

B. Pregnant and/or Parenting Teens

Pregnant And/Or Parenting Teens

A teen who is pregnant or a custodial parent and who is aided in his/her parents or caretaker relative's Assistance Unit (AU), in accordance with mandatory inclusion requirements, may choose to:

- Remain a dependent child in his/her parents'/caretaker relatives' case after he/she turns 18, provided he/she continue to meet the educational and/or training requirements; or
- Have his/her own AU established on the first day of the month following the month in which he/she turns 18 (unless he/she turns 18 on the first day of the month, in which case the change is effective on that date).

Informing Letter

Workers must send, "Reminder For Teens Turning 18 Years Old", form CW 2103, to all pregnant and parenting teens up to 60 days before the teen turns 18 to inform them of the options. This form also instructs the senior parents/caretakers to provide the notice to teens approaching age 18.

These teens must be informed that:

- His/her grants will increase in most cases (and the parent/caretaker's grant will go down or stop) if he/she starts his/her own AU;
 - He/she does not have to move out of his/her parent/caretaker's home to start his/her own AU;
 - His/her 60-month clock will not start to run until he/she leaves Cal Learn;
 - If the Maximum Family Grant (MFG) rule was applied to the minor parent's child while the teen was aided as an eligible child, the minor parent's child can now be counted when determining the cash aid payment in the pregnant or parenting teen's case.
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**Seamless
Determination
Of Eligibility**

If a pregnant or parenting teen request an AU of their own, to aid in the transition into his/her own AU and ensure that there is no break in aid, the following steps must begin up to 60 days before the teen's 18th birthday,

Step	Action
1	Photocopy the latest application (SAWS 1) for the family contained in the case in which the teen was aided. This is to be used to establish the separate AU; and
2	Schedule an interview with the teen. Note: Do not require the teen to furnish any documentation previously provided to the county. This could include but is not limited to: birth certificate, SSN, ID, pay verification, vehicle registration, benefit award letter, etc.; and
3	If required by regulation, obtain a release of information from the teen's parent(s) and/or caretaker relative to get information (such as senior parent information on child support, absent parent information, etc.) from the parent(s) case file for the teen's case; and
4	Photocopy the SFIS match results if available.

If the teen does not complete the eligibility requirements in order to establish his/her own AU, his/her aid is to be continued from the case in which he/she was originally receiving assistance, without a break in aid.

**Transition
Eligibility
Requirements**

Certain eligibility criteria are necessary in order to process the teen into his/her own AU. Listed below are some additional requirements when processing these types of cases:

- Orientation for the teen is a requirement.
- New child support referral (CW 2.1/CW 2.1Q) and an interview with the Child Support Officer (CSO) are mandated.
- The teen's fingerprint needs to be in the new case file. If a copy exists in the original case it can be copied. If not, the teen will need to be fingerprinted.

Note: Unless fraud is suspect, a referral to early fraud is not a requirement.

Income And Resources

The teen shall be treated as a **recipient** rather than as an applicant. However the teen's income, if any, shall be budgeted in accordance to the Quarterly Reporting Regulation.

Underpayment -
Overpayment

Underpayment

Beginning May 1997 and ongoing, an underpayment will be provided to any pregnant/parenting teen who had previously been aided as a dependent child and had a break in aid between being aided in his/her parent/caretaker relative's case and establishing his/her own.

Overpayment

Payments made to a teen parent as head or his/her own AU are to be offset against any existing cash aid overpayment that may have occurred on the teen's case. Staff must not use these payments to offset any supportive service overpayment.
