



MEPD and TW Bulletin 24-07

Date: July 17, 2024

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

From: Access and Eligibility Services Program Policy
State Office 2106

Subject: Spousal Impoverishment Dependent Allowance

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/mepdh) at <https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/mepdh/policy-bulletins>;
- [Texas Works Handbook \(TWH\)](https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/texas-works-handbook) 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% of the monthly federal poverty level (FPL) for a family of two and dividing the remainder by three. This amount is then deducted from the institutionalized 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 amount used for calculating the spousal impoverishment dependent allowance is not effective until July 1st.

Current Policy

[MEPD](#)

The current FPL amount used to calculate the spousal impoverishment dependent allowance is \$2,465. ([MEPDH J-7400](#), Spousal Impoverishment Dependent Allowance)

New Policy

[MEPD](#)

Effective July 1, 2024, the new FPL amount used to calculate the spousal impoverishment dependent allowance is \$2,555.

Automation

Changes to TIERS were implemented with TIERS Release 117.1 on May 11, 2024.

Correspondence

Correspondence changes are not required.

Handbook

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

Updates to the TWH are not required.

Training

The MEPD Basic Skills 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 the benefit month of July 2024.