Virginia Office of Economic Opportunity

CURRENT GUIDELINES FOR UTILIZING TANF FUNDS FOR QUALIFIED HOUSEHOLDS

This information outlines how local Community Action Agencies can utilize Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to serve qualifying households. By leveraging existing immigration status checks from other federal programs, agencies can fast-track certain households for TANF-funded services. Programs that require strict immigration status verification during their own application processes effectively pre-qualify clients for TANF funded services at your agency.

If a client currently receives **any** of the benefits listed below they are automatically cleared from an immigration standpoint to receive services funded by TANF.

> **Important Caveat:** While immigration status is automatically satisfied by these benefits, agencies **must still verify** that the household meets standard TANF programmatic criteria (e.g., income limits and/or the presence of minor children in the home) if required by specific service guidelines.

Approved Categorical Benefit List

Receipt of any of the following programs qualifies the household for TANF-funded services.

- **TANF** (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)
- **SNAP** (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)
- **LIHEAP** (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program)
- **SSI** (Supplemental Security Income)
- **CHIP** (Children's Health Insurance Program)
- **Federal Student Aid** (FAFSA)
- **Public Housing and Section 8**
- **Medicaid** *(Note: Effective starting **October 1, 2026**)**

Citizenship verification must be done through the federal SAVE system which is why those are the accepted eligibility methods.

Funding Allocation & "Gap" Households

Intake staff must carefully route clients who qualify under income guidelines but lack the specific verifications above. Use the following logic rule for funding allocation:

Scenario	Funding Source to Use
Client receives an approved benefit above **AND** meets standard TANF criteria.	**TANF Funds**
Clients are income-eligible for TANF (under 200% of the Federal Poverty Level with children in the home) **BUT does not receive** any of the approved benefits listed above.	**CSBG Funds** (or other flexible non-TANF local funding sources)