



## **MEPD and TW Bulletin 24-08**

**Date:** July 18, 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: Asset Verification System as Verification**

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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>.

## Asset Verification System as Verification

### Background

Federal regulations require states to access all available electronic data sources and attempt to determine and redetermine eligibility using reliable information in the case record and information available through electronic data sources.

The Asset Verification System (AVS) is an online data source that provides financial account information for a person applying for certain Medicaid for the Elderly and People with Disabilities (MEPD) types of assistance (TOAs).

### Current Policy

#### [MEPD](#)

The AVS provides information about the following types of financial accounts:

- Savings accounts
- Checking accounts
- Annuities
- Certificates of Deposit
- Convertible bonds

The AVS response includes information for both reported and unreported financial accounts.

Initial AVS responses are received immediately and include information from the major banking institutions. In addition to the immediate initial responses, enhanced AVS responses are available when financial information is identified for additional banking institutions not included in the immediate AVS response. A change task is generated and the AVS enhanced response reports are available through the Data Broker portal 15 days after the initial AVS request. [MEPDH R-3743 AVS Responses](#) Request AVS information at application, redetermination, add a person, and program transfer requests for certain MEPD TOAs if the person meets all eligibility requirements. [MEPDH R-3740 Asset Verification System \(AVS\)](#)

Submit the AVS request before disposition, but after EDBC is run if the person is otherwise eligible.

Request AVS for the following TOAs. [MEPDH R-3740 Asset Verification System \(AVS\)](#)

- Waiver Programs (TA 10)
- State Group Home (TA 12)
- Pickle (TP 03)

- State Supported Living Center (TP 10)
- Non-State Group Home (TP 15)
- State Hospital (TP 16)
- Nursing Facility (TP 17)
- Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) (TA 10)
- Disabled Adult Child (TP 18)
- Disabled Widow(er) (TP 21)
- Early Aged Widow(er) (TP 22)
- Medicaid Buy-In (MBI) (TP 87)

Follow policy in [MEPDH F-4120, Bank Accounts](#), to verify financial account information before requesting AVS. The AVS information is not acceptable verification of the person's financial assets.

If the AVS response provides new or inconsistent financial account information that impacts eligibility, request additional information before completing the eligibility determination. [MEPDH R-3741 AVS Consent](#)

Before requesting AVS, consent is required for the applicant or recipient, and any person whose resources are considered in the eligibility determination. [MEPDH R-3741 AVS Consent \(AVS\)](#)

#### [Texas Works \(TW\) Medicaid](#)

AVS information is not required when processing a case action for any TW Medical programs.

#### [SNAP/TANF](#)

AVS information is not required when processing a case action for SNAP or TANF. Information provided by AVS is not acceptable verification of the person's financial assets.

### **New Policy**

#### [MEPD](#)

Request AVS at application, redetermination and when adding a person for all MEPD TOAs that require a resource test, **before** requesting information from the applicant or recipient.

Before requesting AVS, review other available electronic information, such as SAVE and SOLQ, to explore obvious denials. Do not request AVS if available information indicates the applicant is not eligible, such as per:

- SAVE, the person does not meet immigration status; or

- SOLQ, the person exceeds the income limit.

*AVS Applies to the Following TOAs:*

- Waivers (TA 10)
- Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) (TA 10)
- State Group Home (TA 12)
- Pickle (TP 03)
- State Supported Living Center (TP 10)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Prior Medical (TP 11) - at application only.
- Community Attendant Services (CAS) (TP 14)
- Non-State Group Home (TP 15)
- State Hospital (TP 16)
- Nursing Facility (TP 17)
- Disabled Adult Child (TP 18)
- Disabled Widow(er) (TP 21)
- Early Aged Widow(er) (TP 22)
- Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries (SLMB) (TP 23)
- Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMB) (TP 24)
- Qualified Disabled and Working Individuals (QDWI) (TP 25)
- Qualifying Individuals (QI-1) (TP 26)
- Emergency Medicaid (TP 30) - at application only.
- Medicaid Buy-In (MBI) (TP 87)

**Note:** The Medicaid Buy-In for Children program (TP 88) does not require a resource test and is not subject to AVS at application or redetermination. When processing a program transfer request to another MEPD TOA, request AVS to verify the recipient's financial account information.

*Verification*

AVS is acceptable verification for financial accounts.

**Do not** request additional information to verify financial accounts if the AVS response is consistent with reported information.

- If AVS information is consistent with the client provided information, complete the eligibility determination.
- If AVS information is new or inconsistent but does not affect eligibility, do not pend for additional information or verification of financial accounts. Enter the AVS information in TIERS and complete the eligibility determination.

**Do** request additional information if the AVS response identifies new or inconsistent information, and the person is potentially ineligible. [MEPDH R-3744, Consideration of AVS Information](#)

**Do not** re-request AVS if an AVS request was submitted within the previous 60 days.

**Reminder:** If the person was previously denied due to excess funds in a financial account(s), request current bank statements and explore transfer of assets if applicable.

#### [New Process](#)

When processing an application or redetermination for MEPD TOAs that require a resource test, request AVS during data collection to verify financial account information and explore potential transfers of resources if applicable. Ensure consent was provided prior to requesting AVS. [MEPDH R-3741 AVS Consent](#)

Do not delay case disposition pending an enhanced AVS response if all information needed to make an eligibility determination is available. ([MEPDH R-3743 AVS Responses](#))

**Before** denying an application for failure to provide financial account information, review the AVS enhanced response reports for additional financial account information. If the requested account information is available in an AVS enhanced response report, use the information to process the application.

The AVS enhanced response reports are available through the Data Broker portal and are updated periodically. When the AVS enhanced response report is updated, a change task is generated the following day.

- First report includes enhanced responses received by the 5<sup>th</sup> day.
- Second report includes enhanced responses received by the 15<sup>th</sup> day.
- Third report includes enhanced responses received by the 30<sup>th</sup> day.
- Final report includes enhanced responses received by the 60<sup>th</sup> day.

#### [Texas Works Medicaid](#)

AVS is acceptable verification for the following Texas Works Medicaid programs with an associated MEPD EDG.

- Medically Needy with Spend Down (TP 56)
- Medically Needy with Spend Down – Emergency (TP 32)

Accept the AVS information as verification of financial accounts and update the case record accordingly. Do not request AVS for cases with only Texas Works Medicaid EDGs.

#### SNAP/TANF

AVS is acceptable verification for SNAP or TANF EDGs with an associated MEPD EDG. Accept the AVS information as verification of financial accounts and update the case record if the information does not contradict information reported by the household at application, recertification, or during an interview. If the information is not consistent with information reported by the household, pend the SNAP or TANF EDG and request additional information. Do not request AVS for cases with only SNAP or TANF EDGs.

#### **Automation**

TIERS updates will be implemented at a future date.

Follow instructions in Contingency Processing Method (CPM) #1274151, when accepting AVS information as verification of a financial account in TIERS.

#### **Correspondence**

Correspondence changes will be implemented at a future date.

#### **Handbook**

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

The TWH is currently scheduled to be updated in January 2025 revision.

#### **Training**

The web-based training, *Asset Verification System* is available in the [Data Broker Portal](#). The training will be updated to reflect the new policy.

#### **Effective Date**

This policy is effective with the release of this bulletin.