

## 24.16 CONTINUATION OF SERVICES

Effective February 2010, any Work Eligible Individual currently in a post-employment option will have their continuation of services period extended for up to 6 additional months. Initial funding for this program extension was under provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. Any individual whose current period of eligibility ended on January 31, 2010 was not eligible for this extension. Effective July 2014, the post-employment period reverted to 6 months. Any individual closed prior to then could still receive up to 12 month continuation of services period. The family may decide at any time during the extension period that they no longer wish to receive the EAP payment, and may not receive PL services instead. The Worker must indicate on the DFA-WVW-15 the total number of months that the family will receive post-employment services.

Beginning January 2008, Work-Eligible Individuals may choose between 2 employment support options any time WV WORKS cash assistance is closed and the participant reports employment-within 10 days of the employment begin date. The closure may be at the client's request or may be due to excess income, but the participant must be employed the required number of hours. See Section A below. When the client accepts employment and the WV WORKS benefit is closed, the Worker advises the client regarding the benefits of each option and the participant chooses the one best suited to the needs of his family. The participant signs the WV WORKS Post-Employment Services Option form, DFA-WVW-15, to document the decision. The participant has 30 days from the date of closure to sign the DFA-WVW-15 to document his decision. The participant is ineligible to receive either option if the form is not returned in this time frame or if the employment is not reported timely. The Case Manager must note which option the individual has chosen in Work Programs comments. The participant receives 1 copy of the form and another is placed into the case record. This participant's decision is binding for the post-employment period. Both options may receive support services and bonuses.

**NOTE:** Both options are considered post-employment supportive services. If an individual reapplies for WV WORKS benefits within 3 months of the last day of the effective month of the closure due to employment, the AG members or non-recipient Work-Eligible are not required to complete another Orientation or PRC.

Option 1 – This option is a continuation of support services and payments any time WV WORKS cash assistance is closed due to employment which meets the requirements outlined below. Services include case management; support service payments; continuation of and payment for activities such as, but not limited to, job search, job readiness, and skills training. Employed former WV WORKS participants must apply to receive continued support service payments, see Section 24.14.

Option 2 – This option is the West Virginia Employment Assistance Program (EAP). This program enables the employed former WV WORKS recipient to continue to receive the TANF payment he received prior to becoming employed by use of a 100% earned income disregard for the EAP period. The family must elect to receive the Employment