



State Support for the First Thousand Days After Birth

State Spotlight: West Virginia

Information current as of December 2025.

1. Care Coordination and Pregnancy Support

1.1 Pregnancy Support

Mothers and Babies Pregnancy Support Program

This is West Virginia's Alternatives to Abortion (A2A) Program created by legislative mandate ([HB 2002](#)) in 2023. This program subcontracts with a management agency to manage the program and distribute state funds to pregnancy-help organizations that provide assistance to pregnant women and do not refer for or perform abortions.

1.2 Care Coordination

WV PATH

This is West Virginia's state-run online portal and single location for residents to apply for Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), childcare assistance, child support, etc.

2. Women's Health

2.1 Prenatal and Postpartum Medical Care

West Virginia Family Planning Program

West Virginia's Family Planning Program is a clinic-based program that provides low-income men and women with family planning services for free or at a reduced cost. The program [provides](#) referral services, birth control, STI testing, sterilization, pregnancy testing, testicular exams, counseling, education, and medical services. There is no residency requirement for this program.

2.2 Prenatal and Postpartum Support

WIC Breastfeeding Education

West Virginia's Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides breastfeeding recipients with enhanced food packages compared to the ones given to non-breastfeeding WIC recipients. It also provides peer counselors and lactation consultants.

West Virginia Home Visitation Program

The West Virginia Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health within the Department of Health and Human Services utilizes federal and state funding to administer this home-visitation program for West Virginia families with children. Home visitors educate parents on health pregnancy habits, infant sleeping techniques, breastfeeding, healthy discipline methods, child development, etc. West Virginia's home visitation program utilizes five models:

- [Parents as Teachers](#): This home-visiting program is tailored towards pregnant women and women with children (up to five years old). Child development, positive parenting, child-abuse prevention, and school readiness are the focuses of this particular home-visiting model.
- [Healthy Families America](#): This is a home-visiting program specifically for pregnant women and families with children ages birth to two who have histories of domestic violence, substance abuse, child abuse, and mental health problems.
- [Maternal Infant and Health Outreach Worker \(MIHOW\)](#): This is a home-visiting program specifically geared towards low-income rural families. The program provides educational services on health and child development, healthy lifestyles, and positive parenting.
- [Early Head Start-Home Based Option](#): This model is specifically for vulnerable pregnant women and their child ages birth to three. Early Head Start home visitors educate mothers and families on child development, the benefits of breast feeding, and positive parent-child relationships. The home visitors conduct developmental screenings on children and provide referrals to other social services in the state.
- [Right from the Start](#): This program provides West Virginia Medicaid mothers and their babies (less than one year old) with home-visiting services through Designated Care Coordinators (registered nurses or social workers).

2.3 General Medical Care for Women

Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program (BCCSP)

This program provides free screenings for breast and cervical cancer to underinsured or uninsured women who are at or below 250% of the FPL. Breast-cancer screenings are provided to women ages 40 to 64 years old and cervical-cancer screenings are provided to women ages 21 to 64. Those who are experiencing symptoms of either type of cancer or are high risk and under 40 or over 64 and don't have Medicare Part B can also receive services from this program.

West Virginia Wisewoman Program

This program is an educational cardiovascular health program for Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program (BCCSP) participants (see above) ages 40-64. The program helps women monitor their own blood pressure, maintain a healthy diet, become and remain active, and stop smoking. This program also provides counseling services and screens for heart disease and stroke risk factors.

Adult Vaccine Program

The state of West Virginia provides free pneumonia, Tdap, flu, and shingles vaccines for uninsured adults through county health departments.

Medicaid

Medicaid in West Virginia provides health coverage to eligible West Virginia residents who meet the income guidelines and are U.S. citizens or have satisfactory immigration status. There are various Medicaid programs available in West Virginia for individuals and families, each with their own additional requirements. Below are several groups that are eligible for West Virginia Medicaid.

- Pregnant women: Pregnant women are eligible for full-coverage Medicaid if they meet certain family size and income limits (at or below 190% of the FPL). With the passage of [HB 2266](#) in April 2021 and CMS' subsequent approval of the state's extension request in September 2022, postpartum Medicaid coverage for women was extended from 30 days to one year. and applies to postpartum women enrolled in Medicaid and WVCHIP.
 - o If a woman over 19 years old has an income between 190% and 300% of the FPL, she may be eligible for covered [maternity services through the state's WVCHIP's program](#). Maternity services include medical, pharmacy, dental, vision, behavioral health, and prenatal care.
- Parents and caretakers: Parents with children (under the age of 19) living in their home who also meet resident, citizenship, and income requirements are eligible for full-coverage Medicaid.
- [BCCSP enrollees](#): Those who have received a cancer diagnosis through the state's BCCSP (see above) receive full coverage Medicaid if their income is at or below 250% of the FPL.
- Expansion group: Adults whose income is at or below 138% of the FPL are eligible for full-coverage Medicaid. This coverage group receives their Medicaid coverage through the [West Virginia Health Bridge Alternative Plan](#).

Those who would otherwise be eligible for Medicaid apart from their citizenship status can receive Medicaid coverage for emergency services.

For more information on disability-specific Medicaid programs, see section 6.1, section 7.2 for child-specific Medicaid programs, section 7.4 for adoption-specific Medicaid programs, and 7.5 for foster care-specific programs.

3. Finances, Work, and Education

3.1 Help Paying Bills

Emergency Assistance Program

This program provides financial assistance to families and individuals facing financial crises and is a short-term form of assistance. Assistance can go towards rent, utilities, food, clothing, transportation, medical services, and household supplies. Assistance can be provided for one month a year. Local Department of Human Services offices administer this program.

James “Tiger” Morton Catastrophic Illness Commission

This is a governor-appointed commission that provides last-resort medical assistance to those in dire need of financial assistance during a life-threatening illness. The program is administered by the Department of Human Services and is named after a deceased West Virginia humanitarian who helped West Virginia residents obtain life-saving transplants and financial assistance to pay for their medical care.

West Virginia Other Needs Assistance Program

This program, ONA, provides financial assistance to cover expenses caused by a natural disaster. Assistance can cover medical, dental, and funeral services and the restoration of property, transportation, and moving and storage costs. This is a last-resort program in that those seeking to receive benefits from it must have accepted assistance from all other available assistance programs.

WV Works

This is West Virginia’s Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. It provides monthly cash assistance to eligible low-income families with children to help cover essentials like housing, food, and clothes. This is a “work first” program that helps parents find jobs that will allow them to become self-sufficient and not rely on the program’s cash assistance. The TANF program works with Workforce Development Boards and the West Virginia Bureau of Employment Programs to provide these job training/search services.

Employment Support Options

These assistance options are available to former WV Works recipients with dependent children who had their case closed because they found employment and are no longer income eligible for cash assistance or who chose to close their case because they were employed. Two continuous support options are available that can be chosen from by WV Works participants:

- Support service payments: This option provides up to six months of “support service payments and services” to employed WV Works participants who become employed and are no longer eligible for cash assistance but still at or below 150% of the FPL. Payments and services include transportation, clothing, car repair, car insurance, referrals to childcare agencies or other programs, relocation, etc.

- West Virginia Employment Assistance Program: This option is for former WV Works participants who are employed and are no longer eligible to receive cash assistance or have asked for their WV Works case to be closed because of employment but remain at or below 150% FPL. To be eligible for this a single parent with a child under six must be employed at least 20 hours per week. All other parents must work at least 30 hours per week. This option provides participants with cash assistance benefits for up to six months in the same amount they were receiving prior to becoming employed. The program also provides an additional \$2,000 in cash assistance for vehicle repairs and \$1,000 for vehicle insurance and transportation reimbursement.

3.2 Employment Support

Employment and Training Program

This is SNAP's employment program. It helps West Virginia SNAP participants gain job skills and be placed in high demand jobs. West Virginia's E&T program provides assessment services as well as employment and training activities and supportive services. The program provides adult basic education and high school equivalency classes as well as case-management services and resume writing seminars. Supportive services include the provision of clothes needed for work, transportation assistance, and work and school related supplies. This program can also refer participants to other West Virginia state programs that can provide them with assistance in other areas of their lives.

Employment Subsidy Program (ESP)

ESP is West Virginia's subsidized employment placement program for TANF participants. The program is run by Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) in partnership with TANF staff. WIBs place TANF recipients in full-time private or public subsidized employment for up to 12 months.

3.3 Education and Training

No applicable and/or known programs.

3.4 Financial Advice or Education

No applicable and/or known programs.

4. Material or Legal Support

4.1 Transportation

Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT)

This is a Medicaid benefit that provides Medicaid beneficiaries with transportation to non-emergency medical appointments, counseling appointments, dialysis, etc., that are scheduled five days or more in advance. Urgent medical appointments are also covered by this benefit as well as hospital-discharge rides.

4.2 Food and Nutrition

WIC

This program is funded by the federal government but run by the state. It provides healthy foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education to low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women (up to six months after delivery) and their children (up to age 5) who are at nutritional risk. [Other eligibility requirements include](#) meeting all the following criteria:

- Having a household income at or below 185% of the FPL.
- Being a West Virginia resident.

Families already enrolled in Medicaid, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are automatically income eligible for this program.

SNAP

This program is funded by the federal government but run by the state. It provides supplemental assistance to low-income families for their monthly food budgets. The amount that a family receives in assistance depends on household size and income, and households with elderly or disabled individuals are given larger payments. Eligibility requirements can be found on WV PATH's website and include meeting all the following criteria:

- Being a West Virginia resident and U.S. citizen.
- Meeting household income limits.
- With some exceptions, you must work or participate in the Employment and Training Program.

Special Nutrition Programs

National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program

These federally funded programs are run by the state and provide needy children with free- or reduced-cost breakfast and lunches at participating schools.

- [Afterschool Snack Program](#): This is a component of the federal National School Lunch program and is administered at the state level. The federal government reimburses schools for providing low-income eligible students enrolled in afterschool activities with free- or reduced-cost afterschool snacks.

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

This federally funded program is run by the state and provides reimbursable meals to childcare centers that take care of children through age 18 in lower-income areas.

West Virginia Summer EBT

This program is federally funded and an –income-based program. It gives low-income families a \$120 benefit during the summer to buy food for their children when they are not in school. The

benefits can be used in any store that accepts [Electronic Benefits Transfer \(EBT\)](#) cards. There are two eligibility pathways for this program. The first eligibility pathway is the recipient participates in the National School Lunch Program AND receives other public assistance benefits such as SNAP or TANF OR meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Foster
- Migrant
- Homeless
- Runaway
- Enrolled in a Head Start program
- Submitted a Summer EBT application and meets [federal income requirements](#) for the program

The second eligibility pathway is that the child is a West Virginia resident between the ages of six and 17 and the household receives public benefits such as SNAP.

[Summer Food Service Program](#)

This federally funded program is run by the state. It provides free meals to children 18 or younger in participating communities and day camps.

[Fresh Fruits and Vegetable Program](#)

This is a federally funded program that provides elementary schools with a wider variety of produce than the National School Lunch Program does.

[The Emergency Food Assistance Program \(TEFA\)](#)

TEFAP is a federally funded program that provides states with 100% American-grown foods which are allocated to participating food banks, pantries, and soup kitchens. Low-income individuals and families can then go and receive supplemental food boxes from these entities. These supplemental food boxes contain three to five days' worth of food. Monthly income limits apply.

4.3 Clothing, Household Goods, and Baby Supplies

[School Clothing Assistance Program](#)

This program provides vouchers to families for children to buy clothing appropriate for school [such as](#) pants, skirts, dresses, shoes, coats, winter accessories, and underwear. Purchases using these vouchers are exempt from sales tax. The program is administered by the Bureau for Family Assistance in the Department of Health and Human Services.

4.4 Housing, Shelters, and Maternity Homes

[20% Utility Discount Program](#)

This is a state-funded and run program that provides a 20% discount to eligible participants on their gas, electric (November to March), and water bills (all year). Those enrolled in the state's SNAP or TANF program who are over 60 years of age or a recipient of Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

who are over the age of 18 may be eligible for this program. LIHEAP recipients can also apply for this program (see below).

Foster Youth to Independence Initiative (FYI)

This is a federally funded program that provides housing vouchers to homeless foster youth or youth at risk of homelessness, ages 18-24, who are transitioning out of foster care. The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services and local West Virginia public housing authorities partner to administer this program.

Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers

This federally funded program provides housing vouchers to low-income families, the elderly and the disabled to help them afford safe and sanitary rental properties.

Weatherization Assistance Program

This federally funded state-run program helps low-income individuals and families save money on their utility bills by weatherizing their homes to conserve energy. Examples of funded weatherization practices include insulation of walls/floors/attics and repairing home heating systems and cooling systems. An applicant's family income is considered during the eligibility process and those enrolled in TANF or receiving SSI are automatically income eligible for this program. Priority is given to households with children, disabled individuals, and elderly individuals.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

This federally funded program helps eligible low-income families pay their heating costs through cash payments or payments directly to utility companies. It also can provide a one-time crisis payment to prevent loss of service or to restore service. Eligibility for this program depends on families' income, heating costs, and type of heating payment.

- [Emergency Repair and Replace Program](#): This is a component of the state's LIHEAP program. It provides financial assistance to eligible LIHEAP recipients to replace heating or cooling systems in emergency situations. Eligible households have an income at or below 60% of the state median income. Those seeking a replacement for a cooling system must meet the income guidelines, apply for assistance between May 1 and September 30, and have at least one individual in their household who is five or under, 60 or over, or has a disability.

4.5 Legal Support

No applicable and/or known programs.

5. Recovery and Mental Health

5.1 Addiction Recovery

Jobs & Hope

This is an employment program created by former Gov. Jim Justice and the state legislature. The program offers free technical education, high school equivalency classes and job-search services to help those with substance-abuse disorders secure meaningful employment and become self-sufficient. The program is open to all West Virginians even if they do not have a substance-use disorder.

The Angel Initiative

This is a program offered by the West Virginia State Police that allows those with substance-use disorders to surrender illegal substances in their possession without prosecution or arrest when they voluntarily seek treatment assistance from the State Police. This program was created as a result of the passage of [S.B. 838](#) in 2020.

Family Treatment Courts (FTCs)

FTCs are circuit courts that partner with West Virginia Child Protective Services and substance-abuse treatment providers to provide coordinated substance-abuse treatment services to parents who have lost custody of their children because of their drug use and subsequent neglect or abuse of their children. These courts use more of a family-centered approach to treatment instead of the more punitive model that the courts usually use to speed up the reunification process of parents and children in a safe manner.

Police and Peers Program

This is a grant-funded program that pairs peer recovery support specialists (PRSS) with law enforcement officers responding to non-violent incidents. The PRSS provides overdose reversal and de-escalation services. They also connect the individuals in crisis with substance-use disorder treatment centers, Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Teams, Quick Response Teams, and other social services available in the state.

Drug Free Moms and Babies Program

This wraparound program provides pregnant and postpartum women struggling with substance abuse with prevention, care coordination, screening, intervention, and addiction treatment services as well as medication for opioid-use disorder. The program provides integrated medical and behavioral health services at state funded sites that, in addition to the services listed above, provide referrals to other parenting and child-related social services in the state.

West Virginia Division of Tobacco Prevention (DTP) Quitline

The West Virginia Division of Tobacco Prevention (DTP) operates the state's free hotline telephone service. The hotline is staffed by counselors who help callers quit using tobacco and provide callers with free nicotine replacement therapies. [Furthermore](#), the DTP partners with the state's Office of

Maternal, Child, and Family Health to provide specialized cessation Quitline services to pregnant smokers and women of childbearing age.

5.2 Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Trafficking Recovery

No applicable and/or known programs.

5.3 Mental Health

No applicable and/or known programs.

5.4 Abortion Recovery and Healing

No applicable and/or known programs.

6. Disability Assistance

Birth to Three

This is a free system of services for children aged birth to three with developmental delays or who are at risk of developing a delay. Services included in this program are provided in the child's home or community rather than at a medical office or other care facility. Other eligibility requirements include the child not reaching age-appropriate milestones in one or more areas of development.

[The program](#) educates families on how to teach their child new skills. It supports families and refers them to other social-service programs that supports helping their child develop.

Division of Rehabilitation Services-Adult Services

The West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (WVDRS) provides rehabilitation services to disabled people. The division provides job-search and retention services through vocational rehabilitation counselors. Other services provided by these counselors include career guidance and counseling, diagnostic services, tutoring, assistive technology, and workplace accommodations. The WVDRS can also help pay for vocational training or college. These services are available to adults with issues related to learning, seeing, hearing, communicating, and coping with stress. These same services are also available to students ages 14 and up.

Division of Rehabilitation Services-Specialized Services

WVDRS provides specialized services to blind and deaf children and adults through rehabilitation counselors. The goal of this division is to help disabled West Virginians succeed at meeting their work-related goals. [A brief list of specialized vision services provided by this division includes:](#)

- Travel training.
- Computer literacy and accessing technology.
- Braille instruction.
- Daily living skills training.
- Strategies for coping with vision loss

[A brief list of specialized hearing services provided by this division include:](#)

- Assistive devices.

- Audiological evaluations.
- Interpreter services.
- Telecommunication devices.
- Hearing aids.
- Life skills training.

Division of Rehabilitation Services-Rehabilitation Technology Services

WVDRS provides rehabilitative technology services to disabled West Virginians to help prepare them for work. Services provided by the division include driver rehabilitation services, assistive technology devices, and modifications of workspaces, vehicles, and homes.

Bioptic Driving Training Program

This program allows some West Virginia residents with vision loss (low vision) to obtain a Class G license. Class G licenses allow drivers with low vision to drive during the day using a bioptic lens system, which are eyeglasses fitted with a small telescope.

West Virginia Technology-Related Assistance Revolving Loan Fund

This program provides loans to individuals with disabilities to purchase assistive technology devices. The loans can range from \$500 to \$5,000 depending on how much money it would take to cover 90% of the cost of the needed technology-related device. Loans can have a repayment term of up to five years.

Disability-Specific Medicaid Programs

West Virginia Medicaid offers Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers to individuals who require full, comprehensive coverage and additional long-term support services that allow disabled individuals to live at home instead of in a long-term care facility. West Virginia HCBS waivers include:

- WV Aged and Disabled Waiver: For those 65 and older and those with physical disabilities ages 18-64 who need a nursing facility level of care. Examples of covered services include personal attendant services, home adaptations, and skilled nursing services.
- WV Children with Serious Emotional Disorder Waiver (CSEDW): For those ages 18-21 with a mental illness and those ages 3-17 with serious emotional disturbances that necessitate a hospital level of care. Examples of covered services include family therapy, wraparound support services, and respite care.
- WV Intellectual and Developmental Disability Waiver: For those three and older with intellectual or developmental disabilities who need the level of care provided by an ICF/IID facility. Examples of covered services include dietary therapy, physical therapy, and crisis support services.
- WV Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Waiver: For those three and older with a brain injury that necessitates a nursing facility level of care. Examples of covered services include personal attendant services, home modifications, and case management services.

[Aged, blind, and disabled](#) adults not enrolled in these waivers can also receive full Medicaid coverage if their income meets Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit rate limits. Those who are employed but disabled and have an income at or below 250% of the FPL can receive Medicaid coverage through the state's Medicaid Work Incentive program.

Another disability-specific program covered by West Virginia's Medicaid program is the [Children with Disabilities Community Service](#) program. This program is for children 18 years old and younger with disabilities who want to live at home but qualify for institutional placement in a hospital or intermediate care facility. The program provides full Medicaid coverage and additional program-specific services. The income limit for this program is three times the current federal benefits rate, and there are additional resource limits. In some instances, families will pay a monthly premium, and in others, the program will pay the full cost of the services provided. Some services covered by this program include physical, occupational, and speech therapy, outpatient behavioral health counseling, nursing services, etc.

7. Care for Children

7.1 Childcare

[SB 656 \(2022\)](#)

This legislation, passed in 2022 by former Governor Justice, created a tax credit for West Virginia employers who provide or sponsor childcare facilities for their employees. The tax credit amounts to 50% of the employer's cost of operating or sponsoring the childcare facility.

[West Virginia Child Care Program](#)

This program provides working parents with childcare assistance. Sometimes, parents attending school can also receive this assistance. Certified family-based centers or licensed center-based childcare are both eligible models of care under this program.

[West Virginia Universal Pre-K Program](#)

The state of West Virginia, due to a legislative mandate, requires all county boards of education to develop and maintain pre-k programs within Head Start centers or licensed childcare facilities so that every child in the state has access to a free, high quality pre-kindergarten education.

7.2 Children's Health Care

[Newborn Screening](#)

All infants born in West Virginia hospitals must be tested for [genetic disorders](#) and [Critical Congenital Heart Disease](#). It is important to note that while this program is required, parents pay for these services as a part of the cost to deliver their child.

Newborn Hearing Screening Project

All babies born in West Virginia hospitals must be screened for hearing loss before they are discharged. If the newborn is screened and found to have hearing loss they will be referred to an audiologist. It is important to note that while this program is required, parents pay for these services as a part of the cost to deliver their child

Vaccines for Children

This is a federal program run at the state level that provides participating doctors' offices with free vaccines to administer to West Virginia residents under the age of 19 whose families could otherwise not afford to vaccinate their children. Eligibility requirements include being younger than 19 and one of the following:

- Being an American Indian or Alaska Native.
- Being Medicaid-eligible.
- Being uninsured
- Being underinsured

Medicaid for Children

West Virginia residents under 19 can qualify for full-coverage Medicaid if they meet citizen or immigration requirements, as well as income [requirements](#). The income of all people (such as a legal parent or stepparent) included in "family size" is counted. The income limit for children aged zero to one is at or below 163% of the FPL, at or below 146% of the FPL for children aged one to six, and at or below 138% of the FPL for children aged six through 18.

West Virginia's Early Period Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit (otherwise known as [HealthCheck](#)) provides health coverage for well-child visits and diagnostic screenings for all children from birth to age 21 with actual or potential health issues, who are enrolled in Medicaid. This mandated Medicaid benefit screens children with actual or potential health problems to treat them before they become permanent disabilities. Preventive health services are also available to Medicaid-eligible children under age 21.

WVCHIP

The West Virginia Children's Health Insurance Program (WVCHIP) provides health insurance coverage to children whose families make too much money to qualify for Medicaid but not enough to pay for private insurance. It is for children 18 and younger who don't have private insurance and are West Virginia residents and U.S. citizens. The [income limits](#) for this program depend on what variation of the WVCHIP program children are enrolled in. The three variations include the Gold, Blue, and Premium plans. The amount of the co-pays, fees, etc. that parents must pay for their child's services depends on the plan their child is enrolled in.

Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN)

This program provides children with chronic health conditions with medical care (related to their diagnosis) and care coordination services. Examples of medical services covered by this program include lab tests, x-rays, physical therapy, hearing aids, surgery, etc. Children can be enrolled in Medicaid, CHIP, or private insurance and still be enrolled in this program. This program does not

provide or cover routine pediatric or primary care visits. Eligibility requirements include meeting all the following requirements:

- Being a West Virginia resident.
- Being a U.S. citizen.
- Having an eligible medical diagnosis (some examples include heart conditions, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, etc.).
- Being under the age of 21.
- Meeting income limits
- Benefits from other insurance sources must be used first before CSHCN benefits are used.

7.3 Family and Parenting Education

Family Support Centers

West Virginia's network of family support centers offers pregnant and parenting families support, education, peer groups, after-school activities, and more. All families are eligible, and services are not restricted based on income.

Safe at Home West Virginia

This is a state funded and run program that helps families keep children with behavioral health issues at home and out of the foster care system. The program utilizes a wraparound service model. Children involved in this program must be ages 5 to 18 and either in the foster care system or at risk of being placed in it. This program is also available to adopted children, five and older, who are at risk of having their adoption disrupted. Lastly, families must need help with discipline techniques, managing family stress, and education on their treatment options for their child.

West Virginia Head Start and Early Head Start

This is a federally funded program that coordinates with services sites to educate low-income parents of children aged birth to five on child development and school readiness. Head Start typically serves children between three and five, and Early Head Start serves infants, toddlers, and pregnant women. The program is free to low-income families at or below federal [poverty guidelines](#). Children whose families receive public assistance, are in foster care, or are experiencing homelessness are also eligible regardless of income. The state's Head Start program is administered by the federally funded West Virginia Head Start Collaboration Office.

7.4 Adoption

Adoption Assistance

This program provides financial and medical assistance to adoptive families of children with special needs. Special needs in the context of this program mean adoptive children who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Have a physical or mental disability
- Have an emotional disturbance
- Are older children

- Are part of a sibling group
- Are a member of a racial or ethnic minority

Financial forms of adoption assistance include monthly maintenance payments, non-recurring adoption expense subsidies, and conditional subsidies.

Medicaid

The [Mountain Health Promise Specialized Managed Care Program for Children and Youth](#) provides children in foster, kinship, and adoptive care with Medicaid. In addition to receiving full Medicaid benefits, recipients also receive specialized social services tailored to the specific needs of adoptive, foster, and kinship care children. Children enrolled in the Children With Serious Emotional Disorder Waiver ([CSEDW](#)) are automatically enrolled in this managed care program. Whether one receives federal Title IV-E adoption or foster care assistance [is not considered](#) in the eligibility determination process for these eligibility groups in West Virginia.

Adoption Tax Credit

West Virginia provides adoptive families with a \$5,000 tax credit to be used for qualified expenses related to nonfamily adoptions. The tax credit can be taken all at once or over the span of three years. Such expenses can cover procedural and legal fees. The tax credit was increased from \$4,000 to \$5,000 because of the passage of HB2002 in 2023.

7.5 Foster, Kinship, and Short-term Care

Medicaid

In West Virginia if a child aged out of foster care and was enrolled in Medicaid at the time of aging out, they are eligible for Medicaid until they turn 26.

Transitional Living for Vulnerable Youth (TLVY)

Young adults, ages 17 to 21, who are transitioning out of foster care and who need assistance in learning to live independently are served by TLVY program. TLVY group homes provide young adults with support and community-based services.

Independent Living Subsidies

The West Virginia Department of Human Services provides subsidies to foster youth transitioning out of the foster care system with financial assistance, money management training, and employment coaching so that they can successfully live independently once transitioning out of the foster care system. To be eligible for these subsidies, the transitioning foster youth must either be working 80+ hours a month or attending an academic, vocational, or employment program; be looking for a job; or have a documented disability that prevents them from participating in these activities.

Education and Training Vouchers

These are federal vouchers administered by the state and are given to foster youth aging out of the system, who are pursuing higher education or an employment training program.

7.6 Safe Haven and/or Baby Boxes

Safe Haven Law

West Virginia's Safe Haven law allows parents to surrender newborn infants younger than 30 days old to designated facilities. Designated facilities include hospitals, health care facilities, or fire departments.

This is a non-exhaustive list of programs, current as of January 2026, intended to make information easily accessible to moms and families. Program details are subject to change. Readers should always consult with the appropriate state agency for the most accurate and recent information. The information in this summary is for educational purposes only. CLI does not take a position on the merits of any specific program.

This document was compiled by Mia Steupert, Elyse Gaitan, and Tessa Cox.