

Department of Social and Health Services  
Olympia, Washington

**ELIGIBILITY A-Z MANUAL REVISION**

Revision	827
Category/Section	Standards – Cash Assistance
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**Summary**

The Department is amending WAC 388-478-0005 to increase the cash assistance grant maximum to an eight person household for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), State Family Assistance (SFA) and Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) starting July 1, 2012.

This change is necessary to comply with the 2011-13 Revised Omnibus Operating Budget as mandated under Third Engrossed Substitute House Bill (3ESHB) 2127, Laws of 2012.

WAC 388-478-0005

**WAC 388-478-0005 Cash assistance need and payment standards and grant maximum.**

1. Need standards for cash assistance programs represent the amount of income required by individuals and families to maintain a minimum and adequate standard of living. Need standards are based on assistance unit size and include basic requirements for food, clothing, shelter, energy costs, transportation, household maintenance and operations, personal maintenance, and necessary incidentals.
2. Payment standards for assistance units in medical institutions and other facilities are based on the need for clothing, personal maintenance, and necessary incidentals (see [WAC 388-478-0040](#) and [388-478-0045](#)).
3. Need and payment standards for persons and families who do not reside in medical institutions and other facilities are based on their obligation to pay for shelter.
  - a. Eligibility and benefit levels for persons and families who meet the requirements in 388-478-0010 are determined using standards for assistance units with an obligation to pay shelter costs.

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- b. Eligibility and benefit levels for all other persons and families are determined using standards for assistance units who have shelter provided at no cost.
- c. For recent arrivals to Washington state who apply for temporary assistance for needy families (TANF), see [WAC 388-468-0005](#).

- 4. ~~Starting July 1, 2012~~~~Effective May 1, 2011~~, the monthly cash assistance grant for an assistance unit cannot exceed the payment standard for a family of eight listed in WAC 388-478-0020(1)~~seven hundred and twenty-six dollars.~~

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**

DSHS is required by state law [[RCW 74.04.770](#)] to establish, on an annual basis, standards of need for cash assistance programs. These standards are based on studies of actual living costs for basic requirements. They may vary by program and family size. Separate standards may be established for assistance units with shelter provided at no cost.

Payment standards are based on assistance unit size and are used to determine eligibility and benefit levels for cash assistance.

The percentage difference between the need and payment standard for an assistance unit is called the ratable reduction. ~~Starting July 1, 2012~~~~Effective May 1, 2011~~, the grant payment cannot exceed the payment standard for a family of eight listed in WAC 388-478-0020(1)~~a maximum of \$726. This may affect assistance units of six or more.~~