



Date: June 5, 2026

DMS Operations Memo 26-19

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

Affected Programs:

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

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Division of Medicaid Services

Spousal Impoverishment Income Allowance Federal Poverty Level Adjustment

CROSS REFERENCE

- Medicaid Eligibility Handbook, Sections [18.6 Spousal Impoverishment Income Allocation](#) and [39.4.4 LTC Spousal Impoverishment Post-Eligibility Allowances and Community Spouse Asset Share](#)
- Social Security Act §1924(d) and Wis. Stat. § 49.455

EFFECTIVE DATE

July 1, 2026

PURPOSE

This operations memo provides the 2026 amounts for the spousal impoverishment community spouse lower income allocation limit, the spousal impoverishment dependent family member income allowance standard, and the shelter base amount.

BACKGROUND

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services published its annual update of the Poverty Income Guidelines, also called the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Guidelines, in January 2026. These guidelines are available at the following website: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>.

Income limits and other amounts used in eligibility determinations for some categories of Medicaid are based on the FPL. Federal and state law mandates that the income limit changes related to spousal impoverishment have a delay in their effective dates. As a result, the changes are effective July 1, 2026.

POLICY

The spousal impoverishment community spouse lower income allocation limit, the spousal impoverishment dependent family member income allowance standard, and the shelter base amount will increase effective July 1, 2026. The new limits will be in CARES on June 6, 2026. CARES eligibility redeterminations for July benefits will occur on June 6, 2026, as part of a mass change.

SPOUSAL IMPOVERISHMENT COMMUNITY SPOUSE INCOME ALLOWANCE

Item	Amount Effective from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026	New Amount Effective July 1, 2026
Community Spouse Lower Income Allocation Limit	\$3,525.00	\$3,606.66
Shelter Base Amount	\$1,057.50	\$1,082.00

SPOUSAL IMPOVERISHMENT FAMILY MEMBER INCOME ALLOWANCE

Item	Amount Effective from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026	New Amount Effective July 1, 2026
Dependent Family Member Income Allowance Standard	\$2,643.75	\$2,705.00

CONTACTS

DHS CARES Problem Resolution Team

DHS/DMS/BEEP/ND