

Chapter 388-400 WAC

PROGRAM SUMMARY

WAC

- 388-400-0005 Who is eligible for temporary assistance for needy families?
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- 388-400-0030 Who is eligible for refugee cash assistance?
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- 388-400-0040 Am I eligible for benefits through the Washington Basic Food program?

**DISPOSITION OF SECTIONS FORMERLY
CODIFIED IN THIS CHAPTER**

- 388-400-0015 General assistance for children—Summary of eligibility requirements. [Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057 and 74.08.090. 98-16-044, § 388-400-0015, filed 7/31/98, effective 9/1/98.] Repealed by 01-03-121, filed 1/22/01, effective 3/1/01. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.057, 2000 2nd sp.s. c 1.
- 388-400-0020 General assistance for pregnant women—General eligibility requirements. [Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.005, 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057 and 74.08.090. 99-08-050, § 388-400-0020, filed 4/1/99, effective 5/2/99. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057 and 74.08.090. 98-16-044, § 388-400-0020, filed 7/31/98, effective 9/1/98.] Repealed by 01-07-001, filed 3/7/01, effective 5/1/01. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.057.
- 388-400-0045 If I am not eligible for federal benefits through Washington Basic Food program because of my alien status, can I receive state-funded Basic Food? [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. 09-07-054, § 388-400-0045, filed 3/11/09, effective 4/11/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, and 74.04.510. 03-05-028, § 388-400-0045, filed 2/10/03, effective 4/1/03. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057 and 74.08.090. 98-16-044, § 388-400-0045, filed 7/31/98, effective 9/1/98.] Repealed by 11-02-035, filed 12/29/10, effective 2/1/11. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.500, 74.04.510, 74.08.090, and 74.08A.120.

WAC 388-400-0005 Who is eligible for temporary assistance for needy families? (1) You can get temporary assistance for needy families (TANF), if you:

- (a) Can be in a TANF/SFA assistance unit as allowed under WAC 388-408-0015 through 388-408-0030;
 - (b) Meet the citizenship/alien status requirements of WAC 388-424-0010;
 - (c) Live in the state of Washington. A child must live with a caretaker relative, guardian, or custodian who meets the state residency requirements of WAC 388-468-0005;
 - (d) Do not live in a public institution unless specifically allowed under RCW 74.08.025;
 - (e) Meet TANF/SFA:
 - (i) Income requirements under chapter 388-450 WAC;
 - (ii) Resource requirements under chapter 388-470 WAC;
- and
- (iii) Transfer of property requirements under chapter 388-488 WAC.

(f) Assign your rights to child support as required under WAC 388-422-0005;

(g) Cooperate with the division of child support (DCS) as required under WAC 388-422-0010 by helping them:

(i) Prove who is the father of children applying for or getting TANF or SFA; and

(ii) Collect child support.

(h) Tell us your Social Security number as required under WAC 388-476-0005;

(i) Cooperate in a review of your eligibility as required under WAC 388-434-0005;

(j) Cooperate in a quality assurance review as required under WAC 388-464-0001;

(k) Participate in the WorkFirst program as required under chapter 388-310 WAC;

(l) Report changes of circumstances as required under WAC 388-418-0005; and

(m) Complete a mid-certification review and provide proof of any changes as required under WAC 388-418-0011.

(2) If you are an adult, you must have an eligible child living with you or you must be pregnant and meet the requirements of WAC 388-462-0010.

(3) If you are an unmarried pregnant teen or teen parent:

(a) Your living arrangements must meet the requirements of WAC 388-486-0005; and

(b) You must attend school as required under WAC 388-486-0010.

(4) In addition to rules listed in subsection (1) of this section, a child must meet the following rules to get TANF:

(a) Meet the age requirements under WAC 388-404-0005; and

(b) Live in the home of a relative, court-ordered guardian, court-ordered custodian, or other adult acting *in loco parentis* as required under WAC 388-454-0005; or

(c) If the child lives with a parent or other adult relative that provides care for the child, that adult cannot have used up their sixty-month lifetime limit of TANF or SFA cash benefits as defined in WAC 388-484-0005; or

(d) If the child lives with a parent who provides care for the child, that adult cannot have been permanently disqualified from receiving TANF/SFA due to noncompliance sanction as defined in WAC 388-310-1600.

(5) You cannot get TANF if you have been:

(a) Convicted of certain felonies and other crimes under WAC 388-442-0010; or

(b) Convicted of unlawful practices to get public assistance under WAC 388-446-0005 or 388-446-0010.

(6) If you are a client in a household which is eligible for a tribal TANF program, you cannot receive state and tribal TANF in the same month.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.08.025, 74.08.090, chapters 74.08A and 74.12 RCW, and 2011 c 42. 11-22-042, § 388-400-0005, filed 10/27/11, effective 12/1/11. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.510, 74.08.090. 06-13-043, § 388-

400-0005, filed 6/15/06, effective 7/17/06. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.08.090. 05-14-100, § 388-400-0005, filed 6/30/05, effective 7/31/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.510 and 2004 c 54. 04-23-027, § 388-400-0005, filed 11/8/04, effective 12/9/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.08.090. 04-15-057, § 388-400-0005, filed 7/13/04, effective 8/13/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.057, 2000 2nd sp.s. c 1. 01-03-121, § 388-400-0005, filed 1/22/01, effective 3/1/01. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.08.090, and 74.04.510. 00-05-007, § 388-400-0005, filed 2/4/00, effective 3/6/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057 and 74.08.090. 98-16-044, § 388-400-0005, filed 7/31/98, effective 9/1/98.]

WAC 388-400-0010 Who is eligible for state family assistance? (1) To be eligible for state family assistance (SFA), aliens must meet Washington state residency requirements as listed in WAC 388-468-0005 and immigrant eligibility requirements as listed in WAC 388-424-0015.

(2) You are eligible for SFA if you are not eligible for temporary assistance for needy families for the following reasons:

(a) You are a qualified alien and have been in the United States for less than five years as described in WAC 388-424-0006;

(b) You are a nonqualified alien as defined in WAC 388-424-0001, who meets the Washington state residency requirements as listed in WAC 388-468-0005;

(c) You are a nineteen or twenty-year-old student that meets the education requirements of WAC 388-404-0005;

(d) You are a caretaker relative of a nineteen or twenty-year-old student that meets the education requirements of WAC 388-404-0005; or

(e) You are a pregnant woman who has been convicted of misrepresenting their residence in order to receive benefits from two or more states at the same time.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.057, and 74.08.090. 11-16-056, § 388-400-0010, filed 7/29/11, effective 8/29/11. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.08.025, 74.08.090 and 21 U.S.C. 862a (d)(1)(A). 05-21-100, § 388-400-0010, filed 10/18/05, effective 11/18/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.08.090. 04-15-057, § 388-400-0010, filed 7/13/04, effective 8/13/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.08.090, and 74.04.510. 00-05-007, § 388-400-0010, filed 2/4/00, effective 3/6/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057 and 74.08.090. 98-16-044, § 388-400-0010, filed 7/31/98, effective 9/1/98.]

WAC 388-400-0025 Who is eligible for disability lifetime benefits? (1) Effective March 29, 2010, the "general assistance" program was replaced by "disability lifeline." Any reference in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) to general assistance also applies to disability lifeline.

(2) You are eligible for disability lifeline (DL) benefits if you:

(a) Are pregnant as verified by a medical statement or incapacitated as required under WAC 388-448-0001 through 388-448-0120;

(b) Are at least eighteen years old or, if under eighteen, a member of a married couple;

(c) Are in financial need according to DL income and resource rules in chapters 388-450, 388-470 and 388-488 WAC. We determine who is in your assistance unit according to WAC 388-408-0010;

(d) Meet the disability lifeline citizenship/alien status requirements under WAC 388-424-0015(2);

(e) Provide a Social Security number as required under WAC 388-476-0005;

(f) Reside in the state of Washington as required under WAC 388-468-0005;

(g) Undergo referrals for assessment, treatment, or to other agencies as provided under WAC 388-448-0130 through 388-448-0150;

(h) Sign an interim assistance reimbursement authorization to agree to repay the monetary value of general assistance or disability lifeline benefits subsequently duplicated by Supplemental Security Income benefits as described under WAC 388-448-0200, 388-448-0210 and 388-474-0020;

(i) Report changes of circumstances as required under WAC 388-418-0005; and

(j) Complete a mid-certification review and provide proof of any changes as required under WAC 388-418-0011.

(3) You aren't eligible for disability lifeline benefits if you:

(a) Have received general assistance or disability lifeline benefits for more than the maximum number of months as defined in WAC 388-448-0250.

(b) Are eligible for temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) benefits.

(c) Are eligible for state family assistance (SFA) benefits.

(d) Refuse or fail to meet a TANF or SFA eligibility rule.

(e) Refuse or fail to participate in drug or alcohol treatment as required in WAC 388-448-0220.

(f) Are eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.

(g) Are an ineligible spouse of an SSI recipient.

(h) Failed to follow a Social Security Administration (SSA) program rule or application requirement and SSA denied or terminated your benefits.

(4) If you reside in a public institution and meet all other requirements, your eligibility for DL depends on the type of institution. A "public institution" is an institution that is supported by public funds, and a governmental unit either is responsible for it or exercises administrative control over it.

(a) You may be eligible for disability lifeline if you are:

(i) A patient in a public medical institution; or

(ii) A patient in a public mental institution and:

(A) Sixty-five years of age or older; or

(B) Twenty years of age or younger.

(b) You aren't eligible for DL when you are in the custody of or confined in a public institution such as a state penitentiary or county jail including placement:

(i) In a work release program; or

(ii) Outside of the institution including home detention.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.005, 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.08.090. 11-12-044, § 388-400-0025, filed 5/26/11, effective 6/8/11. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.005, 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.51 [74.04.510], 74.08.090, 74.08A.100, 74.04.770, 74.04.0005 [74.04.005], and 2010 c 8. 10-16-096, § 388-400-0025, filed 7/30/10, effective 9/1/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.510, 74.08.090. 06-13-043, § 388-400-0025, filed 6/15/06, effective 7/17/06. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.510 and 2004 c 54. 04-23-027, § 388-400-0025, filed 11/8/04, effective 12/9/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.08.090. 04-15-057, § 388-400-0025, filed 7/13/04, effective 8/13/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.057, 74.08.090. 00-15-017, § 388-400-0025, filed 7/10/00, effective 9/1/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050,

74.04.055, 74.04.057 and 74.08.090. 98-16-044, § 388-400-0025, filed 7/31/98, effective 9/1/98.]

WAC 388-400-0030 Who is eligible for refugee cash assistance? (1) To be eligible for refugee cash assistance (RCA), you must:

(a) Provide the name of the voluntary agency (VOLAG) which resettled you;

(b) Meet the immigration status requirements of WAC 388-466-0005;

(c) Meet employment and training requirements of WAC 388-466-0150;

(d) Meet income and resource requirements of WAC 388-466-0140; and

(e) Report changes of circumstances as required under WAC 388-418-0005.

(2) You are not eligible to receive RCA if you:

(a) Are eligible for temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) or Supplemental Security Income;

(b) Have been denied TANF or have been terminated from TANF due to intentional noncompliance with TANF eligibility requirements; or

(c) Are a full-time student in an institution of higher education.

(3) We determine your eligibility and benefit level for RCA using the TANF payment standards under WAC 388-478-0020.

(4) If you are eligible for RCA you may also be eligible for additional requirements for emergent needs under WAC 388-436-0002.

(5) If you meet the requirements of this section you are eligible for refugee cash assistance only during the eight-month period beginning in the first month you entered the United States (WAC 388-466-0120).

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 04-19-135, § 388-400-0030, filed 9/21/04, effective 10/22/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.08.090, 74.04.050, 74.08A.320, and 7 C.F.R. § 400.65, § 400.66, § 400.67, § 400.68, and § 400.69. 02-09-051, § 388-400-0030, filed 4/12/02, effective 5/13/02. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, and 74.08.090. 01-06-031, § 388-400-0030, filed 3/2/01, effective 4/1/01; 98-16-044, § 388-400-0030, filed 7/31/98, effective 9/1/98.]

WAC 388-400-0035 Refugee medical assistance—Summary of eligibility requirements. (1) To be eligible for refugee medical assistance (RMA), you must:

(a) Provide the name of the voluntary agency (VOLAG) which resettled you;

(b) Meet the immigration status requirements of WAC 388-466-0005;

(c) Meet monthly income standards up to two hundred percent of federal poverty level (FPL). Spenddown is available for applicants whose income exceeds two hundred percent of FPL (see WAC 388-519-0110);

(d) Receive refugee cash assistance (RCA); or

(e) Be eligible for, but choose not to apply for or receive RCA.

(2) You are not eligible to receive RMA if you are:

(a) Eligible for medicaid; or

(b) A full-time student in institution of higher education unless the educational activity is part of a department-approved employability plan.

(3) Refugee families, including families with children who are United States citizens, are treated as single assistance units according to chapter 388-408 WAC.

(4) If you are meeting the requirements of this section, you are eligible for RMA only during the eight-month period beginning in the first month you entered the United States (see WAC 388-466-0130).

(5) A recipient of RMA whose earned income goes above the income standard remains eligible for RMA benefits until the end of the RMA eligibility period.

(6) A refugee recipient of medicaid, whose eligibility ended due to excess earned income, is transferred to RMA without eligibility determination for the remainder of the RMA eligibility period.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.08.090, 74.04.050, 74.08A.320, and 74.20A.310. 01-13-046, § 388-400-0035, filed 6/14/01, effective 7/1/01. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057 and 74.08.090. 98-16-044, § 388-400-0035, filed 7/31/98, effective 9/1/98.]

WAC 388-400-0040 Am I eligible for benefits through the Washington Basic Food program? The Washington Basic Food program (Basic Food) is a nutrition program to help low-income individuals and families buy food. This rule is a summary of the rules for Basic Food.

(1) When you apply for Basic Food, we decide who is in your assistance unit (AU) based on the requirements under WAC 388-408-0034 and 388-408-0035.

(2) To be eligible for Basic Food benefits, your AU must meet the eligibility requirements for the federal supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) including:

(a) The most current version of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008;

(b) Federal regulations adopted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) related to SNAP; and

(c) Standards FNS publishes each year for income limits, resource limits, income deductions, and benefit amounts for SNAP.

(3) To be eligible for Basic Food benefits, each AU member must:

(a) Meet the citizenship or alien status requirements for Basic Food benefits as described under WAC 388-424-0020.

(b) Be a resident of the state of Washington as required under WAC 388-468-0005;

(c) Give us their Social Security number as required under WAC 388-476-0005;

(d) Give us proof of identity as required under WAC 388-490-0005;

(e) Participate in the Basic Food employment and training program (BFE&T) if required under chapter 388-444 WAC; and

(f) Meet the eligibility criteria for strikers as described under WAC 388-480-0001.

(4) To be eligible for Basic Food, your AU must:

(a) Have total monthly income before taxes and deductions at or under 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 part of your AU's gross monthly income;

(b) Have net income at or under the net monthly income standard under WAC 388-478-0060. We subtract deductions

allowed under WAC 388-450-0185 to determine your AU's net monthly income.

(c) Have resources we must count under WAC 388-470-0055 that are at or below your AU's resource limit under WAC 388-470-0005;

(d) Report changes of circumstances as required under WAC 388-418-0005; and

(e) Complete a mid-certification review and provide proof of any changes if required under WAC 388-418-0011.

(5) 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 have resources over the resource limit and still be eligible for benefits.

(6) If your AU has income at or under the gross income standard or is categorically eligible for Basic Food, we determine if you are eligible for Basic Food and calculate your monthly benefits as described under WAC 388-450-0162.

(7) If an eligible person in your AU is elderly or disabled, some rules may help your AU to be eligible for Basic Food or to receive more Basic Food benefits. These include:

(a) Resources limits and excluding certain resources under chapter 388-470 WAC;

(b) An excess shelter deduction over the limit set for AUs without an elderly or disabled individual under WAC 388-450-0190;

(c) A deduction for a portion of the out-of-pocket medical expenses for the elderly or disabled individual as described under WAC 388-450-0200; and

(d) Being exempt from the **gross monthly income** standard under WAC 388-478-0060.

(8) For Basic Food, **elderly** means a person who is age sixty or older;

(9) For Basic Food, **disabled** means a person who:

(a) Receives SSI;

(b) Receives disability payments or blindness payments under Title I, II, XIV, or XVI of the Social Security Act;

(c) Receives disability retirement benefits from a state, local or federal government agency because of a disability considered permanent under section 221(i) of the Social Security Act;

(d) Receives disability benefits from the Railroad Retirement Act under sections 2 (a)(1)(iv) and (v) and:

(i) Meets Title XIX disability requirements; or

(ii) Is eligible for medicare.

(e) Receives disability-related medical assistance under Title XIX of the Social Security Act;

(f) Is a veteran and receives disability payments based on one hundred percent disability;

(g) Is a spouse of a veteran and:

(i) Either needs an attendant or is permanently housebound; or

(ii) Has a disability under section 221(i) of the Social Security Act and is eligible for death or pension payments under Title 38 of the USC.

(10) If a person in your household attends an institution of higher education and does not meet the requirements to be an eligible student under WAC 388-482-0005, we do not count this person as a member of your AU under WAC 388-408-0035.

(11) If your AU currently receives food benefits under WASHCAP or lives on or near an Indian reservation and

receives benefits from a tribal food distribution program approved by FNS, your AU is not eligible for food assistance benefits through the Washington Basic Food program.

(12) If a person in your AU is ineligible for any of the following reasons, we count the ineligible person's income as described under WAC 388-450-0140:

(a) Able-bodied adults without dependents who are no longer eligible under WAC 388-444-0030;

(b) Persons fleeing a felony prosecution, conviction, or confinement under WAC 388-442-0010;

(c) Persons who do not attest to citizenship or alien status as defined in WAC 388-424-0001;

(d) Persons who are ineligible aliens under WAC 388-424-0020;

(e) Persons disqualified for an intentional program violation under WAC 388-446-0015;

(f) Persons who do not provide a Social Security number when required under WAC 388-476-0005; or

(g) Persons who failed to meet work requirements under chapter 388-444 WAC.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.500, 74.04.510, 74.08.090, and 74.08A.120. 11-02-035, § 388-400-0040, filed 12/29/10, effective 2/1/11. 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. 09-07-054, § 388-400-0040, filed 3/11/09, effective 4/11/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.510, 74.08.090. 06-13-043, § 388-400-0040, filed 6/15/06, effective 7/17/06. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.510, and 2004 c 54. 04-21-025, § 388-400-0040, filed 10/13/04, effective 11/13/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.08.090. 04-15-057, § 388-400-0040, filed 7/13/04, effective 8/13/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.510, and 2004 c 54. 04-14-040, § 388-400-0040, filed 6/29/04, effective 7/30/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, and 74.04.510. 03-05-028, § 388-400-0040, filed 2/10/03, effective 4/1/03. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057 and 74.08.090. 98-16-044, § 388-400-0040, filed 7/31/98, effective 9/1/98.]