

**I-1500 NEED — INCOME****I-1510 GENERAL INFORMATION**

Count gross income in the month in which it is received, unless otherwise stated in [I-1534 Types of Income \(Non-MAGI-Related\)](#) and/or [I-1553 MAGI-Related Types of Income](#).

All reported income shall be considered in accordance with policies established in this manual.

Do not count as income the cash received from the sale of an allowable resource, as the resource is being converted from one form to another. The cash received is a countable resource.

Receipt of income is reported or discovered in various ways:

- The applicant/enrollee is the primary source of information and is responsible for accurate and complete reporting of the situation. Inconsistent or incomplete information from the applicant/enrollee (regarding income, and/or expenses,\*\*) can indicate the need for \*\*documentation \*\*.

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- Consider the following sources:
  - Social Security Administration (SSA) computer matches (i.e., Benefit Data Exchange (BENDEX), State Data Exchange (SDX));
  - Louisiana Workforce Commission LWC inquiry system; or
  - Internal Revenue Service (IRS) computer matches.

See the [Interfaces](#) chapter of the *BHSF Eligibility Administrative Procedures Manual* for other sources of information.

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**I-1510.1 Income Standards**

Income standards are used to determine need in relation to income.

The income standard used depends on the program considered. The income standards are the:

- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Federal Benefit Rate (FBR);
- Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (FPIG);
- Medically Needy Income Eligibility Standard (MNIES); and
- Special Income Level (SIL) rate for long term care (LTC) and home and community-based services (HCBS).

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The standard for the number of persons in the income unit is compared to the countable income. Refer to [Z-0000 Charts](#).

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## I-1510.2 Ownership of Income

For Medicaid purposes, cash income belongs to the individual(s) for whom it is intended. If the income is received in the form of a check or money order, the income belongs to the person(s) named on the check.

### **Exception:**

Child support and FITAP payments are income to the person(s) for whom they are intended. Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance (RSDI) checks may be made payable to "Jane Doe for Johnny Doe". The payment is countable income for Johnny Doe.

In some instances, the Veteran's Administration (VA) considers the number of dependents a veteran has in determining the veteran's or widow(er)'s payment amount. According to SSI policy, such augmented VA pension and compensation payments shall be treated as follows:

- Only that portion of a VA benefit attributable to the veteran or widow(er) is income to him or her.
- The amount by which a VA benefit is augmented because of a dependent is income to the dependent.

### **Exception:**

Augmentation is not considered as income to the dependent on whose behalf it is paid, provided the dependent:

- lives apart from the veteran/surviving spouse;

- has applied to the VA for apportionment;
- has received the VA's written denial of the apportionment request; and
- has not received the augmentation directly from the veteran/surviving spouse.

## I-1511 VERIFICATION

Verify amount and receipt of income:

- at application;
- at renewal;
- when a change is reported; or
- if questionable.

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Sources may include:

- itemized check stubs;
- SSA records, correspondence, or forms;
- BENDEX;
- third party query;
- award letters;
- VA correspondence or forms;
- wage verification forms;
- Louisiana Automated Management Information (LAMI) records,  
\*\*;
- Louisiana Support Enforcement Services (LASES) records for child support; or
- LDET records for unemployment benefits.

**Note:**

A personal check is not acceptable verification of income.

## I-1512 DOCUMENTATION

Document and file a copy of the verification.