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3000.00.00 ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

Each program has separate standards established by law or regulation which must be used to determine eligibility for assistance. This chapter includes information on the following:

Resource Limits (Section 3005);
Facility Private Pay Rate (Section 3006);
Income/Need Standards (Section 3010);
Dependent Care Standards (Section 3015);
Utility Standards (Section 3020);
Food Stamp Related Standards (Section 3025);
Work Expense Disregard (Section 3030);
MA Earned Income Disregard (Section 3035);
General Income Disregard (Section 3040);
General Earned Income Disregard (Section 3045);
Medicare Part D Benchmark (Section 3041);
Maximum Benefits (Section 3050); and
Footnotes for Chapter 3000 (Section 3099).

3005.00.00 RESOURCE LIMITS

The resource limit is the maximum value of nonexempt resources which an assistance group (AG) may retain in order to be eligible for assistance. The following sections list the limits for each program.

3005.05.00 RESOURCE LIMITS (F)

The resource limit is \$2000 for all AGs that do not include an elderly or disabled member.

The resource limit is \$3250 for any AG which contains a member age 60 or older or a member who is blind or disabled according to the policy in Section 3210.10.25.05. (f1)

3005.10.00 RESOURCE LIMITS (C, MED 2)

The resource limit is \$1000 for applicants. (f2)

For TANF recipients, the resource limit is \$1,500. (f2a)

3005.15.00 RESOURCE LIMITS (MED 1)

The resource limit is dependent upon the category of assistance and the composition and living arrangement of the AG. (f3)

The resource limits for Aged, Blind, and Disabled categories (MA A, MA B, and MA D) are as follows:

\$1500 for an applicant/recipient, who is unmarried, separated from his spouse for reasons other than medical, or whose spouse qualifies as a "community spouse".

\$2250 for an applicant/recipient and his spouse (whether or not the spouse is an applicant/recipient) if the couple is living together, or separated only for medical reasons and the spousal impoverishment provisions do not apply.

For the applicant/recipient who is under age 18 and living with his parents, the resource limit for his parents is as follows, unless the child is approved for Home and Community Based Services. Under these waivers, parental resources are not considered.

- \$1500 for a biological or adoptive parent who is unmarried or separated from his spouse; or
- \$2250 for biological or adoptive parents living together, or who are separated only for medical reasons.

The resource limits for M.E.D. Works (MADW, MADI) are:

\$2,000 for an applicant/recipient, who is unmarried, separated from his spouse for reasons other than medical, or whose spouse qualifies as a community spouse.

\$3,000 for an applicant/recipient and his spouse (whether or not the spouse is an applicant/recipient if the couple is living together, or separated only for medical reasons and the spousal impoverishment provisions do not apply.

Parental resources are exempt.

When an institutionalized individual has a community spouse, the community spouse resource limit is the greatest of the following amounts effective January 1, 2012: (f4)

- The state standard of \$22,728.00. (\$21,912 effective 1/1/09 through 12/31/11; \$ 20,880 effective 1/1/08 through 12/31/08);

- The spousal share, up to a maximum of \$113,640. (\$109,560, effective 1/1/09 through 12/31/11; \$104,400 effective 1/1/08 through 12/31/08);
- Any amount of resources ordered by a court against the institutionalized spouse for the support of the community spouse;
- The amount established by an Administrative Law Judge as the result of an appeal; or
- The above standards were not adjusted effective 1/1/10 through 1/1/11 as usual because the CPI did not increase.

3005.20.00 RESOURCE LIMITS (MED 3)

There are no resource limits for any of the MED 3 categories of assistance. Any amount of resources may be retained by an AG.

3005.25.00 RESOURCE LIMITS (MED 4)

The resource limits for the QMB, SLMB, QDW, and QI categories are: (f5)

\$6940 for an applicant/recipient who is unmarried or not living with his spouse;

\$10,410 for an applicant/recipient and his spouse if the couple is living together.

3006.00.00 FACILITY RATE USED TO CALCULATE PENALTY PERIOD (MED)

The average monthly private pay rate for nursing facilities in the statewide geographic region to be used in computing transfer penalties as explained in Section 2640.10.35 is \$5139. This amount is in effect for applications filed on and after July 1, 2011.

For applications filed on or after:

- 7-1-10 through 6-30-11, \$4826;
- 7-1-09 through 6-30-10, \$4611;
- 7-1-08 through 6-30-09, \$4456;
- 7-1-07 through 6-30-08, \$4249;
- 7-1-06 through 6-30-07, \$3960;
- 7-1-05 through 6-30-06, \$3898;
- 7-1-04 through 6-30-05, \$3817;
- 7-1-03 through 6-30-04, \$3,667.

3010.00.00 INCOME/NEED STANDARDS

Income and Need Standards are the maximum income or expense consideration that is given to an AG in order to determine financial eligibility. For some programs, both a gross income and net income comparison are necessary. The specific income or need standards of each program are discussed in the following sections.

3010.05.00 INCOME STANDARDS (F)

This chart lists the Food Stamp Program's maximum monthly gross and net income standards. For financial eligibility to exist, income may not exceed these standards. The maximum gross income amounts are based on 130% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, and the maximum net income amounts are based on 100% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Following are the amounts effective 10/01/11.

AG SIZE	MAXIMUM GROSS MONTHLY INCOME	MAXIMUM NET MONTHLY INCOME	AG SIZE	MAXIMUM GROSS MONTHLY INCOME	MAXIMUM NET MONTHLY INCOME
1	\$1180	\$ 908	6	\$3249	\$2500
2	1594	1226	7	3663	2818
3	2008	1545	8	4077	3136
4	2422	1863	9	4491	3455
5	2836	2181	10	4905	3774
Each Additional Member (gross) + \$414			Each Additional Member (net) + \$319		

3010.05.05 Income Standards - Elderly/Disabled Separate AG (F)

This chart lists the Food Stamp Program's maximum monthly gross and net income standards for AGs containing an elderly or disabled member. The maximum gross income amounts are based on 165% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, and the maximum net income amounts are based on 100% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Following are the amounts effective 10/01/11.

AG SIZE	MAXIMUM GROSS MONTHLY INCOME	MAXIMUM NET MONTHLY INCOME	AG SIZE	MAXIMUM GROSS MONTHLY INCOME	MAXIMUM NET MONTHLY INCOME
1	\$1498	\$ 908	5	\$3599	\$2181
2	2023	1226	6	4124	2500
3	2548	1545	7	4649	2818
4	3074	1863	8	5175	3136
Each Additional Member (gross) + \$526			Each Additional Member (net) + \$319		

3010.10.00 NEEDS STANDARDS (C)

The need standard is the maximum expense consideration given to a Cash Assistance group. It is a flat maintenance allowance which varies by AG participating member size and composition. (f7) One chart lists the need standard for an AG with a recipient parent and/or caretaker, and the second chart lists the standard for an AG with children only.

NEED STANDARD			
AG WITH A RECIPIENT PARENT AND/OR CARETAKER			
AG SIZE	NEED STANDARD	AG SIZE	NEED STANDARD
1	\$155	6	\$515
2	255	7	580
3	320	8	645
4	385	9	710
5	450	10	775
Each Additional Member + \$65			

NEED STANDARD			
AG WITH RECIPIENT CHILDREN ONLY			
AG SIZE	NEED STANDARD	AG SIZE	NEED STANDARD
1	\$155	6	\$480
2	220	7	545
3	285	8	610
4	350	9	675
5	415	10	740
Each Additional Member + \$65		Each Additional Member + \$65	

3010.15.00 185% INCOME STANDARDS (C)

This chart lists the maximum monthly gross income and net income standards for non-treatment Cash Assistance groups. (f8) The gross income standard is used when the 185% test is completed for initial eligibility for all cash assistance groups. For financial eligibility to exist, income may not exceed these standards. The gross income standard is 185% of the need standard, and the net income standard is 90% of the need standard. There are separate charts for AGs which include a recipient parent/caretaker and AGs which only include children.

INCOME STANDARD					
AG WITH A RECIPIENT PARENT AND/OR CARETAKER					
AG SIZE	GROSS INCOME STANDARD	NET INCOME STANDARD	AG SIZE	GROSS INCOME STANDARD	NET INCOME STANDARD
1	\$ 286.75	\$139.50	6	\$ 952.75	\$463.50
2	471.75	229.50	7	1073.00	522.00
3	592.00	288.00	8	1193.25	580.50
4	712.25	346.50	9	1313.50	639.00
5	832.50	405.00	10	1433.75	697.50
Each Additional Member + \$120.25 + \$58.50			Each Additional Member + \$120.25 + \$58.50		

INCOME STANDARD					
AG WITH RECIPIENT CHILDREN ONLY					
AG SIZE	GROSS INCOME STANDARD	NET INCOME STANDARD	AG SIZE	GROSS INCOME STANDARD	NET INCOME STANDARD
1	\$ 286.75	\$ 139.50	6	\$ 888.00	\$ 432.00
2	407.00	198.00	7	1008.25	490.50
3	527.25	256.50	8	1128.50	549.00
4	647.50	315.00	9	1248.75	607.50
5	767.75	373.50	10	1369.00	666.00
Each Additional Member + \$120.25 + \$58.50			Each Additional Member + \$120.25 + \$58.50		

3010.15.05 100% Income Standards (C)

This chart lists the maximum monthly countable net income

standards and the adjusted needs standard for cash assistance for a TANF AG. The countable net income standard is 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). (f8a) The adjusted needs standard is 90% of the need standard. There are separate charts for AG's which include a recipient parent/caretaker and AG's which only include children.

An AG will lose eligibility when its countable net income equals or exceeds 100% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for a family of the same size. (f8b)

INCOME STANDARD					
AG WITH A RECIPIENT PARENT AND/OR CARETAKER					
AG SIZE	COUNTABLE NET INCOME STANDARD	ADJUSTED NEEDS STANDARD	AG SIZE	COUNTABLE NET INCOME STANDARD	ADJUSTED NEEDS STANDARD
1	\$931	\$139.50	6	\$2581	\$463.50
2	\$1261	\$229.50	7	\$2911	\$522.00
3	\$1591	\$288.00	8	\$3241	\$580.50
4	\$1921	\$346.50	9	\$3571	\$639.00
5	\$2251	\$405.00	10	\$3901	\$697.50

For each additional member, see ICES Table TMIS, effective 3/1/12.

INCOME STANDARD					
AG WITH RECIPIENT CHILDREN ONLY					
AG SIZE	COUNTABLE NET INCOME STANDARD	ADJUSTED NEEDS STANDARD	AG SIZE	COUNTABLE NET INCOME STANDARD	ADJUSTED NEEDS STANDARD
1	\$931	\$139.50	6	\$2581	\$432.00
2	\$1261	\$198.00	7	\$2911	\$490.50
3	\$1591	\$256.50	8	\$3241	\$549.00
4	\$1921	\$315.00	9	\$3571	\$607.50
5	\$2251	\$373.50	10	\$3901	\$666.00

For each additional member, see ICES Table TMIS, effective 3/1/12.

3010.20.00 INCOME STANDARDS (MED 1)

The income standards used in determining eligibility for MA A, MA B, and MA D AGs are based on AG size, composition, and living arrangement. The following sections list the income standards to be utilized in a given case.

All of the income standards that normally increase based on the annual Social Security cost of living adjustment (COLA)

effective in January 2011 remained at the 2009 level since there was no COLA in 2010 or 2011. COLA resumed effective January, 2012.

3010.20.05 Eligibility Income Standards (MED 1)

The monthly income standards listed in this section are used in the eligibility determination. (f9) These standards are effective January 1, 2012.

\$698 - unmarried applicant/recipient of any age; or applicant/recipient not living with a spouse;

\$1,048 - married couple, either or both of whom are applicants/recipients;

\$350 - a dependent child; applicable for a child not in an MA assistance group or one who is in an MA assistance group other than MA B or MA D;

\$350 - an essential person;

\$698 - one parent of the child applicant/recipient;

\$1048 - two parents of the child applicant/recipient;
and

\$350 - stepparent.

3010.20.10 Post-Eligibility Standards (MED 1)

The policies stated in this section apply only to the MA A, MA B, and MA D categories of assistance.

The purpose of post-eligibility is to determine the institutionalized applicant's/recipient's liability to the facility. This determination also establishes the amount of the institutionalized applicant's/recipient's income which is allocated to meet the needs of his community spouse and certain other family members. The following standards are used in the post-eligibility calculation:

Personal needs allowance:

- \$52 (f10)

Effective 7-1-02 (\$50 effective 7-1-99) this is the minimum amount allowed for all applicants/recipients except as stated below for certain veterans.

- \$90 (f11)

This is the maximum amount of the reduced VA benefit payable to a single veteran or veteran's widow in a nursing facility. The amount of the reduced VA benefit is the personal needs allowance for the individual.

- In specific situations, an additional individual amount for increased personal needs is to be deducted. Refer to Section 3455.15.10.

Spousal allocation (f12) based on:

- Spousal Income Standard - \$1839 effective 7-1-11; corrected to \$1822 effective 1-1-11 through 6-30-11; (\$1823 effective 7-1-09 through 12-31-10); (\$1751 effective 7-1-08 through 6-30-09)
- Shelter Standard - \$552 effective 7-1-11; \$547 effective 7-1-09 through 6-30-11 (\$526 effective 7-1-08 through 6-30-08)
- Maximum Maintenance Standard - \$2841 effective 1-1-12 (\$2739 effective 1-1-09 through 12-31-11; \$2610 effective 1-1-08)

Family allocation (f13) based on:

- 1/3 of the difference between a family member's income and \$1839 effective 07-01-11; (\$1822 corrected effective 01-01-11 through 06-30-11; \$1823 effective 07-01-09 through 12-31-10; \$1751 effective 07-07-08 through 06-30-09)

3010.20.15 Special Income Level Used For Waiver Services (MED 1)

The Special Income Level (SIL) used in determining eligibility under certain HCBS waivers is 300% of the SSI Maximum Benefit Rate. Effective 01-01-12, the SIL is \$2094; (effective 1-1-09 through 12-31-11, the SIL was \$2022).

3010.20.20 Income Standard/Premiums for M.E.D. Works

The income standard for MADW and MADI is 350% of the Federal Poverty Level. Effective March 1, 2012 the standard is \$3,258. Premiums are listed in the following table.

PREMIUMS	
Family Size	Monthly Gross Income Premium Amount

1	\$1397 to \$1629	\$1630 to \$1862	\$1863 to \$2328	\$2329 to \$2793	\$2794 to \$3258	\$3259 and over
	\$48	\$69	\$107	\$134	\$161	\$187

2	\$1892 to \$2207	\$2208 to \$2522	\$2523 to \$3153	\$3154 to \$3783	\$3784 to \$4413	\$4414 and over
	\$65	\$93	\$145	\$182	\$218	\$254

3010.25.00 INCOME STANDARDS (MED 2)

The MED 2 income standards are based on the TANF standards.

This chart lists the monthly income standards to be used for MA C, MA 3, MA Q, MA U, MA T, MA O, and MA M, categories of assistance. (f14)

For all MED 2 categories other than MA Q, the AG's net income may not exceed the monthly income standard. For MA Q only: AGs with income exceeding the standard may be eligible for Medical Assistance under the spend-down provision.

AG WITH A PARENT INCLUDED			
AG SIZE	NET INCOME STANDARD	AG SIZE	NET INCOME STANDARD
1	\$139.50	6	\$463.50
2	229.50	7	522.00
3	288.00	8	580.50
4	346.50	9	639.00
5	405.00	10	697.50
Each Additional Member + \$58.50		Each Additional Member + \$58.50	

AG WITH CHILDREN ONLY			
AG SIZE	NET INCOME STANDARD	AG SIZE	NET INCOME STANDARD
1	\$139.50	6	\$432.00
2	198.00	7	490.50
3	256.50	8	549.00
4	315.00	9	607.50
5	373.50	10	666.00
Each Additional Member + \$58.50		Each Additional Member + \$58.50	

3010.26.00 TRANSITIONAL MA STANDARDS (MA F)

There is no income standard for the first six months of eligibility. Beginning with the seventh month, the AG's average gross monthly earnings (minus child care expenses) must be equal to or less than 185% of the Federal Poverty Level for TMA eligibility to continue. (f15) The income standards effective 03/01/12 are shown below:

TMA STANDARDS			
AG SIZE	EARNINGS	AG SIZE	EARNINGS
1	\$1723	5	\$4165
2	\$2333	6	\$4775
3	\$2944	7	\$5386
4	\$3554	8	\$5996
For each additional member, add \$611.			

3010.30.00 INCOME STANDARDS (MED 3)

There are no income standards for the MA E category of assistance.

The income standards for the MA 2, MA Y, MA Z, MA N, MA 9 and MA 10 categories of assistance are based on the Federal Poverty Guidelines. The size of the AG determines the income standard to be used. Gross income and net income may not exceed the standards in order for financial eligibility to exist. The following sections list the standards to be used in the consideration of income.

3010.30.05 Income Standards/Child Age 6 - 19 (MED 3)

This chart lists the monthly income standards to be used for the MA 2 (MA for a Child Age 6 - 19) category of assistance effective March 1, 2012. Financial eligibility exists if net income is less than or equal to the standards per AG

size. (f16) The income standard is based on 100% of the Federal Poverty Level.

AG SIZE	NET INCOME STANDARD	AG SIZE	NET INCOME STANDARD
1	\$ 931	5	\$2251
2	1261	6	2581
3	1591	7	2911
4	1921	8	3241

For each additional member, add \$330.

3010.30.10 Income Standards/Child Age 1 - 6 (MED 3)

This chart lists the monthly income standards to be used for the MA Z (MA for a Child Age 1 - 6) category of assistance effective March 1, 2012. (f17) The income standard is based on 133% of Federal Poverty Level.

AG SIZE	NET INCOME STANDARD	AG SIZE	NET INCOME STANDARD
<u>1</u>	<u>\$1239</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>\$2994</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>1677</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3433</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>2116</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>3872</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>2555</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>4311</u>

For each additional member, add \$439

3010.30.15 Income Standards/Child Under 19 (MED 3)

This chart lists the monthly income standards to be used for the following groups: children age 1-5, 133-150% FPL; children 6-18, 100-150% FPL. The category is MA 9. The standards are effective March 1, 2012. (f18) (Refer to Section 1620.86 for an explanation of this category). The income standard is based on 150% of Federal Poverty Level.

AG SIZE	NET INCOME STANDARD	AG SIZE	NET INCOME STANDARD
<u>1</u>	<u>\$1397</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>\$3377</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>1892</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3872</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>2387</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4367</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>2882</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>4862</u>

For each additional member, add \$ 495

3010.30.20 Certain Children, Pregnancy & HIP Standards/

Premiums (MED 3)

This chart lists the monthly income standards for MA Y (Infants Under Age One, Package A); MA N (Pregnant Women, Package B); MA14 (Foster Care Independence, Package A), the initial income test for MA10 (Package C, Children's Health Plan) and MAHN (Non-Custodial Adults age 19-64) and MAHC (Custodial Adults age 19-64). These standards are based on 200% of the Federal Poverty Level and effective March 1, 2012.

Effective October 1, 2008, MA10 assistance groups which fail the initial income test because their total net incomes exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty Level will have their financial eligibility determined under an MA10 expansion which is explained in Section 3460.15.05. The income standards and premiums for the expansion are found in Section 3010.30.25.

MA10 premium amounts are based on family income and number of children covered. There are no premiums for MA Y, MA N, or MA14.

AG SIZE	MONTHLY LIMIT	
	TIER 1 (175% FPL)	TIER 2 (200% FPL)
1	\$ 1629	\$ 1862
2	\$ 2207	\$ 2522
3	\$ 2784	\$ 3182
4	\$ 3362	\$ 3842
5	\$ 3939	\$ 4502
6	\$ 4517	\$ 5162

The chart below shows the monthly premium amounts for MA10 category effective February 1, 2006. There has been no subsequent adjustment in the amounts. Please note that these premium amounts apply only to assistance groups which have passed the initial income test at 200% of the federal poverty guidelines. Premium amounts for assistance groups failing the initial test, but eligible under the MA10 expansion are found at Section 3010.30.25.

MONTHLY PREMIUMS		
NUMBER OF CHILDREN	TIER 1	TIER 2

1	\$ 22.00	\$ 33.00
2 or More	\$ 33.00	\$ 50.00

3010.30.25 MA10 Expansion Standards/Premiums (MED 3)

The income standards below are effective March 1, 2012 and are for the MA10 expansion, effective October 1, 2008, and are set at 250% of the federal poverty level guidelines.

AG SIZE	MONTHLY LIMIT	MONTHLY LIMIT
	TIER 1 (225% FPL)	TIER 2 (250% FPL)
1	\$ 2095	\$ 2328
2	\$ 2837	\$ 3153
3	\$ 3580	\$ 3978
4	\$ 4322	\$ 4803
5	\$ 5065	\$ 5628
6	\$ 5807	\$ 6453

The chart below shows the monthly premium amounts for the MA10 expansion, effective October 1, 2008.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN	MONTHLY PREMIUMS	
	TIER 1	TIER 2
1	\$ 42.00	\$ 53.00
2 or More	\$ 53.00	\$ 70.00

3010.35.00 INCOME STANDARDS (MED 4)

Income standards for Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB), Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB), Qualified Disabled Worker (QDW), and Qualified Individual (QI) are based on the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines. The size of the AG determines the income standard to be used. If countable income exceeds the standard, the applicant/recipient is not financially eligible. (f19)

3010.35.05 QMB Income Standards (MED 4)

This chart lists the monthly income standards to be used for the QMB (MA L) category of assistance effective March 1, 2012. This standard is based on 100% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines.

AG SIZE	INCOME STANDARD	AG SIZE	INCOME STANDARD
1	\$ 931	5	\$2251
2	1261	6	2581
3	1591	7	2911
4	1921	8	3241
Family Member Standard: \$ 330			

3010.35.10 SLMB Income Standards (MED 4)

This chart lists the monthly income standards to be used for the SLMB category of assistance effective March 1, 2012. This standard is based on 120% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines.

FAMILY SIZE	INCOME STANDARD	FAMILY SIZE	INCOME STANDARD
1	\$ 1117	5	\$2701
2	1513	6	3097
3	1909	7	3493
4	2305	8	3889
Family Member Standard: \$396			

3010.35.15 QDW Income Standards (MED 4)

This chart lists the monthly income standards to be used for the QDW (MA G) category of assistance effective March 1, 2012. This standard is based on 200% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines.

FAMILY SIZE	INCOME STANDARD	FAMILY SIZE	INCOME STANDARD
1	\$1862	5	\$4502
2	2522	6	5162
3	3182	7	5822
4	3842	8	6482
Each Additional Member: + \$ 660			

3010.35.20 QI Income Standards (MED 4)

This chart lists the monthly income standards to be used for the QI (MA I) effective March 1, 2012. This standard is based on 135% of the Federal Poverty Levels.

FAMILY SIZE	MA I INCOME STANDARD	FAMILY SIZE	INCOME STANDARD
1	\$1257	5	\$3039
2	1703	6	3485
3	2148	7	3930
4	2594	8	4376
Each Additional Member: + \$446			

3015.00.00 DEPENDENT CARE STANDARDS (F, MED 2, MED 3)

The dependent care standard is the maximum expense deduction for dependent care costs that is allowed for an assistance group in order to determine financial eligibility or provide child care payment. The actual cost of care up to the standard amount is allowed.

Effective 10/08 there is no maximum expense deduction for dependent care costs for the Food Stamp Program. The assistance group's actual cost is allowed as a deduction in the budget.

3015.05.00 DEPENDENT CARE DEDUCTION STANDARDS (MED 2, MED 3)

The maximum child care or incapacitated adult care deduction that may be allowed for each dependent participating AG member is based on the age of the dependent and the number of hours of employment per month. The actual cost of care up to the monthly amounts listed below is allowed. (f22)

Monthly Hours Employed	Dependent Under 2 Years of Age	Dependent 2 Years of Age or Older
Over 129 hours	\$200 per member	\$175 per member
129 hours or less	\$199 per member	\$174 per member

3020.00.00 UTILITY STANDARDS (F)

Four Utility Standards exist for Food Stamps. The first Utility Standard is available to AG's which have a primary heating/cooling expense or receive or expect to receive

LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program). This standard amount is \$387 effective 5/1/11 regardless of AG size. The second Utility Standard is available to AG's which do not have a primary heating/ cooling expense but do have at least two of the expenses included in this standard (electricity or fuel for purposes other than heating or cooling, water, sewerage, well and septic tank installation and maintenance, telephone and garbage or trash collection). This standard amount is \$201 (effective 5/1/11) regardless of AG size. Both standards include the standard telephone amount regardless of whether the AG has a current telephone expense.

The third standard may be used if the AG has other than heating/cooling expenses or a telephone. The single standard is \$45.

The fourth option is allowed if the AG has a basic telephone expense but no other expenses. The telephone standard is \$21.

3025.00.00 FOOD STAMP RELATED STANDARDS (F)

In the calculation of the Food Stamp budget, certain standard deductions are allowed in addition to the deductions stated in the previous sections. The following sections discuss the earned income deduction and the standard deduction.

3025.05.00 EARNED INCOME DEDUCTION (F)

Twenty percent (20%) of gross earned income is allowed as an earned income deduction in the financial eligibility determination. No additional deductions are allowed from earned income except for costs of self-employment. (f26)

3025.10.00 STANDARD DEDUCTION (F)

All assistance groups receive a flat standard deduction in the financial eligibility determination. (f27) Effective 10/01/02, the current fixed standard was replaced with a deduction that varies according to household size and is adjusted annually for cost-of-living increases. Larger households will receive a higher deduction.

Effective 10/01/11 the following standard deduction figures apply:

1 Member	\$147
2 Members	\$147
3 Members	\$147

4 Members	\$155
5 Members	\$181
6 Members Or More	\$208

3025.15.00 EXCESS SHELTER EXPENSE DEDUCTION (F)

All assistance groups which do not contain an elderly or disabled member(s) may receive a shelter deduction up to a maximum of \$459. See Section 3445.20.05.

An ineligible alien/SSN ineligible individual who is elderly or disabled does not entitle the assistance group to the uncapped shelter deduction. The ineligible alien is subject to the maximum shelter deduction amount.

3030.00.00 WORK EXPENSE DISREGARD (C)

An earned income work expense disregard of \$90 is allowed to participating AG members in the financial eligibility determination. (f28) An earned income work expense disregard of \$90 is allowed to nonparticipating AG members and to sanctioned individuals. (f29)

3035.00.00 MA EARNED INCOME DISREGARD (MED 2, MED 3)

An earned income work expense disregard of \$90 is allowed to AG members in the financial eligibility determination. An earned income work disregard of \$90 is allowed to the nonrecipient parent of a minor MA M or MA N applicant/recipient. (f30)

3040.00.00 GENERAL INCOME DISREGARD (MED 1, 4)

The general income disregards for MA A, MA B, MA D, MADW and MADI AGs is \$15.50. (f31) For MA L (QMB), MA J (SLMB), MA G (QDW), MA I (QI-1) and AGs it is \$20.00.

3041.00.00 MEDICARE PART D BENCHMARK (MED 1)

The Medicare Part D Benchmark effective 01-01-12 is \$35.92. The Medicare Part D Benchmark effective 01-01-11 was \$36.44; 01-01-10 \$35.75; 01-01-09 \$33.95; 1-1-08 \$33.50.

3045.00.00 GENERAL EARNED INCOME DISREGARD (MED 1 MED 4)

In the eligibility determination, \$65 per month of all earned income, plus 1/2 of the remaining earned income, is disregarded. The earned income disregard is applied once to the AG's combined total earned income. (f32)

3046.00.00 SUBSTANTIAL GAINFUL ACTIVITY AMOUNT (MED 1)

Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) is the limitation on gross earnings that is used to determine categorical eligibility. The amount is \$1,010 effective January 1, 2012. The SGA effective 01-01-10 through 12-31-11 was \$1,000; effective 01-01-09, \$980; effective 1-1-08, \$940.

3047.00.00 MINIMUM EARNINGS FOR M.E.D. WORKS IMPROVED CATEGORY (MED 1)

The monthly minimum earnings amount for MADI is \$290. This is calculated by multiplying the federal minimum wage, currently as of July 24, 2009, \$7.25 times 40. (f33)

3050.00.00 MAXIMUM BENEFITS (F, C)

There is a maximum benefit amount based on AG size for the Food Stamp and Cash Assistance programs. These maximum amounts are listed in the following sections.

3050.05.00 MAXIMUM BENEFITS (F)

This chart lists the maximum monthly Food Stamp benefits per AG effective 4/1/09.

AG SIZE	MAXIMUM BENEFIT	AG SIZE	MAXIMUM BENEFIT
1	\$ 200	6	\$ 952
2	367	7	1052
3	526	8	1202
4	668	9	1352
5	793	10	1502

Each Additional Member: + \$ 150

3050.10.00 MAXIMUM BENEFITS (C)

The following charts indicate the maximum monthly Cash Assistance benefits per AG based upon the composition of the AG and number of participating members. There are separate charts for AGs which include a recipient parent/caretaker and AGs which only include children.

The maximum benefit is based on 90% of an AG's need standard, rounded down to the next whole dollar.

MAXIMUM BENEFITS			
AG WITH A RECIPIENT PARENT AND/OR CARETAKER			
PARTICIPATING MEMBERS	MAXIMUM BENEFIT	PARTICIPATING MEMBERS	MAXIMUM BENEFIT
1	\$ 139	6	\$ 463
2	229	7	522
3	288	8	580
4	346	9	639
5	405	10	697

MAXIMUM BENEFITS			
AG WITH RECIPIENT CHILDREN ONLY			
PARTICIPATING MEMBERS	MAXIMUM BENEFIT	PARTICIPATING MEMBERS	MAXIMUM BENEFIT
1	\$ 139	6	\$ 432
2	198	7	490
3	256	8	549
4	315	9	607
5	373	10	666

For AGs containing more than 10 participating members, add \$65 to the need standard (Section 3010.15.00) for each additional AG member. Multiply the need standard by 90% and round down to the nearest dollar.

3099.00.00 FOOTNOTES FOR CHAPTER 3000

Following are the footnotes for Chapter 3000:

- (f1) Food Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002
- (f2) 470 IAC 10.1-3-1
- (f2a) I.C. 12-14-2-5.1(c)(2)
- (f3) 405 IAC 2-3-15; 405 IAC 2-9-4
- (f4) 405 IAC 2-3-15;
Social Security Act, Section 1924(f)(2)(A)
- (f5) Social Security Act, Section 1905(p)(1)(C)
- (f6) 7 CFR 273.9
- (f7) I.C. 12-14-2-5
- (f8) 45 CFR 233.20(a)(2)
- (f8a) 470 IAC 14-3-6
- (f9) 405 IAC 2-3-8
- (f10) 405 IAC 2-3-21; 405 IAC 2-3-17; IC 12-15-7-2
- (f11) Section 3203 of Title 38 U.S.C. as amended by
OBRA-90 (P.L. 101-508)
- (f12) 405 IAC 2-3-17; Social Security Act,
Section 1924(d)
- (f13) 405 IAC 2-3-17; Social Security Act,

Section 1924(d)
(f14) 45 CFR 233.20(a)(2)
(f15) Social Security Act, Section 1925
(f16) Social Security Act, Section 1902(1)(2)
(f17) Social Security Act, Section 1902(1)(2)(ii)(II)
(f18) I.C. 12-15-2-14
(f19) Social Security Act, Section 1905(P)(2)
(f21) 7 CFR 273.9(d)(4)
(f22) Social Security Act, Section (a)(8)(A);
45 CFR 233.20(a)(11)(i)
(f23) 45 CFR 255.4(a)(2)(iii)
(f24) 7 CFR 273.9(d)(6)
(f26) 7 CFR 273.9(c)
(f27) Food Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002
(f28) 45 CFR 233.20(a)(11)(B)
(f29) Social Security Act, Section 402(a)(31)
(f30) Social Security Act 402(a)(31)
(f31) 405 IAC 2-3-3
(f32) 405 IAC 2-3-3
(f33) IAC 2-9-5(b)