

Annual Report of Sanctions Relating to the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Program

Pursuant to W. Va. Code §9-9-11(e), the Bureau for Children and Families is providing the following information: the number of West Virginia TANF cases which have been closed due to a sanction for non-cooperation with the individual's Personal Responsibility Contract (PRC) and the reapplications of the West Virginia TANF benefit once the sanction period is over.

- **West Virginia's policy for any sanction applied to the TANF benefit on or after April 1, 2016:**
 - 1st sanction: Ineligibility for cash assistance for 1 month
 - 2nd sanction: Ineligibility for cash assistance for 6 months
 - 3rd and subsequent sanctions: Ineligibility for cash assistance for 12 months
-

West Virginia TANF Sanctions from October 1, 2019, to September 30, 2020

- For the month of October 2019, there were 81 closures due to a sanction and 16 reapplications following a sanction. The breakdown of these closures is 54 for the first sanction, 18 for the second sanction, and nine for the third or subsequent sanction.
- For the month of November 2019, there were 66 closures due to a sanction and 11 reapplications following a sanction. The breakdown of these closures is 54 for the first sanction, seven for the second sanction, and five for the third or subsequent sanction.
- For the month of December 2019, there were 62 closures due to a sanction and 15 reapplications following a sanction. The breakdown of these closures is 38 for the first sanction, 14 for the second sanction, and 10 for the third or subsequent sanction.
- For the month of January 2020, there were 72 closures due to a sanction and 21 reapplications following a sanction. The breakdown of these closures is 47 for the first sanction, 14 for the second sanction, and 11 for the third or subsequent sanction.
- For the month of February 2020, there were 58 closures due to a sanction and 10 reapplications following a sanction. The breakdown of these closures is 41 for the first sanction, 12 for the second sanction, and five for the third sanction or subsequent sanction.
- For the month of March 2020, there were 57 closures due to a sanction and 11 reapplications following a sanction. The breakdown of these closures is 44 for the first sanction, eight for the second sanction, and five for the third sanction or subsequent sanction.

- For the month of April 2020, there were 11 closures due to a sanction and 13 reapplications following a sanction. The breakdown of these closures is nine for the first sanction, one for the second sanction, and one for a third or subsequent sanction.
- For the month of May 2020, there were 15 closures due to a sanction and eight reapplications following a sanction. The breakdown of these closures is six for the first sanction, five for the second sanction, and four for the third or subsequent sanction.
- For the month of June 2020, there were 39 closures due to a sanction and four reapplications following a sanction. The breakdown of these closures is 26 for the first sanction, eight for the second sanction, and five for the third or subsequent sanction.
- For the month of July 2020, there were 22 closures due to a sanction and two reapplications following a sanction. The breakdown of these closures is 16 for the first sanction, six for the second sanction, and zero for the third or subsequent sanction.
- For the month of August 2020, there were 35 closures due to a sanction and 11 reapplications following a sanction. The breakdown of these closures is 25 for the first sanction, eight for the second sanction, and two for the third or subsequent sanction.
- For the month of September 2020, there were 26 closures due to a sanction and nine reapplications following a sanction. The breakdown of these closures is 19 for the first sanction, six for the second sanction, and one for the third or subsequent sanction.

TANF Sanctions of Surrounding States

According to the Welfare Rules Databook (as of July 2018):

Kentucky's initial TANF benefit sanction is a pro rata reduction in benefit which continues until the individual is in compliance for 15 days. However, a second conciliation-type process is enacted after three months. (Case Manager judgment may be used to determine whether the client must comply for 2 weeks before regaining benefits.) The most severe sanction is a reduction of the entire TANF benefit until compliance.

Ohio's initial sanction is a reduction of the entire TANF benefit for one month or until compliance, whichever is longer. The most severe sanction is that the assistance group is ineligible for benefits for six months, or until the failure/refusal ceases, whichever is longer. Assistance groups that do not submit signed compliance forms to end the failure/refusal by a specified date will not have benefits reinstated and will be required to reapply.

Maryland's initial sanction is a reduction of the entire TANF benefit until compliance. The most severe sanction is a reduction in the entire TANF benefit until the sanctioned individual complies for 30 days.

Pennsylvania's initial sanction is that the TANF benefit is reduced for one month and until in compliance for one week. The most severe sanction is applied for a minimum of 30 days and until the client demonstrates and maintains compliance for one week. After 90 days, all cash benefits are closed until compliance is maintained for one week.

Virginia's initial sanction is a reduction of the entire TANF benefit for a minimum of one month. The sanction will continue until the client complies. The most severe sanction is a reduction of the entire TANF monthly benefit until compliance or for six months, whichever is longer.