



# PROPOSED RULE MAKING

## CR-102 (December 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.320)

Do NOT use for expedited rule making

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STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

DATE: May 31, 2019

TIME: 8:52 AM

WSR 19-12-051

**Agency:** Department of Social and Health Services, Economic Services Administration

**Original Notice**

**Supplemental Notice to WSR** \_\_\_\_\_

**Continuance of WSR** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preproposal Statement of Inquiry was filed as WSR 19-06-049 ; or**

**Expedited Rule Making--Proposed notice was filed as WSR** \_\_\_\_\_ ; or

**Proposal is exempt under RCW 34.05.310(4) or 34.05.330(1); or**

**Proposal is exempt under RCW** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Title of rule and other identifying information:** (describe subject) The department is proposing to amend WAC 388-450-0190 "How does the department figure my shelter cost income deduction for basic food?".

**Hearing location(s):**

Date:	Time:	Location: (be specific)	Comment:
July 9, 2019	10:00 a.m.	Office Building 2 DSHS Headquarters 1115 Washington Olympia, WA 98504	Public parking at 11 <sup>th</sup> and Jefferson. A map is available at: <a href="https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sesa/rules-and-policies-assistance-unit/driving-directions-office-bldg-2">https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sesa/rules-and-policies-assistance-unit/driving-directions-office-bldg-2</a>

**Date of intended adoption:** Not earlier than July 10, 2019 (Note: This is **NOT** the **effective** date)

**Submit written comments to:**

Name: DSHS Rules Coordinator

Address: PO Box 45850  
Olympia, WA 98504

Email: [DSHSRPAURulesCoordinator@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:DSHSRPAURulesCoordinator@dshs.wa.gov)

Fax: 360-664-6185

Other:

By (date) 5:00 p.m. July 9, 2019

**Assistance for persons with disabilities:**

Contact Jeff Kildahl, DSHS Rules Consultant

Phone: 360-664-6092

Fax: 360-664-6185

TTY: 711 Relay Service

Email: [Kildaja@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:Kildaja@dshs.wa.gov)

Other:

By (date) June 25, 2019

**Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:** Changes proposed under this filing incorporate a simplified shelter deduction option for basic food benefit calculations of homeless households. This change may increase the amount of food benefits for an individual who is homeless, with or without shelter, but is responsible for shelter costs.

**Reasons supporting proposal:** These amendments are necessary to comply with recent changes to federal law governing the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

**Statutory authority for adoption:** RCW 74.04.005, RCW 74.04.050, RCW 74.04.055, RCW 74.04.057, RCW 74.04.500, RCW 74.04.510, RCW 74.08.090, RCW 74.08A.120

**Statute being implemented:** The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334) Section 4004

**Is rule necessary because of a:**

Federal Law?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Federal Court Decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
State Court Decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

If yes, CITATION: 7 CFR 273.9(d)6(i)

**Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement, and fiscal matters:** None

**Name of proponent:** (person or organization) Department of Social and Health Services

<input type="checkbox"/> Private
<input type="checkbox"/> Public
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Governmental

**Name of agency personnel responsible for:**

	Name	Office Location	Phone
Drafting:	Christina Barras	PO Box 45470, Olympia, WA 98504-5470	360-725-4640
Implementation:	Christina Barras	PO Box 45470, Olympia, WA 98504-5470	360-725-4640
Enforcement:	Christina Barras	PO Box 45470, Olympia, WA 98504-5470	360-725-4640

**Is a school district fiscal impact statement required under RCW 28A.305.135?**  Yes  No

If yes, insert statement here:

The public may obtain a copy of the school district fiscal impact statement by contacting:

Name:  
Address:  
Phone:  
Fax:  
TTY:  
Email:  
Other:

**Is a cost-benefit analysis required under RCW 34.05.328?**

Yes: A preliminary cost-benefit analysis may be obtained by contacting:

Name:  
Address:  
Phone:  
Fax:  
TTY:  
Email:  
Other:

No: Please explain: These amendments are exempt as allowed under RCW 34.05.328(5)(b)(vii) which states in part, "this sections does not apply to rules of the Department of Social and Health Services relating only to client medical or financial eligibility and rules concerning liability for care of dependents."

**Regulatory Fairness Act Cost Considerations for a Small Business Economic Impact Statement:**

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, **may be exempt** from requirements of the Regulatory Fairness Act (see chapter 19.85 RCW). Please check the box for any applicable exemption(s):

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.061 because this rule making is being adopted solely to conform and/or comply with federal statute or regulations. Please cite the specific federal statute or regulation this rule is being adopted to conform or comply with, and describe the consequences to the state if the rule is not adopted.

Citation and description:

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt because the agency has completed the pilot rule process defined by RCW 34.05.313 before filing the notice of this proposed rule.

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under the provisions of RCW 15.65.570(2) because it was adopted by a referendum.

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.025(3). Check all that apply:

- RCW 34.05.310 (4)(b) (Internal government operations)
- RCW 34.05.310 (4)(c) (Incorporation by reference)
- RCW 34.05.310 (4)(d) (Correct or clarify language)
- RCW 34.05.310 (4)(e) (Dictated by statute)
- RCW 34.05.310 (4)(f) (Set or adjust fees)
- RCW 34.05.310 (4)(g) ((i) Relating to agency hearings; or (ii) process requirements for applying to an agency for a license or permit)

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.025.

Explanation of exemptions, if necessary: The proposed rule does not have an economic impact on small businesses.

**COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF NO EXEMPTION APPLIES**

If the proposed rule is **not exempt**, does it impose more-than-minor costs (as defined by RCW 19.85.020(2)) on businesses?

- No Briefly summarize the agency's analysis showing how costs were calculated. \_\_\_\_\_
- Yes Calculations show the rule proposal likely imposes more-than-minor cost to businesses, and a small business economic impact statement is required. Insert statement here:

The public may obtain a copy of the small business economic impact statement or the detailed cost calculations by contacting:

Name:  
 Address:  
 Phone:  
 Fax:  
 TTY:  
 Email:  
 Other:

**Date:** May 30, 2019

**Name:** Katherine I. Vasquez

**Title:** DSHS Rules Coordinator

**Signature:**

**WAC 388-450-0190 How does the department figure my shelter cost income deduction for basic food?** The department calculates your shelter cost income deduction for basic food as follows:

(1) First, we add up the amounts your assistance unit (AU) must pay each month for shelter. We do not count any overdue amounts, late fees, penalties, or mortgage payments you make ahead of time as allowable shelter costs. We count the following expenses as an allowable shelter cost in the month the expense is due:

- (a) Monthly rent, lease, and mortgage payments;
- (b) Property taxes;
- (c) Homeowner's association or condo fees;
- (d) Homeowner's insurance for the building only;
- (e) Utility allowance your AU is eligible for under WAC 388-450-0195;

(f) Out-of-pocket repairs for the home if it was substantially damaged or destroyed due to a natural disaster such as a fire or flood;

(g) Expense of a temporarily unoccupied home because of employment, training away from the home, illness, or abandonment caused by a natural disaster or casualty loss if your:

- (i) AU intends to return to the home;
- (ii) AU has current occupants who are not claiming the shelter costs for basic food purposes; and
- (iii) AU's home is not being leased or rented during your AU's absence.

(h) A homeless AU with shelter costs is eligible for a homeless shelter expense deduction of one hundred forty-seven dollars. If the homeless AU has shelter costs in excess of one hundred forty-seven dollars, the AU has the option to claim either:

- (i) The homeless shelter deduction; or
- (ii) Actual shelter costs.

(2) Second, we subtract all deductions your AU is eligible for under WAC 388-450-0185 (2)(a) through (2)(d) from your AU's gross income. The result is your AU's countable income.

(3) Finally, we subtract one-half of your AU's countable income from your AU's total shelter costs. The result is your excess shelter costs. Your AU's shelter cost deduction is the excess shelter costs:

- (a) Up to a maximum of five hundred fifty-two dollars if no one in your AU is elderly or disabled; or
- (b) The entire amount if an eligible person in your AU is elderly or disabled, even if the amount is over five hundred fifty-two dollars.