<https://outside.vermont.gov/dept/DCF/Shared%20Documents/ESD/Rules/2200-Reach-Up.pdf>

<https://outside.vermont.gov/dept/DCF/Shared%20Documents/ESD/Rules/2300-RU-Services.pdf>

6. MODIFICATIONS (*PLEASE EXPLAIN ANY MODIFICATION TO THE INCORPORATED MATERIALS E.G., WHETHER ONLY PART OF THE MATERIAL IS ADOPTED AND IF SO, WHICH PART(S) ARE MODIFIED*):

Run Spell Check

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Reach First

2100 ~~Reach First~~ (04/01/2008, 08-02)

The purpose of the Reach First program is to stabilize families experiencing a short-term crisis, assess their strengths and needs, and orient them to available programs, services, assistance, and participant's responsibilities. The goal is to improve family self-sufficiency, economic independence, and ensure the well-being of children. Reach First helps to stabilize the family by providing monetary payments and support services of limited duration while the family regains its independence and stability, or is assessed and transitions to an appropriate alternative program.

A family that meets eligibility criteria for Reach Up financial assistance and has needs that can be fully addressed by Reach First payments and support services may be eligible for Reach First. Financially eligible families not appropriate or qualified for Reach First shall be referred to other programs available to assist the family in obtaining the opportunities and skills necessary to gain self-sufficiency and economic independence.

Definitions

~~2101~~ Definitions ~~(04/01/2008, 08-02)~~

The definitions applicable to Reach First rules are the definitions at rule 2301 and are incorporated into Reach First rules by this reference.

Eligibility

~~2110 — Eligibility — (05/08/2018, 17-20)~~

~~To qualify for Reach First, the applicant family must qualify for Reach Up using Reach Up financial eligibility rules. The 60-month time limit (rule 2238) does not apply to Reach First eligibility. In addition to qualifying for Reach Up financial assistance, the applicant family must meet the Reach First eligibility criteria and, if it has no members who are mandatory applicants (rule 2117), must choose to participate in Reach First.~~

~~Families who qualify for and participate in Reach First are initially certified as eligible for a four-month period (certification period) that commences with the first day of the first calendar month in which the family receives a Reach First payment or support service. The certification period may be shortened if changes in the family's circumstances make them no longer eligible.~~

Financial Eligibility

~~2111~~ Financial Eligibility ~~(01/01/2009, 08-20)~~

~~Financial eligibility for Reach First is evaluated and determined using Reach Up financial assistance rules 2200 through 2293.6 which are incorporated into Reach First rules by this reference except for the following sections:~~

- ~~A. Assistance Pending Fair Hearing rule 2215~~
- ~~B. Money Payment rule 2216.2~~

Personal Interview

2112 ~~Personal Interview~~ (05/08/2018, 17 20)

~~A personal interview shall be conducted in accordance with Reach Up rule 2211.2. C. The interview shall include sufficient information about programs, benefits, and participant responsibilities to enable applicants to make informed decisions about program participation. At the personal interview, the department shall provide the following to all applicants(s):~~

- ~~A. Information about all programs administered by the department, services and referrals available to the family, program requirements, participant responsibilities, consequences of failure to meet responsibilities, and incentives for participation and obtaining employment;~~
- ~~B. Financial and self-sufficiency screening;~~
- ~~C. Determination of Reach First eligibility related to past receipt of Reach First payment and to the need for ongoing assistance;~~
- ~~D. Determination of appropriateness for Reach First referral; and~~
- ~~E. Determination of whether the family chooses to participate in Reach First, if it is a family with no Reach First mandatory applicants.~~

Financial and Self Sufficiency Screening

~~2114 — Financial and Self Sufficiency Screening — (04/01/2008, 08-02)~~

- ~~A. All applicant families who have satisfied financial eligibility criteria for Reach First or financial assistance must complete a financial and self sufficiency screening before determination of eligibility for Reach First, unless it is clear the family is ineligible for Reach First (rule 2115).~~
- ~~B. The financial and self sufficiency screening determines whether the family's circumstances qualify them for Reach First. The screening includes determination of:~~
- ~~1. the extent of the family's financial need;~~
 - ~~2. the likelihood that Reach First can address the family's needs within the programs time limits;~~
 - ~~3. the family's prospects for and likelihood of self sufficiency within the next four months;~~
 - ~~4. the family's need for further assessment to determine how to best meet the family's needs and whether Reach First is an appropriate referral;~~
 - ~~5. the work eligible adults interest and desire to participate in Reach First; and~~
 - ~~6. whether any family member is a mandatory Reach First applicants (rule 2115).~~

Ineligible Families

~~2115 Ineligible Families (04/01/2008, 08-02)~~

~~A. The following families are ineligible for Reach First:~~

- ~~1. families with a work-eligible adult who has received a Reach First payment attributed to any month within the 12 months preceding the month of application; and~~
- ~~2. families who need on-going assistance beyond the four-month Reach First period.~~

Families Inappropriate for Referral

~~2116 Families Inappropriate for Referral (04/01/2008, 08-02)~~

- ~~A. Some families who are not appropriate for Reach First may be recognized before assessment in Reach First.~~
- ~~B. The following families, unless they can provide verification that their need for ongoing assistance will end within the four month Reach First period commencing with the calendar month of their application, are not appropriate for Reach First and should be referred to and receive their assessment while in another appropriate program:
 - ~~1. a single parent who qualifies for and wants a deferment to stay home to care for their child under the age of 2;~~
 - ~~2. families with work eligible participants meeting their Reach Up work requirement, but needing ongoing assistance and assessment to determine the best course for gaining self sufficiency.~~~~

Families with Mandatory Applicants

2117 Families with Mandatory Applicants (05/08/2018, 17-20)

Families who meet the following criteria are mandatory Reach First Applicants:

1. ~~at least one member of the family is a work-eligible individual;~~
2. ~~work-eligible individuals in the family are neither disregarded from nor meeting their Reach Up work requirement;~~
3. ~~none of the work-eligible adults in the family have received a Reach First payment attributed to any month in the twelve months preceding the month of application; and~~
4. ~~at least one of the work-eligible adults in the family is:~~
 - a. ~~a single parent or caretaker who has no barriers to obtaining and maintaining a job and a recent and stable work history, including receiving wages for his or her most recent job that, when annualized, equal or exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty level applicable to the family;~~
 - b. ~~an able-to-work adult (in a two-parent family when the other parent is able to work part time or unable to work) who has no barriers to obtaining and maintaining a job and a recent and stable work history, including receiving wages for his or her most recent job that, when annualized, equal or exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty level applicable to the family;~~
 - c. ~~an adult (in a two-parent family when both parents are able to work) who is not the primary caretaker of the children; or~~
 - d. ~~an adult who has no barriers to obtaining and maintaining a job and possesses a marketable postsecondary education degree or vocational education certification.~~

Families with No Mandatory Applicants

2118 Families with No Mandatory Applicants (05/08/2018, 17-20)

- A. ~~Families with no Reach First mandatory applicants who qualify for participation in Reach First may choose whether to participate in Reach First.~~
- B. ~~An otherwise eligible family that does not include any mandatory Reach First applicants must meet the following criteria to be referred to and participate in Reach First:~~
 - 1. ~~at least one member of the family is a work eligible individual;~~
 - 2. ~~work eligible individuals in the family are neither disregarded from nor meeting their Reach Up work requirement;~~
 - 3. ~~none of the work eligible adults in the family have received a Reach First payment attributed to any month in the twelve months preceding the month of application; and~~
 - 4. ~~after participating in the interview and initial screening, all work eligible adults in the family choose to participate in Reach First.~~

Payments

2120 ~~Payments~~ (04/01/2008, 08-02)

- A. ~~Reach First payments must be linked to financial need directly related to the family's immediate financial crisis. The payment must be necessary either to assist the family to avoid the need for Reach Up assistance or to sustain the family while they are assessed and referred to appropriate programs.~~
- B. ~~Qualifying families may receive Reach First payments and Reach First support services for one certification period in a 12-month period.~~
- C. ~~Total Reach First payments are limited to no more than the cumulative equivalent of four months of financial assistance for which the family would have qualified in Reach Up.~~
- D. ~~Reach First payments may be made to the family in monthly installments or, under exceptional situations (rule 2122 C), in payment(s) in excess of the equivalent of the family's monthly Reach Up payment. Reach First payments are only available if needed to avert a crisis as determined in the initial assessment and during the period in which the family seeks immediate employment or participates in assessment and the creation of their family development plan.~~
- E. ~~Reach First payments may be made to the family by direct deposit, electronic benefit transfer or, if the family requests, by direct payment to the person or other entity providing the lodging, utilities, or other service to the family and as established in Reach Up rule 2222.1.~~
- F. ~~If a Reach First participant fails, without good cause, to fulfill participant responsibilities, the Reach First payment may be withheld during the conciliation process and until the adult complies.~~
- G. ~~Reach First payments do not continue while a fair hearing appeal is pending.~~
- H. ~~Any Reach First payment received by the family for a specific month shall be counted as income in that month for purposes of calculating the amount of financial assistance in Reach Up or a solely state funded program for the same month.~~