

8.6 NON-DUPLICATION OF BENEFITS

A client may not receive Food Stamp benefits, WV WORKS or Medicaid concurrently in more than one county in West Virginia or more than one state. In addition, he may not receive different types of benefits in more than one county or state at the same time, except as specified below. The possibility of intentional misrepresentation must be explored when it is discovered that the client is receiving benefits of any type in more than one county at the same time. See Common Chapters Manual for procedures involving misrepresentation.

In some cases involving county transfers, different types of benefits may legitimately be received in different counties due to a delay in transferring the case. The Worker must try to avoid this, but the application must not be delayed an unreasonable amount of time.

There are some disqualification penalties for those who intentionally receive duplicate benefits. These vary by program, as follows.

A. FOOD STAMP BENEFITS

An individual, who has made a fraudulent statement or representation about his identity or place of residence in order to receive multiple Food Stamp benefits simultaneously, is ineligible to receive Food Stamp benefits for a 10-year period. The 10-year period begins on the date the client is found guilty in a federal or state court or in an ADH. This applies to multiple benefits received in more than one state or in the same state. Conviction of, or ADH finding of, attempting to receive such multiple benefits carries the same disqualification penalty as actual receipt of the benefits.

B. WV WORKS

An individual who has made a fraudulent statement or representation about his place of residence in order to receive TANF, WV WORKS, Food Stamp benefits, Medicaid or SSI benefits simultaneously from 2 or more states, is ineligible to receive WV WORKS benefits for a 10-year period. The 10-year period begins on the date the individual is convicted in federal or state court. This does not apply when multiple benefits are received in the same state.

C. MEDICAID

There are no disqualification penalties for receipt of duplicate benefits.