

**WAC 388-450-0162 How does the department count my income to determine if my assistance unit is eligible and how does the department calculate the amount of my cash and basic food benefits?** (1) Countable income is all income your assistance unit (AU) has after we subtract the following:

(a) Excluded or disregarded income under WAC 388-450-0015;  
(b) For **cash assistance**, earned income incentives and deductions allowed for specific programs under WAC 388-450-0170, 388-450-0177, and 388-450-0178;

(c) For **basic food**, deductions allowed under WAC 388-450-0185; and  
(d) Income we allocate to someone outside of the assistance unit under WAC 388-450-0095 through 388-450-0160.

(2) Countable income includes all income that we must deem or allocate from financially responsible persons who are not members of your AU under WAC 388-450-0095 through 388-450-0160.

(a) If the children in your care qualify for a TANF/SFA grant, the child's income is budgeted against the child-only payment standard amount.

(b) If the children in your care do not qualify for a TANF/SFA grant, they may still qualify for medical assistance under WAC 182-505-0210.

(3) For **cash assistance**:

(a) We compare your countable income to the payment standard in WAC 388-478-0020 and 388-478-0033.

(b) You are not eligible for benefits when your AU's countable income is equal to or greater than the payment standard.

(c) Your benefit level is the payment standard minus your AU's countable income.

(4) For **basic food**, if you meet all other eligibility requirements for the program under WAC 388-400-0040, we determine if you meet the income requirements for benefits and calculate your AU's monthly benefits as specified under Title 7 Part 273 of code of federal regulations for the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP). The process is described in brief below:

(a) How we determine if your AU is income eligible for basic food:

(i) We compare your AU's total monthly income to the gross monthly income standard under WAC 388-478-0060. We don't use income that isn't counted under WAC 388-450-0015 as a part of your gross monthly income.

(ii) We then compare your AU's countable monthly income to the net income standard under WAC 388-478-0060.

(A) If your AU is categorically eligible for basic food under WAC 388-414-0001, your AU can have income over the gross or net income standard and still be eligible for benefits.

(B) If your AU includes a person who is 60 years of age or older or has a disability, your AU can have income over the gross income standard, but must have income under the net income standard to be eligible for benefits.

(C) **All other AUs** must have income at or below the gross and net income standards as required under WAC 388-478-0060 to be eligible for basic food.

(b) How we calculate your AU's monthly basic food benefits:

(i) We start with the maximum allotment for your AU under WAC 388-478-0060.

(ii) We then subtract 30% of your AU's countable income from the maximum allotment and round the benefit down to the next whole dollar to determine your monthly benefit.

(iii) If your AU is eligible for benefits and has one or two persons, your AU will receive at least the minimum allotment as described under WAC 388-412-0015, even if the monthly benefit we calculate is lower than the minimum allotment.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.005, 74.08.283, and 2023 c 475. WSR 24-05-032, § 388-450-0162, filed 2/13/24, effective 4/1/24. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.510, 74.08.090, 74.08A.010, 74.08A.250 and 2017 c 20. WSR 18-09-017, § 388-450-0162, filed 4/10/18, effective 7/1/18. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.510, 74.08.090, and 74.08A.010. WSR 14-20-042, § 388-450-0162, filed 9/24/14, effective 11/1/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.005, 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.510, 74.08.090, 2011 1st sp.s. c 42, and 2011 1st sp.s. c 36. WSR 12-04-051, § 388-450-0162, filed 1/30/12, effective 3/1/12. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.510, 74.08.090, 74.08A.120, and Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, Title 7 Part 273 of the C.F.R. WSR 09-07-054, § 388-450-0162, filed 3/11/09, effective 4/11/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.08.090, and 7 C.F.R. 273.9 and 273.10. WSR 08-15-009, § 388-450-0162, filed 7/3/08, effective 8/3/08. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.08.090 and 74.04.510. WSR 99-24-008, § 388-450-0162, filed 11/19/99, effective 1/1/00.]