

Department of Social and Health Services

Olympia, Washington

**WAC Manual and EAZ Manual**

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Category	Income
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**Summary**

**WAC 388-450-0185** – “What income deductions does the department allow when determining if I am eligible for food benefits and the amount of my monthly benefits?”

On January 29, 2010, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published final rules related to the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (FSRIA, commonly referred to as the Farm Bill) that established new eligibility and certification requirements for the receipt of food benefits.

**Effective August 1, 2010**, the standard deduction for Basic Food households will be based on the number of eligible household members only. It was previously based on the total household size which included ineligible members.

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Effective August 1, 2010

**WAC 388-450-0185 What income deductions does the department allow when**

**determining if I am eligible for food benefits and the amount of my monthly benefits?**

We determine if your assistance unit (AU) is eligible for Basic Food and calculate your monthly benefits according to requirements of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and federal regulations related to the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP).

These federal laws allow us to subtract **only** the following amounts from your AU's total monthly income to determine your countable monthly income under WAC 388-450-0162:

1. A standard deduction based on the number of [eligible](#) people in your AU under [WAC 388-408-0035](#):

Eligible <del>and ineligible</del> AU members	Standard deduction
1	\$141
2	\$141
3	\$141
4	\$153
5	\$179
6 or more	\$205

2. Twenty percent of your AU's gross earned income (earned income deduction);
3. Your AU's expected monthly dependent care expense needed for an AU member to:
  - a. Keep work, look for work, or accept work;
  - b. Attend training or education to prepare for employment; or
  - c. Meet employment and training requirements under [chapter 388-444 WAC](#).
4. Medical expenses over thirty-five dollars a month owed or anticipated by an elderly or disabled person in your AU as allowed under [WAC 388-450-0200](#).
5. A portion of your shelter costs as described in [WAC 388-450-0190](#).

This is a reprint of the official rule as published by the [Office of the Code Reviser](#). If there are previous versions of this rule, they can be found using the [Legislative Search page](#).

## CLARIFYING INFORMATION

For information on the shelter deductions, see [WAC 388-450-0190](#).

For information on utility allowances, see [WAC 388-450-0195](#).

For information on medical deductions, see [WAC 388-450-0200](#).

The following topics related to the above WAC are discussed below.

- [Standard Deductions](#)
- [Child Support Payments](#)
- [Dependent Care Deductions](#)
- [Deductions for AUs with special circumstances](#)

### Standard Deduction

1. The Federal government sets the standard deduction each October by comparing 8.31% of the current federal poverty rate for the number of AU members to ~~\$144~~ 134. The standard deduction is the larger of the two figures.
2. For the standard deduction, we count eligible ~~and ineligible~~ AU members **only**. ~~but w~~We do not count ineligible members such as someone disqualified as an ineligible alien, for an intentional program violation (IPV), non-members such as ineligible students or someone who lives in the residence but is not an AU member under [WAC 388-408-0035](#).