



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: September 21, 2020

TIME: 2:33 PM

WSR 20-19-118

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 20-15-119 ; 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 amendments to WAC 388-478-0055, How much do I get from my state supplemental payments (SSP)?.

Hearing location(s):

Date:	Time:	Location: (be specific)	Comment:
October 27, 2020	10:00 a.m.	Office Building 2 DSHS Headquarters 1115 Washington Street SE Olympia, WA 98504 Or by Skype	Public parking at 11 th and Jefferson. A map is available at: https://www.dshs.wa.gov/office-of-the-secretary/driving-directions-office-bldg-2 Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, hearing may be held via Skype, see DSHS website for most up to date information.

Date of intended adoption: Not earlier than October 28, 2020 (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

Fax: 360-664-6185

Other:

By (date) 5:00 p.m. October 27, 2020

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

Other:

By (date) October 13, 2020

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: Proposed amendments will decrease monthly SSP payments from \$40.00 to \$38.25 to SSI recipients who have an ineligible spouse, are age 65 or older, or are blind. These changes are necessary to maintain the yearly total amount of State Supplemental Payment (SSP) expenditures at the same level each calendar year. Proposed amendments will also clarify the SSP rate paid to SSI recipients in medical institutions.

Reasons supporting proposal: Federal law requires the department to maintain the total amount of SSI state supplement benefit spending at the same level each calendar year, without an increase or decrease in total spending.

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 74.04.050; RCW 74.04.055; RCW 74.04.057; RCW 74.08.090

Statute being implemented: None

Is rule necessary because of a:

Federal Law?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" 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:

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:	Olga Walker	PO Box 45470, Olympia, WA 98504-5470	360-725-4641
Implementation:	Olga Walker	PO Box 45470, Olympia, WA 98504-5470	360-725-4641
Enforcement:	Olga Walker	PO Box 45470, Olympia, WA 98504-5470	360-725-4641

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: This amendment is exempt as allowed under RCW 34.05.328 (5)(b)(vii) which states in part, "This section does not apply to...rules of the department of social and health services relating only to client medical or financial eligibility...".

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 34.05.328 (5)(b)(vii).

Explanation of exemptions, if necessary: These amendments do not impact small business. They only impact DSHS clients.

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: September 18, 2020

Name: Katherine I. Vasquez

Title: DSHS Rules Coordinator

Signature:

WAC 388-478-0055 How much do I get from my state supplemental payments (SSP)? (1) The SSP is a payment from the state to certain SSI eligible people as described in WAC 388-474-0012.

(2) If you converted to the federal SSI program from state assistance in January 1974 because you were aged, blind, or disabled, and have remained continuously eligible for SSI since January 1974, the department calls you a grandfathered client. Social Security calls you a minimum income level (MIL) client.

A change in living situation, cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), or federal benefit rate (FBR) can affect a grandfathered MIL client. A grandfathered MIL client gets a federal SSI payment and a SSP payment, which totals the higher of one of the following:

(a) The state assistance standard set in December 1973, unless you lived in a medical institution at the time of conversion, plus the federal COLA since then; or

(b) The current payment standard.

(3) The monthly SSP rate standards for eligible persons under WAC 388-474-0012 and individuals residing in an institution are:

SSP eligible persons	Standard
Individual (aged 65 and older)	(\$40.00) \$38.25
Individual (blind as determined by SSA)	(\$40.00) \$38.25
Individual with an ineligible spouse	(\$40.00) \$38.25
Grandfathered (MIL)	Varies by individual based on federal requirements. Payments range between \$0.54 and \$199.77.

Medical institution	Monthly SSP Rate
Individual	\$40.00

(4) We may adjust the SSP rate standards at the end of the calendar year to comply with WAC 388-478-0057.

(5) The medical institution SSP rate is based on increasing the federal SSI personal needs allowance (PNA) up to the current Washington state institutional PNA standard described in WAC 182-513-1105. The state rate may be adjusted by the percentage of the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for old-age, survivors and disability social security recipients as published by the federal social security administration. This adjustment is subject to state legislative funding. The current PNA rule used in institutional apple health is located at <https://www.hca.wa.gov/health-care-services-supports/program-standard-income-and-resources>.