



RULE-MAKING ORDER EMERGENCY RULE ONLY

CR-103E (December 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.350 and 34.05.360)

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: June 08, 2021

TIME: 5:19 PM

WSR 21-13-021

Agency: Department of Social and Health Services – Economic Services Administration

Effective date of rule:

Emergency Rules

- Immediately upon filing.
- Later (specify) _____

Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?

- Yes
- No
- If Yes, explain:

Purpose: The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, P.L. 116-260, enacted December 27, 2020, increased the minimum allotment for SNAP (Basic Food) from \$16.00 to \$19.00. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2, enacted March 11, 2021, made this change effective through September 30, 2021.

Citation of rules affected by this order:

New:
 Repealed:
 Amended: 388-412-0015
 Suspended:

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 74.08.090, 74.04.050

Other authority: Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, P.L. 116-260, and American Rescue Plan of 2021, P.L. 117-2.

EMERGENCY RULE

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds:

- That immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.
- That state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this finding: The Consolidated Appropriations Act, signed in December 2020, increased the minimum allotment from \$16.00 to \$19.00 temporarily, effective January 2021. The American Rescue Plan Act, signed in March 2021, extended this through the remainder of the federal fiscal year. This emergency rule is to codify this amount in WAC.

**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.
No descriptive text.**

**Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.
A section may be counted in more than one category.**

The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:

Federal statute:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Federal rules or standards:	New	_____	Amended	<u>1</u>	Repealed	_____
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____

The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:

New ____ Amended ____ Repealed ____

The number of sections adopted on the agency's own initiative:

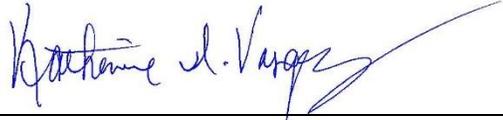
New ____ Amended ____ Repealed ____

The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:

New ____ Amended ____ Repealed ____

The number of sections adopted using:

Negotiated rule making:	New	____	Amended	____	Repealed	____
Pilot rule making:	New	____	Amended	____	Repealed	____
Other alternative rule making:	New	____	Amended	<u>1</u>	Repealed	____

Date Adopted: May 25, 2021	Signature: 
Name: Katherine I. Vasquez	
Title: DSHS Rules Coordinator	

WAC 388-412-0015 General information about your food assistance allotments. (1) Your monthly allotment under the Washington basic food program, food assistance program for legal immigrants (FAP), Washington combined application project (WASHCAP), or the transitional food assistance (TFA) program is the total dollar value of benefits your assistance unit (AU) receives for a calendar month.

(2) **How we determine monthly allotments:**

(a) We calculate your monthly allotment for federally funded basic food as described under WAC 388-450-0162.

(b) We calculate your monthly allotment for state-funded food assistance as described under WAC 388-400-0050.

(3) **Maximum allotment:**

(a) The maximum allotment for the number of people in your AU eligible for federally funded basic food benefits is described under WAC 388-478-0060.

(b) The maximum allotment for the number of people in your AU eligible for state-funded FAP benefits is set by the legislature in the biennial operating budget as described in WAC 388-400-0050.

(4) **Prorated benefits in the first month.** If we determine you are eligible for food assistance, your first month's benefits are calculated from the date you applied through the end of the month of your application. This is called proration and is based on a thirty-day month:

(a) If your prorated benefits for the first month are under ten dollars, you will not receive an allotment for the first month.

(b) If there was a delay in processing your application, we determine when your benefits start under WAC 388-406-0055.

(5) **Combined allotment for first and second month's benefits.** If you apply for benefits on or after the sixteenth of the month and we determine you are eligible for food assistance for both the first and second month, we will issue both months' benefits in one allotment.

(6) **Minimum allotment.** Unless it is the first month of your certification period and your benefits are prorated as described in subsection (4) of this section, your monthly allotment will be at least:

(a) (~~Sixteen~~) Nineteen dollars if your AU has one or two members and at least one person is eligible for federally funded basic food; or

(b) (~~Sixteen~~) Nineteen dollars if your AU has one or two members and all members of your AU are eligible for state-funded FAP.

(7) **Use of food assistance benefits.** Your food assistance benefits may only be used to buy eligible food items as described under WAC 388-412-0046. If you use your benefits in any other way, it is an intentional program violation under WAC 388-446-0015 and could result in fines, imprisonment, disqualification from receiving food assistance benefits, or any combination of these penalties.