

Department of Public Health
and Human Services

Section:
TABLE OF STANDARDS

TANF CASH ASSISTANCE

Subject:
Monthly Income Standards

Supersedes: TANF 001 (01/01/10); TANF Bulletin TB-60 (09/01/10)

References: ARM 37.78.102; .402; .406; and .420;

GENERAL RULE-- The tables of standards contain the income and benefit standards used to determine financial eligibility for the TANF cash assistance and Post-Employment programs. These standards are based on the number of persons in the assistance unit and set the financial eligibility requirement for the filing/assistance unit as a whole.

The tables of standards also contain the payment standards which are based on the number of persons in the assistance unit for the TANF cash assistance program and are a set amount for the Post-Employment Program.

There are five sets of income standards. These standards are based on the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) or Annotated Rules of Montana (ARM) and are:

- ▶ 1. The gross monthly income standard, based on the **2006 FPL**
- ▶ 2. The net monthly income standard, based on the **2006 FPL**
- ▶ 3. The benefit standard, based on the **2006 FPL**
- 4. The TANF cash assistance payment standard, based on the **2009** FPL and
- 5. The Post-Employment payment standard based on ARM.

NOTE: The TANF cash assistance payment standard was implemented in October 2005. (See historical information on last page.)

For each benefit month, the total countable income of the filing/assistance unit is first tested against the gross monthly income (GMI) standard; then, (after specified disregards) against the benefit standard. These standards are programmed in TEAMS and do not have to be entered by the worker.

NOTE: The net monthly income standard is no longer used in the determination of eligibility but the standard is used in other areas (i.e., the deeming process) so the table will remain in the manual.

Collectively, the filing/assistance unit must pass both income tests as one of the financial eligibility requirements.

If the net countable income is equal to or greater than the Benefit Standard, the household is ineligible. If the net countable income is less than the Benefit Standard, and the unit is otherwise eligible (passes the resource test and all nonfinancial eligibility requirements), the benefit amount for the TANF cash assistance program and/or the Post-Employment Program is determined by subtracting the unit's net countable income from the appropriate payment standard.

**FILING/
ASSISTANCE
UNIT SIZE**

The filing/assistance unit size is the number of adults and/or children required to be included in determining eligibility. For example, if the required members are a mother and her two children, the unit size is three (3); if the unit members are a mother, a father, and their three children, the unit size is five (5).

Once the required unit members are entered to TEAMS with the appropriate Participation Code (Section 300), TEAMS counts the 'IN' participants and uses the correct household size for income standards.

**TEAMS
PROCESSING**

TEAMS tests the countable income of each unit against the standards for a unit of its size and circumstances. Refer to TANF 602-1 for budgeting procedure.

**► HISTORICAL
INFORMATION**

Historical information regarding the income standards is noted below for reference only:

Payment Standard:

- Implemented October 1, 2005 at 33% of the 2005 FPL.
- July 1, 2007 increased to 33% of the 2007 FPL.
- July 1, 2009 increased to 33% of the 2009 FPL.

Income Standards:

- October 1, 2005 continued to be based on 30% of the 2002 FPL.
- July 1, 2009 increased to 30% of the 2009 FPL due to availability of ARRA funding.
- October 1, 2010 decreased to 30% of the 2006 FPL due to loss of ARRA funding.

**GROSS MONTHLY INCOME STANDARDS TO BE USED**

(Effective October 1, 2010 based on 30% of FY 2006 Federal Poverty Level)

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>GMI Per Month</u>
1	\$ 577
2	777
3	979
4	1,178
5	1,378
6	1,580
7	1,780
8	1,980
9	2,179
10	2,381
11	2,581
12	2,781
13	2,980
14	3,182
15	3,382
16	3,582
17	3,783
18	3,983
19	4,183
20	4,383



NET MONTHLY INCOME STANDARDS TO BE USED
(Effective October 1, 2010 based on 30% of FY 2006 Federal Poverty Level)

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>NMI Per Month</u>
1	\$ 312
2	420
3	529
4	637
5	745
6	854
7	962
8	1,070
9	1,178
10	1,287
11	1,395
12	1,503
13	1,611
14	1,720
15	1,828
16	1,936
17	2,045
18	2,153
19	2,261
20	2,369

**BENEFIT STANDARDS TO BE USED****(Effective October 1, 2010 based on 30% of FY 2006 Federal Poverty Level)**

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Benefit Standard Per Month</u>
1	\$ 245
2	330
3	415
4	500
5	585
6	670
7	755
8	840
9	925
10	1,010
11	1,095
12	1,180
13	1,265
14	1,350
15	1,435
16	1,520
17	1,605
18	1,690
19	1,775
20	1,860

PAYMENT STANDARDS TO BE USED**TANF CASH ASSISTANCE****(Effective 7/1/09 based on 33% of the FY 2009 Federal Poverty Level)**

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Payment Standard Per Month</u>
1	\$ 298
2	401
3	504
4	606
5	709
6	812
7	915
8	1018
9	1121
10	1223
11	1326
12	1429
13	1532
14	1635
15	1738
16	1841
17	1943
18	2046
19	2149
20	2252

PAYMENT STANDARDS TO BE USED**POST-EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM****(Set amount based on ARM)**

<u>Month Eligible</u>	<u>Payment Standard Per Month</u>
1	\$ 375
2	275
3	175