

15.1 INTRODUCTION

WV WORKS, West Virginia's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) **program is a** cash assistance program funded under a block grant authorized by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA). This cash assistance program replaced the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), which included cash assistance to families of unemployed parents (AFDCU), on January 1, 1997. AFDC/U recipients were automatically eligible for Medicaid. **All counties were phased into the WV WORKS Program by January 1998.**

The emphasis of the PRWORA is on personal responsibility and employment. The focus of WV WORKS is in assisting clients in becoming self-sufficient. Intensive interaction between the client and the Worker is necessary to establish and maintain the Personal Responsibility Contract (PRC) between the Department and the client.

The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 further defined what participation activities count towards meeting the federally-mandated TANF work requirements. This Act defined specific acceptable core activities and the non-core activities that may be used to meet participation requirements over the core hours.

PRWORA prohibited any link between the block grant cash assistance program and automatic Medicaid eligibility. Therefore, only those WV WORKS recipients who **meet eligibility** requirements for Medicaid are eligible.

The purpose of this Chapter is to set forth the specific eligibility requirements that apply only to WV WORKS, **AFDC** Medicaid and AFDC-Related Medicaid. The program to which each section applies is indicated in the title of the section.

15.2 DEFINITION OF A DEPENDENT CHILD

In order to receive cash assistance, AFDC/U Medicaid or AFDC/U-Related Medicaid as a dependent child the following requirements must be met.

A. AGE

1. AFDC Medicaid, AFDC/U-Related Medicaid

Children must be under the age of 18, whether or not they are attending school or training. A child who reaches age 18 on the first day of the month is not eligible for benefits for that month.

However, a child over age 18 may be included in the benefit group when he:

- Is a full-time student in a secondary school, or the equivalent level of vocational or technical training, including summer breaks; and
- Can be reasonably expected to complete the program before reaching age 19; and
- Meets all other eligibility requirements.

Graduation ceremonies need not take place prior to the child's 19th birthday. As long as all courses or training programs are fully completed prior to the child's 19th birthday, the child is eligible.

2. WV WORKS

Children must be under the age of 18, whether or not they are attending school or training. A child who reaches age 18 on the first day of the month is not eligible for benefits for that month.

However, a child over 18 may be included in the benefit group up to age 19 while he:

- Is full-time student in a secondary school, or the equivalent level of vocational or technical training, including summer breaks; and
- Meets all other eligibility requirements.

A child who reaches age 19 on the first day of the month is not eligible for that month.