

Department of Social and Health Services

Olympia, Washington

**EAZ Manual**

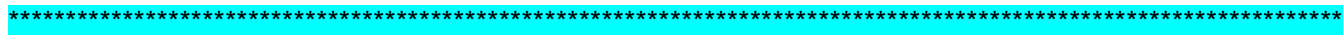
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Category Assistance Units – Basic Food  
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**Summary**

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recently provided clarification about legally-married same-sex couples and whether they meet the definition of ‘spouses’ under WAC 388-408-0035, (2)(a) for the purposes of determining household composition for Basic Food.

CSD Policy has added this clarification to the EAZ manual and as of July 28, 2014 same-sex married couples are to be treated the same as heterosexual married couples for the purposes of the buy and prepare meals rule.

Please see text below for summary of additions:



**CLARIFYING INFORMATION**

**11. Same-sex legally married couples:**

As of July 28, 2014, legally married same-sex couples are treated the same as heterosexual married couples and fall under the definition of "spouses" for the purposes of determining who buys and prepares food together and are in the same food assistance AU.