

Determining Tier 3 Eligibility: Quick Guide for HealthySteps Providers



Use this quick guide to determine Tier 3 eligibility criteria that reflect the unique patient population and capacity of your site. Revisit this resource periodically to refine your criteria as community needs, goals, and site capacity evolve.

Building Eligibility Criteria

The National Office recommends that practices use the following to identify families that might benefit from Tier 3 services:

Concrete Inclusion Criteria	Provider and Caregiver Considerations	Site Capacity
• Universal screening results • Factors impacting well-being and development	• Clinical judgement and provider concern • The family's needs and concerns	• Available resources • Staffing • Long-term goals • Overall capacity



To encourage a prevention-and-promotion lens, sites should create Tier 3 criteria that include at least one concrete inclusion factor, such as results from a universal screening or factors impacting well-being and development.



Families should be offered enrollment in Tier 3 when they meet at least one of the site's established criteria. However, providers may also refer families based on their professional judgment when they believe additional HealthySteps support would be beneficial, even if the family does not meet the selected concrete inclusion criteria.



When developing Tier 3 criteria, sites should consider their available staffing, capacity, and resources to ensure eligibility decisions are both meaningful and sustainable.

Checklist, Considerations, and Guiding Questions to Support Decision Making

Use the guiding questions, as well as checklist or considerations, to support team-based discussions, build consensus, and develop criteria that fit your unique site. Use the blank space to document your site's responses and decisions for each question.

Concrete Inclusion Criteria

When making decisions about which concrete inclusion criteria to include, consider:

- Of the HealthySteps screenings, which should be prioritized for Tier 3 inclusion criteria?
- What risk factors in your community may impact children's well-being and development?
- What unmet needs of your youngest patients and families require more regular ongoing support during their well-child visits?

Review the checklist and select the criteria that best fit your site:

- ☐ Developmental screening results
- ☐ Autism screening results
- ☐ Social-emotional/behavioral screening results
- ☐ Maternal depression screening results
- ☐ Family needs screening results
- ☐ Child age
- ☐ Low birth weight, prematurity, NICU stay, or medical complexity
- ☐ First-time caregiver
- ☐ Caregiver age (e.g., teen caregivers)
- ☐ Caregivers with mental health concerns
- ☐ Families navigating the child welfare system
- ☐ Families experiencing barriers to basic well being (e.g., food or housing insecurity, lack of physical or psychological safety, or other social determinants of health)
- ☐ Families affected by broader community or policy factors (e.g., immigration policies, changes in public benefits, or community-level stressors)
- ☐ Other:

Provider and Caregiver Considerations

When making decisions about which provider and caregiver considerations to include, consider:

- Does the caregiver have a discrete concern about child development or behavior that could likely be addressed in 1 to 3 consults (Tier 2), or would this family benefit from regular anticipatory guidance and ongoing support via Team-Based Well Child Visits (Tier 3)?
- What does your clinical experience and judgment (“spidey sense”) tell you about the level of support this family needs? Which families have been on your mind a lot lately?

Review these considerations and apply them as needed when making Tier 3 eligibility decisions:

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| • Caregiver concerns about development | • Provider clinical judgement |
| • Caregiver concerns about behavior | • Provider observations and engagement |
| • Parenting stress | • Other: |

Site Capacity

When making your decisions about which site capacity considerations to include, consider:

- When building your Tier 3 criteria, how will you consider your HealthySteps Specialist’s capacity?
- Have you determined your HealthySteps Specialist’s capacity for enrollment and balanced that against your 0-3 patient panel?
- Does your site collect data based on the Tier 3 criteria you have created to determine approximately how many families would be eligible for comprehensive services?

Review these considerations and apply them as needed when making Tier 3 eligibility decisions.

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| • Available resources | • Staffing |
| • HealthySteps Specialist’s capacity | • Other: |
| • Long-term goals | |

Our Site's Tier 3 Eligibility Criteria

Step 1: In the orange box below, write the concrete inclusion criteria your site will use to determine Tier 3 eligibility. Use your notes documented on page 2 to inform your final decision.

Concrete Inclusion Criteria

Step 2: In the two blue boxes below, write the provider and caregiver considerations and site capacity factors your site will consider when determining Tier 3 eligibility. Use your notes documented on page 3 to inform your final decision. Then, if needed, use these considerations to update your concrete inclusion criteria above in Step 1.

Provider and Caregiver Considerations

Site Capacity

Additional Notes:

Date Last Reviewed: Reviewed By:

For additional support or questions about determining Tier 3 eligibility criteria, contact healthysteps@zerotothree.org.