6.1.1 Application Income Limit

The gross income limit for new applicants and Assistance Groups that have closed for more than one (1) calendar month is 200% ~~185%~~ of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

These amounts were effective February 1, 2024 ~~2023~~. FPL amounts are updated annually. The current FPL amounts are published at https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/wishares/apply.

Assistance Group (AG) Size	~~Annual 185% FPL~~	Monthly 200% ~~185%~~ FPL
2	~~$36,482~~	$3,407 ~~$3,040~~
3	~~$45,991~~	$4,303 ~~$3,833~~
4	~~$55,500~~	$5,200 ~~$4,625~~
5	~~$65,009~~	$6,097 ~~$5,417~~
6	~~$74,518~~	$6,993 ~~$6,210~~
7	~~$84,027~~	$7,890 ~~$7,002~~
8	~~$93,536~~	$8,787 ~~$7,795~~
9	~~$103,045~~	$9,683 ~~$8,587~~
10	~~$112,554~~	$10,580 ~~$9,380~~
Each Additional Person Add	~~$9,509~~	$896 ~~$792~~

7.9.3 SWICA Discrepancies

<Updated sections only>

SWICA discrepancy was received for which reason?	If not verified, what happens:
Application or Renewal, difference of $250 or more	Agency worker uses manual override process in CARES Mainframe to fail the case for lack of earned income verification using reason code **767**.
Income over 85% SMI	Agency worker uses manual override process in CARES Mainframe to fail the case for lack of earned income verification using reason code **767**.
Person Add	Agency worker uses manual override process in CARES Mainframe to fail the case for lack of earned income verification at Person Add using reason code **759**.
During the 12-month eligibility period (Ongoing Eligibility), income ~~at or~~ above ~~190%~~ 200% FPL at last renewal	Agency workers **must not** end current ongoing eligibility when the SWICA discrepancy was for a period during the 12-month eligibility period and income was below 85% SMI, even if the income from the SWICA quarter is not verified.

8.1 Financial Eligibility

<Updated sections only>

The migrant farmworker family's annual income must:

- Come primarily from agricultural work

- Be ~~less than~~ at or below 200% ~~185%~~ of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for the family size

9.2 Financial Eligibility

<Updated sections only>
Financial eligibility is tested against 200% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) (see 6.1.1) and is based upon the child's biological or adoptive parents' income at the time the child was removed from the home for the following out-of-home placement types:

- Foster care
- Subsidized guardianships
- Interim caretaker placements
- Court-ordered placements with a relative AND who receives a Kinship Care payment
- Tribal placements under a substantially similar Wisconsin tribal law

~~These amounts were effective February 1, 2023. FPL amounts are updated annually. The current FPL amounts are published at https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/wishares/apply.~~

~~AG Size~~	~~200% FPL Limit~~
~~2~~	~~$3,287~~
~~3~~	~~$4,143~~
~~4~~	~~$5,000~~
~~5~~	~~$5,857~~
~~6~~	~~$6,713~~
~~7~~	~~$7,570~~
~~8~~	~~$8,427~~
~~9~~	~~$9,283~~
~~10+~~	~~$10,140~~

For relatives with court-ordered placement who are not receiving the Kinship Care payment, financial eligibility is based on the caretaker relative's income and the income of other individuals who are included in the assistance group.

If a parent adopts a child that was previously placed with them in an out-of-home care arrangement, the adoptive family must meet financial eligibility criteria based on their income. A family who has not previously met the 200% ~~185%~~ FPL application income limit (see 6.1.1) will need to have income below the application limit for continued eligibility. A family whose income was previously under 200% ~~185%~~ FPL when they applied will need to have income below the ongoing income limit (see 6.1.2) for continued eligibility.

Example 1: Norma and Derek applied for Wisconsin Shares in August. They have one (1) foster child, Sean. They do not have any biological or adopted children. Their income places them at 275% FPL. However, since Sean is a foster child whose biological parents had income under 200% FPL, he is eligible for Wisconsin Shares. In October, Norma and Derek adopt Sean. Because they have not yet passed the initial income limit for Wisconsin Shares, their income is tested against 200% ~~185%~~ FPL for November. Since their income is over 200% ~~185%~~ FPL, Sean is no longer eligible for Wisconsin Shares starting in November.

Example 2: Trish applies for Wisconsin Shares in March for her niece, Lexi. Lexi is placed with Trish under a court order and Trish receives the Kinship Care payment. Trish does not have any biological or adopted children. Trish's income places her at 115% FPL. Lexi's eligibility is based on the income of her biological parents at the time she was removed from the home. However, Lexi would be financially eligible regardless of her biological parent's income because Trish's income is below 200% ~~185%~~ FPL. In July, Trish adopts Lexi. Her income is used for August. Since Trish's income passed the 200% ~~185%~~ FPL initial income limit when she applied in March, her income is tested against the ongoing income limit of 85% State Median Income (SMI) for August. Lexi's eligibility continues because Trish's income is below 85% SMI.

The income and Assistance Group (AG) size is usually available from the child welfare professional who is involved in the child's case; a verbal or written statement regarding the income information from the child welfare professional involved in the child's case is sufficient to document the biological or adoptive parent's income. If the biological or adoptive parent's income is verified through a collateral contact with the child welfare professional, the agency worker must enter a case comment that includes the name and title of the individual with whom the agency worker had contact, the telephone number or email address, and the date and time of the conversation or email response. If the child welfare professional is unable to provide the biological or adoptive parents' income and AG size, the child must be considered financially eligible. The agency worker must follow the process below for entering this correctly in CWW.

Process: If the child welfare professional involved in the child's case can provide the biological or adoptive parents' income and AG size, the agency worker must enter the information on the Manual Child Care Eligibility page in CWW. The agency worker must manually determine the FPL based on the income amount and AG size. If the family's FPL is 200% or less, the agency worker must enter "S – Passes the income test" as the Eligibility Result.

If the biological parent's income is more than 200% FPL, the agency worker must enter "F – Fails the income test" as the Eligibility Result. Eligibility is then systematically tested against the caregiver household income at 200% ~~185%~~ FPL. If the caregivers' household income exceeds 200% ~~185%~~ FPL, the children in out-of-home care are not eligible for Wisconsin Shares.

If the child welfare professional is unable to provide the biological or adoptive parents' income and AG size, the agency worker must leave the Family Size and Total Income fields blank and enter "S – Passes the income test" as the Eligibility Result. The agency worker must enter a case comment (see 12.1) that the child welfare professional was unable to provide the information.

10.1 Reporting Requirements

<Updated sections only>

Income Changes

The income reporting requirements depend on whether the Assistance Group (AG) is at or below 200% ~~185%~~ Federal Poverty Level (FPL) or above ~~185%~~ 200% FPL.

- An AG at or below ~~185%~~ 200% FPL must report if their gross monthly household income, whether earned or unearned, exceeds 85% of the State Median Income (SMI) ~~increases by $250 or more~~.

- An AG above ~~185%~~ 200% FPL must report if their household's gross monthly income, whether earned or unearned, increases by $250 or more ~~exceeds a dollar amount that will bring the AG to above the next 5% FPL increment~~.

~~If the AG's income is between two (2) FPL 5% increments, CWW will use the lower of the two (2) FPL percentages to determine the AG's reporting requirements.~~

~~**Example:** Maria's income places her AG at 187% FPL. Maria's reporting requirement will be $250 because CWW rounds down to 185% FPL to determine her reporting requirement.~~

18.2.1 Exit Period Copayments

During the Exit period (see 18.4.2~~3~~), the copayment is determined differently. CSAW still uses the copayment per hour, but it is set at the 200% FPL copayment level. CSAW then adds an extra family copayment to the total hourly copayment amount. The extra family copayment is determined by increasing the family's copayment $1 for every $5 ~~$3~~ by which the Assistance Group's (AG's) gross income exceeds 200% FPL.

See Appendix III - Benefit Calculation Examples for an example of how CSAW calculates benefits in this scenario.

18.4 Copayment Periods

There are two (2) ~~three (3)~~ Copayment Periods that help stabilize a family's subsidy amount during the 12-month eligibility period. After CWW determines initial eligibility for the Assistance Group (AG), CSAW will assign the AG to one (1) of these two (2) ~~three (3)~~ Copayment Periods based on their Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

CSAW will automatically determine which Copayment Period to assign the AG based on the AG's FPL at application and renewal. Agency workers must continue to enter reported changes that may affect eligibility or the authorization into CWW and CSAW. CSAW will automatically determine whether the changes entered should impact the copayment per hour. The two (2) ~~three (3)~~ Copayment Periods are:

Copayment Period	Assistance Group FPL	Copayment Per Hour Status During 12-month Eligibility Period
Copayment Stabilization	At or below ~~Below~~ 200% ~~190%~~ FPL	Will not increase
~~Gradual Phase Out (GPO)~~	~~190% - 199% FPL~~	~~May increase up to 200% FPL copayment level~~
Exit	Above 200%~~+~~ FPL	May increase

18.4.1 Copayment Stabilization

<Updated section only>

If an Assistance Group's income is at or below ~~190%~~ 200% FPL at any time, CSAW will assign the Assistance Group (AG) to the Copayment Stabilization period. During the Copayment Stabilization period, CSAW will not allow increases in income to increase the AG's copayment per hour until the AG's next eligibility renewal. Once CSAW has assigned the AG to the

Copayment Stabilization period, CSAW will not assign the AG to ~~a different Copayment Period~~ the Exit period (see 18.4.2) until the AG's next eligibility renewal.

~~18.4.2 Gradual Phase Out (GPO)~~

~~If the Assistance Group's income is at or above 190% FPL but below 200% FPL at renewal, CSAW will assign the Assistance Group (AG) to the Gradual Phase Out (GPO) period. During the GPO period, CSAW will increase an AG's copayment per hour starting the month after the agency worker enters the new income in CWW, but the AG's copayment will not exceed the 200% FPL copayment level at any time.~~

~~**Example:** Sari's income places her AG at 193% FPL at renewal in July. CSAW assigns Sari's AG to the GPO period. In October, Sari starts a new job. Her new income places her AG at 205% FPL. Sari's copayment per hour will increase from the 190% FPL copayment level to the 200% FPL copayment level. CSAW will not increase her copayment beyond the 200% FPL copayment level and her AG will remain in the GPO period, regardless of subsequent increases in income, until the next annual renewal.~~

18.4.2 ~~3~~ Exit

<Updated sections only>

If the Assistance Group's income is ~~at or~~ above 200% FPL at renewal, CSAW will assign the Assistance Group (AG) to the Exit period. During the Exit period, CSAW will increase the AG's copayment starting the month after the agency worker enters the new income in CWW. CSAW determines the copayment during the Exit period by adding an additional family copayment to the total hourly copayment for the 200% FPL copayment level (see 18.2.1). CSAW will continue to increase the AG's additional family copayment following subsequent income increases until the family assumes the full cost of care (see 18.2.2).

Example 1: Gloria's income places her AG at 212% FPL at renewal in July. CSAW assigns Gloria's AG to the Exit period and sets the AG's copayment based on 212% FPL. In September, Gloria starts a new job, which places her AG at 218% FPL. The AG's copayment increases based on 218% FPL. In March, Gloria receives a raise and her AG's income increases to 220% FPL. The AG's copayment increases based on 220% FPL.

When income remains above 200% FPL, the copayment adjusts accordingly whenever income increases or decreases. Copayments do not remain at a lower level when the AG is in the Exit period if income remains above 200%. If an income decrease moves the family to the ~~Gradual Phase Out (GPO) or~~ Copayment Stabilization period (see 18.4.1), the AG's copayment will decrease to the lower level and will remain capped at the lower level ~~(as applicable for GPO)~~ until the AG's next renewal (see 18.4.3~~4~~).

18.4.3 ~~4~~ Moving Between Copayment Periods

CSAW will only assign an Assistance Group (AG) to ~~a higher Copayment Period (Gradual Phase Out or~~ the Exit period~~)~~ (see 18.4.2) at the AG's annual renewal. If an AG's FPL decreases to at or below 200% FPL, CSAW will reassign the AG to ~~a lower Copayment Period~~ Copayment Stabilization (see 18.4.1) at any time without regard to the renewal date~~. If the AG moves to a lower Copayment Period,~~ and the AG's copayment per hour will remain capped at the lower level ~~(as applicable for GPO)~~ until the AG's next renewal.

~~**Example 1 (GPO to Stabilization):** At renewal in February, Jack's income places his AG at 192% FPL. CSAW assigns Jack's AG to the Gradual Phase Out period. In April, Jack's employer cuts his work hours to part-time. The resulting income loss places his AG at 115% FPL. CSAW determines Jack's copayment per hour at the 115% FPL copayment level and reassigns Jack's AG to the Copayment Stabilization period. Even if Jack's work hours increase back to full-time, Jack's AG will remain in the Copayment Stabilization period until his next annual renewal. His AG's copayment per hour will also be capped at the 115% FPL copayment level until his next annual renewal.~~

~~**Example 2 (Exit to GPO):** LaQuisa's income places her AG at 205% FPL at renewal in October. CSAW assigns LaQuisa's AG to the Exit period. In November, LaQuisa starts a new job. Her new income places her AG at 192% FPL. CSAW decreases LaQuisa's copayment per hour to the 190% FPL copayment level and reassigns LaQuisa's AG to the Gradual Phase Out period. If LaQuisa's income increases after this, CSAW will increase her copayment per hour. However, CSAW will not reassign her AG to the Exit period and will not increase her copayment per hour beyond the 200% FPL copayment level until her next renewal.~~

Example ~~3~~ (Exit to Stabilization): At renewal in July, Mai's income places her AG at 206% FPL. CSAW assigns Mai's AG to the Exit period. In September, Mai loses her job, and her AG's income decreases to $0. Mai's worker offers her the Approved Activity Search period (ACTS), which she accepts. CSAW reduces Mai's copayment per hour to the 65% FPL copayment level and reassigns Mai's AG to the Copayment Stabilization period. In November, Mai starts a new job, and her AG's income increases to 210% FPL. Mai remains in the Copayment Stabilization period, and her copayment remains at the 65% FPL copayment level until her next renewal.

Appendix III Benefit Calculation Examples

<Updated sections only>

Copayments Over 200% FPL

Renee's income places her family at 207% FPL at renewal in April. Based on that information, Renee's family is determined to be in the Exit period. Renee's two (2) children, Suki and Sahara, attend Joe's Quality Day Care for 15 hours per week each. Renee's total family copayment is $412.52 ~~430.52~~.

The calculation details are:
Copayment Per Hour for 200% FPL: $1.46
Suki: Part-time authorization based on a child care need of 15 hours per week. 30 weekly hours (part-time conversion) x 4.348125 weeks per month = 130.44 (131 monthly hours)
Sahara: Part-time authorization based on a child care need of 15 hours per week. 30 weekly hours (part-time conversion) x 4.348125 weeks per month = 130.44 (131 monthly hours)
Total Monthly Family Hours: 131 + 131 = 262 monthly hours
Initial Copayment: $1.46 x 262 = $382.52

Additional Exit Copayment: $30 ~~48~~ (207% FPL for an AG Size of 3)
Total Family Copayment: $382.52 + $30 ~~48~~ = $412.52 ~~430.52~~

Renee receives a raise in December that places her family's income at 212% FPL. Renee's total family copayment increases to $433.52 ~~464.52~~.

The calculation details are:

Copayment Per Hour for 200% FPL: $1.46
Total Monthly Family Hours: 262
Initial Copayment: $1.46 x 262 = $382.52
(This part stays the same, as Renee has not requested additional hours)

Additional Exit Copayment: $51 ~~82~~ (212% FPL for an AG Size of 3)
Total Family Copayment: $382.52 + $51 ~~82~~ = $433.52 ~~464.52~~

Assuming the Full Cost of Care

Example 1 (No Subsidy Amount)

At her annual renewal in August, Ebony's income places her family at 235% FPL. Ebony has one (1) child, Aiesha, who is 4 years old and attends Bundles of Fun in Juneau ~~Buffalo~~ County for 10 hours per week. Bundles of Fun is a ~~Licensed Family~~ Certified provider.

The calculation details are:
Copayment Per Hour for 200% FPL: $2.34
Aiesha: Part-time authorization based on a child care need of 10 hours per week. 30 weekly hours (part-time conversion) x 4.348125 weeks per month = 130.44 (131 monthly hours)
Total Monthly Family Hours: 131
Initial Copayment: $2.34 x 131 = $306.54
Additional Exit Copayment: $119 ~~191~~ (235% FPL for an AG Size of 2)
Total Family Copayment: $306.54 + $119 ~~191~~ = $425.54 ~~497.54~~

~~Buffalo~~ Juneau County ~~Licensed Family~~ Certified Hourly Maximum for 4-year-old: $3.21 ~~3.71~~
Initial subsidy amount (prior to any reductions): $3.21 ~~3.71~~ x 131 hours per month = $420.51 ~~486.01~~

In this example, Ebony's total family copayment ($425.54 ~~497.54~~) exceeds her initial subsidy amount ($420.51 ~~486.01~~). As CSAW subtracts the total family copayment from the subsidy amount prior to loading the funds, no funds would be loaded to Ebony's EBT card.

Example 2 (Small Subsidy Amount)

At her annual renewal in August, Sarafina's income places her family at 225% FPL. Sarafina has one (1) child, LaTanya. LaTanya is 6 years old and attends Reading Rainbow in Price County for 10 hours per week. Reading Rainbow is a Certified ~~Licensed Family~~ provider.

The calculation details are:
Copayment Per Hour for 200% FPL: $2.34
LaTanya: Part-time authorization based on a child care need of 10 hours per week. 30 weekly hours (part-time conversion) x 4.348125 weeks per month = 130.44 (131 monthly hours)
Total Monthly Family Hours: 131
Initial Copayment: $2.34 x 131 = $306.54
Additional Exit Copayment: $85 ~~136~~ (225% FPL for an AG Size of 2)
Total Family Copayment: $306.54 + $85 ~~136~~ = $391.54 ~~442.54~~

Price County ~~Licensed Family~~ Certified Hourly Maximum for 6-year-old: $3.09 ~~3.43~~
Initial subsidy amount (prior to any reductions): $3.09 ~~3.43~~ x 131 = $404.79~~449.33~~

In this example, the initial subsidy amount ($404.79 ~~449.33~~) is $13.25 ~~6.79~~ more than the total family copayment ($391.54 ~~442.54~~). The $13.25 ~~6.79~~ would be loaded to Sarafina's EBT card. Sarafina will remain eligible in CWW due to continuing to meet financial and nonfinancial requirements, and her authorization must remain in place (unless Sarafina requests that the agency worker end the authorization).