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Division of Medicaid Services

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DMS Operations Memo 21-24

To: Income Maintenance Supervisors
Income Maintenance Lead Workers
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Affected Programs:

☒ BadgerCare Plus   ☐ Caretaker Supplement
☐ FoodShare   ☐ FoodShare Employment
☐ Medicaid   and Training
☐ SeniorCare

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**Annual Update to Income Thresholds for Determining Whether a Child or
Tax Dependent is Expected to Be Required to File a Tax Return**

CROSS REFERENCE

- BadgerCare Plus Eligibility Handbook, Section 2.8 MAGI Income Counting Rules
- Operations Memo 20-29

EFFECTIVE DATE

January 1, 2022

PURPOSE

This operations memo announces annual updates to the income thresholds used under modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) budgeting rules when determining whether a child or tax dependent is expected to be required to file a return.

BACKGROUND

State law under section 49.471(1)(f) of the Wisconsin Statutes requires that income be counted for determining eligibility for BadgerCare Plus using modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) budgeting rules. As described in BadgerCare Plus Eligibility Handbook, Section 2.8 MAGI Income Counting Rules, the countable income of all eligible or counted members within a BadgerCare Plus assistance group (AG) is used in the eligibility determination for that AG with one exception:

[I]f a group member is a child or tax dependent of a counted or eligible member within the same assistance group, his or her income is only counted if he or she is "expected to be required" to file a tax return for the current year. If the tax dependent or child chooses to file a tax return when he or she is not required to, his or her income will not be counted. Tax dependents' and children's income is only counted when they are "expected to be required" to file a tax return.

Children and tax dependents are only required to file a tax return if they have more taxable income than the filing thresholds set by the Internal Revenue Service each year. On November 10, 2021 the IRS published Revenue Procedure 21-45 which announced the 2022 filing thresholds, which will be:
- $1,150 in taxable unearned income
- $12,950 in taxable earned income

CARES and ACCESS will be updated on January 1, 2022, to reflect the new thresholds. The paper BadgerCare Plus application will be updated at a future date.

POLICY

The following thresholds for being expected to file a return for the 2022 tax year are effective January 1, 2022:
- $1,150 in taxable unearned income
- $12,950 in taxable earned income

If the child or tax dependent of another member in the same AG expects to have less annual taxable income for 2022 than the amounts indicated above, his or her income is not included in the eligibility determination for the AG.

As a reminder, for purposes of determining whether a child or tax dependent is above the $1,150 threshold for taxable unearned income, the following should be excluded: child support, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security, worker's compensation, veterans benefits, money from another person, and educational aid.

Note: Social Security income and educational aid are countable income types even though they are not included when determining if the child or tax dependent is expected to be required to file a tax return. If the child or tax dependent expects to have other income above the thresholds, any Social Security income or countable education aid received by the child or tax dependent would be included in the eligibility determination for any AG in which the child is counted.

These thresholds will continue to be updated on an annual basis.

CONTACTS

BEOT CARES Information and Problem Resolution Center

DHS/DMS/BEEP/JL