

## TANF Child Only Means Testing Repeal

Effective July 1, 2018, there will no longer be means testing for income eligibility on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) households due to a change in the 2017-2019 Washington State Budget.

What is changing 7/1/2018?

- As of 7/1/2018 there will no longer be means testing for non-needy TANF applications and reviews. This means:
  - Caregivers will no longer need to provide their income verifications at applications or reviews for non-needy TANF and only need to list the child's income on the application if they are not applying for other benefits,
  - TANF grants could increase for caregivers that had income between 200% and 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (this should be automatic for active cases),
  - A letter will be send to households that are getting an increase in benefits prior to the change and
  - Caregivers denied for a child only TANF grant due to the caregiver's income may want to reapply for TANF benefits in mid June for July benefits.

What is not changing?

- There will still be periodic reviews to re-determine eligibility.
- Caregivers must still verify the child's income.
- Caregivers may still need to verify the child is living with them depending on the circumstances.
- Caregivers must still assign their rights to child support to Washington State unless they qualify for good cause. If you are fearful for your safety or the safety of the child(ren), in cases where collecting child support would create an unsafe situation, please discuss this at the interview when applying. If you request good cause you will be referred to a Social Service Specialist to determine if you meet the good cause criteria.
- Caregivers must still report when:
  - They move;
  - The child they are caring for moves out of the home;
  - Anyone related to the child moves into or out of the home;
  - There is a change in the child's income;
  - The child has liquid resources more than four thousand dollars;
  - A child in the home becomes a foster child; or
  - The caregiver legally adopts the recipient child.

It's important to note that on 7/1/2018 all TANF grants should be increasing by 2.5% due to a change in the 2017-2019 Washington State Budget. A letter describing the change will be

mailed to TANF households prior to the change. For additional questions, please contact Sarah Garcia at [roddisl@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:roddisl@dshs.wa.gov).