



MEPD and TW Bulletin 23-14

Date: September 15, 2023

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

From: Gina Carter, Interim Deputy Associate Commissioner
Access and Eligibility Services Program Policy
State Office 2115

Subject:

- 1. TANF Maximum Grant Amounts**
- 2. SNAP Income Limits, Deductions, and Allotments**
- 3. SNAP-CAP Allotments**
- 4. Changes During the Certification Period**
- 5. New ABAWD Exceptions**
- 6. New ABAWD Age Criteria**
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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>.

1. TANF Maximum Grant Amounts

Background

State law requires the monthly Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) maximum grant amounts be adjusted to 17 percent of the current federal poverty level (FPL). Effective October 01, 2023, Texas HHSC revised the annual TANF maximum grant to reflect the FPL increase.

Current Policy

[TANF](#)

Staff must use the TANF Budgetary Allowances chart effective October 01, 2022, to determine the maximum grant amount for TANF eligibility determination groups (EDGs). ([TWH C-111](#), Income Limits).

New Policy

[TANF](#)

Effective October 01, 2023, staff must use the TANF Budgetary Allowances chart below to determine the maximum grant amount for TANF EDGs. There are no changes in the budgetary or recognizable needs amounts for these eligibility tests.

TANF Maximum Grants (Effective October 01, 2023)

Family Size	Non-caretaker Cases	Caretaker Cases Without Second Parent	Caretaker Cases with Second Parent
1	\$121	\$147	---
2	\$174	\$305	\$234
3	\$243	\$353	\$386
4	\$290	\$424	\$434
5	\$372	\$471	\$503
6	\$402	\$541	\$552
7	\$501	\$588	\$619
8	\$551	\$669	\$667
9	\$632	\$717	\$748
10	\$681	\$798	\$796
11	\$762	\$847	\$877
12	\$810	\$928	\$926
13	\$891	\$976	\$1,007
14	\$940	\$1,057	\$1,056
15	\$1,020	\$1,105	\$1,136
Each additional person	+ \$81	+ \$81	+ \$81

Policy for EDGs Processed After September Mass Update

For the benefit month of:	Use the:
September 2023 or earlier,	Previous maximum grant amount.
October 2023 or later,	Updated maximum grant amount.

Automation

TIERS will update the TANF grant amounts during the weekend of September 02, 2023. The updated TANF grant amounts are budgeted in TIERS for benefit month October 2023 and ongoing. TIERS converts the benefit amount for TANF EDGs in ongoing status without an override designation and produces a combined Form TF0001, Notice of Case Action, for any SNAP, TANF, or Medical Assistance (MA) EDGs with a benefit change.

Note: A TIERS exception report for EDGs not included in the mass update is distributed for staff action. EDGs not updated will receive an explanation of the October cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) on the next Form TF0001 produced for that EDG.

Correspondence

The following language will be included on the Form TF0001 for TANF households with an increased allotment:

Benefit amounts for many people have changed. This is due to new federal and state laws or rules. Changes go into effect October 1, 2023.

Handbook

Updates to the MEPDH are not required.

The TWH is currently scheduled to be updated in the October 2023 revision.

Training

Training is not required.

Effective Date

The policy is effective beginning with the October 2023 benefit month.

2. SNAP Income Limits, Deductions, and Allotments

Background

The allotment, deduction, and income amounts for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are adjusted as an annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to reflect changes in the federal poverty level (FPL).

Effective October 01, 2023, recent guidance from the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) directs Texas HHSC to revise the following limits and amounts:

- maximum SNAP income limits;
- standard deduction;
- maximum excess shelter deduction;
- standard utility allowance (SUA);
- basic utility allowance (BUA);
- telephone standard;
- homeless shelter deduction; and
- SNAP allotments.

Note: The standard medical expense (SME) deduction did not change.

Current Policy

SNAP

Staff must use the SNAP income limits, deductions, and allotment amounts effective October 01, 2022 to determine eligibility for SNAP eligibility determination groups (EDGs). ([TWH C-121](#), Maximum Income Limits; [TWH C-121.1](#), Deduction Amounts; [TWH C-1431](#), Whole Monthly Allotments by Household Size)

New Policy

SNAP

Effective October 01, 2023, staff must use the following income limits, deductions, and allotment amounts to determine eligibility for SNAP EDGs.

Maximum SNAP Income Limits (Effective October 01, 2023)

Household Size	Gross (130%)	Net (100%)	165%**
1	\$1,580	\$1,215	\$2,005
2	\$2,137	\$1,644	\$2,712
3	\$2,694	\$2,072	\$3,419
4	\$3,250	\$2,500	\$4,125
5	\$3,807	\$2,929	\$4,832
6	\$4,364	\$3,357	\$5,539
7	\$4,921	\$3,785	\$6,246

8	\$5,478	\$4,214	\$6,952
9	\$6,035	\$4,643	\$7,659
10	\$6,592	\$5,072	\$8,366
Each additional person	+ \$557	+ \$429	+ \$707

**The figures in the 165% column are used to determine if an elderly person with a disability living with others may claim separate household status even though the person purchases or prepares food with the others. The figures in this column are also the gross income limits for categorically eligible households.

Standard or Maximum Deduction Amounts Effective October 01, 2023

- Standard Deduction:
 - If household size is three or less — \$198
 - If household size is four — \$208
 - If household size is five — \$244
 - If household size is six or more — \$279
- SME Deduction — \$170 (minus \$35)
- Maximum Excess Shelter Deduction — \$672
- SUA — \$424
- BUA — \$391
- Telephone Standard — \$60
- Homeless Shelter Deduction — \$179.66

SNAP Allotment Amounts Effective October 1, 2023

SNAP allotment charts providing the whole monthly allotments by household size are included as an attachment to this bulletin. The minimum monthly SNAP allotment for a one or two-person household remains \$23.

Policy for EDGs Processed After September Mass Update

For the benefit month of:	eligibility is determined using the:
September 2023 or earlier,	Previous income limits, standard deduction amount, maximum excess shelter deduction, SUA and BUA, telephone standard, homeless shelter deduction, and allotment amounts for determining that month’s benefits.

<p>October 2023 and ongoing,</p>	<p>Updated income limits, standard deduction amounts, maximum excess shelter deduction, SUA and BUA, telephone standard, homeless shelter deduction, and allotment amounts for determining that month's benefits.</p> <p>This includes households applying after September 15, 2023, who meet the combined allotment eligibility criteria. The updated 130% FPL amounts are used to notify a streamlined reporting household of the reporting requirement at application, recertification, or incomplete review when the action is disposed on or after October 1, 2023. *</p>
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*TIERS automatically uses the correct amounts for each month.

Automation

TIERS will update all active SNAP EDGs during the weekend of September 02, 2023. The updated income limits, deductions, and allotments are budgeted in TIERS for benefit month October 2023 and ongoing. The appropriate income limits, deductions, and allotments are automatically applied for each benefit month, whether the benefit month is before or after the October COLA (including combined allotment situations). TIERS converts the benefit amount for SNAP EDGs in ongoing status without an override designation and produces a combined Form TF0001, Notice of Case Action, for any SNAP, TANF, or Medical Assistance (MA) EDG with a benefit change.

Note: A TIERS exception report for EDGs not included in the mass update is distributed for staff action. EDGs not updated will receive an explanation of the October cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) on the next Form TF0001 produced for that EDG.

Correspondence

The following language will be included on the Form TF0001 for SNAP households with an increased or decreased allotment:

Benefit amounts for many people have changed. This is due to new federal and state laws or rules. Changes go into effect October 1, 2023.

Handbook

Updates to the MEPDH are not required.

The TWH is currently scheduled to be updated in the October 2023 revision.

Training

Training is not required.

Effective Date

The policy is effective beginning with the October 2023 benefit.

3. SNAP-CAP Allotments

Background

The shelter and allotment amount for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Combined Application Project (SNAP-CAP) are adjusted periodically to reflect changes in SNAP and SSI benefit levels.

Effective October 01, 2023, recent guidance from the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) directs Texas HHSC to adjust the SNAP-CAP allotment amounts to align with the recent changes from the federal cost-of-living adjustments (COLA).

Current Policy

[SNAP-CAP](#)

SNAP-CAP recipients receive a standard allotment amount based on their monthly shelter expenses if monthly shelter expenses are:

- Less than or equal to \$440 per month, the monthly SNAP-CAP allotment is \$134.
- More than \$440 per month, the monthly SNAP-CAP allotment is \$223. ([TWH B-475.1](#), Overview)

New Policy

[SNAP-CAP](#)

Effective with the October 2023 benefit month, if monthly shelter expenses are:

- Less than or equal to \$440 per month, the monthly SNAP-CAP allotment is \$144.
- More than \$440 per month, the monthly SNAP-CAP allotment is \$233.

Automation

TIERS will update all active SNAP-CAP EDGs during the weekend of September 2, 2023. The updated allotments are budgeted in TIERS for benefit month October 2023 and ongoing. The appropriate allotments are automatically applied for each benefit month, whether the benefit month is before or after the October COLA (including combined allotment situations). TIERS converts the benefit amount for SNAP-CAP EDGs in ongoing status without an override designation and produces a [Form H1843](#), Your SNAP-CAP Food Benefits Have Changed, for the SNAP-CAP benefit change.

Correspondence

Form H1843 will be sent to all SNAP-CAP households and includes the following notice language:

Due to Federal Law, your food benefits will change as of October 2023.

- *If you got \$134 per month, you will now get \$144 per month if your housing and utility costs together are less than \$440 a month.*
- *If you got \$223 per month, you will now get \$233 per month if your housing and utility costs together are \$440 or more a month.*

Handbook

Updates to the MEPDH are not required.

The TWH is currently scheduled to be updated in the October 2023 revision.

Training

Training is not required.

Effective Date

This policy is effective beginning with the October 2023 benefit month.

4. Changes During the Certification Period

Background

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published final rules establishing revised reporting requirements for SNAP households. It also modified when states should act on changes with the intent of reducing the number of requests for information for changes that are not required to report during the certification period.

During the week of April 5, 2021, FNS completed a Local Program Access Review (PAR) Management Evaluation (ME) of the agency's processes and procedures. During the PAR, FNS found that the agency's current processes and procedures do not contain clear guidance for handling changes when all information is not available, as federally required. As a result, HHSC is modifying change related policy and processes to comply with the identified regulations.

Current Policy

SNAP

Households are required to report specific types of changes during the certification period based on the Streamlined Reporting (SR) status assigned to them at certification or recertification.

SR 1 households must report changes:

- To residence and associated changes in shelter costs such as rent or mortgage and utilities;
- When the ongoing gross monthly income exceeds 130 percent FPL for the household's size for two consecutive months; and
- When the work or participation hours of an able-bodied adult without dependents (ABAWD) decrease below an average of 20 hours per week.

SR 2 households must report changes:

- To residence and associated changes in shelter costs such as rent or mortgage and utilities; and
- When the work or participation hours of an ABAWD decrease below an average of 20 hours per week.

SR 3 households must report changes:

- In sources of income;
- To household composition;
- In ownership of a licensed vehicle;
- In wage rate or status for employed household members;

- To residence and associated changes in shelter costs such as rent or mortgage and utilities;
- When the household's gross monthly household unearned income amount changes by more than \$50;
- Legal obligation of child support paid to or for a person outside the household; and
- Available cash, stocks, bonds or money in a bank or savings account if the combined resources total is \$5,000 or more. ([TWH B-621](#), What to Report).

Additionally, staff must act on all household-reported and agency-generated changes, except for changes reported during the last benefit month and changes to self-employment of less than \$25 regardless of if it is a change the household is required to report. ([TWH B-631](#), Action on Changes) If additional information is needed to process the change, staff are required to send [Form H1020](#), Request for Information or Action, to request verification. ([TWH B-640](#), Changes Affecting Benefits)

New Policy

SNAP

Updated Reporting Requirements During the Certification Period

The following policy changes are being made to update the types of changes household are required to report:

- SR1 and SR2 households do not need to report changes to their residence or associated changes in shelter costs such as rent or mortgage and utilities. However, they must still report if they move out of Texas.
- SR3 households must report when the household's gross monthly household unearned income amount changes by more than \$125.
- All SNAP households must report lottery or gambling winnings greater than \$4,250.

The following chart summarizes the updated reporting requirements for each SR household status during the certification period.

Streamlined Reporting Households (SR1 and SR2)	Non-Streamlined Reporting Households (SR3)
<p>Household Composition</p> <p>Not required to report unless the addition of the new household member(s) results in the household's ongoing gross monthly income exceeding 130 percent FPL.</p>	<p>Household Composition</p> <p>Required to report any changes to the number of people in the household.</p>
<p>Residence</p> <p>Required to report moves out of Texas.</p>	<p>Residence</p> <p>Required to report a new physical address and associated changes in rent or mortgage and utilities.</p>
<p>Child Support Expense</p> <p>Not required to report until redetermination.</p>	<p>Child Support Expense</p> <p>Required to report any changes in the household's legal obligation to pay child support.</p>
<p>Resources</p> <p>Not required to report until redetermination.</p>	<p>Resources</p> <p>Required to report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ownership of a licensed vehicle. • When the total amount of resources, such as money in bank accounts, stocks, bonds, or cash, exceeds the \$5,000 resource limit.
<p>Income</p> <p>Required to report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in income resulting in ongoing monthly gross income above 130 percent FPL for two consecutive months. 	<p>Income</p> <p>Required to report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in unearned income greater than \$125 per month.

Streamlined Reporting Households (SR1 and SR2)	Non-Streamlined Reporting Households (SR3)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All lottery and gambling winnings of \$4,250 or more in a single game. (Casinos, Lottery, Bingo, etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in the source of the household’s earned and unearned income. All lottery and gambling winnings of \$4,250 or more in a single game. (Casinos, Lottery, Bingo, etc.).
<p>Employment</p> <p>Required to report when any household member who is an ABAWD works or participates in a work program less than the required average of 20 hours per week, including all employment, self-employment, and any hours that count toward the work requirement.</p>	<p>Employment</p> <p>Required to report any changes in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wages or pay rate of a household member. Employment status (full-time to part-time or vice-versa as defined by the employer) of a household member. Work program participation which results in an ABAWD participating less than the required average of 20 hours per week.

Requesting Information During the Certification Period

Staff must continue to act on all household-reported and agency-generated changes when all information is provided to process the change, regardless of if it is a change the household is required to report.

If additional verification is needed to process the change, staff only send Form H1020 when:

- The information is fewer than 60 days old at the time of report relative to the current benefit month. To calculate, count 60 days back from the first of the reported month; and
- The household’s SR type requires the information to be reported.

Note: If no wage information is received with a reported change of employment and staff cannot determine whether a SR household’s ongoing gross monthly income is above 130 percent FPL, send Form H1020. This applies to household-

reported changes of employment and agency-generated changes, such as National Directory of New Hires (NDNH) reports.

Staff must also send the Form H1020 regardless of the age of the information or SR status if information reported conflicts with information used to certify the household. This includes information that contradicts information provided at the time of the most recent certification during the application, redetermination, interview, or previous report of change.

If a household or agency-generated change is reported and the Form H1020 is not required to be sent, document the reported change in the case record and verify the information reported at the next recertification.

Exception: Staff must continue to pend for additional verification, if needed, when processing Prisoner and Death matches. ([TWH B-631.2](#), Actions on Office of Inspector General (OIG) Match Action Alert Changes)

Automation

Automation changes are not required.

Correspondence

Changes to [Form H1019](#), Report of Change, in TIERS will be implemented October 14, 2023.

[Form H0070](#), Food Stamps Streamlined Reporting (Income Calculation Worksheet) will be retired as no longer in use in April 2024.

Handbook

Updates to the MEPDH are not required.

The TWH is currently scheduled to be updated in the April 2024 revision.

Training

SNAP Basic Skills Training (BST) training will be updated to reflect the new policy for changes reporting during the certification period.

Effective Date

This policy is effective for changes processed on or after October 14, 2023.

5. New ABAWD Exceptions

Background

On June 3, 2023, President Joseph R. Biden signed into law H.R. 3746, the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (FRA) (P.L. 118-5). The bill expands the age criteria and creates new exception reasons for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs). Effective September 01, 2023, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) must begin implementing the new ABAWD provisions included in the FRA.

Current Policy

SNAP

ABAWD Exception Reasons

Unless an exception criteria is met, ABAWDS are subject to a Federal Time Limit (FTL). The FTL initially limits ABAWDS to three months of SNAP eligibility in a 36-month period. Any full month that an ABAWD does not meet an exception criteria, receives SNAP benefits, and is not meeting the work requirement is counted towards the FTL. ([TWH A-1910](#), General Policy).

A person meets criteria to receive an exception from the SNAP ABAWD work requirement if they:

- are under the age of 18 or over the age of 49;
- are pregnant;
- are a member of a SNAP EDG where a household member on the SNAP EDG is under the age of 18;
- are exempt from E&T registration;
- live in a waiver area;
- live in a SNAP non-E&T county; or
- meet the criteria as being physically or mentally unfit to work. ([TWH A-1942](#), Exemptions).

Homeless Criteria

Households are considered homeless when they have no regular nighttime residence or that live in a:

- supervised shelter that provides temporary living quarters;
- place not intended for regular sleeping quarters; or
- temporary accommodation in another person's residence for 90 days or less. After 90 days in the same person's residence, the household is no longer considered homeless. ([TWH Glossary H](#), Homeless Household)

New Policy

SNAP

ABAWD Exception Reasons

In addition to the exceptions listed above, a person meets criteria to receive an exception from the SNAP ABAWD work requirement if they are considered:

- A veteran;
- Homeless; or
- A youth who aged out of foster care.

Homeless Criteria

Households are considered homeless when they when they have no regular nighttime residence, or their primary nighttime residence is a:

- Supervised shelter that provides temporary living quarters (such as a welfare hotel or congregate shelter);
- Place not intended for regular sleeping quarters (such as a hallway, bus station, or lobby);
- Halfway house or similar institution which provides temporary residence for people intended to be institutionalized; or
- Temporary accommodation in another person's residence for 90 days or less. After 90 days in the same person's residence, the household is no longer considered homeless.

Staff must indicate in TIERS if a household meets homeless exception criteria on the **Living Arrangement/Domicile** Logical Unit of Work (LUW) by selecting "Homeless" from the *Living Arrangement Details, Living Arrangement Type* dropdown.

If the household's statement is questionable, request the household provide verification. To verify, pend the household's living arrangement by selecting "not verified" on the **Living Arrangement/Domicile** LUW. The following verification sources are acceptable:

- Collateral contact with a homeless shelter or person the household is staying with;
- A statement from any person aware of the household's circumstances; or
- Any other documentation which can reasonably verify the household's circumstances.

Veteran Criteria

A person is considered a veteran if they have served in the United States Armed Forces (such as Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, and National Guard), including a person who served in a reserve component of the Armed Forces and who was discharged or released, regardless of the conditions of their discharge or release.

Staff must indicate in TIERS if a person meets veteran exception criteria on the **Individual Demographics-SSN/Armed Services** LUW by selecting "Yes" under the *Veteran Information, Veteran?* dropdown.

If the household's statement is questionable, send a manual Form H1020 requesting verification of the household's veteran status. If questionable, verify whether the person is a veteran using service department records such as:

- A DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty;
- An original Certificate of Discharge;
- A Report of Transfer or Discharge;
- A military ID card indicating service in the armed forces;
- A driver's license indicating veteran status;
- Correspondence or contact from the Department of Veteran Affairs, including benefit payment or award letter or VA ID Card or which indicates service in the armed forces; or
- Any other documentation which can reasonably verify the person's military status.

Youth Aged out of Foster Care Criteria

A person is considered a former foster care youth if they are age 24 or younger and were in foster care under the responsibility of any state, district, territory, or Indian Tribal Organization on the date they turn age 18.

Staff must indicate in TIERS whether a person is considered a youth aged out of foster care by checking the existing answer for "Was the individual in Foster Care on their 18th birthday?" in the **Individual-Editing Existing Individual Information** LUW. If the existing answer is "yes," staff should take no further action to grant the exception.

If the existing answer is "No," staff must follow the below steps to indicate the person is eligible for the exception.

Using the drop downs options select:

1. "No" under the *Was the individual in Foster Care on their 18th birthday?* dropdown.
2. "Foster Care Conservatorship" under the *Type of Conservatorship* dropdown.
3. "User Research" under the *Verification* dropdown.
4. "Not Applicable" under the *Did the individual receive Non-Federal Match Foster Care Medicaid on their 18th birthday?* dropdown.

If the household's statement is questionable, send a manual Form H1020 requesting verification the person can be considered a youth aged out of foster care. Verify whether the person can be considered a youth aged out of foster care using:

- Collateral contact from other social service workers or agencies, such as the agency administering the foster care program or Medicaid;
- Information in TIERS which shows the person was in foster care as of their 18th birthday or later; or
- Any other documentation which can reasonably verify the person is a youth aged out of foster care.

Note: Unless questionable, client statement is acceptable verification that a person meets the new exception criteria. If questionable and the household does not provide verification, do not deny SNAP for failure to provide verification but do not allow the exception.

Automation

Changes to TIERS are currently scheduled to be implemented with TIERS Release R116.0 on November 18, 2023.

Until TIERS changes are implemented, if a person meets one of the new ABAWD exception criteria on or after September 01, 2023, staff should remove any ABAWD countable month accrued on or after September 01, 2023, when the ABAWD meets a new exception reason. Staff must override ABAWD countable months using the [Success Express-Correcting ABAWD Countable Months](#) found in the Job Aid Repository on the LOOP.

Correspondence

Changes to the SNAP work rules language on the TF0001, Notice of Case Action, will be implemented November 18, 2023.

Handbook

Updates to the MEPDH are not required.

The TWH is currently scheduled to be updated in the April 2024 revision.

Training

Training is not required.

Effective Date

This policy is effective for applications, redeterminations, and changes received on or after September 01, 2023.

6. New ABAWD Age Criteria

Background

On June 3, 2023, President Joseph R. Biden signed into law H.R. 3746, the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (FRA) (P.L. 118-5). The bill expands the age criteria and creates new exception reasons for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs). Effective September 01, 2023, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) must begin implementing the new ABAWD provisions included in the FRA.

Current Policy

[SNAP](#)

Unless an exception criteria is met, ABAWDS are subject to a Federal Time Limit (FTL). The FTL initially limits ABAWDS to three months of SNAP eligibility in a 36-month period. Any full month that an ABAWD does not meet an exception criteria, receives SNAP benefits, and is not meeting the work requirement is counted towards the FTL. ([TWH A-1910](#), General Policy)

ABAWD work requirement policy:

- Applies the month after a person turns age 18; and
- Does not apply in the month a person turns age 50. ([TWH A-1940](#), SNAP Work Requirements)

New Policy

[SNAP](#)

ABAWD work requirement policy applies the month after a person turns age 18; and:

- Effective Sept. 1, 2023, does not apply in the month a person turns age 51.
- Effective Oct. 1, 2023, does not apply in the month a person turns age 53.
- Effective Oct. 1, 2024, does not apply in the month a person turns age 55.

Note: Although the policy is changing, HHSC is using a federal option to exempt ABAWDs from the work requirement if they are currently over the age of 50. There is no staff action needed to exempt these individuals. Staff will be notified through a future bulletin when the federal option is no longer being used and automation changes to the ABAWD age criteria are implemented in TIERS.

Automation

Automation changes are not required.

Correspondence

Changes to the SNAP work rules language on the TF0001, Notice of Case Action, will be implemented November 18, 2023.

Handbook

Updates to the MEPDH are not required.

The TWH is currently scheduled to be updated in the April 2024 revision.

Training

Training is not required.

Effective Date

This policy is effective September 01, 2023.

7. Transfer of Assets Divisor

Background

Transfer of assets policy applies when assets are transferred by a person who resides in an institutional setting or is receiving home and community-based waiver services through a Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver, or by the person's spouse or someone else acting on the person's behalf. There is a 60-month "look-back" period to find transfers of assets prior to the date the person is institutionalized or, if later, the date the person applies for Medicaid. If a transfer of assets for less than fair market value is found, Medicaid must withhold payment for nursing facility care (and certain other long-term care services) for a period of time referred to as the penalty period.

Current Policy

[MEPD](#)

The current transfer of assets divisor is \$237.93. Use \$237.93 to determine the penalty period for case actions disposed on or after September 01, 2021, and through August 31, 2023. Partial amounts should be rounded down to the whole number of days. The result will be the number of days of the penalty period. ([MEPDH I-5100](#), Transfer of Assets Divisor).

New Policy

[MEPD](#)

The updated transfer of assets divisor is \$242.13. Use \$242.13 to determine the penalty period for case actions disposed on or after September 01, 2023. Partial amounts should be rounded down to the whole number of days. The result will be the number of days of the penalty period.

Automation

Changes to YourTexasBenefits.com were implemented with TIERS Release R115.1 on August 05, 2023. The new transfer of assets divisor is updated in TIERS for benefit month September 2023 and ongoing.

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

MEPD Basic Skills Training (BST) training will be updated with the updated 2023 divisor amount.

Effective Date

This policy is effective September 01, 2023.

8. Revised - Application Process Updates for Marketplace Account Transfers

Background

Federal law requires HHSC to coordinate eligibility and enrollment determinations with the federal Marketplace (HealthCare.gov). Individuals cannot be required to provide the same information more than once, regardless of whether they apply through the Marketplace or through an application with HHSC. Information the applicant submitted to the Marketplace and information on any verifications performed by the Marketplace is sent through an interface to HHSC. This is referred to as an account transfer.

Current Policy

Medical Programs

HHSC eligibility staff process account transfers from the Marketplace. The applications are reviewed by staff in the same manner as an application from YourTexasBenefits.com. ([TWH A-118.1](#), Applications Received from the Marketplace).

If the account transfer indicates that an applicant's SSN and/or citizenship status has been verified by the Social Security Administration (SSA) or alien status has been verified by the Department from Homeland Security (DHS), staff must accept these eligibility criteria as verified. Other eligibility criteria must be verified following HHSC verification procedures. If the Marketplace has verified data according to HHSC procedures, that data must not be re-verified. ([TWH A-118.1.2](#), Verifications Provided by the Marketplace).

MEPD

Non-MAGI account transfers occur when the Marketplace determines that an applicant may be eligible for an MEPD program because the applicant indicates they are age 65 or older, have a disability, or blindness.

If the PDF included in the Marketplace account transfer indicates "Medicaid Non-MAGI Eligibility" in the "Referral Activity Eligibility Reason" for an individual on the application, a full determination is not requested and no MAGI eligibility determination is listed for any other applicant on the application, eligibility staff must deny the application as "Filed in Error" and send the applicant a [Form H1200](#), Application for Assistance-Your Texas Benefits. However, if the Marketplace does not identify an individual as potentially eligible for Medicaid on any basis, the individual can request that his or her account be transferred to the state agency for a final MAGI eligibility determination. ([TWH A-118.1.1](#), Non-MAGI Account Transfers)

New Policy

Medical Programs

Staff must process non-MAGI Marketplace account transfers in the same manner as an application received through YourTexasBenefits.com without requiring the individual to submit an H1200.

If a non-MAGI account transfer indicates that an applicant's SSN and/or citizenship status has been verified by SSA or alien status has been verified by the DHS, staff must accept these eligibility criteria as verified. Other eligibility criteria must be verified following current HHSC verification procedures. If the Marketplace has verified data according to HHSC policies, that data must not be re-verified. (TWH A-118.1.1 and [MEPD B-3100](#), Application Process).

Process Updates

A non-MAGI Marketplace account transfer must be processed in the same manner as a MAGI Marketplace account transfer.

An updated [Processing Marketplace Account Transfers Reference Guide](#) can be found in the [Job Aid Repository \(JAR\)](#) on the LOOP. The standalone Processing a Non-MAGI Account Transfer guide is retired.

Automation

Effective September 11, 2023, when an account transfer identifies an individual as non-MAGI, the data is used to automatically populate a PDF version of the [Form H1200](#), Application for Assistance-Your Texas Benefits, the Form H1010, Texas Works Application for Assistance – Your Texas Benefits, or both, to be processed by eligibility staff.

Effective October 14, 2023, data transferred from the Marketplace into TIERS will be used to create a case, perform file clearance, and associate individuals found in the system. In addition, the system will automatically pend or dispose Marketplace applications.

Correspondence

Correspondence changes are not required.

Handbook

The MEPDH is scheduled to be updated in the March 2024 revision.

The TWH is scheduled to be updated in April 2024 revision.

Training

The Marketplace Account Transfers Guide will be available for staff in the Job Aid Repository (JAR) located in the LOOP effective **September 11, 2023**. A training broadcast is scheduled to be sent out on October 05, 2023.

Effective Date

This policy is effective **for non-MAGI account transfers received on or after September 11, 2023**.