

# Chapter 388-488 WAC

## TRANSFER OF PROPERTY

**WAC**

388-488-0005      Transfer of property to qualify for cash assistance.  
 388-488-0010      Transfer of property to qualify for food assistance.

**WAC 388-488-0005 Transfer of property to qualify for cash assistance.** This rule applies to cash assistance programs only.

(1) An assistance unit is disqualified from receiving benefits when it transferred or transfers real or personal property for less than its market value in an attempt to qualify for benefits:

- (a) Two years prior to the date of application;
- (b) During the application process; or
- (c) Anytime while receiving benefits.

(2) When an assistance unit transferred property for less than its fair market value in an attempt to qualify for benefits, the disqualification period:

- (a) For applicants, begins the first day of the month the property was transferred.
- (b) For recipients, begins the first day of the month after the month the property was transferred.

(3) To determine the number of months an assistance unit will be disqualified, divide the uncompensated resource value of the transferred property by the state gross median income. The uncompensated resource value is the equity value minus the amount the client received when transferring a resource.

(4) An assistance unit can provide evidence to clarify the reasons for transferring the property when the department presumes that the assistance unit transferred the property in an attempt to qualify for benefits.

(5) The benefits received by an assistance unit are not affected by the transfer of separate property of a spouse who is not a member of the assistance unit.

(6) An assistance unit's disqualification period is reduced when the client:

- (a) Verifies undue hardship will exist if the benefits are denied such as an eviction;
- (b) Secures a return of some or all of the transferred property or the equivalent value of the transferred property;
- (c) Verifies an unforeseen change in circumstances such as extensive hospitalization; or
- (d) Is responsible for and can verify medical expenses.

(7) When a disqualification period has been adjusted and the client is otherwise eligible, benefits will be authorized. Any benefits authorized because of the reason(s) in subsection (6) of this section, are not considered an overpayment.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.08.090, 74.04.510, and 2011 1st sp.s. c 15. WSR 13-18-005, § 388-488-0005, filed 8/22/13, effective 10/1/13. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057 and 74.08.090. WSR 98-16-044, § 388-488-0005, filed 7/31/98, effective 9/1/98. Formerly WAC 388-505-0580 and 388-518-1820.]

**WAC 388-488-0010 Transfer of property to qualify for food assistance.** (1) An assistance unit is disqualified from the program when it transfers a resource to qualify or attempt to qualify for benefits:

- (a) Three months prior to the month of application; or
- (b) Beginning the month the household is approved for benefits.

(2) The length of disqualification depends on the dollar amount the household is over the resource limit. The countable resources transferred are added to the assistance unit's other countable resources. This total is compared to the resource limit. The amount in excess of the resource limit is located on the chart below to determine the length of the disqualification period.

Amount Over the Resource Limit	Disqualification Period
\$ 0 - \$ 249.99	1 month
250 - 999.99	3 months
1,000 - 2,999.99	6 months
3,000 - 4,999.99	9 months
5,000 and over	12 months

- (3) The disqualification period begins:
  - (a) For applicants, the month of application; or
  - (b) For recipients, the first of the month after the advance notice period expires.

(4) An assistance unit will not be disqualified for transferring the following:

- (a) Excluded resources that do not affect eligibility;
- (b) Resources sold or traded at or near fair market value (FMV);
- (c) Resources transferred between assistance unit members of the same household including ineligible household members; and
- (d) Resources transferred for reasons other than to qualify for benefits.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057 and 74.08.090. WSR 98-16-044, § 388-488-0010, filed 7/31/98, effective 9/1/98.]