

WAC 388-450-0215 How does the department estimate my assistance unit's income to determine my eligibility and benefits? (1) We decide if your assistance unit (AU) is eligible for benefits and calculate your monthly benefits based on an estimate of your AU's gross monthly income and expenses. This is known as prospective budgeting.

(2) We use your current, past, and future circumstances for a representative estimate of your monthly income.

(3) We may need proof of your circumstances to ensure our estimate is reasonable. This may include documents, statements from other people, or other proof as explained in WAC 388-490-0005.

(4) We use one of two methods to estimate income:

(a) **Anticipating monthly income (AM):** With this method, we base the estimate on the actual income we expect your AU to receive in the month, as described in subsection (5) of this section; or

(b) **Averaging income (CA):** With this method, we add the total income we expect your AU to receive for a period of time and divide by the number of months in the period, as described in subsection (6) of this section.

(5) Anticipating monthly income: We must use the anticipating monthly method:

(a) When we estimate income for anyone in your AU, if you or anyone in your AU receive SSI-related medical benefits under chapter 182-512 WAC.

(b) When we must allocate income to someone who is receiving SSI-related medical benefits under chapter 182-512 WAC.

(c) In the month of application, when you are a destitute migrant or destitute seasonal farmworker under WAC 388-406-0021. In this situation, we must use anticipating monthly (AM) for all your AU's income.

(d) To budget SSI or Social Security benefits even if we average other sources of income your AU receives.

(6) Averaging income: When we average your income, we consider changes we expect for your AU's income. We determine a monthly amount of your income based on how often you are paid:

(a) If you are paid weekly, we multiply your expected income by 4.3;

(b) If you are paid every other week, we multiply your expected income by 2.15;

(c) In most cases if you receive your income other than weekly or every other week, we estimate your income over your certification period by:

(i) Adding the total income for representative period of time;

(ii) Dividing by the number of months in the time frame; and

(iii) Using the result as a monthly average.

(d) If you receive your yearly income over less than a year because you are self-employed or work under a contract, we average this income over the year unless you are:

(i) Paid on an hourly or piecework basis; or

(ii) A migrant or seasonal farmworker under WAC 388-406-0021.

(7) We use the same method for each month in your certification period, including the month of application, unless:

(a) A full month's income is not anticipated in the month of application. In this situation, we budget your income in the month of application using the anticipated monthly (AM) method and average your income (CA) for the rest of the months in your certification.

(b) You are a destitute migrant or destitute seasonal farmworker. We must budget your income in the month of application using the an-

ticipated monthly method, as required by subsection (5) of this section. We may average your income for the rest of the months in your certification period.

(8) If you report a change in your AU's income, and we expect the change to last through the end of the next month after you reported it, we update the estimate of your AU's income based on this change.

(9) If your actual income is different than the income we estimated, we don't make you repay an overpayment under chapter 388-410 WAC or increase your benefits unless you meet one of the following conditions:

- (a) You provided incomplete or false information; or
- (b) We made an error in calculating your benefits.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.500, 74.04.510, 74.08.090, and 74.08A.120. WSR 17-21-025, § 388-450-0215, filed 10/10/17, effective 11/10/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.500, 74.04.510, 74.08.090, 74.08A.120, and 2011 1st sp.s. c 15. WSR 13-18-007, § 388-450-0215, filed 8/22/13, effective 10/1/13. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.500, 74.04.510, 74.08.090, and 74.08A.120. WSR 11-11-089, § 388-450-0215, filed 5/18/11, effective 6/18/11. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.057, and 74.08.090, and Apple Health for Kids Act (ESHB 2128); 42 U.S.C. 1305; Public Law 111-3 (Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009). WSR 11-03-001, § 388-450-0215, filed 1/5/11, effective 2/5/11. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.510, and 74.08.090. WSR 08-02-054, § 388-450-0215, filed 12/28/07, effective 2/1/08; WSR 05-16-109, § 388-450-0215, filed 8/2/05, effective 10/1/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.510. WSR 04-06-052, § 388-450-0215, filed 3/1/04, effective 4/1/04; WSR 03-21-029, § 388-450-0215, filed 10/7/03, effective 11/1/03. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.08.090 and 74.04.510. WSR 99-23-083, § 388-450-0215, filed 11/16/99, effective 1/1/00; WSR 99-16-024, § 388-450-0215, filed 7/26/99, effective 9/1/99. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057 and 74.08.090. WSR 98-16-044, § 388-450-0215, filed 7/31/98, effective 9/1/98. Formerly WAC 388-505-0590.]