

WAC 182-513-1385 Determining the community spouse monthly maintenance needs allowance and dependent allowance in post-eligibility treatment of income for long-term care (LTC) programs. (1) This section describes how to calculate the monthly maintenance needs allowance (MMNA) in post-eligibility treatment of income for long-term care (LTC) programs for a community spouse or dependent of the institutionalized individual.

(2) The community spouse MMNA standards are found at <http://www.hca.wa.gov/free-or-low-cost-health-care/program-administration/standards-ltc>, unless a greater amount is calculated under subsection (5) of this section. The MMNA standards may change each January and July based on the consumer price index.

(3) The community spouse MMNA is allowed only to the extent that the institutionalized spouse's income is made available to the community spouse, and is calculated as follows:

(a) The minimum MMNA as calculated in subsection (4)(a) of this section plus excess shelter expenses as calculated in subsection (4)(b) of this section;

(i) The total under (a) of this subsection cannot be less than the minimum MMNA; and

(ii) If the total under subsection (4)(a) of this section exceeds the maximum MMNA, the maximum MMNA is the result under subsection (4)(a) of this section; and

(b) The total under subsection (4)(a) of this section is reduced by the community spouse's gross income. The result is the MMNA.

(4) The minimum MMNA and excess shelter expense values are calculated as follows:

(a) The minimum MMNA is one hundred fifty percent of the two-person federal poverty level (FPL); and

(b) If excess shelter expenses are less than zero, the result is zero. Excess shelter expenses are calculated as follows:

(i) Add:

(A) Mortgage or rent, which includes space rent for mobile homes;

(B) Real property taxes;

(C) Homeowner's insurance;

(D) Required maintenance fees for a condominium, cooperative, or homeowner's association that are recorded in a covenant; and

(E) The food assistance standard utility allowance (SUA) under WAC 388-450-0195 minus the cost of any utilities that are included in (b)(i)(D) of this subsection.

(ii) Subtract the standard shelter allocation from the total in (b)(i) of this subsection. The standard shelter allocation is thirty percent of one hundred fifty percent of the two-person FPL. The result is the value of excess shelter expenses.

(5) The amount allocated to the community spouse may be greater than the amount determined in subsection (3) of this section, but only if:

(a) A court order has been entered against the institutionalized spouse approving a higher MMNA for the support of the community spouse; or

(b) A final order has been entered after an administrative hearing has been held under chapter 182-526 WAC ruling the institutionalized spouse or the community spouse established the community spouse needs income, above the level otherwise provided by the MMNA, due to exceptional circumstances causing significant financial duress.

(6) If a final order establishes that the conditions identified in subsection (5)(b) of this section have been met, then an amount of

allocated resources under subsection (3) of this section will be substituted by an amount adequate to provide such an MMNA.

(7) The agency or its designee determines the dependent allowance for dependents of the institutionalized individual or the institutionalized individual's spouse. The amount the agency allows depends on whether the dependent resides with the community spouse.

(a) For each dependent who resides with the community spouse:

(i) Subtract the dependent's income from one hundred fifty percent of the two-person FPL;

(ii) Divide the amount determined in (a)(i) of this subsection by three;

(iii) The result is the dependent allowance for that dependent.

(b) For each dependent who does not reside with the community spouse:

(i) The agency determines the effective MNIL standard based on the number of dependent family members in the home;

(ii) Subtracts each dependent's separate income;

(iii) The result is the dependent allowance for the dependents.

(c) Child support received from a noncustodial parent is the child's income.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160, P.L. 111-148, 42 C.F.R. §§ 431, 435, and 457, and 45 C.F.R. § 155. WSR 17-03-116, § 182-513-1385, filed 1/17/17, effective 2/17/17.]