

WSR 23-16-145

PROPOSED RULES

HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

[Filed August 2, 2023, 10:21 a.m.]

Original Notice.

Preproposal statement of inquiry was filed as WSR 22-17-082.

Title of Rule and Other Identifying Information: WAC 182-513-1625 Tailored supports for older adults (TSOA)—Applications, 182-513-1635 Tailored supports for older adults (TSOA)—Income eligibility, and 182-513-1640 Tailored supports for older adults (TSOA)—Resource eligibility.

Hearing Location(s): On September 5, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. The health care authority (HCA) holds public hearings virtually without a physical meeting place. To attend the virtual public hearing, you must register in advance https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_04stu61aT4G3VvAU34ihaA. If the link above opens with an error message, please try using a different browser. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the public hearing.

Date of Intended Adoption: September 6, 2023.

Submit Written Comments to: HCA Rules Coordinator, P.O. Box 42716, Olympia, WA 98504-2716, email arc@hca.wa.gov, fax 360-586-9727, by September 5, 2023, by 11:59 p.m.

Assistance for Persons with Disabilities: Contact Johanna Larson, phone 360-725-1349, fax 360-586-9727, telecommunication[s] relay service 711, email johanna.larson@hca.wa.gov, by August 25, 2023.

Purpose of the Proposal and Its Anticipated Effects, Including Any Changes in Existing Rules: HCA is amending these rules to update application information and to revise the income and resource limits.

Reasons Supporting Proposal: These revisions provide current application information and allow more people to participate in the TSOA program.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160.

Statute Being Implemented: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160.

Rule is not necessitated by federal law, federal or state court decision.

Name of Proponent: HCA, governmental.

Name of Agency Personnel Responsible for Drafting: Melinda Froud, P.O. Box 42716, Olympia, WA 98504-2716, 360-725-1408; Implementation and Enforcement: Paige Lewis, P.O. Box 45534, Olympia, WA 98504-5534, 360-725-0757.

A school district fiscal impact statement is not required under RCW 28A.305.135.

A cost-benefit analysis is not required under RCW 34.05.328. RCW 34.05.328 does not apply to HCA rules unless requested by the joint administrative rules review committee or applied voluntarily.

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt from requirements of the Regulatory Fairness Act because the proposal:

Is exempt under RCW 19.85.025(4).

Explanation of exemptions: The proposed rule pertains to client program eligibility and does not impose any costs on businesses.

Scope of exemption for rule proposal:

Is fully exempt.

August 2, 2023
Wendy Barcus

OTS-4345.3

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 17-12-019, filed 5/30/17, effective 7/1/17)

WAC 182-513-1625 Tailored supports for older adults (TSOA)—Applications. (1) Applications for tailored supports for older adults (TSOA) are submitted:

(a) Online at Washington Connection at www.washingtonconnection.org;

(b) By sending a completed HCA ((~~18-008~~) 18-005) application for TSOA form to P.O. Box 45826, Olympia, WA 98605;

(c) By faxing a completed HCA ((~~18-008~~) 18-005) application for TSOA form to 1-855-635-8305;

(d) By contacting the local area agency on aging (AAA) office at 1-855-567-0252; or

(e) By contacting the local home and community services (HCS) office. To find the local HCS office, see ((~~www.altsa.dshs.wa.gov/Resources/clickmap.htm~~)) <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/ALISA/resources>.

(2) Help filing an application:

(a) The medicaid agency or the agency's designee provides help with the application or renewal process in a manner that is accessible to people with disabilities, limitations, or other impairments as described in WAC 182-503-0120 and to those who are limited-English proficient as described in WAC 182-503-0110;

(b) For help filing an application, a person may:

(i) Contact a local AAA office;

(ii) Contact a local HCS office; or

(iii) Have an authorized representative apply on the person's behalf.

(3) The following people can apply for the TSOA program:

(a) The applicant (the person receiving care);

(b) The applicant's spouse;

(c) The applicant's caregiver (person providing in-home caregiver services);

(d) A legal guardian; or

(e) An authorized representative, as defined in WAC 182-500-0010.

(4) A phone interview is required to establish TSOA financial eligibility, but may be waived if the applicant is unable to comply:

(a) Due to the applicant's medical condition; and

(b) Because the applicant does not have another person that is able to conduct the interview on the applicant's behalf.

(5) The agency or the agency's designee processes TSOA applications using the same timelines under WAC 182-503-0060.

(6) TSOA begins on the date the person is determined presumptively eligible for TSOA under WAC 182-513-1620, or on the date all eligibility requirements are established if the person is not found presumptively eligible.

(7) When the person withdraws an application for TSOA, or is determined ineligible for TSOA services, the agency or the agency's designee denies the application under WAC 182-503-0080.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160, 2016 1st sp.s. c 36 § 213 (1)(e), section 1115 of the Social Security Act, and 42 C.F.R. §§ 431.400 through 431.428. WSR 17-12-019, § 182-513-1625, filed 5/30/17, effective 7/1/17.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 17-12-019, filed 5/30/17, effective 7/1/17)

WAC 182-513-1635 Tailored supports for older adults (TSOA)—Income eligibility. (1) To determine income eligibility for the tailored supports for older adults (TSOA) program, the medicaid agency or the agency's designee uses the following rules depending on whether the person is single or married.

(2) If the TSOA applicant is single, the agency or the agency's designee:

(a) Determines available income under WAC 182-513-1325;

(b) Excludes income under WAC 182-513-1340; and

(c) Compares remaining gross nonexcluded income to ~~((the special income level (SIL)))~~ 400 percent of the federal benefit rate (FBR) for the supplemental security income (SSI) cash grant program. To be eligible, a person's gross income must be equal to or less than ~~((the SIL (three hundred percent)))~~ 400 percent of the ~~((federal benefit rate (FBR)))~~ FBR.

(3) If the TSOA applicant is married, the agency or the agency's designee:

(a) Determines available income under WAC 182-513-1330 with the exception of subsections (5) and (6) of that section;

(b) Excludes income under WAC 182-513-1340; and

(c) Compares the applicant's remaining gross nonexcluded income to ~~((the SIL))~~ 400 percent of the FBR. To be eligible, a person's gross income must be equal to or less than ~~((the SIL (three hundred percent of the FBR)))~~ 400 percent of the FBR.

(4) The FBR changes annually on January 1st.

(5) The current TSOA income standard is found on the Washington apple health income and resource standards chart, institutional standards section; see www.hca.wa.gov/free-or-low-cost-health-care/i-help-others-apply-and-access-apple-health/program-standard-income-and-resources.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160, 2016 1st sp.s. c 36 § 213 (1)(e), section 1115 of the Social Security Act, and 42 C.F.R. §§ 431.400 through 431.428. WSR 17-12-019, § 182-513-1635, filed 5/30/17, effective 7/1/17.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 17-12-019, filed 5/30/17, effective 7/1/17)

WAC 182-513-1640 Tailored supports for older adults (TSOA)—Resource eligibility. (1) The resource standard for a single applicant for tailored supports for older adults (TSOA) is ~~((\$53,100))~~ six times the Washington state average monthly private nursing facility rate, as determined by the department of social and health services under chapter 74.46 RCW.

(2) The resource standard for a married couple is ~~((\$53,100))~~ six times the Washington state average monthly private nursing facility rate, as determined by the department of social and health services under chapter 74.46 RCW, for the TSOA applicant plus the state spousal resource standard for the spousal impoverishment protections community (SIPC) spouse. The state spousal resource standard may change annually on July 1st. ~~((The resource standards are found at www.hca.wa.gov/free-or-low-cost-health-care/program-administration/program-standard-income-and-resources.)~~)

(3) The medicaid agency or the agency's designee uses rules in WAC 182-513-1350 (1), (3) and (4) to determine general eligibility relating to resources, availability of resources, and which resources count.

(4) The TSOA recipient has one year from the date of initial eligibility of TSOA to transfer resources in excess of the TSOA standard to the SIPC spouse.

(5) The resource standard for TSOA changes annually on January 1st based on the current average private nursing facility rate, as determined by the department of social and health services under chapter 74.46 RCW.

(6) The current TSOA standards and the current average private nursing facility rate are found on the Washington apple health income and resource standards chart, institutional standards section; see www.hca.wa.gov/free-or-low-cost-health-care/i-help-others-apply-and-access-apple-health/program-standard-income-and-resources.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160, 2016 1st sp.s. c 36 § 213 (1)(e), section 1115 of the Social Security Act, and 42 C.F.R. §§ 431.400 through 431.428. WSR 17-12-019, § 182-513-1640, filed 5/30/17, effective 7/1/17.]