



## **MEPD and TW Bulletin 23-11**

**Date:** June 01, 2023

**To:** Eligibility Services Supervisors and Staff  
Program Managers  
Regional Directors  
Regional Attorneys  
Hearings Officers

**From:** Access and Eligibility Services Program Policy  
State Office 2115

**Subject: Spousal Impoverishment Dependent Allowance**

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The information in this bulletin will be included in a future handbook revision. Until the handbook is updated, staff must use the information in this bulletin. If you have any questions regarding the policy information in this bulletin, follow regional procedures.

Active bulletins are posted on the following websites:

- [Medicaid for the Elderly and People with Disabilities Handbook \(MEPDH\)](https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/mepd/policy-bulletins) at <https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/mepd/policy-bulletins>;
- [Texas Works Handbook \(TWH\)](https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/texas-works-handbook/texas-works-bulletins) at <https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/texas-works-handbook/texas-works-bulletins>.

## **Spousal Impoverishment Dependent Allowance**

### **Background**

In determining the co-payment for a person receiving Medicaid services in an institutional setting or under a Home and Community-Based Services program, a dependent allowance may be deducted from the person's income.

The spousal impoverishment dependent allowance is calculated by subtracting the dependent's income from 150 percent of the monthly federal poverty level (FPL) for a family of two and dividing by three. This amount is then deducted from the person's total countable income when determining their co-payment amount. Although the FPL amounts are updated effective March 1st of each year, the new spousal impoverishment dependent allowance amount is not effective until July 1st.

### **Current Policy**

#### [MEPD](#)

The current spousal impoverishment dependent allowance amount is \$2,289 ([MEPDH J-7400](#), Spousal Impoverishment Dependent Allowance).

### **New Policy**

#### [MEPD](#)

Effective July 1, 2023, the new spousal impoverishment dependent allowance amount is \$2,465.

### **Automation**

Changes to TIERS were implemented with TIERS Release 114.3 on May 27, 2023.

### **Correspondence**

Correspondence changes are not required.

### **Handbook**

The MEPDH is currently scheduled to be updated in the September 2023 revision.

Updates to the TWH are not required.

### **Training**

The MEPD New Hire Training and Continuing Skills Training will be updated to reflect the new spousal impoverishment dependent allowance amount.

### **Effective Date**

This policy is effective beginning with benefit month of July 2023.