

Department of Social and Health Services
Olympia, Washington

ELIGIBILITY A-Z MANUAL REVISION

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<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/manuals/eaz/sections/LongTermCare/LTCHavailres.shtml>

WAC 388-513-1350 Defining the resource standard and determining resource eligibility for long-term care (LTC) services.

Effective 7/1/2009 the state resource standard for the community spouse increases to \$48,639.00.

<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/manuals/eaz/sections/LongTermCare/LTCstandardspna.shtml>

Current long-term care standards can be found at:

<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/manuals/eaz/sections/LongTermCare/LTCstandardspna.shtml>

A copy of the WAC change is attached.

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AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 08-13-072, filed 6/16/08, effective 7/17/08)

WAC 388-513-1350 Defining the resource standard and determining resource eligibility for long-term care (LTC) services. This section describes how the department defines the resource standard and countable or excluded resources when determining a client's eligibility for LTC services. The department uses the term "resource standard" to describe the maximum amount of resources a client can have and still be resource eligible for program benefits.

(1) The resource standard used to determine eligibility for LTC services equals:

(a) Two thousand dollars for:

(i) A single client; or

(ii) A legally married client with a community spouse, subject to the provisions described in subsections (8) through (11) of this section; or

(b) Three thousand dollars for a legally married couple, unless subsection (3) of this section applies.

(2) When both spouses apply for LTC services the department considers the resources of both spouses as available to each other through the month in which the spouses stopped living together.

(3) When both spouses are institutionalized, the department will determine the eligibility of each spouse as a single client the month following the month of separation.

(4) If the department has already established eligibility and authorized services for one spouse, and the community spouse needs LTC services in the same month, (but after eligibility has been established and services authorized for the institutional spouse), then the department applies the standard described in subsection (1)(a) of this section to each spouse. If doing this would make one of the spouses ineligible, then the department applies (1)(b) of this section for a couple.

(5) When a single institutionalized individual marries, the department will redetermine eligibility applying the rules for a legally married couple.

(6) The department applies the following rules when determining available resources for LTC services:

(a) WAC 388-475-0300, Resource eligibility;

(b) WAC 388-475-0250, How to determine who owns a resource; and

(c) WAC 388-470-0060(6), Resources of an alien's sponsor.

(7) For LTC services the department determines a client's countable resources as follows:

(a) The department determines countable resources for SSI-related clients as described in WAC 388-475-0350 through 388-475-0550 and resources excluded by federal law with the exception of:

(i) WAC 388-475-0550(16);

(ii) WAC 388-475-0350 (1)(b) clients who have submitted an

application for LTC services on or after May 1, 2006 and have an equity interest greater than five hundred thousand dollars in their primary residence are ineligible for LTC services. This exception does not apply if a spouse or blind, disabled or dependent child under age twenty-one is lawfully residing in the primary residence.

Clients denied or terminated LTC services due to excess home equity may apply for an undue hardship waiver described in WAC 388-513-1367.

(b) For an SSI-related client one automobile per household is excluded regardless of value if it is used for transportation of the eligible individual/couple.

(i) For an SSI-related client with a community spouse, the value of one automobile is excluded regardless of its use or value.

(ii) A vehicle not meeting the definition of automobile is a vehicle that has been junked or a vehicle that is used only as a recreational vehicle.

(c) For an SSI-related client, the department adds together the countable resources of both spouses if subsections (2), (5) and (8)(a) or (b) apply, but not if subsection (3) or (4) apply.

(d) For an SSI-related client, excess resources are reduced:

(i) In an amount equal to incurred medical expenses such as:

(A) Premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance/copayment charges for health insurance and medicare;

(B) Necessary medical care recognized under state law, but not covered under the state's medicaid plan;

(C) Necessary medical care covered under the state's medicaid plan incurred prior to medicaid eligibility.

(ii) As long as the incurred medical expenses:

(A) Are not subject to third-party payment or reimbursement;

(B) Have not been used to satisfy a previous spend down liability;

(C) Have not previously been used to reduce excess resources;

(D) Have not been used to reduce client responsibility toward cost of care;

(E) Were not incurred during a transfer of asset penalty described in WAC 388-513-1363, 388-513-1364, 388-513-1365 and 388-513-1366; and

(F) Are amounts for which the client remains liable.

(e) Expenses not allowed to reduce excess resources or participation in personal care:

(i) Unpaid expense(s) prior to waiver eligibility to an adult family home (AFH) or boarding home is not a medical expense.

(ii) Personal care cost in excess of approved hours determined by the CARE assessment described in chapter 388-106 WAC is not a medical expense.

(f) The amount of excess resources is limited to the following amounts:

(i) For LTC services provided under the categorically needy (CN) program:

(A) Gross income must be at or below the special income level (SIL), 300% of the federal benefit rate (FBR).

(B) In a medical institution, excess resources and income must be under the state medicaid rate.

(C) For CN waiver eligibility, incurred medical expenses must reduce resources within allowable resource limits for CN-waiver eligibility. The cost of care for the waiver services cannot be

allowed as a projected expense.

(ii) For LTC services provided under the medically needy (MN) program when excess resources are added to nonexcluded income, the combined total is less than the:

(A) Private medical institution rate plus the amount of recurring medical expenses for institutional services; or

(B) Private hospice rate plus the amount of recurring medical expenses, for hospice services in a medical institution.

(C) For MN waiver eligibility, incurred medical expenses must reduce resources within allowable resource limits for MN-waiver eligibility. The cost of care for the waiver services cannot be allowed as a projected expense.

(g) For a client not related to SSI, the department applies the resource rules of the program used to relate the client to medical eligibility.

(8) For legally married clients when only one spouse meets institutional status, the following rules apply. If the client's current period of institutional status began:

(a) Before October 1, 1989, the department adds together one-half the total amount of countable resources held in the name of:

(i) The institutionalized spouse; or

(ii) Both spouses.

(b) On or after October 1, 1989, the department adds together the total amount of nonexcluded resources held in the name of:

(i) Either spouse; or

(ii) Both spouses.

(9) If subsection (8)(b) of this section applies, the department determines the amount of resources that are allocated to the community spouse before determining countable resources used to establish eligibility for the institutionalized spouse, as follows:

(a) If the client's current period of institutional status began on or after October 1, 1989 and before August 1, 2003, the department allocates the maximum amount of resources ordinarily allowed by law. Effective January 1, (~~(2008)~~) 2009, the maximum allocation is one hundred and (~~(four)~~) nine thousand (~~(four)~~) five hundred and sixty dollars. This standard increases annually on January 1st based on the consumer price index. (For the current standard starting January (~~(2008)~~) 2009 and each year thereafter, see long-term care standards at <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/manuals/eaz/sections/LongTermCare/LTCstandardspna.shtml>); or

(b) If the client's current period of institutional status began on or after August 1, 2003, the department allocates the greater of:

(i) A spousal share equal to one-half of the couple's combined countable resources as of the beginning of the current period of institutional status, up to the amount described in subsection (9)(a) of this section; or

(ii) The state spousal resource standard of forty-five thousand one hundred four dollars effective July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009. Effective July 1, 2009 this standard increases to forty-eight thousand six hundred thirty-nine dollars (this standard increases every odd year on July 1st). This increase is based on the consumer price index published by the federal bureau of labor statistics. For the current standard starting July (~~(2007)~~) 2009

and each year thereafter, see long-term care standards at <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/manuals/eaz/sections/LongTermCare/LTCstandardspna.shtml>.

(10) The amount of the spousal share described in (9)(b)(i) can be determined anytime between the date that the current period of institutional status began and the date that eligibility for LTC services is determined. The following rules apply to the determination of the spousal share:

(a) Prior to an application for LTC services, the couple's combined countable resources are evaluated from the date of the current period of institutional status at the request of either member of the couple. The determination of the spousal share is completed when necessary documentation and/or verification is provided; or

(b) The determination of the spousal share is completed as part of the application for LTC services if the client was institutionalized prior to the month of application, and declares the spousal share exceeds the state spousal resource standard. The client is required to provide verification of the couple's combined countable resources held at the beginning of the current period of institutional status.

(11) The amount of allocated resources described in subsection (9) of this section can be increased, only if:

(a) A court transfers additional resources to the community spouse; or

(b) An administrative law judge establishes in a fair hearing described in chapter 388-02 WAC, that the amount is inadequate to provide a minimum monthly maintenance needs amount for the community spouse.

(12) The department considers resources of the community spouse unavailable to the institutionalized spouse the month after eligibility for LTC services is established, unless subsection (5) or (13)(a), (b), or (c) of this section applies.

(13) A redetermination of the couple's resources as described in subsection (7) is required, if:

(a) The institutionalized spouse has a break of at least thirty consecutive days in a period of institutional status;

(b) The institutionalized spouse's countable resources exceed the standard described in subsection (1)(a), if subsection (8)(b) applies; or

(c) The institutionalized spouse does not transfer the amount described in subsections (9) or (11) to the community spouse or to another person for the sole benefit of the community spouse as described in WAC 388-513-1365(4) by either:

(i) The first regularly scheduled eligibility review; or

(ii) The reasonable amount of additional time necessary to obtain a court order for the support of the community spouse.