



State of Wisconsin
Governor Scott Walker

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TO: **Income Maintenance Supervisors**
Income Maintenance Lead Workers
Income Maintenance Staff
W-2 Agencies
Workforce Development Boards
Job Center Leads and Managers
Training Staff
Child Care Coordinators

FROM: Shawn Smith, Bureau Director
Bureau of Enrollment Policy & Systems
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability

DHS OPERATIONS MEMO

No: DHS 15-21

DATE: 06/03/2015

FS	<input type="checkbox"/>	MA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BC+	<input type="checkbox"/>
SC	<input type="checkbox"/>	CTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	FSET	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBJECT: Spousal Impoverishment Income Allowance FPL Adjustment

CROSS REFERENCE: MEH 18.6

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

PURPOSE:

This memo provides local agencies with the 2015 amounts for the Community Spouse Income Allowance and the *Spousal Impoverishment Family Member Income Allowance*.

BACKGROUND:

The U.S Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) published its annual update of the Poverty Income Guidelines (a.k.a., Federal Poverty Level, or FPL) in the Federal Register in January. These guidelines are available at the following website:
<http://aspe.dhhs.gov/poverty/index.shtml>.

Income limits and other amounts used in eligibility determinations for some categories of Medicaid (MA) are based upon the FPL. In addition, Federal and State law mandates that some of the income limit changes published in January, related to Spousal Impoverishment, have a delay in their effective dates. Those changes are indicated in this Operations Memo.

CARES:

The Spousal Impoverishment Community Spouse Income Allowance Allocation, Shelter Base Amount and the Spousal Impoverishment Family Member Income Allowance will increase effective July 1, 2015, in accordance with State and Federal Law. The new limits will be in CARES on Table TMEP, on May 29, 2015. CARES eligibility redeterminations for July benefits will occur as part of a mass change on June 4th, 2015.

SPOUSAL IMPOVERISHMENT COMMUNITY SPOUSE INCOME ALLOWANCE:

ITEM	Old Amount Effective until 07/01/2015	New Amount Effective 07/01/15
Minimum Allocation	\$2,621.67	\$2,655.00
Shelter Base Amount	\$ 786.50	\$ 796.50

SPOUSAL IMPOVERISHMENT FAMILY MEMBER INCOME ALLOWANCE:

Group Size	Old Amount Effective until 07/01/2015	Amount Effective 07/01/15
Each eligible family member	\$ 655.42	\$ 663.75

CONTACTS:

BEPS CARES Information & Problem Resolution Center

*Program Categories – FS – FoodShare, MA – Medicaid, BC+ – BadgerCare Plus, SC – SeniorCare, CTS – Caretaker Supplement, FSET – FoodShare Employment and Training.

DHS/DHCAA/BEPS/FM