

BENEFITS ELIGIBILITY & AMOUNTS IMPACTED

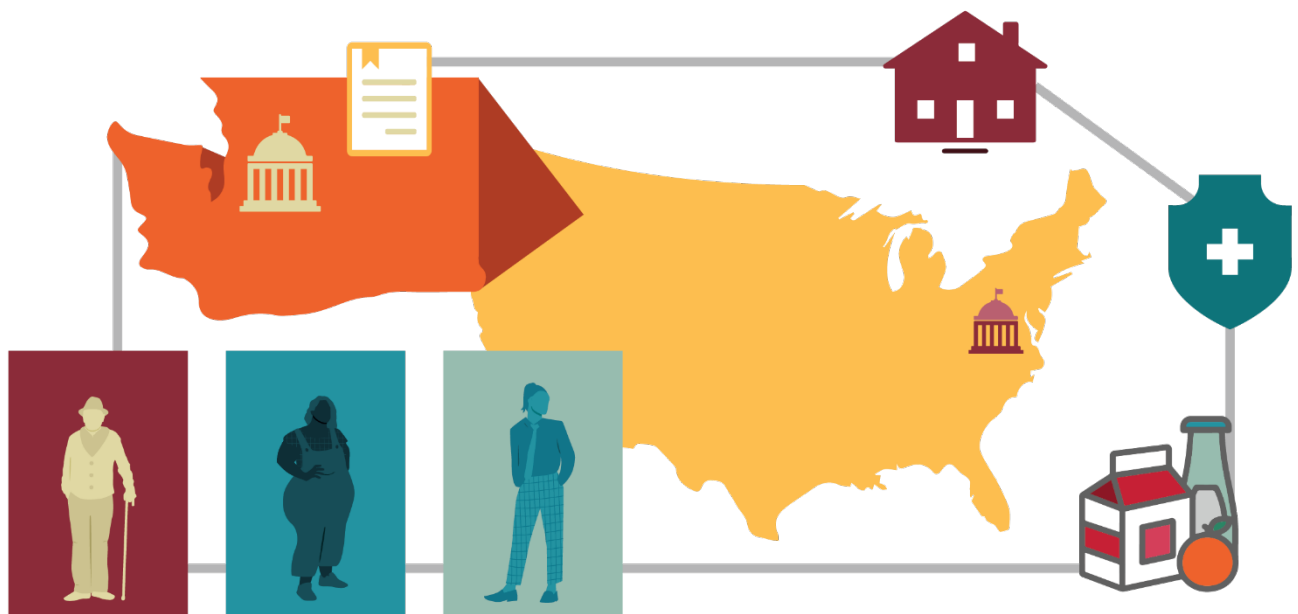
Per 2SSB 5793 (2)(e):

"AS ALLOWABLE BY FEDERAL AND STATE LAW, STATE AGENCIES WILL MINIMIZE, TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE, THE IMPACT OF STIPENDS AND REIMBURSEMENTS ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFIT AMOUNTS."

Federal and state income-based programs such as those that provide assistance with housing, health care, and money for food and other living expenses typically require reporting of any earnings by the recipient of said assistance. Many people are enrolled in more than one of these programs. State agencies which plan to compensate people must consider how this may affect each of the assistance programs from which workgroup members receive assistance. Stipends and gift cards may also be considered income and could impact these benefits programs.

Washington state agencies are currently reviewing public assistance programs to eliminate benefit impact to the greatest extent possible. Until analysis is complete for a public assistance program, agencies should inform workgroup members about possible benefit impacts and recommend they contact the respective agency for benefits counseling.

Below is the chart that demonstrates which public assistance eligibility and benefit amounts are impacted by stipends and reimbursements, and which will require statutory changes in order to avoid negatively impacting a workgroup members' benefits.



Program	Agency	Benefit Eligibility & Amount Impact Analysis
Public Housing	Dept. of Commerce (COM)	Payments excluded from income determination if temporary and sporadic (received/earned no more than 3 times per year) or nonrecurring
Consolidated Homeless Grant	COM	Payments excluded from income determination
Housing Choice Voucher	COM	Payments excluded from income determination if temporary and sporadic (received/earned no more than 3 times per year) or nonrecurring
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program	COM	Payments excluded from eligibility determination
Project-Based Voucher/Public Housing	COM	Payments excluded from income determination if temporary and sporadic (received/earned no more than 3 times per year) or nonrecurring
Housing Trust Fund	COM	Payments excluded from income determination if temporary and sporadic (received/earned no more than 3 times per year) or nonrecurring
National Housing Trust Fund	COM	Payments excluded from income determination if temporary and sporadic (received/earned no more than 3 times per year) or nonrecurring
HOME- Home Investment Partnerships	COM	Payments excluded from income determination if temporary and sporadic (received/earned no more than 3 times per year) or nonrecurring

Program	Agency	Benefit Eligibility & Amount Impact Analysis
Affordable Connectivity Program	COM	<p>Gross income: ACP verifies income through looking at tax returns or pay stubs. If tax return used as verification- would only impact if more than \$600 received and 1099 generated. If pay stub used to verify, would be no issue.</p> <p>Categorical eligibility: automatically eligible if participate in any of the following programs: SNAP, Medicaid, WIC, SSI, Housing assistance, Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit, Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch, Federal Pell Grant, Tribal Assistance. Visit the Do I Qualify page for more information.</p>
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)	COM	Payments excluded from eligibility determination
Head Start	Dept. of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF)	Payments excluded from eligibility determination
Early Childhood Education & Assistance Program (ECEAP)	DCYF	Payments excluded from eligibility determination
Working Connections Child Care (WCCC)	DCYF	Payments excluded from eligibility determination
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	Department of Health (DOH)	<p>Income from participation is reportable for WIC and could impact eligibility. DOH provided the following options to minimize or eliminate benefit impact.</p> <p>WIC confers adjunctive eligibility for participants participating in programs that might exempt this income, including:</p>

Program	Agency	Benefit Eligibility & Amount Impact Analysis
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicaid Title 19 • State or Federal non-Title 19 medical assistance programs with income guidelines the same or less than WIC's • TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) • SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) • FDIPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations) <p>WIC can also annualize income (over 12 months) received for a short-term engagement (e.g. time-limited and less than six months), which would reduce the risk of the participant exceeding program income eligibility guidelines.</p> <p>WIC does not consider gift cards income and is allowable if not equivalent to a cash payment, like a visa card.</p> <p>WIC is also requesting a waiver from USDA that would exempt this income from WIC income eligibility.</p>
SNAP/FAP (Food Assistance Program)	Dept. of Social & Health Services (DSHS)/Community Services Division (CSD)	Payments included - Federal waiver requested
TANF	DSHS/CSD	Payments excluded from income determination
Aged, Blind, or Disabled (ABD) cash assistance	DSHS/CSD	Payments excluded from income determination

Program	Agency	Benefit Eligibility & Amount Impact Analysis
Tribal TANF	DSHS/CSD	Currently under analysis
Child Support	DSHS/Division of Child Support (DCS)	Payments excluded from income withholding
Refugee Cash	DSHS/CSD	Payments excluded from income determination
Medical Assistance	DSHS/CSD	Payments excluded from income determination
Veterans' nonservice-connect pension or survivors' pension	Dept. of Veterans' Affairs (DVA)	Income included - DVA to request change with federal VA.
Unemployment	Employment Security Department (ESD)	Payments excluded from income determination
Paid Family Medical Leave	ESD	Payments excluded from income determination
MAGI-Medical	Health Care Authority (HCA)	Payments excluded from eligibility determination
Non-MAGI Medical	HCA	Payments excluded from eligibility determination

Program	Agency	Benefit Eligibility & Amount Impact Analysis
Free/Reduced Lunch	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)	Payments excluded from eligibility determination
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	Social Security Administration (SSA)	SSA provided a decision that these payments must be reported but is excluded from income for SSI purposes
Social Security or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)	SSA	No impact - assistance not base

INDEX OF ACRONYMS & COMMONLY-USED TERMS

2SSB 5793	Second Substitute Senate Bill (2SSB) 5793 is the enacting legislation for community compensation
AAG	Agency-assigned Attorney General
ACH	Automated Clearing House, a tool for issuing payments used by US Bank
COM	Department of Commerce
CSD	Community Services Division
DCYF	Department of Children, Youth & Families
DOH	Department of Health
DSHS	Dept. Of Social & Health Services
DVA	Department of Veterans' Affairs
EFS	Economic Feasibility Study
ESD	Employment Security Department
HCA	Health Care Authority
OFM	Office of Financial Management, an office that provides fiscal services to Washington state government, legislature, agencies, etc.
OSPI	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
OST	Office of the State Treasurer
PRA	Public Records Act
RCW	Revised Code of Washington, refers to existing laws on the books and this acronym typically precedes a reference number which makes it possible to find the text of the law in question. The full Revised Code of Washington can be found here: https://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/
SSA	Social Security Administration
SWV	Statewide Vendor (number)
UW	University of Washington
WAC	Washington Administrative Code, refers to state law that is established by statute in order to regulate executive branch agencies. The full WA Administrative Code can be found here: https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/