

Department of Social and Health Services

Olympia, Washington

**EAZ Manual**

Revision # 1096  
Category Basic Food  
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**Summary**

Update the EAZ Manual hyperlink to [WAC 388-478-0060](#) and update language.

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~~Revised October 1, 2015~~ May 21, 2020

*Purpose:*

-This section includes ~~the following~~ information for the Washington Basic Food program (Basic Food):

- ~~Income standards used~~ to determine eligibility for Basic Food;
- ~~Which assistance units must meet~~ The gross and net income tests [for households](#), and which do not;  
~~and~~
- Maximum monthly benefits for Basic Food.

~~WAC 388-478-0060~~ WAC 388-478-0060 **What are the income limits and maximum benefit amounts for Basic Food?**

- [Clarifying Information](#) and [Worker Responsibilities](#)

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## Clarifying Information - ~~WAC 388-478-0060~~ WAC 388-478-0060

1. The federal government sets the income and resources standards. The income standards are updated October 1st each year based on the federal poverty level in effect at the time.
2. The gross income standard is based on 130% of the federal poverty level.
3. The net income standard is based on 100% of the federal poverty level.
4. ~~These standards are based on the poverty level for the 48 contiguous states. It excludes Alaska and Hawaii because of the higher cost of living in those states.~~

## Worker Responsibilities - ~~WAC 388-478-0060~~ WAC 388-478-0060

1. If the AU's income is over the standards for their AU size, deny or terminate assistance. Remember to apply any appropriate exceptions allowed under Basic Food rules.
2. See [WAC 388-450-0245](#) when an increase in income causes the AU to be ineligible for one month.

## 165 Percent Standard for ~~Clients~~ Recipients Who Are Both Elderly and Disabled

1. A ~~client-recipient~~ who is both elderly and disabled and can't cook their own meals may be in a separate AU **only** if the other people who would normally be in the AU (not counting the person's spouse) have combined income at or under the 165% standard.
2. The ~~client's-recipient's~~ spouse must always be in the AU if they live with the client.  
See [ASSISTANCE UNITS - Basic Food](#).