

Department of Social and Health Services

Olympia, Washington

EAZ Manual

Revision # 698

Category Income-Effect of income on Eligibility and Benefit Level

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Summary

The department is amending WAC 388-450-0185 “What income deductions does the department allow when determining if I am eligible for food benefits and the amount of my monthly benefits?” This rule is necessary to exercise an option from the 2002 Farm Bill to treat child support payments made to someone outside of the home as an income exclusion prior to administering the gross income test. This change will enhance the Division of Child Support’s mission to collect child support and will enhance Community Services Division’s mission to assist low income families to access the Basic Food program.

Effective November 15, 2009:

WAC 388-450-0185 What income deductions does the department allow when determining if I am eligible for food benefits and the amount of my monthly benefits?

We determine if your assistance unit (AU) is eligible for Basic Food and calculate your monthly benefits according to requirements of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and federal regulations related to the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP).

These federal laws allow us to subtract **only** the following amounts from your AU's total monthly income to determine your countable monthly income under WAC 388-450-0162:

1. A standard deduction based on the number of people in your AU under [WAC 388-408-0035](#):

Eligible and ineligible AU members	Standard deduction
1	\$141
2	\$141
3	\$141
4	\$153
5	\$179
6 or more	\$205

2. Twenty percent of your AU's gross earned income (earned income deduction);
3. Your AU's expected monthly dependent care expense needed for an AU member to:
 - a. Keep work, look for work, or accept work;
 - b. Attend training or education to prepare for employment; or
 - c. Meet employment and training requirements under [chapter 388-444 WAC](#).
4. Medical expenses over thirty-five dollars a month owed or anticipated by an elderly or disabled person in your AU as allowed under [WAC 388-450-0200](#).
5. A portion of your shelter costs as described in [WAC 388-450-0190](#)