

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, Parents/Caretaker Relatives Medicaid And AFDC-Related Medicaid. The program to which each section applies is indicated in the title of the section.