



Date: November 7, 2024

DMS Operations Memo 24-29

To: Income Maintenance Supervisors
Income Maintenance Lead Workers
Income Maintenance Staff

Affected Programs:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BadgerCare Plus | <input type="checkbox"/> Caretaker Supplement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FoodShare | <input type="checkbox"/> FoodShare Employment and Training |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medicaid | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SeniorCare | |

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Division of Medicaid Services

No Longer Counting Potential Cash Benefits as Available Income

CROSS REFERENCE

- Medicaid Eligibility Handbook, [Section 15.1.5 Availability](#)
- BadgerCare Plus Handbook, [Section 16.1.2 Income Under Modified Adjusted Gross Income Rules](#)
- 42 CFR § 435.608

EFFECTIVE DATE

January 1, 2025

PURPOSE

This memo announces a change to how cash benefits that a person may be entitled to but does not actually receive are treated for Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus eligibility determinations.

BACKGROUND

Prior to the change announced in this memo, federal Medicaid regulations required health care applicants and members to take all necessary steps to obtain any annuities, pensions, retirement, and disability benefits to which they are entitled, unless they can show good cause for not doing so.

To implement this federal requirement, Wisconsin instructed IM agencies to count as “available” income any cash benefits that a person is entitled to but is not receiving, provided that the benefit amount is known.

Federal Medicaid regulations have been updated so that applicants and members may no longer be required to apply for other benefits as a condition of eligibility for health care.

POLICY

Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus applicants and members are not required to apply for any type of cash benefits as a condition of eligibility. “Cash benefits” include, but are not limited to, veterans’ compensation and pensions, Social Security benefits, railroad retirement benefits, and unemployment compensation.

Effective January 1, 2025, any cash benefits that an applicant or member is potentially eligible for, but is not currently receiving, must not be counted as available income for Medicaid or BadgerCare Plus.

CONTACTS

DHS CARES Problem Resolution Team

DHS/DMS/BEEP/EB

DHS/DMS/BEOT/