



Date: May 21, 2021

DMS Operations Memo 21-13

To: Income Maintenance Supervisors  
Income Maintenance Lead Workers  
Income Maintenance Staff

**Affected Programs:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BadgerCare Plus     | <input type="checkbox"/> Caretaker Supplement              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FoodShare           | <input type="checkbox"/> FoodShare Employment and Training |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medicaid |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SeniorCare          |  |

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Division of Medicaid Services

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Division of Medicaid Services

**Spousal Impoverishment Income Allowance Federal Poverty Level Adjustment**

**CROSS REFERENCE**

Medicaid Eligibility Handbook, [Section 18.6 Spousal Impoverishment Income Allocation](#) and [Section 39.4.2 Elderly, Blind, or Disabled Deductions and Allowances](#)

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

July 1, 2021

**PURPOSE**

This operations memo provides the 2021 amounts for the spousal impoverishment community spouse income allowance minimum allocation, the spousal impoverishment family member income allowance, and the shelter base amount.

**BACKGROUND**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued its annual update of the Poverty Income Guidelines, also called the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Guidelines, on January 13, 2021. These guidelines are available at the following website: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>.

Income limits and other amounts used in eligibility determinations for some categories of Medicaid are based on the FPL. Federal and state law mandates that the income limit changes related to spousal impoverishment have a delay in their effective dates. As a result, the changes are effective July 1, 2021.



**POLICY**

The spousal impoverishment community spouse income allowance minimum allocation, the spousal impoverishment family member income allowance, and the shelter base amount will increase effective July 1, 2021. The new limits will be in CARES on May 26, 2021. CARES eligibility redeterminations for July benefits will occur on June 5, 2021, as part of a mass change.

***SPOUSAL IMPOVERISHMENT COMMUNITY SPOUSE INCOME ALLOWANCE***

Item	Amount Effective From July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021	New Amount Effective July 1, 2021
Minimum allocation	\$2,873.34	\$2,903.34
Shelter base amount	\$862.00	\$871.00

***SPOUSAL IMPOVERISHMENT FAMILY MEMBER INCOME ALLOWANCE***

Item	Amount Effective From July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021	New Amount Effective July 1, 2021
Each eligible family member	\$718.34	\$725.84

**CONTACTS**

CARES Information & Problem Resolution Center

Bureau of Eligibility Operations and Training (BEOT): [DHSCARESCallCenter@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DHSCARESCallCenter@dhs.wisconsin.gov)

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