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 FROM: Solid Ground – Benefits Legal Assistance

**SENIOR BULLETIN: MEDICAID**

## Key Medicaid Standards as of January 2024

The table shows Medicaid eligibility and other standards in effect as of 1/1/2024. You can also find all Medicaid (Washington Apple Health) standards online at: <https://www.hca.wa.gov/health-care-services-supports/program-standard-income-and-resources>

<b>Standard</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Effective</b>
Resource standard for Medicaid applicant	\$2,000	1/1/89
Community spouse resource allowance (minimum)	\$68,301	7/1/23
Community spouse resource allowance (maximum) <sup>1</sup>	\$154,140	1/1/24
Community spouse income maintenance allowance (minimum)	\$2,465	7/1/23
Community spouse income maintenance allowance (maximum)	\$3,853.50	1/1/24
Excess Home Equity <sup>2</sup>	\$1,071,000	1/1/24
Excess shelter cost standard	\$740	7/1/23
Utility standard for determining excess shelter costs	\$483	10/1/23
Medicaid Special Income Level (used to determine eligibility for COPES categorically needy (CN) applicant) <sup>3</sup>	\$2,829	1/1/24
Maximum gross income for COPES, Residential Support Waiver (RSW), and New Freedom applicant (see explanation under footnote 4) <sup>4</sup>	\$10,387 (Possibly Higher)	1/1/24
Income allowance for single COPES, RSW, and New Freedom participant	\$2,829	1/1/24
Income allowance for married COPES, RSW, and New Freedom participant	\$943	1/1/24
Home maintenance allowance (monthly for 6 months) <sup>5</sup>	\$1,215	1/1/23
Daily average statewide private nursing facility rate <sup>6</sup>	\$391	10/1/23
Monthly average statewide private nursing facility rate	\$11,899	10/1/23

Average monthly state nursing facility rate	\$9,464	10/1/23
Medically needy and Categorically needy income level for single person	\$943	1/1/24
Medically needy income level for couple	\$943	1/1/24

<sup>1</sup> The actual amount depends on the date of institutionalization and the couple's total resources at the time of the applicant's institutionalization. See WAC 182-513-1350. The CSRA is also explained in the publications Q & A on Medicaid for Nursing Home Residents and Q & A on the COPES Program.

<sup>2</sup> Based on CPIU (Consumer Price Index-Urban).

<sup>3</sup> For exclusions from gross income, see WAC 182-513-1340. \$2,829 is the current MSIL (Medicaid Special Income Level).

<sup>4</sup> Effective April 1, 2012, the Medically Needy In-Home Waiver (MNIW) and the Medically Needy Residential Waiver (MNRW) programs were merged into COPES. **WAC 182-515-1508 sets out the income eligibility rules that determine if an applicant, who is not eligible as CN (Categorically Needy), is income eligible for COPES.**

WAC 182-515-1508(4) provides that applicants whose gross non-excluded monthly income is greater than the SIL (Special income Level - currently \$2,829) are COPES eligible if the applicant's **monthly net income** is no greater than the MNIL (Medically Needy Income Level - currently \$943). **Net income is calculated by reducing gross non-excluded income by:**

- A. Medically Needy (MN) disregards found in WAC 182-513-1345; and
- B. The average monthly nursing facility **state rate** (currently \$9,464).

The \$10,358 number provided here and in the COPES Q&A Pamphlet is derived from adding together the MNIL (currently \$943) and the monthly state average nursing facility rate (currently \$9,464): \$943+ \$9,464+ \$20 general income disregard = \$ 10,387

Thus, \$10,358 is the maximum allowable gross income for COPES **if the only deduction** from gross non-excluded income is the average monthly nursing facility state rate and the \$20 disregard applicable to all. The \$10,387 number is used in the publications in order to provide a tangible number for use in most cases.

**However, if additional deductions can be taken under WAC 182-513-1345, then the maximum gross non-excluded amount may be higher than \$10,387.** For example, if an applicant has \$9,700 in gross non-excluded income and pays a non-Medicare monthly health insurance premium of \$200.00, the applicant will be COPES income eligible because net income is less than the \$943 MNIL: (\$9,700 - \$9,464- \$200 - \$20 = \$16).

See the following publication on WashingtonLawHelp for additional information: [Questions and Answers on the COPES Program](#)

<sup>5</sup> This applies to nursing facility residents only to maintain their home while in the institution.

<sup>6</sup> This is the amount by which total gifts in a month are divided to calculate periods of ineligibility (in days).

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