



Date: March 27, 2026

DMS Operations Memo 26-11

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

Affected Programs:

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

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Division of Medicaid Services

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Bureau of Eligibility and Enrollment Policy
Division of Medicaid Services

Increase to Social Security Administration (SSA) Authorized Representative Payee Monthly Fee for FoodShare Eligibility Determinations

CROSS-REFERENCE

- FoodShare Wisconsin Policy Handbook, [Section 4.3.4.3 Disregarded Unearned Income](#)

EFFECTIVE DATE

April 1, 2026

PURPOSE

This operations memo announces a change to the SSA limits on representative payee monthly fees that are disregarded from a member's Social Security Income (SSI) or Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) payment when determining FoodShare eligibility.

BACKGROUND

SSA-authorized representative payees may charge a monthly fee for managing a member's SSI or OASDI benefits. The amount of the fee withheld is disregarded from the member's SSI or OASDI payment when determining FoodShare benefit amounts.

Under current policy, the amount of a FoodShare member's monthly representative payee fee is disregarded. Currently, this fee is the lesser of 10% of the member's monthly SSA benefit amount or \$25 per month.

POLICY

An SSA-authorized representative payee's monthly fee for managing a member's SSI or OASDI benefits will continue to be disregarded as income for purposes of determining the member's FoodShare eligibility.

The fee amount for members without an SSA-determined drug or alcohol abuse condition is the lesser of 10% of the monthly SSA benefit amount or \$57 per month. The fee amount for members with an SSA-determined drug or alcohol abuse condition is the lesser of 10% of the monthly SSA benefit amount or \$106 per month.

For existing FoodShare members who reported this expense on or before April 30, 2026, any resulting increase in FoodShare benefits will be effective starting May 2026. If the change is reported on or after May 1, 2026, resulting in an increase in benefits, the increase will be effective the month following the reported change. For new applications received April 1, 2026, or after, this reported expense will be applied starting the month of application.

Verification of the fee amount is only required if it is questionable.

CONTACTS

DHS CARES Problem Resolution Team

DHS/DMS/BEEP/AG/DI

DHS/DMS/BEOT/JN