

Welcome to WV Works
(also known as TANF)

What is WV Works?

- The purpose of the WV Works program is to provide **temporary** assistance to needy families with children.
- WV Works is a **work-first** program that provides parents with **job preparation, work, and support services** to enable them to leave the program and become self-sufficient.
- Self-sufficient = Living without cash assistance.

What are the time limits for WV Works?

- WV Works has two time limits that are very important:
- **24 months** – If you are not participating for a minimum amount of hours after you have received 24 months of assistance, your case will be closed.
- **60 months** – This is the maximum amount of time you may receive cash assistance anywhere in the United States. Once you reach 60 months of assistance, your cash assistance will stop.

How do I qualify for WV Works?

- Contact your local office to get scheduled for orientation.
- Attend orientation.
- Complete an application with a Family Support Specialist.
- Sign a Personal Responsibility Contract.
- Participate in a Work Activity.
- Complete a Drug Use Screening Questionnaire.

Drug Screening

- All applicants must submit to a mandatory drug screening questionnaire
- Refusal will result in you being ineligible for WV Works
- Possible referrals to Substance Treatment Program and/or Child and Adult Protective Services after a positive test.

Work Activity

- WV Works is a work-first program and each family receiving assistance must participate in a work activity.
- You are required to begin this activity as soon as your benefit is approved or you may face a penalty.

Work Requirements

- If you are an individual under the age of 20 and do not have a high school diploma or a High School Equivalency, your work responsibility is to participate in a mandatory education or vocational training program.
- All individuals 20 or older, and those with a high school diploma or High School Equivalency must start a work activity or attend the proper work related training/education program.
- This is an eligibility requirement
- Your case will be closed if you do not start your required activity when assigned to begin.

How many hours will I have to work?

- Your hours of participation will vary depending on the age of your children and the number of parents in the home.
- A single parent with children under 6 years old will be required to participate for 85 hours per month.
- A single parent with all children over 6 years old will be required to participate for 128 hours per month.
- A two-parent household will be required to participate for 150 hours per month

What if I'm caring for children that are not mine?

- You may be eligible for WV Works as a caretaker if the children are blood relatives.
- You may not have to do the work activity (unless you request to be included in the check).
- Speak to a Family Support Specialist for more information and to see if you are eligible.