

Specific WV WORKS Requirements

C. PROVISIONS FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE TIME LIMIT

There are provisions which may allow a family to receive benefits for more than 60 months. There is a limit imposed by the federal government on the percentage of the caseload that is allowed to be exempt from the 60-month requirement.

The limit is 20% of the average monthly number of WV WORKS AG's, minus only the average monthly number of child-only AG's. This number is only valid on a statewide basis. Therefore, the percentage of extensions from county to county may vary greatly.

The Worker must not inform the client that he is, or may be, exempt from the time limit during the 60-month eligibility period, unless written notice of approval has already been received from the 60-Month Extension Committee.

Once an extension is approved, the client must continue to meet the criteria on which the extension was based each month of the extension period. In addition, the individual must be actively engaged in an activity or process designed to further the AG's goal of self-sufficiency, such as pursuing other resources. The Worker may close the case at any time during the extension period when the client fails to follow through on requirements established for receipt of the additional months of WV WORKS. The Worker must continue to monitor the case each month to determine if the client continues to meet the extension criteria identified at the time of the Committee's extension approval. Once the case is closed and the extension ends for failing to meet these requirements, the household is no longer eligible for the extension. The Worker must document the closure and notify the Family Support Policy Unit.

A temporary extension of up to 6 months may be given only once for the adults and emancipated minors in the AG at the time the extension is approved, unless the extension is based wholly or in part on domestic violence. See Battered Or Subjected To Extreme Cruelty below.

All extension requests must be made prior to the first day of the 60th month. Once an AG is closed due to receipt of TANF benefits for 60 months, every application that includes an individual who received benefits as an adult or emancipated minor for 60 months is denied. No extensions are approved after AG closure for this reason.

NOTE: Although the 60-month lifetime limit does not apply to a non-recipient Work-Eligible parent, if another parent is included in the AG, the time limit applies to the adult AG members.

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EXCEPTION: Victims of domestic violence, who meet the criteria in Battered Or Subjected to Extreme Cruelty below, may reapply for WV WORKS after the 60-month closure.