

“Mike” Virginia TANF Child Apply SSI – High Family Income

Introduction

Mary is a single mother with three children. The family is living in Virginia and receives Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Mary uses WorkWORLD™ to find out what would happen if her oldest child, Mike, who has been recently diagnosed with bipolar disorder, were to apply for SSI.

Mary sees that WorkWORLD users in Virginia are asked if they want information about the eligibility of their family for TANF. (See **Illustration 1**.)

Illustration 1

QUESTIONS	TANF Child Apply SSI - High Income Family
TANF: Do you want eligibility information about Virginia TANF Benefits?	<input type="text" value="YES"/> <input type="button" value="Okay"/> <input type="button" value="More Info."/>

This question, like all input questions in WorkWORLD, has a "More Info" button. If the WorkWORLD user clicks on the button (or tabs to it and presses <Enter>) a topic pops up explaining the question. (See **Illustration 2**.)

Illustration 2

eligibility information about [Temporary Assistance for Needy Families \(TANF\)](#).' A note box contains the text: 'NOTE: You should always verify WorkWORLD results by contacting the [VA Department of Social Services \(DSS\)](#) before acting on them.'" data-bbox="114 666 875 872"/>

VA Question: TANF Information

Answer YES if you want [eligibility information](#) about [Temporary Assistance for Needy Families \(TANF\)](#).

NOTE: You should always verify WorkWORLD results by contacting the [VA Department of Social Services \(DSS\)](#) before acting on them.

The topic very simply advises users to answer “YES” if they want eligibility information about TANF. And it provides links to more detailed information both about TANF and TANF Eligibility.

The topic also cautions users to verify WorkWORLD's results with the Virginia Department of Social Services (DSS) before acting on them. If users click on the “Virginia DSS” link, a topic will pop up that provides links to the DSS State Office, toll free numbers, and regional and local offices.

Current Situation

Mary’s family currently receives TANF benefits, and she participates in the Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare Program (VIEW), a program of employment opportunities to assist individuals to attain the goal of self-sufficiency. She has begun earning \$1,800 per month through the VIEW program, so she fears that her income would be too high for Mike to be eligible for SSI.

As Mary enters Current Situation information in WorkWORLD, she responds to questions from Mike’s perspective as a dependent child. For example, in response to the question, “How old are you?” Mary selects “Under 18”, and she answers “YES” to the question about “Parental Deeming”. This ensures that WorkWORLD provides outputs based on Mike’s program eligibility options.

After Mary enters all of the information WorkWORLD asks for, she sees the first Text Result (**Illustration 3**).

Illustration 3

TANF Child Apply for SSI

Note - You are Financially Eligible for SSI

You said that you have too much income or financial resources to be eligible for SSI. Your answers to the income and resources questions, however, indicate that if you are otherwise eligible, you are financially eligible. Assuming you are otherwise eligible, you should apply for SSI. You can create a "New Situation" to see what can happen when you are receiving SSI benefits.

[Click here to get more information on 'Note - You are Financially Eligible for SSI'](#)

The “Note” tells Mary that Mike should be financially eligible for SSI, and it suggests that she create a "New Situation" and use it to see what would happen if Mike were to become an SSI recipient. (If she needs more direction on how to proceed, she can click on the link to more information at the bottom of the note.)

Before she does so, however, she looks at the other Text Results. They tell her that the family’s TANF Assistance Unit is currently eligible for TANF, both categorically and financially. Text

Results also tell her how much countable earned and unearned income she has compared to the VIEW income limits. And finally, Text Results show the family's TANF grant amount of \$382/month.

“What-If” 1

Mary then creates a new "What-If" situation in which Mike gets SSI and is no longer included in the TANF Assistance Unit.

First, Mary looks at WorkWORLD Text Results and sees that the rest of the family would still eligible for TANF. She also notes that the TANF grant amount would go from \$382 to \$320, a decrease of \$62.

She takes a look at the Numerical Results for Mike, however, and sees that he would get an SSI check of \$143/month.

NOTE: If Mary's income were lower, less of it would be deemed available to Mike, and his SSI check would be higher.

Thus, the family would experience an \$81 per month net income increase. But even more importantly, WorkWORLD shows that Mike's eligibility for SSI would make it possible for him to begin investing in his future independence by applying for one of the Social Security Administration's (SSA) work incentive programs, the “Plan for Achieving Self Support” (PASS).

Mary sees this very prominent “Recommendation” in the Text Results. It tells her that if they know of training, education, transportation or other expenses that could help Mike become more self-supporting, they might be able to increase Mike's SSI benefit amount by saving or paying for these expenses and including them in a PASS. The “Recommendation” adds that a PASS greater than \$480/month would not further increase Mike's benefit. (See **Illustration 4**.)

Illustration 4

Child get SSI

Recommendation - PASS Possibilities:
 If you know of training, education, transportation or other expenses that could help you to become more self-supporting, you might be able to increase your SSI benefit amount by saving or paying for these expenses and including them in a PASS. (Do not include expenses already included in an IRWE.) A PASS greater than \$480.00 will not further increase your benefit amount. [Note: A PASS can not be greater than your available, non-SSI income, \$500.00.]
[Click here to get more information on 'Recommendation - PASS Possibilities'](#)

After she has clicked on the more information link at the bottom of the “Recommendation”, and has learned that they could save for a vehicle for Mike (so he could eventually get to a job), or computer equipment (so that he could start a home business), or a variety of other "employability investments", she creates a “New Situation” in which Mike has a PASS to set aside and save \$480 per month.

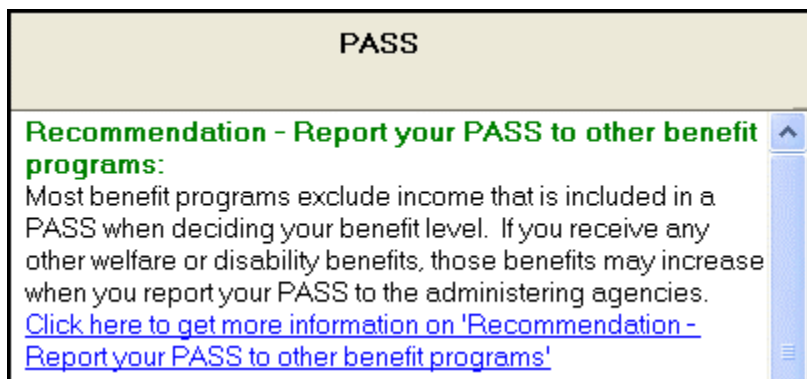
“What-If” 2

Mary opens a “New Situation” column in WorkWORLD and goes to the “Employability Investments” question and changes the response from “NO” to “YES”. This causes new questions to open requiring responses about Mike’s PASS.

Numerical Results show what would happen if Mike had a PASS of \$480/month. Mike's SSI check would go from \$143/month to \$623/month, and Mike would be able to save \$480/month toward his future employment or self-employment.

Finally, Mary sees another PASS-related “Recommendation”. (See **Illustration 5**.)

Illustration 5



The “Recommendation” is to report the PASS to other benefit programs because many programs will not count the increased SSI benefit if it is the result of a PASS.

NOTE: WorkWORLD allows users who have Section 8 housing benefits or Food Stamps to take a PASS into account when calculating those benefits in "What-If" situations.

Conclusion

Mary has used WorkWORLD to discover new possibilities for improving her family’s situation, particularly for her son, Mike. The software has shown that Mike can begin to make a significant investment in his future if he becomes eligible for SSI and gets a PASS approved. Though the family’s TANF grant amount would decrease slightly, family net income would improve, the family’s Assistance Unit would maintain categorical and financial eligibility for TANF benefits, Mary could maintain her current earnings through the TANF VIEW program, and Mike could set aside \$480/month for an employability investment through his PASS.