

**Legislative Regulation
Review Committee**

2009-052

Department of Social Services

**PAYMENT STANDARDS & INCOME LIMIT
INCREASES**

4. AGE

A child must meet the categorical eligibility requirement of age. This requirement is met if the child is:

- a. under age eighteen (18) years of age; or
- b. age eighteen (18) and:
 - (1) in full-time attendance in a secondary school or the equivalent level of vocational or technical training; and
 - (2) expected to complete such program of schooling or training before attaining age nineteen (19).

5. ASSISTANCE UNIT COMPOSITION

FMA assistance unit composition rules apply to this coverage group except dependent children and adults who receive SSI are included in the assistance unit.

C. DURATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Individuals qualify for Medicaid as categorically needy under this coverage group for every month they meet the conditions of eligibility of this group.

D. INCOME CRITERIA

The Department uses AFDC income criteria to determine eligibility for this coverage group except as described below.

1. INCOME LIMIT

- a. The income limit for this coverage group is the [150%] 185% of the Federal Poverty Level that corresponds to the needs group size.
- b. The income limit for a non-parent caretaker relative is [150%] 185% of the Federal Poverty Level for one person.
- c. The AFDC 185% gross income test does not apply.

2. EARNED INCOME DEDUCTIONS

- a. Families with earned income are entitled to the employment deductions for self-employment, personal employment, and day care expenses as described at 5035.05.
- b. Day care expenses incurred by the family are allowed as a deduction whether paid by the State or by the family.

3. STUDENT EARNINGS

Earned income of a dependent child who is a student, either part-time or full-time, is excluded in determining eligibility.

4. FINANCIAL AWARDS

Financial awards received by a recipient for educational attendance, attaining certain grade levels, or attainment levels (e.g., increased reading level) are disregarded as income and assets in determining eligibility.

5. CHILD SUPPORT

The first \$100 per month of current child support income received by the assistance unit is disregarded whether paid through the Department or directly to the assistance unit by the absent parent. All other current child support income is counted in determining eligibility.

6. SSI INCOME

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) received by an assistance unit member is excluded as income. However, other income received by a SSI recipient may be counted in accordance with the income criteria of this coverage group.

7. AFDC AND TFA BENEFITS

AFDC and TFA benefits paid by the Department are excluded as income. AFDC or TANF benefits paid to the assistance unit by another state are counted.

8. DEEMED INCOME

a. Income from parents of minor parents (including minor pregnant women), step-parents, and spouses of minor parents is deemed as follows:

- (1) Income that would be excluded from the assistance unit is excluded from this group.
- (2) Self-employment earnings are adjusted to a gross amount by subtracting any self-employment expenses allowed under the TFA program. (cross reference: 8560.10)
- (3) The adjusted gross earnings are added to the countable unearned income.
- (4) The total from (3), above, is subtracted from the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for the individual and all others who could be claimed as legal tax dependents that are not part of the assistance unit. The difference is deemed to the assistance unit.

b. Income from other deemors is deemed in accordance with the appropriate AFDC or FMA deeming methodology. (cross reference: 5020)

9. LUMP SUMS

Lump sums received by applicants or recipients of this coverage group are treated as assets and, as such, are excluded.

10. INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS

Interest and dividends earned on assets are considered assets, not income.

E. ASSET CRITERIA

There is no asset limit for this coverage group.

**CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF INCOME MAINTENANCE
UNIFORM POLICY MANUAL**

Date: 7-01-07 Transmittal: UP-0 4510.15

Section: Type:
Standards of Assistance POLICY

Chapter: Program:
Standard of Need AFDC

Subject:
AFDC Standards of Need

4510.15 A. AFDC Standards of Need

The standard of need in effect as of July 1, 1995 for the basic need requirements of an AFDC assistance unit is the following amount for the appropriate region and assistance unit size:

<u>Assistance Unit Size</u>	<u>Region A</u>	<u>Region B</u>	<u>Region C</u>
1	\$ 552.00	\$ 457.00	\$ 457.00
2	704.00	607.00	607.00
3	872.00	745.00	735.00
4	1,016.00	876.00	853.00
5	1,145.00	1,002.00	971.00
6	1,281.00	1,134.00	1,103.00
7	1,425.00	1,279.00	1,239.00
8	1,566.00	1,413.00	1,372.00
9	1,683.00	1,530.00	1,489.00
10	1,838.00	1,672.00	1,657.00
11	1,910.00	1,743.00	1,727.00
12	2,075.00	1,910.00	1,893.00
13	2,124.00	1,985.00	1,943.00
14	2,273.00	2,107.00	2,092.00
15	2,402.00	2,237.00	2,223.00
16	2,473.00	2,307.00	2,291.00
17	2,580.00	2,414.00	2,398.00
18	2,685.00	2,521.00	2,505.00
19	2,793.00	2,626.00	2,612.00
20	2,899.00	2,734.00	2,719.00

B. Payment Standard

The payment standard for the AFDC program is 73% of the Standard of Need based on the appropriate region and assistance unit size in effect July 1, 1995.

**CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
UNIFORM POLICY MANUAL**

Date: 10-1-03

Transmittal: UP-03-29

8080.45

Section:

Special Programs

Type:

POLICY

Chapter:

State-Administered General Assistance

Program:

SCA

Subject:

Standards of Assistance

8080.45 A. Provisions

The Department recognizes certain essential expenses as need requirements in the cash assistance programs. In the SAGA program, payment standards for basic needs are established according to the type of assistance unit and the circumstances of a particular assistance unit.

1. Needs include the payment standard established for all assistance units within the same category and special needs that relate to the specific needs of a particular assistance unit.
2. For all SCA assistance units, the payment standard is used in the applied income test and in any gross income test.
3. Assistance units are only eligible for the special needs described in this subject.
4. Eligibility for special needs is determined according to the rules in the TFA program (Cross Reference: 8562).

B. Payment Standards

1. Family Assistance Units

The payment standard for family assistance units is equal to 73% of the [TFA] AFDC standard of need in effect as of July 1, 1995 based on the appropriate region and assistance unit size, minus \$50.00. Effective July 1, 2007 this payment standard is further adjusted by a percentage increase in the most recent calendar years Consumer Price Index for urban consumers, provided the increase, if any, does not exceed five percent and is authorized by the Connecticut General Assembly. (Cross Reference: 8562).

2. Individuals Living With a TFA Assistance Unit

- a. The payment standard for the following individuals is based on the standard for a family assistance unit when the individual lives with a TFA assistance unit and:
 - (1) is a child between the ages of 18 and 21 of a member of the TFA assistance unit; or
 - (2) is the ineligible spouse of a member of the TFA unit.
- b. The payment standard for these individuals is the incremental difference between:

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8080.45 B. 2. Individuals Living With a TFA Assistance Unit (continued)

- (1) the TFA payment standard for the TFA assistance unit; and
- (2) the TFA payment standard for the number of people in the TFA assistance unit and the individual.

3. Pregnant Women

The payment standard for a pregnant woman is the standard for a family assistance unit of one when:

- a. she does not live with her spouse; and
- b. she has no other children under age twenty-one who live with her who must be included in her assistance unit.

4. Married Couples

Married couples who live together are separate assistance units when there are no minor children in the home. The payment standard for each spouse is equal to one half the payment standard for a family assistance unit of two.

5. Unemployable Individuals

The payment standard for all unemployable individuals is [\$200] \$206 unless they are residents of rated boarding facilities. Effective July 1, 2007, this payment standard shall be increased by the most recent Consumer Price Index for urban consumers increase, provided the increase, if any, does not exceed five percent and is authorized by the Connecticut General Assembly.

6. Transitional Individuals

- a. The payment standard for transitional individuals who have a shelter obligation is [\$200] \$206 unless:
 - (1) they are residents of emergency shelters; or
 - (2) they are residents of rated boarding facilities.
- b. The payment standard for transitional individuals who have no shelter obligation is [\$50] \$52.

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Subject:

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8080.45 B. 6. Transitional Individuals (continued)

- c. The payment standard for transitional individuals in emergency shelters is [~~\$50~~] \$52.

Effective July 1, 2007, this payment standard shall be increased by the most recent Consumer Price Index for urban consumers increase, provided the increase, if any, does not exceed five percent and is authorized by the Connecticut General Assembly.

7. Individuals in Rated Boarding Facilities

When an individual lives in a rated boarding facility, the payment standard is the monthly rate established by the Department for the facility.

- a. The following types of rated boarding facilities are eligible for SCA payment:
- (1) private homes licensed by the Department of Mental Retardation (DMR);
 - (2) homes for the aged licensed by the Department of Public Health (DPH);
 - (3) permanent family homes licensed by the Department of Children and Families (DCF);
 - (4) other room and board facilities that are:
 - (a) licensed by an appropriate department of the State; and
 - (b) approved for payment by the Department.
- b. The Department does not pay boarding homes licensed for the treatment of alcohol and/or substance abuse treatment for dates of stay on and after August 1, 1997.
- c. The following rules apply to individuals in rated boarding facilities:
- (1) the payment standard for assistance units residing in a rated boarding facility is the monthly rate established by the Department for the facility;

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8080.45 B. 7. Individuals in Rated Boarding Facilities (continued)

- (2) when the facility rate is less than the payment standard for an unemployable or transitional individual, the difference is not paid to the individual;
- (3) there is no personal needs allowance;
- (4) assistance units are considered to be maintaining residence in the facility if they are not maintaining a separate residence in the community;
- (5) assistance units that are temporarily absent from the facility are considered to be maintaining permanent residence in the facility if both of the following conditions are met:
 - (a) the unit does not enter into another permanent housing agreement during the period of absence; and
 - (b) the unit is expected to return to the facility within a reasonable period of time, as defined by the Department.
- (6) the monthly need standard is prorated on a per diem basis in any month that the assistance unit does not maintain residence in the facility for the entire calendar month.
- (7) the period of absence is considered to be reasonable if the unit is expected to return to the residence by the last day of the month following the month that the unit temporarily left the residence;
- (8) the payment standard is not prorated as long as the facility remains the residence for the entire calendar month.

8. Standard of Assistance in the Month of a Move

The payment standard for assistance units that move during a month is based on the standard already paid for that month or on the new standard, whichever is higher.

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8080.45 B. 9. Temporary Absences

Assistance units that are temporarily absent from non-rated housing are considered to be residents of non-rated housing if all of the following criteria are met:

- a. a non-rated housing unit is maintained as a permanent residence of the assistance unit;
- b. the assistance unit intends to return to non-rated housing;
- c. the assistance unit does not establish a permanent housing arrangement with a rated housing facility.

C. Special Needs

Only the following special needs are provided to family and individual assistance units:

1. Emergency Housing

Except as noted below, emergency housing for families and individuals is provided following the rules in the TFA program (Cross Reference: 8562.30).

The standards of assistance for emergency shelter are the following:

- a. when no meals are provided, the standard is the actual amount charged, not to exceed \$11.00 per night per person; or
- b. when meals are provided, the standard is the actual amount charged not to exceed \$11 per night per person plus \$1 per person for each meal provided.

2. Meals-on-Wheels

- a. Meals-on-Wheels are provided to families and individuals under the same conditions as in the TFA program.
- b. The standard of assistance for meals on wheels is the per diem rate for either single or double meal delivery multiplied by the number of meal deliveries received in the month (Cross Reference: 8562.40).

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SCA

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8080.45 C. 3. Moving Expenses

Assistance is provided for the cost of moving household furnishings and personal belongings under the same conditions as in the TFA program (Cross Reference: 8562.45).

4. Repair or Replacement of Essential Household Items/Replacement of Essential Clothing

- a. Essential household items and clothing are only repaired or replaced when they are destroyed or damaged by a catastrophic event.
- b. The same household items that can be repaired or replaced in the TFA program can be repaired or replaced in the SAGA cash program.
- c. The rules for replacing the items and the standards of assistance are the same as in the TFA program. (Cross Reference: 8562.50 and 8562.55).

5. Security Deposit - Heating Services

- a. The cost of a security deposit that is required to obtain heating service is provided under the same conditions as in the TFA program.
- b. The standards of assistance for a security deposit on heating service is the same as in the TFA program. (Cross Reference: 8562.65).

6. Security Deposits – Housing

Security deposits for housing are not provided as part of SAGA benefits. Effective July 1, 2000, applicants and recipients of SAGA may qualify for a security deposit guarantee as described in sections 17b-802-1 to 17b-802-12, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

7. Storage Charges

- a. The cost of commercial storage of furnishings, appliances and furniture is recognized as a non-recurrent special need when:
 - (1) an assistance units is in emergency housing; and

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8080.45 C. 7. Storage Charges (continued)

(2) there is no other source of payment.

- b. The cost of storage may include reasonable charges for preparation of the household goods.
- c. The Department provides assistance for the cost of storage for a period not to exceed the period during which the assistance unit qualifies for emergency housing.
- d. The standard of assistance for the cost of storage of essential furnishings, appliances and furniture is the lower of the two cost estimates provided by the assistance unit.

D. SMA Income Standards

The income standards for SMA are equal to the Medicaid Medically Needy Income Limit (MNIL) which varies according to the size of the assistance unit and the region of the state in which the assistance unit resides. (Cross Reference: 4530).

**CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
UNIFORM POLICY MANUAL**

Date: 7-1-97

Transmittal: UP-98-3

8562.15

Section:
Jobs First

Type:
POLICY

Chapter:
Standards of Assistance

Program:
TFA

Subject:
Standard of Need and Payment Standard

8562.15 A. Standard of Need

1. The Standard of Need is a monthly standard which represents the amounts deemed necessary for the normal, recurring, basic needs of a family. It does not represent the amount paid to assistance units.
2. The Standard of Need is used to determine eligibility and calculate benefits of applicants and recipients who are exempt from the time limit. It is also used to determine eligibility of applicants and recipients who are subject to the time limit. It is not a standard of payment to families. The amount paid to the assistance unit is determined by a calculation of benefits as described at 8565.
3. The Standard of Need is not reduced or prorated for any reason.
4. The Standard of Need varies according to the following criteria but is otherwise uniform for all assistance units of the same size:
 - a. the region of the state in which the assistance unit currently resides; and
 - b. the number of members in the assistance unit; and
 - c. the presence in the home of a child or children who are subject to the family cap provision.
5. The following need items are included in the Standard of Need:
 - a. appliance and appliance installation;
 - b. basic telephone service and normal installation;
 - c. carrying charges on home owned property;
 - d. chore services;
 - e. clothing;
 - f. food;

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Standards of Assistance

Program:
TFA

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Standard of Need and Payment Standard

8562.15 A. 5. Standard of Need (continued)

- g. fuel;
- h. furniture and home furnishings;
- i. household supplies;
- j. installment payments on personal and small loans;
- k. laundry;
- l. life, hospital and personal health insurance premiums;
- m. non-medical public and private transportation;
- n. personal incidentals;
- o. refuse collection;
- p. repair of furnishings, furniture and appliances;
- q. repair of household items;
- r. scout uniforms;
- s. shelter;
- t. school expenses;
- u. summer campership not medically related;
- v. therapeutic dietary costs;
- w. utilities and utility shutoff.

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Date: 7-1-07

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Chapter:
Standards of Assistance

Program:
TFA

Subject:
Standard of Need and Payment Standard

8562.15 A. Standard of Need (continued)

- [6. For assistance units that do not contain a child who is subject to Family Cap provisions, the monthly Standard of Need is the amount shown below.

<u>Assistance Unit Size</u>	<u>Region A</u>	<u>Region B</u>	<u>Region C</u>
1	\$652.00	\$457.00	\$457.00
2	704.00	607.00	607.00
3	872.00	745.00	735.00
4	1,016.00	876.00	853.00
5	1,145.00	1,002.00	971.00
6	1,281.00	1,134.00	1,103.00
7	1,425.00	1,279.00	1,239.00
8	1,566.00	1,413.00	1,372.00
9	1,683.00	1,530.00	1,489.00
10	1,838.00	1,672.00	1,657.00
11	1,910.00	1,743.00	1,727.00
12	2,075.00	1,910.00	1,893.00
13	2,124.00	1,985.00	1,943.00
14	2,273.00	2,107.00	2,092.00
15	2,402.00	2,237.00	2,223.00
16	2,473.00	2,307.00	2,291.00
17	2,530.00	2,414.00	2,398.00
18	2,685.00	2,521.00	2,505.00
19	2,793.00	2,626.00	2,612.00
20	2,899.00	2,734.00	2,719.00

6. The monthly Standard of Need is the AFDC standard of need in effect as of July 1, 1995 based on the appropriate region and assistance unit size and increased by a percentage increase, if any, in the most recent calendar year average in the consumer price index for urban consumers over the average for the previous calendar year, further provided that the annual increase, if any, shall not exceed five per cent and the increase for that year is authorized by the General Assembly.

**CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
UNIFORM POLICY MANUAL**

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POLICY

Chapter:

Standards of Assistance

Program:

TFA

Subject:

Standard of Need and Payment Standard

8562.15 A. Standard of Need (continued)

7. For assistance units that contain a child who is subject to the Family Cap provisions as described in 8562.20, the Standard of Need is the total of the following:
 - a. the Standard of Need of the assistance unit without the Family Cap child or children; plus
 - b. \$68.50 for each Family Cap child in the assistance unit.

B. Payment Standard

1. The Payment Standard is used to determine eligibility and calculate benefits of applicants and recipients of Temporary family Assistance who are subject to the time limit.
2. The Payment Standard for assistance units that do not contain a child who is subject to the Family Cap is seventy-three percent of the AFDC Standard of Need in effect as of July 1, 1995 based on the appropriate region and assistance unit size. Effective July 1, 2007 these standards shall be increased annually further by a percentage increase, if any, in the most recent calendar year average in the consumer price index for urban consumers over the average for the previous calendar year, provided that the annual increase, if any, shall not exceed five per cent and further provided that the increase for that year is authorized by the General Assembly. (cross reference: 8562.20)
3. For assistance units that contain a child who is subject to the Family Cap provisions, the Payment Standard is the total of the following:
 - a. the Payment Standard of the assistance unit without the Family Cap child or children; plus
 - b. \$50 for each child who is subject to the Family Cap.

0 8 2 - 107

IMPORTANT: Read instructions on bottom of Certification Page before completing this form. Failure to comply with instructions may cause disapproval of proposed Regulations.

REGULATION

OF

NAME OF AGENCY

Department of Social Services

Concerning

SUBJECT MATTER OF REGULATION

Increase in Payment Standard

SECTION _____

Statement of Purpose: (A) The purpose of the regulation is to amend sections 2540.24, 4510.15, 4530.15, 8562.15 and 8080.45 of the Uniform Policy Manual to bring the policy manual into compliance with changes made pursuant to Public Act 07-2 of the June 2007 Special Session. The problems, issues or circumstances that the regulation proposes to address: Previously, the payment standard for the temporary family assistance program and the state-administered general assistance program was 73% of the standard of need in effect June 30, 1995 for the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program and the income limit for the Husky A for families program was 150% of federal poverty level. The current Uniform Policy Manual provisions cited above do not reflect the changes made by Public Act 07-2 (2) and (7) of the June 2007 Special Session. The department implemented and has been operating under these proposed changes since July 1, 2007, pursuant to section 17b-10 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

(B) The main provisions of the regulation: (1) establish an increased standard of need based on the cost of living for the temporary family assistance program and the state-administered general assistance program, and (2) increases the income limit of the Husky A for families program to 185% of federal poverty level.

(C) The legal effects of the regulation, including all of the ways that the regulation would change existing regulations or other laws are: The proposed amendments update the policy manual provisions in compliance with the changes made pursuant to Public Act 07-2 (2) and (7) of the June 2007 Special Session.

CERTIFICATION

R-39 REV. 1/77

Be it known that the foregoing:

Regulations Emergency Regulations

Are:

Adopted Amended as hereinabove stated Repealed

By the aforesaid agency pursuant to:

Sections _____ of the General Statutes.

Section 17b-104 of the General Statutes, as amended by Public Act No. 07-2 of the June 2007 Public Acts.

Public Act No. _____ of the Public Acts.

After publication in the Connecticut Law Journal on March 4, 2008, of the notice of the proposal to:

Adopt Amend Repeal such regulations

(If applicable): And the holding of an advertised public hearing on _____ day of _____

WHEREFORE, the foregoing regulations are hereby:

Adopted Amended as hereinabove stated Repealed

Effective:

When filed with the Secretary of the State.

(OR)

The _____ day of _____

In Witness Whereof:	Date <u>6/29/09</u>	SIGNED (Head of Board, Agency or Commission) 	OFFICIAL TITLE, DULY AUTHORIZED Commissioner
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Approved by the Attorney General as to legal sufficiency in accordance with sec. 4-169, as amended C.G.S.	SIGNED 	OFFICIAL TITLE, DULY AUTHORIZED ASSOC. ATTY. GENERAL
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- Approved
- Disapproved
- Disapproved in part, (Indicate Section Numbers disapproved only)
- Rejected without prejudice

By the Legislative Regulation Review Committee in accordance with Sec. 4-170, as amended, of the General Statutes.	Date	SIGNED (Clerk of the Legislative Regulation Review Committee)
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Two certified copies received and filed, and one such copy forwarded to the Commission in Official Legal Publications in accordance with Section 4-172, as amended, of the General Statutes.

DATE	SIGNED (Secretary of the State.)	BY
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