Rulemaking Hearing Rule(s) Filing Form

Rulemaking Hearing Rules are rules filed after and as a result of a rulemaking hearing (Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-205).

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-229, any new fee or fee increase promulgated by state agency rule shall take effect on July 1, following the expiration of the ninety (90) day period as provided in § 4-5-207. This section shall not apply to rules that implement new fees or fee increases that are promulgated as emergency rules pursuant to § 4-5-209(a) and to subsequent rules that make permanent such emergency rules, as amended during the rulemaking process. In addition, this section shall not apply to state agencies that did not, during the preceding two (2) fiscal years, collect fees in an amount sufficient to pay the cost of operating the board, commission or entity in accordance with § 4-29-121(b).

Agency/Board/Commission: Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration
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Revision Type (check all that apply):
X Amendments
____ New
____ Repeal

Rule(s) (ALL chapters and rules contained in filing must be listed here. If needed, copy and paste additional tables to accommodate multiple chapters. Please make sure that ALL new rule and repealed rule numbers are listed in the chart below. Please enter only ONE Rule Number/Rule Title per row)

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Rule 1200-13-20-.01 Scope and Authority paragraph (1) is amended by inserting as a new second sentence the language “This Chapter will refer to the programs collectively as TennCare, unless a specific process or requirement for TennCare Medicaid, TennCare Standard, the Medicare Savings Program, or CoverKids differs from the general TennCare process or requirement.” and further amends paragraph (1) by deleting the language “and CoverKids” from the last sentence, so that, as amended, paragraph (1) shall read:

(1) This Chapter governs the processes for determining financial and categorical eligibility for the TennCare and CoverKids programs. This Chapter will refer to the programs collectively as TennCare, unless a specific process or requirement for TennCare Medicaid, TennCare Standard, the Medicare Savings Program, or CoverKids differs from the general TennCare process or requirement. This Chapter preempts any other TennCare Rules pertaining to eligibility determination to the extent that they are in conflict.

Rule 1200-13-20-.01 Scope and Authority paragraph (3) is amended by deleting the punctuation and acronym “—CHIP” and replacing it with the punctuation and acronym “: CHIP” so that, as amended, paragraph (3) shall read:

(3) The CoverKids Act of 2006 authorizes the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration to establish and administer a program to provide health care coverage to uninsured children under Title XXI of the Social Security Act (State Children’s Health Insurance Program: “CHIP”).

Rule 1200-13-20-.01 Scope and Authority paragraph (4) is amended by deleting the word “for” and replacing it with the word “seeking” between the words “applicants” and “assistance” so that, as amended, paragraph (4) shall read:

(4) Titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act, TennCare Medicaid Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver as may be amended, extended, or renewed in the future, and 42 C.F.R. Parts 431 and 435 require the designated State agency to provide for eligibility determinations for applicants seeking assistance and services provided through the programs.


Rule 1200-13-20-.02 Definitions and Acronyms is amended by deleting the rule in its entirety and replacing the rule with a new rule so that rule .02 shall read:

1200-13-20-.02 Definitions and Acronyms.

(1) Access to Health Insurance (TennCare). The opportunity an individual has to obtain group health insurance as defined elsewhere in these rules. If a person could have enrolled in work-related or other group health insurance during an employer's or group's open enrollment period and chose not to enroll (or had the choice made for him by a family member) that person shall not be considered to lack access to insurance upon closure of the open enrollment period. Neither the cost of an insurance policy or health plan nor the fact that an insurance policy is not as comprehensive as that of the TennCare Program shall be considered in determining eligibility to enroll in any TennCare category where being uninsured is an eligibility prerequisite. Access to health insurance through the Federally Facilitated Marketplace (FFM) shall not constitute “access to insurance” for purposes of eligibility for TennCare.

(2) Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Account. An account established under 26 U.S.C.A. § 529A. ABLE accounts or 529A accounts are tax-advantaged savings accounts for individuals with disabilities that are established under a qualified ABLE program.

(3) Active SSI Recipient. An individual who has been found eligible to receive SSI benefits by the SSA.

(4) Aged. An individual age sixty-five (65) or older.
(5) Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC). The name of the cash assistance program for families and children prior to the passage of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) in July 1996.

(6) Annuities. Contracts or agreements that, in exchange for a lump sum payment or series of payments, provide for the payment of income at regular intervals, e.g., monthly, quarterly, annually, etc. Annuities establish a source of income for a future period and are often used in retirement planning.

(7) Applicant. An individual who is seeking an eligibility determination for himself through an application submission or a transfer from another agency or insurance affordability program. For purposes of this Chapter, applicant also includes an individual who is seeking an eligibility determination for himself through an application for Medicare Savings Programs (MSP).

(8) Application. The single, streamlined form developed for use for all insurance affordability programs, as required by 42 C.F.R. § 435.907(b).

(9) Application File Date. See Rule .05(5).

(10) Authorized Representative. An Authorized Representative as defined at 42 C.F.R. § 435.923.

(11) Blind. An individual who is determined to be blind by the SSA.

(12) Breast and Cervical Cancer (BCC). The Medicaid eligibility category defined at Section 1902(aa) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396a(aa)). This eligibility category covers individuals who have been found to have breast or cervical cancer through the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, who are under age sixty-five (65), do not otherwise have creditable coverage (including current enrollment in Medicaid), as the term is used under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) § 2701(c) of the PHS Act (42 U.S.C. § 300gg(c)), are not otherwise eligible for Medicaid or receiving TennCare Standard, and who are currently undergoing treatment for breast or cervical cancer.

(13) Bureau of TennCare (Bureau). The agency within the Division of TennCare which directly administers the TennCare program.

(14) Caretaker Relative. A relative of a dependent child by blood, adoption, or marriage with whom the child lives, assumes primary responsibility for the child's care, and is one of the following:

(a) The child's father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, brother, sister, stepfather, stepmother, stepbrother, stepsister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, or niece; or

(b) The spouse of such caretaker relative, even after the marriage is terminated by death or divorce.

(15) Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Established by Title XXI of the Social Security Act and administratively included in the Division of TennCare.

(16) CHOICES. TennCare CHOICES in Long-Term Services and Supports, as defined in Rule 1200-13-01-.02.


(18) Community Spouse. The legal spouse of an institutionalized individual. A community spouse may not reside in a medical institution or nursing facility.

(19) Comprehensive Aggregate Cap Waiver. See definition in Tennessee's 1915(c) Home and Community Based Services Waiver.

(20) Completed Application. An application that meets the following criteria:

(a) All required fields have been completed;

(b) Is signed and dated by the applicant, the applicant's parent or guardian, an individual acting on behalf of the applicant, or an authorized representative;

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(c) Includes all supporting documentation required by the Bureau to determine TennCare, Medicare Savings Program or CoverKids eligibility, including technical and financial requirements as set out in this Chapter; and

(d) If the application is for the TennCare Standard Medically Eligible category, it includes all supporting documentation required to prove TennCare Standard medical eligibility as set out in this Chapter.

(21) Core Medicaid Population. Individuals eligible under Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1396, et seq., with the exception of the following groups: active SSI recipients who are receiving benefits as determined by the SSA; individuals eligible for emergency services as an undocumented or ineligible alien; individuals in a presumptive eligibility period; and children in DCS custody, including DCS children who meet the criteria for immediate eligibility and those receiving adoption assistance payments.

(22) CoverKids. The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in Tennessee under T.C.A. § 71-3-1101.

(23) CoverKids Pregnant Women (formerly referred to as “CoverKids Pregnant Women/Unborn Children”). Provides coverage for the unborn children of pregnant women with no source of coverage, who meet the CoverKids eligibility requirements.

(24) Deemed Newborn. An individual eligible in a Medicaid category authorized by Section 1902(e)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396a(e)(4)) and 42 C.F.R. § 435.117. A child is eligible for Medicaid in this category from birth until the child's first birthday without application if, on the date of the child's birth, the child's mother was eligible for and received covered Medicaid services.

(25) Disabled. An individual who has been determined to be disabled by the SSA or meets conditions in Rule .08(5)(c).

(26) Disabled Adult Child (DAC). The Medicaid eligibility category defined in Section 1634(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1383c(c)).

(27) Division of TennCare. The Agency established within the Department of Finance and Administration to consolidate and administratively coordinate multiple health care programs, including the Bureau of TennCare and CoverKids.

(28) Effective Date. The first date of eligibility for purposes of health care services coverage and payment.

(29) Eligible. An individual who has been determined to meet the eligibility criteria for medical assistance under Tennessee's State Plan or in any Tennessee federal Medicaid waiver program approved by the Secretary of the HHS pursuant to Sections 1115 or 1915 of the Social Security Act or in the CoverKids program. (42 U.S.C. §§ 1315 or 1396n).

(30) Enrollee. An individual eligible for and enrolled in the TennCare program or in any Tennessee federal Medicaid waiver program approved by the Secretary of the HHS pursuant to Sections 1115 or 1915 of the Social Security Act or in the CoverKids program. (42 U.S.C. §§ 1315 or 1396n). For purposes of this Chapter, enrollee also includes individuals eligible for and enrolled in the Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs).

(31) Enrollment. The process by which a TennCare, CoverKids, or Medicare Savings Program eligible individual becomes enrolled in TennCare, CoverKids or a Medicare Savings Program.

(32) Exchange. A governmental agency or non-profit entity that meets the applicable Federal standards and makes Qualified Health Plans (QHPs), including TennCare and CoverKids, available to qualified individuals and/or qualified employers. Unless otherwise identified, this term includes an Exchange serving the individual market for qualified individuals and a Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) serving the small group market for qualified employers, regardless of whether the Exchange is established and operated by a State (including a regional Exchange or subsidiary Exchange) or by the HHS.

(33) Extended Medicaid. Medicaid eligibility authorized for enrollees who lose Child Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) or Caretaker Relative MAGI eligibility due to increased receipt of spousal support, whose
household income prior to losing eligibility was at or below the current Caretaker Relative MAGI income standard for three (3) of the six (6) months preceding the month of the increase in income.

(34) Families First (FF). Tennessee's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

(35) Federal Data Services Hub. An electronic service established by the HHS to facilitate sharing of data and other information between federal agencies, State agencies, and other entities involved in administering Insurance Affordability Programs.


(37) Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The poverty level established annually by HHS.

(38) Federally Facilitated Marketplace (FFM). See "Exchange."

(39) Financially Responsible Relatives (FRR). Principle of financial responsibility that exists between spouses and of parents to their children which is used in determining household composition, income counting and resource counting for certain Medicaid categories.


(41) Group Health Insurance. An employee benefit plan to the extent that the plan provides medical care to employees or their dependents (as defined under the terms of the plan) directly through an insurance reimbursement mechanism. This definition includes those types of health insurance found in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, as amended, definition of creditable coverage (with the exception that the 50-or-more participants criteria do not apply), which includes Medicare and TRICARE. Health insurance benefits obtained through COBRA are included in this definition. It also covers group health insurance available to an individual through membership in a professional organization or a school.

(42) Health Insurance (for CoverKids).

(a) Health insurance, for purposes of determining eligibility for CoverKids under this Chapter, shall mean:

1. Basic medical coverage (hospitalization plans);
2. Major medical insurance;
3. Comprehensive medical insurance;
4. Short-term medical policies;
5. Mini-medical plans;
6. High-deductible plans with health savings accounts; or
7. Other coverage including Medicare, TennCare, TRICARE, and employer-sponsored coverage.

(b) Health insurance, for purposes of determining eligibility for CoverKids under this Chapter, shall not include the following:

1. AccessTN;
2. Catastrophic health insurance plans that only provide medical services after satisfying a deductible in excess of $3,000.00 (or the maximum allowed deductible for a health savings account plan);
3. Dental-only plans;
4. Vision-only plans;
5. Benefits provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or the Indian Health Service.

6. Coverage under the State of Tennessee's Children's Special Services program; or

7. Medical insurance that is available to an enrollee pursuant either to the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) of 1986 (29 U.S.C. §§ 1161, et seq.) and which the individual declined, or to T.C.A. §§ 56-7-2312, et seq., and which the individual declined.

(c) Consistent with 42 U.S.C. § 1397jj(b)(2)(B) and 42 C.F.R. §§ 457.301 and 457.310(c)(1)(ii), health insurance shall not include State-administered or other medical coverage offered by means of a family member's employment with a local education agency (LEA) if the LEA does not make more than a nominal contribution (as defined at 42 C.F.R. § 457.310(c)(1)(ii)) to the premium for the dependent, who is applying (or re-applying) for coverage through CoverKids.

(43) Health Insurance (for TennCare).

(a) Health insurance, for purposes of determining eligibility for TennCare under this Chapter, shall mean:

1. Any hospital or medical expense-incurred policy;
2. Medicare;
3. TRICARE;
4. COBRA;
5. Medicaid;
6. State health high-risk pool;
7. Nonprofit health care service plan contract;
8. Health maintenance organization (HMO) subscriber contracts;
9. Group Health Insurance;
10. Coverage available to an individual through membership in a professional organization or a school;
11. Coverage under a policy covering one individual or all members of a family under a single policy where the contract exists solely between the individual and the insurance company;
12. Policies listed in parts 1 through 11 which include any of the following are health insurance:
   (i) The policy contains a type of benefit (such as mental health benefits) which has been completely exhausted;
   (ii) The policy contains a type of benefit (such as pharmacy) for which an annual limitation has been reached; or
   (iii) The policy has a specific exclusion or rider of non-coverage based on a specific prior existing condition or an existing condition or treatment of such a condition.
13. Any of the types of policies listed in this subparagraph will be considered Health Insurance even if one or more of the following circumstances exists:
   (i) The policy contains fewer benefits than TennCare;
   (ii) The policy costs more than TennCare; or
(iii) The policy is one the individual could have bought during a specified period of time (such as COBRA) but chose not to do so.

(b) Health insurance, for purposes of determining eligibility under these Rules, shall not mean:

1. Short term coverage;
2. Accident coverage;
3. Fixed indemnity insurance;
4. Long-term care insurance;
5. Disability income contracts;
6. Limited benefits policies as defined elsewhere in this Rule;
7. Credit insurance;
8. School-sponsored sports-related injury coverage;
9. Coverage issued as a supplement to liability insurance;
10. Automobile medical insurance;
11. Insurance under which benefits are payable with or without regard to fault and which are statutorily required to be contained in any liability insurance policy or equivalent self-insurance;
12. A medical care program of the Indian Health Services (IHS) or a tribal organization;
13. Benefits received through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; or
14. Health care provided through a government clinic or program such as, but not limited to, vaccinations, flu shots, mammograms, and care or services received through a disease- or condition-specific program such as, but not limited to, the Ryan White CARE Act.

(44) Health Insurance Marketplace, also referred to as the "Marketplace", "Exchange" or "Federally Facilitated Marketplace". See "Exchange."

(45) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). See definition in Rule 1200-13-01-.02.

(46) Hospital Presumptive Eligibility (HPE). Medicaid eligibility determined pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 435.1110.

(47) Household Size. The number of individuals counted as members of an individual's household for purposes of determining eligibility for TennCare.

(48) Immediate Eligibility (for DCS children only). An arrangement whereby children in the custody of the State who are presumed to be TennCare-eligible may gain TennCare eligibility while their applications are being processed.

(49) Inactive SSI Enrollee. Individuals whose SSI cash benefits have been terminated by SSA and who remain eligible for TennCare until they have been reviewed for coverage in other eligibility categories. Inactive SSI enrollees are not eligible for CHOICES.

(50) Incarcerated. The state of being involuntarily confined in a local, State, or federal prison, jail, youth development center, or other penal or correctional facility, including the state of being on furlough from such facility.
(51) Incurred Medical Expense. The term used in Tennessee to refer to the methodology for deducting expenses incurred for necessary medical or remedial care for institutionalized individuals in the post-eligibility phase of income. Previously known as "Item D". See 42 C.F.R. §§ 435.725(c)(4), 435.726(c)(4) and 435.832(c)(4).

(52) Infants and Children Under Age 19. The Medicaid eligibility categories defined at Sections 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(III), (IV), (VI), and (VII); 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(IV) and (IX); and 1931(b) and (d) of the Social Security Act. (42 U.S.C. §§ 1396a(a)(10)(A)(i)(III), (IV), (VI) and (VII); 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii)(IV) and (IX); and 1396u-1(b) and (d)).

(53) Insurance Affordability Program. A program that is one of the following:
   (a) TennCare.
   (b) CoverKids.
   (c) APTC/CSR for participation in a QHP available through the FFM.

(54) Institutional Eligibility. The eligibility category defined at Section 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(V), (VI) and (VII) of the Social Security Act. (42 U.S.C. § 1396a(a)(10)(A)(i)(V), (VI) and (VII)).

(55) Institutional Spouse. An institutionalized individual who is the legal spouse of a Community Spouse.

(56) Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID). An institution described at 42 C.F.R. Part 483, Subpart I.

(57) Joint Custody. Legal custody of a child held simultaneously by two (2) or more caretaker relatives. The caretaker relatives must exercise care and control of the child.

(58) Limited Benefits Policy. A policy of health coverage for a specific disease (e.g., cancer), or an accident occurring while engaged in a specified activity (e.g., school-based sports), or which provides for a cash benefit payable directly to the insured in the event of an accident or hospitalization (e.g., hospital indemnity).

(59) Long-Term Care. See "Long-Term Services and Supports" (LTSS).

(60) Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Program. See definition in Rule 1200-13-01-02.

(61) Marketplace. See "Exchange."

(62) Medicaid. The federal- and state-financed, state-run program of medical assistance pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act. Medicaid eligibility in Tennessee is determined by TennCare. Tennessee residents determined eligible for SSI benefits by the Social Security Administration are also enrolled in Tennessee's TennCare Medicaid program.

(63) Medicaid Income Cap (MIC). Three hundred percent (300%) of the SSI Federal Benefit Rate.

(64) Medicaid "Rollover" Enrollee. A TennCare Medicaid enrollee under the age of 19 who no longer meets eligibility requirements for Medicaid and who is afforded an opportunity to enroll in TennCare Standard according to the provisions of these Rules.

(65) Medical Assistance. All categories for which TennCare is authorized to make an eligibility determination, including Medicaid and MSP categories, CHIP, and categories granted under TennCare's Demonstration Agreement with CMS.

(66) Medically Needy. The Medicaid eligibility category described at Section 1902(a)(10)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396a(a)(10)(C)).

Medicare. The program administered through the SSA pursuant to Title XVIII, available to most individuals upon attaining age sixty-five (65), to some disabled individuals under age sixty-five (65), and to some individuals that have End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) or Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), as determined by the SSA.

Medicare Buy-In. The process by which TennCare "buys" Medicare beneficiaries into the Medicare program. The Medicare buy-in consists of paying for some or all of a beneficiary's Medicare premiums, deductibles, or coinsurance.

Medicare Savings Program (MSP). One of the programs under which low-income Medicare beneficiaries can get assistance from Medicaid for paying for some or all of their Medicare premiums, deductibles or coinsurance. These programs include the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) program, the Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB) program, the Qualifying Individual (QI) program and the Qualified Disabled and Working Individual (QDWI) program.

Miller Trust. See "Qualified Income Trust."

Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI). See definition at 42 C.F.R. § 435.603(e).

Nursing Facility (NF). See definition in Rule 1200-13-01-.02.

PACE Carryover Group. See definition in Rule 1200-13-01-.02.

Patient Liability. See definition in Rule 1200-13-01-.02.

Payment for Emergency Medical Services. Eligibility authorized by Section 1903(v) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396b(v)).

Personal Needs Allowance (PNA). A reasonable amount of money that is deducted by TennCare from the individual's funds pursuant to federal and State law and the Medicaid State Plan in the application of post-eligibility provisions and the calculation of Patient Liability for LTSS. The PNA is set aside for clothing and other personal needs of the individual while in the institution (Institutional PNA), and to also pay room, board and other living expenses in the community (Community PNA).

Pickle Passalong. The eligibility category defined at 42 C.F.R. § 435.135.

Pregnant Women. For purposes of the Medicaid program, the Medicaid eligibility category defined at Sections 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(III), (IV) and (VII); 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(I), (IV), and (IX); and 1931(b) and (d) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 1396a(a)(10)(A)(i)(III), (IV), and (VII); 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii)(I), (IV) and (IX); and 1396u-1(b) and (d)); and 42 C.F.R. § 435.116.

Presumptive Eligibility for Individuals with Breast or Cervical Cancer. Individuals presumed to be eligible for coverage under the Medicaid category authorized by Section 1902(aa) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396a(aa)) based on a determination by the Tennessee Department of Health or other qualified entity.

Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women. Women presumed to be eligible for coverage in the category defined at Sections 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(III), (IV) and (VII); 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(I), (IV) and (IX); and 1931(b) and (d) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 1396a(a)(10)(A)(i)(III), (IV), and (VII); 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii)(I), (IV) and (IX); and 1396u-1(b) and (d)); and in 42 C.F.R. § 435.1103 by the Tennessee Department of Health or other qualified entity.

Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). See definition in Rule 1200-13-01-.02.

Qualified Disabled and Working Individual (QDWI). An individual who is under age sixty-five (65), has lost free Medicare Part A coverage due to substantial gainful activity, has a disabling impairment, has the option to purchase Medicare Part A for an indefinite period of time, and for whom Medicaid pays the Medicare Part A premium, if income is not more than two hundred percent (200%) of the FPL and resources are not more than twice the SSI limit and is not otherwise eligible for Medicaid. Eligibility is authorized by Sections 1905(p)(3)(A)(i) and (s); and 1902(a)(10)(E)(ii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 1396d(p)(3)(A)(i) and (s); and 1396a(a)(10)(E)(ii)).
(84) Qualified Health Plan (QHP). See definition at 42 U.S.C. § 18021.


(86) Qualified Long-Term Care Insurance Partnership Policy (LTCP). A long-term care insurance policy issued on or after October 1, 2008, that has been pre-certified by the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance pursuant to Rule 0780-01-51 as:

(a) A policy that meets all applicable Tennessee Long Term Care Partnership requirements; or
(b) A policy that has been issued in another Partnership State and which is covered under a reciprocal agreement between that State and the State of Tennessee.

(87) Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB). An individual who is entitled to Medicare Part A and for whom Medicaid pays the Medicare Part A and Part B premium, coinsurance and deductible for Medicare-covered services, and whose income is not more than one hundred percent (100%) of the FPL. Eligibility is authorized by Sections 1905(p) and 1902(a)(10)(E)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 1396d(p) and 1396a(a)(10)(E)(i)).

(88) Qualifying Individual 1 (QI1). An individual who is entitled to Medicare Part A, for whom Medicaid pays Medicare Part B premiums on a first-come, first-served basis, and who has income at least one hundred and twenty percent (120%) of the FPL but less than one hundred and thirty-five percent (135%) of the FPL. Individuals are not enrolled in TennCare Medicaid or TennCare Standard. Eligibility is authorized by Section 1902(a)(10)(E)(iv) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396a(a)(10)(E)(iv)) and 42 U.S.C. § 1396u-3.

(89) Qualifying Medical Condition. A medical condition included on a list of conditions established by TennCare which will render a qualified uninsured applicant medically eligible.

(90) Redetermination. The process by which TennCare evaluates the ongoing eligibility status of TennCare Medicaid enrollees who are considered a part of the Core Medicaid Population, as well as TennCare Standard and CoverKids enrollees. This is a periodic process that is conducted at specified intervals. The process is conducted according to TennCare's, or its designee's, policies and procedures. This is also referred to as "Renewal."

(91) Renewal. See "Redetermination."

(92) Responsible Party(ies). The following individuals, who are representatives and/or relatives of recipients of medical assistance who are not financially eligible to receive benefits: parents, spouses, children, and guardians; as defined at T.C.A. § 71-5-103.

(93) Single State Agency (CoverKids and TennCare). The Department of Finance and Administration.

(94) Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB). An individual who is eligible for Medicare Part A and for whom Medicaid pays Medicare Part B premiums, if income is at least one hundred percent (100%) but less than one hundred twenty percent (120%) of the FPL. Eligibility is authorized by Sections 1905(p)(3)(A)(ii) and 1902(a)(10)(E)(iii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 1396d(p)(3)(A)(ii) and 1396a(a)(10)(E)(iii)).

(95) Spenddown. The process by which excess income is utilized for recognized medical expenses until it is depleted, which results in a determination of eligibility if all other eligibility factors are met for the Medically Needy categories.

(96) SSI - Related Groups. Individuals who have been found eligible in one of the following categories:

(a) Disabled Adult Children (DAC).
(b) Pickle Passalong.
(c) Widow/Widower.
Standard Child Medically Eligible. An uninsured child under age nineteen (19) who is losing eligibility for Medicaid or currently enrolled in TennCare Standard, whose household income is two hundred and eleven percent (211%) of the FPL or higher, who does not have access to health insurance, and who has been determined medically eligible according to these Rules.

Standard Child Uninsured. The TennCare Demonstration category defined as including individuals in the following groups:

(a) Uninsured children under age nineteen (19) who are losing eligibility for Medicaid, or are currently enrolled in TennCare Standard, who have household incomes below two hundred and eleven percent (211%) of the FPL, and who do not have access to health insurance; or

(b) Uninsured children under age nineteen (19) who have been continuously enrolled in TennCare Standard since December 31, 2001, who have family incomes below two hundred and eleven percent (211%) of the FPL, and who have not purchased insurance even if they have access to it. This is a "grandfathered" eligibility category. When an individual loses eligibility in this category, he will not be able to re-enroll in it.

Student. A child under age twenty-one (21), unless otherwise specified in this Chapter, who is:

(a) Eligible for and attending grades kindergarten through twelve at a State-approved elementary or secondary school, or a course of vocational or technical training, or equivalent instruction from a homebound teacher; or

(b) Eligible for and attending a college or university.
   1. Full-time student means enrollment in at least twelve (12) credit hours per semester.
   2. Part-time student means enrollment in at least six (6) but less than twelve (12) credit hours per semester.

(c) Student status is retained during official school vacations and breaks if the conditions or requirements prior to the vacation or break were met, and the student plans to return after the break.

(d) Regularly attending school, except when circumstances beyond the student's control justify a reduced credit load or attendance, means:
   1. College or university, at least 8 hours per week (semester or quarter system);
   2. Grades 7-12, including home-schooled, at least 12 hours per week;
   3. Training course preparing for a paying job, at least 12 hours per week or 15 hours per week if the course involves shop practice; or
   4. Homebound courses given by a school grades 7-12, college, university or government agency when the student must stay home due to a disability and has a home visitor or tutor from school who directs the studying or training.

(e) Individuals participating in apprenticeships, correspondence courses, other courses of home study and rehabilitation programs other than academic, institutional, vocational or technical training are excluded from this definition of student for purposes of this Chapter.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI). A federal income supplement program funded by general tax revenues and is designed to help aged, blind and disabled individuals who have little or no income. Applications for SSI benefits are filed at the Social Security office. Individuals who are eligible for SSI are automatically entitled to Medicaid (42 U.S.C. §§ 1382, et seq.).
(101) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). A program created by the PRWORA in 1996. TANF became effective in July 1996 and replaced what was then commonly known as the AFDC program. The name given to Tennessee's TANF program is Families First.

(102) TennCare. The program administered by the Single State agency as designated by the State and CMS pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act and the Section 1115 Research and Demonstration waiver granted to the State of Tennessee; also, the name of the Division within the Department of Finance and Administration which includes the Bureau of TennCare and CoverKids; and, the name of the Bureau which directly administers the program.

(103) TennCare CHOICES in Long-Term Services and Supports. The program described in Rule 1200-13-01-.05. CHOICES is a benefit package available to TennCare enrollees who are eligible in the Institutional Medicaid category or who are active SSI enrollees and who meet the requirements of the program set out in Chapter 1200-13-01.

(104) TennCare Medicaid. That part of the TennCare program which covers individuals eligible for Medicaid under Tennessee's Title XIX State Plan for Medical Assistance. The following individuals are eligible for TennCare Medicaid:

(a) Tennessee residents determined to be eligible for Medicaid according to this Chapter.

(b) Individuals who qualify as dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid are enrolled in TennCare Medicaid.

(c) A Tennessee resident who is an uninsured individual, under age sixty-five (65), a US citizen or qualified alien, is not eligible for any other category of Medicaid, and has been diagnosed as the result of a screening at a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) site with breast or cervical cancer, including pre-cancerous conditions.

(d) Tennessee residents determined eligible for SSI benefits and TennCare Medicaid by the SSA are automatically enrolled in TennCare Medicaid.

(105) TennCare Standard. That part of the TennCare Program which provides health coverage for Tennessee residents who are not eligible for Medicaid and who meet the eligibility criteria found in this Chapter.

(106) Termination. The discontinuance of an enrollee's coverage under the Medical Assistance programs.


(108) Transitional Medicaid. Medicaid authorized for enrollees who lose Child MAGI or Caretaker Relative MAGI eligibility due to increased earnings and whose household income prior to losing eligibility was at or below the current Caretaker Relative MAGI income standard for three (3) of the six (6) months immediately preceding the month eligibility is lost.

(109) Uninsured. Any individual who does not have health insurance directly or indirectly through another family member, or who does not have access to group health insurance. For purposes of the Medicaid eligibility category of women under age 65 requiring treatment for breast or cervical cancer, "uninsured" shall mean any individual who does not have health insurance or access to health insurance which covers treatment of breast or cervical cancer.

(110) Valid Application. The single streamlined application form for all insurance affordability programs. It must include contact information and be signed by the Applicant, a Responsible Party, or the Authorized Representative.


(112) ACRONYMS. Following is a list of the acronyms used in this Chapter.
(a) ABD – Aged, Blind or Disabled
(b) AFDC – Aid to Families with Dependent Children
(c) APTC – Advanced Premium Tax Credit
(d) APTC/CSR – Advanced Premium Tax Credit/Cost Sharing Reductions
(e) BCC – Breast and Cervical Cancer
(f) BCSP – Breast and Cervical Screening Program
(g) CCRC – Continuing Care Retirement Community
(h) CHIP - Children’s Health Insurance Program
(i) CHOICES - TennCare CHOICES in Long-Term Care
(j) CMS - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
(k) COLA - Social Security cost-of-living adjustment
(l) CSIMA – Community Spouse Income Maintenance Allowance
(m) CSRMA – Community Spouse Resource Maintenance Allowance
(n) DAC – Disabled Adult Child
(o) DCS – Department of Children’s Services
(p) DIMA – Dependent Income Maintenance Allowance
(q) ECF CHOICES – Employment and Community First CHOICES
(r) FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency
(s) FF – Families First
(t) FFM – Federally Facilitated Marketplace
(u) FFP – Federal Financial Participation
(v) FPL – Federal Poverty Level
(w) FRR – Financially Responsible Relatives
(x) HCBS – Home and Community Based Services
(y) HHS – United States Department of Health and Human Services
(z) HPE – Hospital Presumptive Eligibility
(aa) ICF/IID – Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities
(bb) IRA – Individual Retirement Account
(cc) LTCP – Qualified Long-Term Care Insurance Partnership Policy
(dd) LTSS – Long-Term Services and Supports

Rule 1200-13-20-.03 Delineation of Roles and Responsibilities paragraph (1) Agencies' Roles and Responsibilities subparagraph (a) is amended in the first sentence by deleting the words "The Bureau of", "(Bureau)" and "both", and by replacing the words "and CoverKids" with the words "Medical Assistance" and subparagraph (a) is further amended in the second sentence by replacing the words "The Bureau" with the word "TennCare" and by deleting the words "TennCare and CoverKids" and replacing them with the words "Medicaid and CHIP" so that, as amended, the subparagraph shall read:

(a) TennCare is responsible for determining eligibility for TennCare Medical Assistance and for conducting appeals of eligibility-related decisions, unless otherwise agreed to by the Single State Agency and CMS. TennCare is also responsible for coordinating the eligibility process for Medicaid and CHIP with the eligibility process for APTC/CSR in the FFM, in compliance with 42 C.F.R. §§ 435.1200 and 1205, unless otherwise agreed to by the Single State Agency and CMS.

Rule 1200-13-20-.03 Delineation of Roles and Responsibilities paragraph (1) Agencies' Roles and Responsibilities subparagraph (b) is amended by deleting the subparagraph in its entirety and renumbering subsequent subparagraphs appropriately.

Rule 1200-13-20-.03 Delineation of Roles and Responsibilities paragraph (1) Agencies' Roles and Responsibilities subparagraph (c), renumbered as subparagraph (b) is amended by replacing the words "the Bureau" with the word "TennCare" so that, as amended, the subparagraph shall read:

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(b) With respect to the eligibility of children applying for TennCare as medically eligible individuals, TennCare is responsible for determining the presence of a qualifying medical condition under TennCare Standard.

Rule 1200-13-20-03 Delineation of Roles and Responsibilities paragraph (1) Agencies’ Roles and Responsibilities is amended by inserting new subparagraphs (e) and (f) and renumbering subsequent subparagraphs appropriately so that, as amended, the new subparagraphs (e) and (f) shall read:

(e) Approved Qualified Hospital Presumptive Eligibility (HPE) Entities are responsible for conducting presumptive eligibility determinations for Former Foster Care, Child MAGI, Caretaker Relative MAGI and Pregnancy MAGI categories.

(f) Approved Qualified Entities who are cancer detection and treatment providers are responsible for conducting presumptive eligibility determinations for individuals in the BCC category.

Rule 1200-13-20-03 Delineation of Roles and Responsibilities paragraph (1) Agencies’ Roles and Responsibilities subparagraph (g), renumbered as subparagraph (h) is amended by replacing the word “determinations” with the word “assessments” so that, as amended, the subparagraph shall read:

(h) The FFM is responsible for making TennCare Medicaid and CoverKids eligibility assessments for categories using MAGI income methodologies, based on an agreement between the State and the FFM. The FFM is also responsible for assessing applicants who may be eligible for other Medicaid eligibility categories and transmitting those applications to the State for full review.

Rule 1200-13-20-03 Delineation of Roles and Responsibilities paragraph (1) Agencies’ Roles and Responsibilities subparagraph (h), renumbered as subparagraph (i) is amended by replacing the words “the Bureau” with the word “TennCare” so that, as amended, the subparagraph shall read:


Rule 1200-13-20-03 Delineation of Roles and Responsibilities paragraph (2) Enrollee Roles and Responsibilities subparagraph (a) is amended by deleting the current subparagraph and replacing it with a new subparagraph (a) so that, as amended, the subparagraph shall read:

(a) Each enrollee is responsible for reporting to TennCare any material change in the information affecting eligibility. This information includes, but is not limited to, changes in address, income, household size, employment, or access to insurance. The applicant/enrollee may submit those changes and any required documentation of changes to TennCare via phone, mail, fax, in person, or electronically through TennCare’s online portal. Changes must be reported within ten (10) days of the occurrence.

Rule 1200-13-20-03 Delineation of Roles and Responsibilities paragraph (2) Enrollee Roles and Responsibilities subparagraph (b) is amended by deleting the word “requested” and the phrase “ten (10)” and replacing it with the phrase “twenty (20)” so that, as amended, subparagraph (b) shall read:

(b) All verifications must be furnished within twenty (20) days of the notice requesting additional information unless otherwise specified by federal law.

Rule 1200-13-20-03 Delineation of Roles and Responsibilities paragraph (2) Enrollee Roles and Responsibilities subparagraph (c) is amended by deleting the words “and each CoverKids enrollee” and “or CoverKids” so that, as amended, subparagraph (c) shall read:

(c) Each TennCare enrollee is responsible for reporting to his provider that he is a TennCare enrollee.

Rule 1200-13-20-03 Delineation of Roles and Responsibilities paragraph (2) Enrollee Roles and Responsibilities is amended by inserting a new subparagraph (e) so that, as amended, the new subparagraph shall read:
Upon receipt of a notification of the beginning date of eligibility, each enrollee is responsible for
complying with the instructions contained in the notice for submitting requests for reimbursement of
costs of covered services incurred during the period of eligibility within sixty (60) days of the date of
the notification.


Rule 1200-13-20-.04 Technical Eligibility Requirements paragraph (1) is amended by deleting the punctuation and
letter "(d)" from the last sentence, so that, as amended, paragraph (1) shall read:

(1) State Residency. Individuals enrolled in TennCare must meet the requirements for State residency
established in 42 C.F.R. § 435.403. Individuals applying for CoverKids must also meet the requirements
specified at 42 C.F.R. § 457.320.

Rule 1200-13-20-.04 Technical Eligibility Requirements paragraph (1) subparagraph (a) is amended by deleting
from the third sentence the language "ten (10) days after" and replacing it with the word "on" and further amended
by deleting the word "individual's" between the words "the" and "anticipated" so that, as amended, subparagraph
(a) shall read:

(a) Temporary absence. Individual may be "temporarily absent" from Tennessee but still considered a
resident of the State for purposes of TennCare and CoverKids eligibility. An individual who wishes to
be considered temporarily absent from the State for continued eligibility purposes must provide the
Bureau with an anticipated date of return. The Bureau will assess the continuation of an individual's
temporary absence status on the anticipated date of return. A temporary absence from the State will
pr~clude
continued eligibility under the following circumstances:

Rule 1200-13-20-.04 Technical Eligibility Requirements paragraph (1) subparagraph (a) part 2 is amended by
deleting the word "State" and replacing it with the word "state" so that, as amended, subparagraph (a) part 2 shall
read:

2. The absence is for a child receiving specialized treatment out of state; and

Rule 1200-13-20-.04 Technical Eligibility Requirements paragraph (1) subparagraph (b) part 1 is amended by
deleting the word "State" and replacing it with the word "state" so that, as amended, subparagraph (b) part 1 shall
read:

1. Individuals who are dependents of a Tennessee resident and who attend school out of state will
be considered Tennessee residents.

Rule 1200-13-20-.04 Technical Eligibility Requirements paragraph (1) subparagraph (b) part 2 is amended by
deleting it in its entirety and replacing it with a new part 2 including subparts (i) through (iii) so that, as amended,
subparagraph (b) part 2 shall read:

2. Individuals aged eighteen (18) to twenty-two (22) are not considered residents of the state if:
   (i) Neither parent lives in the state;
   (ii) The student is claimed as a tax dependent by someone in another state; and
   (iii) The student is applying on his own behalf.

Rule 1200-13-20-.04 Technical Eligibility Requirements paragraph (2) including subparagraphs (a) and (b) are
amended by deleting them in their entirety and replacing them with a new paragraph (2) so that, as amended,
paragraph (2) shall read:

(2) Citizenship. Individuals enrolled in TennCare must meet the requirements for citizenship or qualified non-
citizen status established in 42 C.F.R. § 435.406 and in Tennessee's Citizenship and Non-Citizen Eligibility
State Plan Amendment. For CoverKids, unborn children are presumed to be U.S. citizens, regardless of the
citizenship or immigration status of the mother.
Rule 1200-13-20-.04 Technical Eligibility Requirements paragraph (3) subparagraph (a) is amended by deleting the words "or CoverKids" and is further amended by inserting the acronym "SSN" between the words "the" and "requirements" so that, as amended, subparagraph (a) shall read:

(a) Individuals enrolled in TennCare must meet the SSN requirements of 42 C.F.R. § 435.910.

Rule 1200-13-20-.04 Technical Eligibility Requirements paragraph (3) subparagraph (b) is amended by deleting the punctuation and words "/Unborn Children" so that, as amended, subparagraph (b) shall read:

(b) Unborn children enrolled in CoverKids Pregnant Women are not required to have an SSN.

Rule 1200-13-20-.04 Technical Eligibility Requirements paragraph (3) subparagraph (c) is amended by deleting the words "or CoverKids" so that, as amended, subparagraph (c) shall read:

(c) SSNs are not required for members of households who are not applying for TennCare coverage.

Rule 1200-13-20-.04 Technical Eligibility Requirements paragraph (4) is amended by deleting the words "the State" and replacing them with the word "TennCare" so that, as amended, paragraph (4) shall read:

(4) Incarceration. Individuals who are incarcerated are eligible for TennCare in a suspended status pursuant to T.C.A. § 71-5-106(r), as long as all eligibility criteria are met. Individuals in a suspended status will be eligible for TennCare payments only for medical institution stays longer than twenty-four (24) hours. All other medical payments while in the suspended status are not subject to TennCare reimbursement. The suspended status will be removed once TennCare receives notice that the enrollee is no longer incarcerated. See also 42 C.F.R. § 435.1010.

Rule 1200-13-20-.04 Technical Eligibility Requirements paragraph (5) is amended by deleting the words "medical institution" and replacing them with the words "nursing facility" so that, as amended, paragraph (5) shall read:

(5) Residents of an Institution for Mental Disease (IMD). Individuals who are residents of an IMD are not eligible for FFP, except for those who are age sixty-five (65) or older and confined to an approved ward, or those who are under age twenty-two (22) and receiving inpatient psychiatric services. Confinement in an IMD does satisfy and establish institutional status for individuals under age sixty-five (65) and those confined to unapproved wards who are subsequently admitted to a nursing facility. See Section 1905 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396d).


Rule 1200-13-20-.05 General Application Requirements paragraph (1) Right to apply subparagraph (a) is amended by deleting the words "wishing to do so" and is further amended by deleting the words "TennCare Medicaid or CoverKids" and replacing them with the words "Medical Assistance" so that, as amended, paragraph (1) subparagraph (a) shall read:

(a) Any individual shall have the opportunity to apply for Medical Assistance without delay.

Rule 1200-13-20-.05 General Application Requirements paragraph (1) Right to apply subparagraph (b) is amended by deleting the words "administered by HCFA" so that, as amended, paragraph (1) subparagraph (b) shall read:

(b) Information about the TennCare or CoverKids program shall be provided to any individual requesting it pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 435.905.

Rule 1200-13-20-.05 General Application Requirements paragraph (1) Right to apply subparagraph (e) is amended by deleting the words "TennCare or CoverKids" and replacing them with the words "Medical Assistance" so that, as amended, paragraph (1) subparagraph (e) shall read:

(e) The right to file an application shall not be denied to any individual even if it is apparent that eligibility for Medical Assistance does not exist.

Rule 1200-13-20-.05 General Application Requirements paragraph (2) Rights and responsibilities subparagraph SS-7039 (October 2018) 17 RDA 1693
(a) is amended by deleting the words “TennCare or CoverKids” in both places where they appear and replacing them with the words “Medical Assistance” so that, as amended, paragraph (2) subparagraph (a) shall read:

(a) By applying for Medical Assistance, an applicant grants permission and authorizes release of information to TennCare, or its designee, to investigate any and all information provided, or any information not provided if it could affect eligibility, to determine Medical Assistance eligibility; and if approved, what cost sharing, if any, may be required of the applicant. Information may be verified through, but not limited to, the following sources:

Rule 1200-13-20-.05 General Application Requirements paragraph (2) Rights and responsibilities subparagraph (b) is amended by deleting the words “TennCare coverage” and “TennCare” and replacing them with the words “Medical Assistance” so that, as amended, paragraph (2) subparagraph (b) shall read:

(b) It is a felony offense, pursuant to T.C.A. § 71-5-2601, to apply for Medical Assistance under false means or to help anyone obtain Medical Assistance under false means.

Rule 1200-13-20-.05 General Application Requirements paragraph (2) Rights and responsibilities subparagraph (c) is amended by deleting the words “TennCare Medicaid” and replacing them with the words “Medical Assistance” and is further amended by deleting the words “the Bureau” and replacing them with the word “TennCare” so that, as amended, paragraph (2) subparagraph (c) shall read:

(c) By applying for Medical Assistance, an applicant agrees to provide information to TennCare, or its designee, about any third party coverage in which the applicant is enrolled.

Rule 1200-13-20-.05 General Application Requirements paragraph (3) Submitting an application subparagraph (b) part 3 is amended by deleting the words “who are” the first time they appear so that, as amended, paragraph (3) subparagraph (b) part 3 shall read:

3. Applicants over age fourteen (14) but under age eighteen (18) who are emancipated or are considered sufficiently mature to make their own health care decisions;

Rule 1200-13-20-.05 General Application Requirements paragraph (3) Submitting an application subparagraph (c) and parts 1 and 2 and subparagraph (d) and parts 1 and 2 are amended by deleting the word “State” and replacing it with the word “state” and subparagraph (d) part 2 is further amended by inserting the word “and” following the phrase “such as a visit,” so that, as amended, paragraph (3) subparagraphs (c) and (d) shall read:

(c) Applications received from Tennessee residents living out of state.

1. Applications filed for Tennessee residents who are temporarily out of state may be accepted.

2. The application of someone who is hospitalized in another state and planning to return to Tennessee when discharged may be processed in the usual manner.

(d) Out of state applicants.

1. Applications received from individuals residing in another state and not intending to reside in Tennessee will be denied.

2. Individuals who are in Tennessee for a temporary purpose, such as a visit, and who intend to return to their home out of state are not eligible for TennCare or CoverKids.

Rule 1200-13-20-.05 General Application Requirements paragraph (4) is amended by deleting the acronym “HCFA” and replacing it with the word “TennCare” so that, as amended, paragraph (4) shall read:

(4) Assistance with submitting an application. TennCare is required to provide assistance to any individual seeking help with the application or redetermination process in person by Certified Application Counselors (CACs), over the phone, and online in a manner that is accessible to individuals with disabilities and those who have limited English proficiency. Assistance includes, but is not limited to, the following:

Rule 1200-13-20-.05 General Application Requirements paragraph (4) subparagraph (a) is amended by inserting
the words “application or other TennCare” between the words “with” and “form” so that, as amended, paragraph (4) subparagraph (a) shall read:

(a) Help with application or other TennCare form completion;

Rule 1200-13-20-.05 General Application Requirements paragraph (4) subparagraph (b) is amended by inserting the word “with” between the words “Help” and “securing” so that, as amended, paragraph (4) subparagraph (b) shall read:

(b) Help with securing a representative, if needed, and/or allowing someone of the applicant’s choice to assist with the application and renewal process; and.

Rule 1200-13-20-.05 General Application Requirements paragraph (5) is amended by deleting the paragraph in its entirety and replacing it with a new paragraph so that, as amended, paragraph (5) shall read:

(5) Applications may be filed in any of the following ways:

(a) By mail.
   1. Paper applications mailed to TennCare. The Application File Date for an application mailed to TennCare will be the date a Valid Application is received.
   2. Paper applications mailed to the FFM. The Application File Date will be the date provided by the FFM.

(b) By phone.
   1. Applicants may call TennCare to complete an application by phone. The Application File Date will be the date a Valid Application is completed telephonically.
   2. The Application File Date for applications completed by phone through the FFM will be the date provided by the FFM.

(c) By fax. Paper applications may be faxed to TennCare. The Application File Date for applications faxed to TennCare will be the date a Valid Application is received.

(d) By online submission.
   1. Applications may be submitted through TennCare’s online portal. The Application File Date will be the date a Valid Application is submitted.
   2. The Application File Date for applications filed through the FFM will be the date provided by the FFM, unless documentary evidence of an earlier application date exists.

(e) In person at any DHS county office.
   1. The Application File Date for paper applications submitted to DHS will be the date of receipt of a Valid Application at DHS.
   2. Applicants may use kiosks provided at DHS to submit online applications. Applicants may use phones provided at DHS offices to complete an application.

(f) Low Income Subsidy (LIS) applications through the SSA. The Application File Date will be the date provided by the SSA.

Rule 1200-13-20-.05 General Application Requirements paragraph (7) subparagraph (a) is amended by deleting the words “completed application form” and replacing them with the words “Valid Application” so that, as amended, paragraph (7) subparagraph (a) shall read:

(a) Eligibility is determined based on information contained on the Valid Application as well as
information secured during the application process.

Rule 1200-13-20-.05 General Application Requirements paragraph (7) subparagraph (b) part 2 subpart (i) is amended by deleting the words "a Medicaid" and replacing them with the word "an" so that, as amended, paragraph (7) subparagraph (b) part 2 subpart (i) shall read:

(i) Death is not an appropriate reason to deny an application. If the applicant dies before a final eligibility determination is made, the application process must be continued to completion.


Rule 1200-13-20-.06 Financial Eligibility Determinations is amended by repealing it in its entirety and replacing it with a new rule so that, as amended, Rule 1200-13-20-.06 Financial Eligibility Determinations shall read:

1200-13-20-.06 Financial Eligibility Determinations.

(1) Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Financial Eligibility Determinations.

(a) All applicants for TennCare will have their income calculated for eligibility purposes according to the MAGI-based requirements at 42 C.F.R. § 435.603. The only exceptions are the Medicaid applicants at 42 C.F.R. §§ 435.603(j)(1)-(6).

(b) In compliance with 42 C.F.R. § 435.603(g)(1), there is no resource or asset test for individuals whose income eligibility is required to be determined using MAGI income requirements.

(c) There is no resource or asset test for pregnant women or children enrolled in CoverKids.

(d) In compliance with 42 C.F.R. § 435.603(g)(2), there are no income or expense disregards for individuals whose eligibility is determined according to MAGI requirements, with the exception of those described at 42 C.F.R. §§ 435.603(d)(1) through (4).

(e) Household composition, for financial eligibility determination purposes, for Child MAGI, Pregnancy MAGI, Caretaker Relative MAGI, TennCare Standard Uninsured, TennCare Standard Medically Eligible, and CoverKids categories will be determined using the MAGI methodology in accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 435.603(f). Household composition for all other categories will be determined according to this Chapter. MAGI household composition methodology is based on federal tax rules and the principles of tax dependency, however the MAGI rules apply to both applicants who expect to file taxes or be claimed as tax dependents, and to those applicants who do not file taxes or are not claimed as tax dependents. Each applicant has his own household size constructed under MAGI rules, and it is permissible for applicants who live in the same household to have different household sizes.

1. Tax Filers.

(i) For applicants who expect to file taxes, the household includes the tax filer and any dependents the tax filer expects to claim.

(ii) For applicants claimed as tax dependents, the household is the same as the tax filer claiming the tax dependent. Tax dependents may include individuals not otherwise eligible for Medical Assistance, and who are not applying for benefits. If a non-custodial parent claims a child as a dependent, the dependent child will be included in the non-custodial parent’s household size.

(iii) For married couples who live together, each spouse will always be included in the other spouse’s household, regardless of the couple’s tax filing status.

(iv) For married couples who expect to file joint taxes but live separately, each spouse will be included in the other spouse’s household.
There are three exceptions to the tax filer rule for applicants claimed as tax dependents. An applicant who meets any of the following is subject to the non-filer household composition rules:

(I) The tax filer is someone other than the applicant's spouse, or natural, adopted or step parent; or

(II) The applicant is under age nineteen (19), or twenty-one (21) if a full-time student, and is claimed as a tax dependent by one parent, but her parents live together and do not file a joint tax return; or

(III) The applicant is under age nineteen (19), or twenty-one (21) if a full-time student, and expects to be claimed as a tax dependent by a non-custodial parent.

2. Non-Filers. Applicants who do not file taxes are subject to the non-filer household composition rules. The non-filer household includes the applicant and if living with the applicant:

(i) The applicant's spouse;

(ii) The applicant's natural, adopted and step children under age nineteen (19), or twenty-one (21) if a full-time student;

(iii) For applicants under age nineteen (19), or twenty-one (21) if a full-time student, the applicant's natural, adopted or step parent; and

(iv) For applicants under age nineteen (19), or twenty-one (21) if a full-time student, the applicant's natural, adoptive and step siblings who are under age nineteen (19), or (21) if a full-time student.

The household size for a pregnant woman includes the number of children she is expected to deliver (the unborn child(ren)). The household size for other applicants in a pregnant woman's household does not include the unborn child(ren).

(2) AFDC-Related Financial Determinations.

(a) Coverage groups whose financial eligibility is determined according to AFDC-based methodologies are:

1. Medically Needy Children; and

2. Qualified Medically Needy Pregnant Women.

(b) Income Determinations. Income for individuals described in this paragraph is calculated according to the AFDC cash assistance program's income definitions and policies (Rules 1240-01-04-.12 and .14-.19, and 45 C.F.R. § 233.20). Unless otherwise specified below, these individuals are subject to the following income requirements:

1. ABLE Accounts. Contributions made by a third party, including a trust, and ABLE account earnings are excluded, except that contributions are not deducted from countable income of the individual making the contribution. Distributions from an ABLE account are not income of the designated beneficiary in any month regardless of whether the distribution is for non-housing QDEs, housing QDEs or non-qualified expenses. A distribution from an ABLE account is the conversion of a resource from one form to another.

2. Adoption Subsidies. Payments to an individual from state adoption assistance programs or Title IV-E funds for special needs children are excluded.

3. Alimony Received. Countable.

4. Annuity Payments. If the underlying annuity is an excluded resource, the periodic payments are
countable unearned income. If the underlying annuity is a countable resource, payments are excluded.

5. Assistance Payment from another state. Countable.


10. Cash Support. Countable, unless excluded as infrequent or irregular income.


13. Child/Spousal Support Transferred to IV-D Agency. Payments transferred by the household to DCS as assigned support are excluded.


16. CSIMA. Countable as unearned income only when the institutionalized individual is not in the community spouse’s household.


18. Death Benefits. Countable income to an individual if the total amount exceeds the expense of the deceased person’s last illness and burial paid by the individual to whom the death benefit is issued.

19. Deferred Wages. Countable when the income would have normally been received if the wages are deferred at the employee’s request. Countable when received if the wages are deferred by the employer.

20. DIMA. Countable as unearned income only when the institutionalized individual is not in the dependent’s household.


22. Domestic Volunteer Service Act Payments. Payments made to volunteers under the Domestic Volunteer Service Act are excluded, unless the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) determines that the value of the payments, based on the number of hours served, are equal to or greater than the federal or state minimum wage where the volunteer is serving, whichever is higher. This includes payments made to foster grandparents, senior companions, and persons serving in the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Americorps VISTA.

23. Dwelling-related Assistance. Excluded if housing assistance is provided by HUD or USDA’s Rural Housing Service.


State Student Incentive Grants, Work Study, and any student financial assistance received under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, or under Bureau of Indian Affairs education assistance programs. Other grants, scholarships, fellowships, or gifts are excluded to the extent they are used or set aside for educational expenses.

27. FF/TANF Payments: Excluded.


31. Gifts. Cash gifts are countable unless excluded as infrequent or irregular income.


33. Income Produced from Resources. Income generated by an excluded resource is countable unearned income. Income generated by a countable resource is excluded as income.

34. Inheritance Cash. Countable.

35. Interest Income. Interest earned on a countable resource is excluded as unearned income. Interest earned on an excluded resource is countable as income, unless specifically excluded under a Federal statute.

36. Interest on Burial Funds and Spaces. Excluded.

37. Irregular or Infrequent Income. Up to $30.00 of unearned or earned income received infrequently or irregularly per quarter is excluded.

38. Jury Duty Pay. Countable unless the income is turned over to an applicant's employer.

39. Long Term Care (LTC) Insurance Payout. Payments from long term care insurance used for medical care are excluded.


41. Military Allotments. Cash allowances paid to active-duty service members and their families for housing, food, clothing and special circumstances count as earned income in the month of receipt. The basic allowance for subsistence (BAS), paid to military personnel to offset the cost of meals, counts as earned income. The basic allowance for housing (BAH) counts as earned income when the payment is made to military personnel living in private housing. When the BAH is paid to service members living on base or in privatized military housing and the allowance is paid and deducted from the service member's pay in the same month or paid directly to the housing contractor, the BAH is excluded.

42. Older Americans Act Benefits. Count only wages and salaries paid to individuals as a result of their participation in a program funded under Title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 as earned income. Benefits received under Title VII, Nutrition Program for the Elderly, of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended, are excluded.

43. PASS Income. Any earned or unearned income received and used to fulfill an approved plan to achieve self-support is excluded.

44. Payments from FEMA. FEMA payments issued as a result of presidentially declared emergency or major disaster are excluded. Payments made by comparable disaster assistance programs by States, local governments and disaster assistance organizations are also excluded. FEMA payments which are made to a household to pay for rent, food and utility assistance when there is no major disaster or emergency declaration are countable.

46. Protective Payee Payments. Funds received by a protective payee (conservator, authorized representative or representative payee) and used for the care and maintenance of a third party beneficiary (adult or child) who may or may not be a member of the protective payee's household are excluded as income to the protective payee. Any part of the payment that is retained by the protective payee for her own use is countable income to the protective payee. Even if the protective payee retains a fee for her services, the entire payment issued on behalf of the beneficiary is countable income to the beneficiary.

47. Railroad Retirement Payments. Countable.

48. Reimbursements. Reimbursement of expenses an employee incurs in the performance of his duties for items other than normal living expenses are excluded.

49. Rental or Lease Income. Countable as earned income when the individual is actively engaged in producing such income, or bears some responsibility in earning the income. Countable as unearned income when the individual is not actively engaged in producing the income, or bears no responsibility in earning the income. Count the amount of income remaining after expenses related to maintaining the property are excluded.

50. Royalties and Honoraria. Countable.

51. Self-Employment Income. Net earnings are countable.

52. Settlements and Restitutions. The following settlements and restitution payments are excluded as unearned income:

   (i) Agent Orange Settlement Payments;

   (ii) Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act exclusions;

   (iii) Criminal Victims Compensation Funds paid to crime victims;

   (iv) Distribution of perpetual judgment funds to Indian tribes under the following:

       (I) Black Feet and Gros Ventre Tribes (P.L. 92-254);

       (II) Grand River Band of Ottawah Indiana in Indian Claims Commission Docket No. 40-K;

       (III) Indian Judgment Funds Distribution (P.L. 93-134);

       (IV) Receipts from land held in trust by the Federal government and distributed to certain Indian tribes under P.L. 94-114;

       (V) Tribes or groups under P.L. 93-134; and

       (VI) Yakima Indian Nation or the Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation (P.L. 95-433).

   (v) Filipino Veterans Compensation Fund Payments. Lump sum payments made to certain veterans and spouses of veterans who served in the military of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines during WWII;

   (vi) German Reparation Payments;

   (vii) Japanese-American and Aleutian Restitution Payments;
(viii) Payments made to individuals because of their status as victims of Nazi persecutions;
(ix) Payments to children born of Vietnam veterans diagnosed with spina bifida; and
(x) Revenues from the Alaska Native Fund paid under section 21(a) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.


57. Social Service Payments. Excluded.

58. SSI Payments. Excluded.

59. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The value of a SNAP benefit is excluded. The value of free or reduced food under WIC or the National School Lunch Act is also excluded.

60. Temporary Disability Payments. Income is countable as unearned income to the extent it is not a reimbursement for specific costs and is paid directly to the applicant or any member of the applicant's household.


62. Trusts. Money withdrawn from the body of a trust or interest and dividends accrued to the trust and paid to the individual is countable.


64. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Payments. Educational benefits, VA Aid & Attendance, and VA payments from Unusual Medical Expenses are excluded. VA Disability and VA Pension payments made to a veteran are countable. Augmented VA, Apportioned VA, and VA Survivor (DIC) payments are countable for the dependent spouse, child or parent for whom or to whom the benefits are paid.


67. Workers' Compensation. Countable as unearned income to the extent it is not earmarked and used for the purpose for which it is paid (i.e., medical bills or legal expenses).

(c) Resource Requirements. Resources for individuals described in this paragraph are calculated according to the AFDC cash assistance program's resource definitions and policies (Rules 1240-01-04-05, 07, 09 and 10; 42 C.F.R. §§ 435.840 and 435.845; and 45 C.F.R. § 233.20). Individuals described in this paragraph are subject to the following resource requirements:

1. ABLE Accounts. ABLE account balances and distributions from an ABLE account for a QDE are not a countable resource of the designated beneficiary. Distributions from an ABLE account are countable as a resource when:
   (i) Distributions are retained past the month of receipt for non-qualified disability expenses;
   (ii) Qualified disability expenses (QDE) are expenses related to the blindness or disability of the designated beneficiary and for the benefit of the designated beneficiary. In general, a
ODE includes, but is not limited to: education, housing, transportation, employment training and support, assistive technology and personal support services, health, prevention and wellness, financial management and administrative services, legal fees, funeral and burial expenses, and basic living expenses.

2. Annuities. An annuity is a countable resource when it is revocable, assignble, or if it can be sold.
   (i) If an annuity is an excluded resource, payments being received from the annuity are countable unearned income. If the annuity is a countable resource, any payments being received from the annuity are excluded.
   (ii) The countable resource value of an annuity is its Fair Market Value (FMV). If the applicant is able to provide the FMV of the annuity, verified by two (2) credible sources in the legitimate business of selling and purchasing annuities, accept the verified value.
   (iii) If the applicant does not provide two (2) credible statements of FMV, multiply the total annual payment by the period remaining to determine the countable value. If the period of the annuity is based on an annuitant's lifetime, the annual payments are multiplied by the annuitant's life expectancy, according to SSA's Period Life Table. If the annuity is a "period certain" annuity, annual payments are multiplied by the annuitant's life expectancy or the period certain, whichever is less. The calculated value of an annuity may be rebutted by providing two (2) credible statements of FMV amounts.

3. Business or Self-Employment. Excluded as essential for the production of earned income. Such excluded resources may include:
   (i) Tools/equipment;
   (ii) Stock or raw materials;
   (iii) Personal property essential for income production;
   (iv) Real property;
   (v) Office equipment;
   (vi) Business loans for the purchase of capital assets;
   (vii) Inventory;
   (viii) Machinery and equipment;
   (ix) Business/commercial checking accounts; and
   (x) Life insurance.

4. Burial Contracts or Policies. Excluded. This does not include pre-paid or pre-need burial agreements.

5. Burial Plot. Exclude one burial plot per household member.

6. Prepaid Burial Agreements or Burial Trusts. Exclude one burial agreement or burial trust with equity value of $1,500.00 or less per family member.


8. Certificate of Deposit (CD). Countable if held in a personal account. The value of a CD is the net amount that could be received after penalties for early withdrawal, if applicable. Taxes are not deducted in determining value.
Checking Account. Personal checking accounts are countable. Other checking accounts may be excluded if designated for burial needs, educational income, Individual Development Accounts, PASS, prorated as income, proceeds from the sale of a home, disaster or settlement funds and retroactive SSA payments.

Contract for Deed or Mortgage. The value of a contract for deed or mortgage may be a countable asset depending on the circumstances of the loan, including the individual’s role as lender or borrower and the accessibility of the asset:

(i) When the individual is the lender for a contract for deed, the lender may sell or transfer the instrument to have immediate access to the unpaid principal. The value of the contract is the unpaid loan principal. Any portion of a payment that represents the loan principal is a conversion of a resource. Any portion of a payment that represents interest is considered unearned income in the month of receipt and a resource thereafter. The value of the contract may be excluded from countable resources if the individual can demonstrate that the contract cannot be sold without his realizing a net loss.

(ii) If the individual is the borrower, the property agreement is not a resource. However, the property purchased may be a countable resource following the month of transaction.

Educational Income. All educational income is excluded as a resource, including student financial assistance received under Title IV of the Higher Education Act and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The individual must be enrolled in school and attending classes to be considered a student. Grants, scholarships, fellowships and gifts other than those previously listed intended to pay for tuition, fees or educational expenses are excluded as a resource.

Farm, Business or other Equipment. The equity value of non-self-employment income-producing real property, other than the homestead, is countable. If the property is used for self-employment, it is excluded as Business or Self-Employment.

Home and Lot. The entire value of the home, whether on land or water, and lot and all adjoining land not separated by property owned by others and any related outbuildings are excluded in determining resource eligibility, as long as the home is the principal place of residence for the applicant/enrollee. Temporary absences from the home do not affect the home’s exemption, as long as the individual intends to return home at a specified time.


Individual Development Account (IDA). Up to $5,000.00 in the account is disregarded as a resource as long as the individual complies with the IDA eligibility rules and continues to maintain or make contributions to the account.

Income-Producing Resource. Countable if accessible to the individual.

Sick and Disability Insurance. Excluded.

Burial Insurance. Excluded.

Items of Unusual Value. Exclude up to $2,000.00 of all total personal items of unusual value. If the individual’s equity value in one or more than one item of unusual value is greater than $2,000.00, the amount that exceeds $2,000.00 is countable towards the resource limit.

Life Estates:

(i) Property in which an individual holds a life estate is subject to the same exclusion rules as property the individual owns by title, subject to the following exceptions:

(ii) A life estate will be excluded as the home when the property meets the home exemption.
(II) A life estate will be excluded when ownership is necessary for the production of earned income. See Business or Self-Employment in this Subparagraph.

(III) The terms of the life estate contract prevent the holder from selling her interest in the property.

(ii) If the life estate is not excluded based on the criteria above, the entire value of the life estate is a countable asset. The life estate value is determined by multiplying the fair market value of the property by the percentage listed in the "Life Estate Interest Table" for the age of the individual on whose lifetime the life estate is based. If more than one person owns the life estate, the value is based on the owner with the longest life expectancy.


22. Livestock. The value of livestock necessary for business or self-employment, as a tool of the trade, or raised for home/personal consumption is an excluded resource. Income received is countable as self-employment income. Livestock that is used as non-business, income-producing property is countable.

23. Oil and Mineral Rights. May be included with land ownership or owned separately. If surface rights of the same property are excluded (for example, as a home) so are oil and mineral rights. Oil and mineral rights are countable when owned for personal use, or when the surface rights of the same property are countable (non-homestead, real property).

(i) If oil or mineral rights are producing income under a lease agreement, the owner may be constrained from selling or otherwise disposing of those rights. If the land is already excluded, then oil and mineral rights are also excluded.

(ii) If oil or mineral rights are producing income to the individual, and he is not actively engaged in the production of income, the equity value of the rights is countable.

24. Personal Use Resource. Countable unless excluded based on the terms of the asset. A personal resource is typically for the use of the individual and/or his family.

25. Personal Consumption. Exclude as a resource the equity value of a non-business property used to produce goods or services essential to daily activities.

26. PASS. Income an SSI recipient places in an approved PASS account is excluded as a resource. The PASS account itself is also excluded. This exclusion expires when the PASS contract expires or ends, or when the individual is no longer an SSI recipient.

27. Proceeds from the Sale of a Home. Excluded to the extent that the funds are intended to be used to purchase another home subject to the homestead exclusion, and the funds are used for such a purpose within three (3) months of the date of receipt of the proceeds.

28. Promissory Note and Other Loans. A promissory note or other loan given by the household is considered personal property and is countable, unless the note/loan balance is inaccessible or the promissory note is held for reasons other than personal use. The lender holds legal interest and has the legal ability to make available her share in the note or loan. The equity value of the note/loan is countable.


30. Real Property. The equity value in all real property the individual owns individually or jointly is a countable asset with the following exceptions:

(i) Property excluded as the homestead;
(ii) The inaccessible equity value of real property;

(iii) Equity value of income-producing property;

(iv) Real property necessary for the production of earned income (see Business or Self-Employment in this Subparagraph); or

(v) Real property excluded under a Conditional Assistance agreement between the individual and the State. The individual must make a bona fide effort to sell the property at its current market value, and repay the State for medical expenses covered by TennCare during the exclusion period with the proceeds of the sale. Exemption of the real property is not to exceed nine (9) months. Only one (1) parcel of property may be excluded under a Conditional Assistance agreement per period of eligibility.

(I) Repayment of medical expenses covered by TennCare may not exceed the total of the net proceeds. Any proceeds remaining after repayment to the State are considered a resource.

(II) If the property remains unsold after nine (9) months, the property is considered inaccessible so long as bona fide efforts to sell the property continue.

31. Rental property. Countable if the individual who owns the property is not 'in the business of' renting property. Someone who is in the business of renting property is someone who materially participates in the operation and decision making of the rental business for at least twenty (20) hours per week.

32. Retirement Accounts and Pension Plans. Excluded up to $20,000.00. Money held in an IRA, 401(K), or Keogh in excess of $20,000.00 is countable, minus any penalty for early withdrawal. Pension funds that are not accessible are excluded as a resource. If the pension becomes accessible due to retirement or termination it becomes a countable resource.

33. Savings Account. Countable if it is characterized by personal use. If the current month's income has been deposited into the account, it must be excluded when determining the current value of the account. A savings account may be excluded if it is used for one of the following purposes:

(i) Burial funds;

(ii) Business or Self-Employment;

(iii) Educational Income;

(iv) Individual Development Account;

(v) PASS;

(vi) Proceeds from the Sale of a Home (subject to time limits);

(vii) Prorated as Income;

(viii) Settlement or Disaster Payment, if Excluded by Policy; or

(ix) SSI/SSA Retroactive Payment (subject to time limits).

34. Settlement or Disaster Payment. Payments or benefits provided under certain Federal statutes are excluded, if payments are not commingled with other funds. Excluded settlement and/or disaster payments include:

(i) Agent Orange Settlement Payments (and interest from payments);

(ii) Disaster Relief Assistance received under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974;
(iii) Distribution of perpetual judgment funds to Indian tribes under the following:

(I) Indian Judgment Funds Distribution (P.L. 93-134)

(II) Black Feet and Gros Ventre Tribes (P.L. 92-254)

(III) Grand River Band of Ottawah Indiana in Indian Claims Commission Docket No. 40-K;

(IV) Tribes or groups under P.L. 93-134;

(V) Yakima Indian Nation or the Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation (P.L. 95-433); and

(VI) Receipts from land held in trust by the Federal government and distributed to certain Indian tribes under P.L. 94-114.

(iv) Factor VIII or IX Concentrate Blood Products Litigation. The settlement payments (and interest from payments) made as a result of the class action lawsuit to hemophilia patients infected with HIV through blood plasma products;

(v) Filipino Veterans Compensation Fund Payments. Lump sum payments (and interest from payments) made to certain veterans and spouses of veterans who served in the military of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines during WWII;

(vi) Japanese-American and Aleutian Restitution Payments (and interest from payments);

(vii) Payments made to individuals because of their status as victims of Nazi persecutions (and interest from payments);

(viii) Payments to children born of Vietnam veterans diagnosed with spina bifida (and interest from payments);

(ix) Payments made under the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (interest is not excluded);

(x) Revenues from the Alaska Native Fund paid under Section 21(a) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act;

(xi) Criminal Victims Compensation Funds paid to crime victims (excluded for nine (9) months); or

(xii) Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA).

35. SSI/SSA Retroactive Payments. Excluded for nine (9) months after the payment is received and countable after the nine (9) month exclusion period.

36. Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds. Countable if asset is held for personal use. Stocks, bonds or mutual funds may be excluded if held for the purposes listed below:

(i) Burial;

(ii) Business or Self-Employment;

(iii) Educational Income;

(iv) Proceeds from the Sale of a Home;

(v) Prorated as Income; or
(vi) Settlement or Disaster Payment, if Excluded by Policy.

37. Tools of the trade. Excluded when essential for the production of earned income.

38. Trusts. Countable or excluded, when the applicant or household member is either the trust's trustee or beneficiary, based on the nature of the trust, the date the trust was created, the source of funds used to create the trust, plus other factors as specified in 42 U.S.C. § 1396p(d).

39. Vehicles. Exclude up to $4,600.00 of the equity value of one (1) vehicle in the applicant's household. The equity value of any other vehicle is countable, unless the vehicle can be excluded based on its use. The equity value of recreational vehicles (boats, snowmobiles, jet skis, ATVs and aircraft) is a countable resource.

(d) Disregards and Expenses Allowed. For purposes of determining the income of individuals described in this paragraph, the following expenses will be disregarded from their income:

1. Child Support Disregard. Disregard $50.00 per month per household if a child living in the home receives child support payments (current only).

2. Earned Income Disregard. Disregard $90.00 per month from each household member's total earned income.

3. Payments made on Behalf of Dependents within the Home. Disregard up to $175.00 per month of day care expenses per dependent age two (2) or older. Disregard up to $200.00 per month of day care expenses per dependent under age two (2).

4. Student Income. Disregard the earnings of a full-time student who works part or full time. Disregard the earnings of a part-time student who works part time. Earnings of a part-time student who works full time are not to be disregarded.

(e) Household composition for TennCare Medicaid Medically Needy categories is based on the principle of FRR.

1. For unmarried applicants, the following individuals are included in the applicant's household for Child Medically Needy, if living in the home:
   (i) The applicant;
   (ii) The applicant's children under age twenty-one (21);
   (iii) The applicant's unborn child(ren);
   (iv) The applicant's natural or adoptive parents; and
   (v) The applicant's siblings who are under age twenty-one (21) (including unborn children).

2. The Child Medically Needy applicant's parent(s) are not included if the applicant is an emancipated minor.

3. For married applicants, the following individuals must be included in the applicant's household for Child Medically Needy, if living in the home:
   (i) The applicant;
   (ii) The applicant's children under age 21;
   (iii) The applicant's unborn child(ren); and
(iv) The applicant's spouse (if under age 21 and applying for Medical Assistance).
(v) When the applicant's spouse is living in the home and is over age 21 or under age 21 and not applying for Medical Assistance, the spouse's income and resources are deemed to the applicant. When income and resources are deemed from a spouse, the household size will be increased to account for the deemed spouse.

4. The Child Medically Needy applicant's step parent living in the home is not included in the child's household.

5. The following individuals must be included in the Medically Needy Qualified Pregnant Woman applicant's household, if living in the home:
   (i) The pregnant woman applicant;
   (ii) The applicant's unborn child(ren);
   (iii) The applicant's spouse, if under 21 and applying for Medical Assistance, and
   (iv) The applicant's children under age twenty-one (21).
   (v) If the applicant's spouse is living in the home and is over age 21 or under age 21 and not applying for Medical Assistance, the spouse's income and resources are deemed to the applicant. When income and resources are deemed from a spouse, the household size will be increased to account for the deemed spouse.

6. Parents of a pregnant woman applying for TennCare Medicaid Medically Needy Qualified Pregnant Woman coverage are not included in the applicant's household.

(i) Spenddown.

1. Applicants must produce proof of relevant medical expenses in order to "spend down" monthly income to the TennCare Medically Needy Income Standard (MNIS) to be eligible in a Medically Needy category. If income is below the MNIS, spenddown will not be necessary. Applicants may reduce available monthly income with countable expenses, as listed below, in order to qualify for eligibility in the Medically Needy categories. The income limits for the Medically Needy category are published in the State Plan.

2. Countable Expenses. The following Rules apply to the expenses that may be used to meet spenddown:
   (i) Countable expenses incurred during the month of application, whether paid or unpaid.
   (ii) Countable expenses paid during the month of application, regardless of when such expenses were incurred.
   (iii) Countable expenses incurred during the three (3) calendar months prior to the month of application, whether paid or unpaid.
      (I) Expenses paid during the three calendar months prior to the month of application will not be counted unless such expenses were also incurred during those three calendar months.
      (II) Any expenses incurred before the three (3) calendar months prior to the month of application will not be counted unless payment is made on those expenses during the month of application, in which case only the amount paid during the month of application is counted.
      (III) When a Medically Needy enrollee has been eligible for twelve (12) months, he will be expected to meet spenddown again as described in this section, except verified
expenses that are documented in the enrollee’s Medicaid record can be carried forward to the next year as long as the individual remains continuously eligible, the expenses remain unpaid, and the bills are not written off by the provider. Only the portions of expenses that were not previously used to meet spenddown can be carried forward to the next eligibility determination. If an enrollee loses eligibility at any point, the carry forward of unpaid medical expenses ends and the enrollee must meet spenddown as if he were a new applicant.

(iv) All medical expenses are considered incurred the date the service is provided with the following exception: medical expenses related to maternity care (e.g., global fee) are considered incurred the month the physician presents a bill once services have begun (i.e., initial examination by the physician at a minimum).

(v) If spenddown is not met by the medical bills incurred as of the date of application submission or as of the date of submission of a renewal application during redetermination, the daily countable medical expenses incurred during the application month will be added until spenddown liability is reached.

3. Incurred or paid expenses for the following individuals may be considered countable expenses for purposes of determining Medically Needy financial eligibility:

(i) The applicant;

(ii) Members of the applicant’s household;

(iii) The applicant’s FRRs or anyone for whom the applicant is financially responsible; and

(iv) Individuals not living in the applicant’s home or eligible for inclusion if the applicant’s household member or the applicant’s FRR is legally obligated to pay their medical expenses.

4. Countable expenses are those for which the individual is still liable and that are:

(i) For medical or remedial care, including costs for over the counter medications and costs incurred for medical insurance premiums, co-payments and deductibles. Health insurance premiums may be deducted as a spenddown expense only when payment is due, even if paid in another month;

(ii) Verifiable and for which the individual provides substantiation;

(iii) Incurred by eligible individuals and are the legal responsibility of a household member and not subject to payment in full or part by a third party;

(iv) Recognized under State law but not covered under the State’s TennCare Medicaid plan or waiver (continuously eligible individuals); or

(v) Covered under TennCare Medicaid but incurred during the spenddown period (new applicants).

5. The following list includes but is not limited to the types of medical expenses that are considered Countable Medical Expenses for the Medically Needy categories:

(i) Acupuncture services.

(ii) Bed hold at a Long Term Care Facility (Medicaid rate).

(iii) Dental expenses.

(iv) Doctor’s fees. Includes fees from services rendered by practitioners and others providing medical services, physicians, surgeons, dentists, optometrists, chiropractors, osteopaths,
podiatrists, psychiatrists, psychologists, and Christian Science providers.

(v) Drugs prescribed by a physician (prior to TennCare eligibility). Includes charges for medicines and drugs prescribed by a doctor incurred prior to establishing TennCare Medicaid eligibility and which remained unpaid or paid in the month under consideration (i.e., spenddown month).

(vi) Guide dogs. Guide dogs for the blind or deaf and the costs of their maintenance.

(vii) Hospital charges.

(viii) Medical care charges included in tuition costs. Charges for medical care included in the tuition fee of a college or private school which is paid on a monthly basis, provided that a breakdown of the charges is included in the bill or is furnished separately by the institution.

(ix) Nursing home costs.

(x) Nursing services. Nursing services include nursing care in an individual's home, if for the purpose of treatment or alleviation of a physical, mental, or emotional disorder and ordered by a provider acting within the provider's scope of practice. The care needed must be medical, e.g., administering medication or therapy. Cost of services solely domestic in nature, such as the preparation of meals and the performance of housework, is not deductible.

(xi) Organ transplant expenses.

(xii) Prosthetic devices. Artificial teeth, limbs, hearing aids and component parts, eyeglasses and crutches.

(xiii) Psychiatric care. Psychiatric care primarily for alleviating a mental illness or defect; the cost of maintaining a mentally ill individual at a specially equipped medical center where the individual receives continual medical care.

(xiv) Special education for handicapped. Special school for mentally or physically handicapped individuals if for the alleviation of handicap. The costs of meals and lodging, if supplied by the institution, and/or ordinary education furnished incidental to the special services are medical expenses.

(xv) Substance abuse treatment. Treatment at a therapeutic center for drug addicts or alcoholics, including meals and lodging furnished as a necessary incident to the treatment.

(xvi) Transportation for medical/remedial purposes. Transportation essential to medical care, e.g., bus, taxi, train, or plane fares, and forty-seven cents ($0.47) for each mile that the individual's car is used for medical purposes, in addition to parking fees and tolls.

(xvii) Over the counter (non-prescription) medicine. $10.00 per month is deducted for these expenses without verification, using only the applicant's statement. All of these expenses must be verified if the amount is more than $10.00 per month.

6. The following are types of medical expenses that are not considered Countable Medical Expenses for the Medically Needy categories:

(i) Expenses that have been written off as uncollectible or have been forgiven by the provider.

(ii) Expenses that are covered by the state's TennCare Medicaid plan and are incurred during a period of eligibility.
(I) Costs incurred during a period of TennCare eligibility due to co-pays or services not covered such as dental, hearing and eye care for adults are allowable as a medical expense.

(II) Bills incurred during TennCare eligibility which are subject to TennCare reimbursement are not considered outstanding for subsequent spenddown periods even if not paid by TennCare.

(3) ABD Financial Determinations.

(a) Coverage groups whose financial eligibility is determined based on SSI financial methodology are:

1. Individuals applying for SSI-Related categories.
2. MSP Applicants.
3. Individuals applying for coverage of LTSS, under the Institutional Eligibility category.

(b) Income Determinations. Income countable for purposes of individuals described in this paragraph is defined at 20 C.F.R. §§ 416.1100, et seq., and as set forth below, except gross income, under the Institutional Eligibility category, in accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 435.1005, does not take into account the income exclusions under 20 C.F.R. § 416.1112 and 20 C.F.R. § 416.1124, unless specified under another Federal statute. Unless otherwise specified in this rule, these individuals are subject to the following income requirements:

1. ABLE Accounts. Contributions made by a third party, including a trust, and ABLE account earnings are excluded, except that contributions are not deducted from countable income of the individual making the contribution. Distributions from an ABLE account are not income of the designated beneficiary in any month regardless of whether the distribution is for non-housing QDEs, housing QDEs or non-qualified expenses. Distribution from an ABLE account is the conversion of a resource from one form to another.
2. Adoption Subsidies. Countable to the child if intended for general living expenses. Excluded if for reimbursement of child care while the adult responsible for the child is at work or seeking employment, or for medical expenses.
4. Americorps and Americorps NCCC. Cash or in-kind payments are excluded.
5. Annuity Payments. If the underlying annuity is an excluded resource, the periodic payments are countable unearned income. If the underlying annuity is a countable resource, payments are excluded. Payments are also excluded if an annuity is paid by a state to an individual or spouse based on the state’s determination that the individual is a veteran who is aged, blind or disabled.
10. Cash Support. Countable, unless excluded as irregular or infrequent income.
11. Child Support Arrearage. Countable to the child(ren) the payments are intended to support. Exclude one-third (1/3) of the child support arrearage payment paid by an absent parent to or for an eligible child under age 18 or under age twenty-two (22) if a student regularly attending school. The one-third (1/3) exclusion does not apply to ineligible children.
12. Child Support Payments. Countable to the child(ren) the payments are intended to support. Exclude one-third (1/3) of the child support payment paid by an absent parent to or for an eligible child under age 18 or under age twenty-two (22) if a student regularly attending school. The one-third (1/3) exclusion does not apply to ineligible children.


15. CSIMA. Countable as unearned income only when the institutionalized individual is not in the community spouse's household.


17. Death Benefits. Countable income to an individual if the total amount exceeds the expense of the deceased person's last illness and burial paid by the individual to whom the death benefit is issued.

18. DIMA. Countable as unearned income only when the institutionalized individual is not in the dependent's household.


20. Domestic Volunteer Service Act Payments. Payments made to volunteers under the Domestic Volunteer Service Act are excluded, unless the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) determines that the value of the payments, based on the number of hours served, are equal to or greater than the federal or state minimum wage where the volunteer is serving, whichever is higher. This includes payments made to foster grandparents, senior companions, and persons serving in the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Americorps VISTA.


22. Earned In-Kind Not Food or Shelter. Excluded.


24. Educational Income. Excluded. Includes: Pell Grants, Federal SEOG, Federal Student Loans, State Student Incentive Grants, Work Study, and any student financial assistance received under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, or under Bureau of Indian Affairs education assistance programs. Other grants, scholarships, fellowships, or gifts are excluded to the extent they are used or set aside for educational expenses.

25. Farming/Fishing Income. Countable.


29. Income Produced from Resources. Income generated by a resource that is excluded is countable unearned income. Income generated by a resource that is countable is excluded as income.


31. Interest Income. Interest earned on a countable resource is excluded as unearned income. Interest earned on an excluded resource is countable as income, unless specifically excluded.
under a Federal statute.


33. Irregular or Infrequent Income. Exclude up to $60.00 per calendar quarter of unearned income when it is received infrequently or irregularly. Exclude up to $30.00 per calendar quarter of earned income when it is received infrequently or irregularly.

34. Jury Duty Pay. Countable unless the income is turned over to an applicant’s employer.

35. Long Term Care Insurance Payments. Countable if the payment is not assigned or provided to the nursing home, HCBS provider, or MCO.

36. Military Allowances. Countable. The basic allowance for housing (BAH) is counted as earned income when the payment is made to military personnel living in private housing. The BAH should be treated as unearned income in the form of in-kind support and maintenance (ISM) subject to the Presumed Maximum Value (PMV) rule for service members and their families who live on base or in privatized military housing.

37. Older Americans Act Payments. Count only wages or salaries.

38. PASS Payments. Any earned or unearned income received and used to fulfill an approved plan to achieve self-support is excluded.

39. Payments from FEMA. FEMA payments issued as a result of a presidentially declared emergency or major disaster are excluded. Payments made by comparable disaster assistance programs by States, local governments and disaster assistance organizations are also excluded. FEMA payments which are made to a household to pay for rent, food and utility assistance when there is no major disaster or emergency declaration are countable.


41. Protective Payee Payments. Funds received by a protective payee (conservator, authorized representative or representative payee) and used for the care and maintenance of a third party beneficiary (adult or child) who may or may not be a member of the protective payee’s household are excluded as income to the protective payee. Any part of the payment that is retained by the protective payee for her own use is countable income to the protective payee. Even if the protective payee retains a fee for her services, the entire payment issued on behalf of the beneficiary is countable income to the beneficiary.

42. Rental or Lease Income. Countable as earned income when the individual is in the business of renting or leasing property, i.e., self-employment. Countable as unearned income when the individual is not in the business of renting or leasing property. Count the amount of income remaining after expenses related to maintaining the property are applied.

43. Royalties and Honoraria. Countable.

44. Self-Employment. Net earnings are countable.

45. Settlements or Disaster Payments. The following settlements and disaster payments are excluded as unearned income:

(i) Agent Orange Settlement Payments (and interest from payments);

(ii) Disaster Relief Assistance received under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974;

(iii) Distribution of perpetual judgment funds to Indian tribes under the following:

(1) Indian Judgment Funds Distribution (P.L. 93-134)
(II) Black Feet and Gros Ventre Tribes (P.L. 92-254)

(III) Grand River Band of Ottawa in Indiana in Indian Claims Commission Docket No. 40-K;

(IV) Tribes or groups under P.L. 93-134;

(V) Yakima Indian Nation or the Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation (P.L. 95-433); and

(VI) Receipts from land held in trust by the Federal government and distributed to certain Indian tribes under P.L. 94-114.

(iv) Factor VIII or IX Concentrate Blood Products Litigation. The settlement payments (and interest from payments) made as a result of the class action lawsuit to hemophilia patients infected with HIV through blood plasma products;

(v) Filipino Veterans Compensation Fund Payments. Lump sum payments (and interest from payments) made to certain veterans and spouses of veterans who served in the military of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines during WWII;

(vi) Japanese-American and Aleutian Restitution Payments (and interest from payments);

(vii) Payments made to individuals because of their status as victims of Nazi persecutions (and interest from payments);

(viii) Payments to children born of Vietnam veterans diagnosed with spina bifida (and interest from payments);

(ix) Payments made under the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (interest is not excluded);

(x) Revenues from the Alaska Native Fund paid under section 21(a) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act; and

(xi) Criminal Victims Compensation Funds paid to crime victims.

46. Severance. Countable.

47. Sheltered Workshop Payments. Countable.


50. Social Service Payments. Excluded.

51. SSI. Excluded.

52. Temporary Disability Insurance. Income is countable as unearned income to the extent it is not a reimbursement for specific costs and is paid directly to the household.

53. Tips. Tips that total more than $20.00 in a calendar month from any one employer are countable earned income. Tips totaling less than $20.00 in a calendar month are countable unearned income.

54. Trusts. Dividends, interest, rents and other income generated by a trust fund, unless otherwise excluded, that can be paid to the beneficiary or to a third party on the beneficiary's behalf are countable income to the beneficiary for the period the fund is intended to cover, beginning the month the funds become available, regardless of whether the income is actually paid out to the
When funds are withdrawn irregularly, the payments are countable in the month received.

(i) Monies withdrawn from the principal of an accessible (countable) trust fund are excluded as income to the beneficiary, because an accessible trust fund is a countable resource. Money cannot be considered income and a resource in the same month.

(ii) Monies disbursed from the principal of an inaccessible trust fund are counted as income because an inaccessible trust fund is an excluded resource.

(iii) Monies received by the trustee of a trust and used for the care and maintenance of a third party beneficiary (adult or child) are excluded as income for the trustee.

55. Unearned In-Kind Income or In-Kind Support and Maintenance. Unearned In-Kind income in the form of food and/or shelter may be countable or excluded depending on the source. If countable, it is subject to either the Value of the One-Third Reduction (VTR) rule or the Presumed Maximum Value (PMV) rule.

56. Unearned In-Kind Income, Not Food or Shelter. Excluded.


58. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Payments:

(i) Aid and Attendance and Housebound Allowances. Excluded.

(ii) Apportioned. Payments made to a dependent spouse, child, or parent are countable for the individual to whom the benefits are paid.

(iii) Augmented Benefit. Payments received on behalf of a dependent spouse, child, or parent are countable for the individual for whom the benefits are paid.

(iv) Compensation. Countable.

(v) Death Benefit. Countable as unearned income to an individual if the total amount exceeds the expense of the deceased person's last illness and burial paid by the individual to whom the death benefit is issued.

(vi) Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). Countable.

(vii) Educational Benefits. Excluded.

(viii) Payments for Unreimbursed Medical Expenses. Excluded.

(ix) Pension. Countable. If an institutionalized veteran receives a VA improved pension limited to $90.00 per month, the VA pension is excluded.


60. Workers' Compensation. Countable as unearned income to the extent it is not an expense attributable to obtaining the compensation.

61. WIOA Payments. Countable, unless the payments are for supportive services, such as child care, transportation, or job placement services. Wages earned by a student in the Job Corps program may be excluded under the student earned income exclusion.


(c) Resource Determinations. Resources countable for purposes of individuals described in this paragraph are defined at 20 C.F.R. §§ 416.1201, et seq. Unless otherwise specified below,
individuals described in this paragraph are subject to the following resource requirements:

1. **ABLE Accounts.** Distributions from an ABLE account are excluded if used or intended to be used for QDEs as long as the distributions are identifiable. Distributions from an ABLE account used for non-qualified expenses are excluded if spent in the month of receipt. Distributions from an ABLE account are countable as a resource when:
   (i) Distributions are retained past the month of receipt and are used for or intended to be used for non-qualified disability expenses; or
   (ii) Distributions are retained past the month of receipt and were previously excluded because intended for a QDE, but used for a non-qualified expense. Count the amount of funds used as a resource the first of the month in which funds were spent; or
   (iii) Distributions are retained past the month of receipt, have not been spent, and the intent to use the funds for a QDE has changed. Count the retained funds as a resource the first of the following month.
   (iv) Qualified disability expenses (QDE) are expenses related to the blindness or disability of the designated beneficiary and for the benefit of the designated beneficiary. In general, a QDE includes, but is not limited to: education, housing, transportation, employment training and support, assistive technology and personal support services, health, prevention and wellness, financial management and administrative services, legal fees, funeral and burial expenses, and basic living expenses.

2. **Annuities** are countable resources for individuals when accessible according to 20 C.F.R. § 416.1201. An annuity is a countable resource when it is revocable, assignable, or can be sold.
   (i) If the annuity is an excluded resource, payments being received from the annuity will be countable unearned income, except as excluded at Subpart (v). If the annuity is a countable resource, any payments being received from the annuity are excluded.
   (ii) Generally, annuities are revocable while in the accumulation phase though an owner will not receive a full refund, unless the annuity is cancelled during the free-look period. Once an annuity has been annuitized, the annuity is excluded as a resource if the funds are unavailable in a lump sum.
   (iii) The countable value of an annuity during the free-look period is the purchase value. The countable value of an annuity during the accumulation phase is the cash value minus any withdrawals and surrender charges or penalty fees for early withdrawal. If an annuity contains a provision that allows an individual to cash in a contract after annuitization, the countable value of the annuity is the commuted cash value, i.e., the present value of all future payments.
   (iv) Distributions from an annuity, such as systematic withdrawals and required minimum distributions (RMDs), are considered conversions of a resource rather than income.
   (v) Any amount of an annuity held following the month of receipt is a countable resource, except when an annuity is a state annuity for certain veterans. A state annuity is an annuity paid by a state to an individual or an individual’s spouse based on the state’s determination that the individual is a veteran who is aged, blind or disabled.
   (vi) Annuities that are funded by a pension or a retirement fund held by an employer or union should not be counted as a resource, while the individual is employed, if termination of employment would be necessary to access the funds.
   (vii) Individuals applying for or receiving LTSS must meet additional requirements regarding asset transfers and exclusion of annuities at Rule .06(3)(h).

3. **Business or Self-Employment.** Excluded as essential for the production of earned income.
Resources may include:

(i) Tools/equipment;
(ii) Stock or raw materials;
(iii) Personal property essential for income production;
(iv) Real property;
(v) Office equipment;
(vi) Business loans for the purchase of capital assets;
(vii) Inventory;
(viii) Machinery and equipment;
(ix) Business/commercial checking accounts; and
(x) Life insurance.


(i) Burial funds which are not commingled are excluded resources when:

(I) The funds are used to purchase a life insurance policy which is then irrevocably assigned to a funeral provider. Either the ownership of the policy or proceeds may be assigned to the funeral provider. The purpose of the assignment is to fund a burial contract.

(II) The funds are invested in an irrevocable pre-paid or pre-need burial contract established by a funeral provider and the contract meets the following conditions:

I. Both the individual and the funeral home representative have signed the document;
II. An itemized list of the services provided under the contract is provided;
III. The total dollar amount of the agreement is specified;
IV. The individual was neither a minor nor legally declared incompetent when the agreement was signed; and
V. The agreement specifies in writing that the money is not refundable under any circumstances.

(III) The funds are invested in a burial trust established by the individual, and the total funds in the trust, including interest payments, do not exceed $6,000.00 per individual. Transport costs which cause the trust value to exceed $6,000.00 are excluded.

(ii) Burial funds are countable resources when:

(I) The funds are used to purchase a life insurance policy and a revocable assignment of the policy or proceeds is made to a funeral provider.

(II) The funds are invested in a revocable pre-paid or pre-need burial contract established by a funeral provider.
(III) Countable burial funds are eligible to be excluded as part of the individual's burial reserve.

(iii) Burial Reserve. An individual is allowed to set aside $1,500.00 in resources to cover expenses connected to her burial, cremation or other funeral arrangements. Funds allowed to be excluded as part of the burial reserve include revocable, countable burial funds. These funds must not be commingled with other resources, and must be set aside for burial expenses. The $1,500.00 maximum amount of the burial reserve is first reduced by:

(I) Life insurance, if the total value of all life insurance owned by the individual is $1,500.00 or less; and

(II) Funds in an irrevocable burial agreement or contract.

5. Burial Plots. Exclude the value of one burial space for each family member, e.g. spouse, child, parent, sibling, whether living in the home or not. Burial plots and spaces include a gravesite, crypt, mausoleum, niche or other repository for bodily remains, vaults, headstones, markers, plaques, containers and arrangement for opening and closing the gravesite.


7. Certificates of Deposit (CD). Countable if held in a personal account. The value of a CD is the net amount that could be received after penalties for early withdrawal, if applicable. Taxes are not deducted in determining net value.

8. Checking Accounts. Personal checking accounts are countable. Some checking accounts that may be excluded include those designated for burial needs, educational income, Individual Development Accounts, PASS, prorated as income, proceeds from the sale of a home, disaster or settlement funds if excluded by policy, and retroactive SSA payments.

9. CCRC Deposit or Fee. The value of an entrance fee paid to a CCRC is a countable resource when it meets the following conditions:

(i) The entrance fee can be used to pay for care under the terms of the entrance contract should other resources of the individual be insufficient;

(ii) The entrance fee or its remaining portion is refundable when the individual dies or terminates the contract and leaves the CCRC; and

(iii) The entrance fee does not confer any ownership interest in the community.

10. Contracts for Deed or Mortgage. The value of a contract for deed or mortgage may be a countable asset dependent on the circumstances of the loan, including the individual's role as lender or borrower and the accessibility of the asset.

(i) When the individual is the lender for a contract for deed, the lender may sell or transfer the instrument to have immediate access to the unpaid principal. The value of the contract is the unpaid loan principal. Any portion of a payment that represents the loan principal is a conversion of a resource. Any portion of the payment that represents interest is considered unearned income in the month of receipt and a resource thereafter. The value of the contract may be excluded from the countable resources if the individual can demonstrate that the contract cannot be sold without his realizing a net loss.

(ii) If the individual is the borrower the property agreement is not a resource. However, the property purchased may be a countable resource following the month of transaction.

11. Educational Income.

(i) Educational income received under Title IV of the Higher Education Act or under the
(ii) Any portion of a VA educational benefit that is a withdrawal of a veteran's own contribution is a countable resource if retained in the month following the month of receipt.

(iii) Other grants, scholarships, fellowships and gifts intended to pay for tuition, fees or educational expenses are excluded for nine (9) months beginning the month after the funds are received. The individual must be enrolled in school and attending classes to be considered a student.

12. Farm, Business, Other Equipment. The equity value of non-self-employment income-producing real property, other than the homestead, is a countable resource. Exclude up to $6,000.00 in equity and count only the amount that exceeds the limit, if the net income totals at least six percent (6%) of the equity value. If the property is used for self-employment, it is excluded as Business or Self-Employment.

13. Rental property is countable if the individual who owns the property is not in the business of renting property. Someone who is in the business of renting property is someone who materially participates in the operation and decision making of the rental business for at least (20) hours per week.

14. Homestead Exclusion. The entire value of the home, whether on land or water, all adjoining land not separated by property owned by others and any related outbuildings are excluded in determining resource eligibility as long as:

(i) The home is the principal place of residence for the individual and/or his spouse and/or dependent relatives; and

(ii) If the individual resides in a long-term care facility, his intent to return to the home is established.

(iii) For an institutionalized individual, the home is excluded if Subparts (i) and (ii) above are true and the individual's equity interest does not exceed the home equity limit established by CMS, with one exception: the home equity limit does not apply to an institutionalized individual if the spouse of the individual, the individual's child under age twenty-one (21), or a blind or permanently and totally disabled child is residing in the home. An institutionalized individual whose home exceeds the home equity limit established by CMS and who does not have a spouse, a child under age twenty-one (21) or a disabled or blind child living in the home, is not eligible for payment of long term services and supports, unless it is determined undue hardship exists.

(iv) An individual must have lived in the home for it to be considered his home or principal place of residence.

(v) The value of the home and surrounding land will not be counted as a resource during the individual's absence from an unoccupied home when he intends to return to the property. An absence from the home can be necessary to accomplish a specific purpose such as hospitalization, confinement in a nursing home or receipt of services, such as nursing or personal care services not available to the individual in his home.

(vi) An intent to return home is nullified by any efforts to sell or dispose of the property during the exemption period. The exemption based on the intent to return ends the first day of the month after the month efforts are made to sell or dispose of the homestead property.

(vii) Rental of a homestead which has been excluded because of intent to return does not nullify the exclusion. The homestead retains the exclusion as long as there is a clear, non-contradictory intent to return, and no efforts are made to sell or dispose of the property. The rent will be counted as unearned income in the month received.
(viii) The exemption based on residence of the enrollee's dependent relative ends the first day of the month after the relative last lived in the homestead, if the relative does not intend to return. Real property located outside of Tennessee can be excluded from countable resources as homestead property, if there is substantiation of the individual's intent to return to the home or the property is the principal residence of the individual's spouse or dependent relatives.

15. Individual Development Account. Funds, including accrued interest, in the account are excluded as a resource as long as the individual complies with the IDA eligibility rules and continues to maintain or make contributions into the account.

16. Income-Producing Resource. Exclude up to $6,000.00 of an individual's equity in an income-producing resource if it produces a net annual income to the individual of at least six percent (6%) of the property's equity value. If the individual's equity value is greater than $6,000.00, the amount that exceeds $6,000.00 is countable towards the resource limit.

(i) If an income-producing resource does not produce a net annual income of at least six percent (6%) of the resource's equity value, the entire equity value of the resource is countable.

(ii) If the individual owns more than one piece of income-producing resource and each produces income, each is reviewed to determine whether the six percent (6%) test is met. Then the amounts of the individual's equity in all of those properties producing six percent (6%) are totaled to determine if the total equity of all properties is $6,000.00 or less. If the total equity value in the properties that meet the six percent (6%) rule is over the $6,000.00 equity limit, the amount exceeding $6,000.00 is counted as a resource.

17. Insurance. Exclude Sick and Disability Insurance and Burial Insurance.

18. Items of Unusual Value, Household Goods, and Personal Effects. In general, an item may be considered an item of unusual value if the item is not excluded as a household good or personal effect, and the equity value of the item is greater than $500.00. An item of unusual value that generates income for the individual is countable. The countable value is determined by applying the Rate of Return test (see Income-Producing Resource above). A personal item of unusual value is excluded. Household Goods and Personal Effects are also excluded.

19. Life Estates. Property in which an individual holds a life estate is subject to the same exclusion rules as property the individual owns by title, subject to the following exceptions:

(i) A life estate will be excluded as the home when the property meets the homestead exemption.

(ii) If the property is used in the passive production of income, then the life estate is subject to the Rate of Return test (see, Income-Producing Resource above).

(iii) A life estate will be excluded when ownership is necessary for the production of earned income.

(iv) The terms of the life estate contract prevent the holder from selling his interest in the property.

(v) If the life estate is not excluded based on the criteria (i)-(iv) above, the entire value of the life estate is a countable asset. The life estate value is determined by multiplying the Fair Market Value (FMV) of the property by the percentage listed in the SSA's Life Estate and Remainder Interest Tables for the age of the individual on whose lifetime the life estate is based. If more than one person owns the life estate, the value is based on the owner with the longest life expectancy.

(vi) When an individual purchases, or, in some other way receives, as compensation in a transaction, a life estate in another individual's home, the purchase of the life estate is
considered an asset transfer subject to penalty, unless the individual then lives in the home for a period of at least one year after receiving the life estate.

(vii) If the individual does live in the home for a period of one year after receiving or purchasing the life estate, then the amount of the transfer is the entire amount used to purchase the life estate.

(viii) If an individual purchases a life estate in another individual's home and then lives there for one year after the purchase, the life estate is an excluded resource while being used as the individual's (or the individual's spouse's) home. However, if payment for a life estate exceeds the FMV of the life estate the difference between the amount paid and the FMV should be treated as an asset transfer. In addition, if an individual makes a gift or transfer of a life estate interest, the value of the life estate should be treated as a transfer of assets.

20. Life Insurance. Countable or excluded based on the type of life insurance owned by the individual and its intended use. Exclude all life insurance if the total face value of all policies does not exceed $1,500.00 per owner.

21. Livestock. The value of livestock necessary for business or self-employment, as a tool of the trade, or raised for home/personal consumption is an excluded resource. Income received is countable as self-employment income. The equity value of livestock that are pets is countable. Livestock that is used as non-business income-producing property is countable, and subject to treatment as an Income-Producing Resource as described in this subparagraph.

22. Oil and Mineral Rights. May be included with land ownership or owned separately. If surface rights of the same property are excluded (for example, as a home) so are oil and mineral rights. Oil and mineral rights are countable when owned for personal use, or when the surface rights of the same property are countable (non-homestead, real property).

(i) If oil or mineral rights are producing income under a lease agreement, the owner may be constrained from selling or otherwise disposing of those rights. If the land is already excluded, the oil and mineral rights are excluded.

(ii) If oil or mineral rights are producing income to the individual, and he is not actively engaged in the production of income, the equity value of the rights is subject to the Rate or Return test. See Income-Producing Resource above.

23. Patient Trust Account. The balance of the account at the time of application and redetermination is a countable resource.

24. Personal Resource. Countable unless excluded based on the terms of the asset. A personal resource is typically for the use of the individual and his family.

25. Personal Consumption. Exclude up to $6,000.00 of the equity value of non-business property currently in use to produce goods or services essential to daily activities. Any portion of the property's equity value in excess of $6,000.00 is a countable resource.

26. PASS. Any income an SSI recipient places in an approved PASS account is excluded as a resource. The PASS account itself is also excluded. This exclusion expires when the PASS contract expires or ends, or when the individual is no longer an SSI recipient.

27. Prepayment of Rent. Countable unless the individual cannot receive the money back under any circumstances (i.e., the lease agreement includes a no refund policy, or the landlord provides a statement that the funds will not be returned to the renter). Prepayment of an applicant's mortgage is not considered a resource.

28. Prepayment of Nursing Home Care. Prepayment for care deposited by an applicant upon his admission to a TennCare Medicaid-participating long-term care facility is a countable resource for the individual who is subsequently approved for TennCare Medicaid benefits if the deposit
was paid from the individual's own funds.

29. Proceeds from the Sale of a Home. Excluded to the extent that the funds are intended to be used to purchase another home subject to the homestead exclusion, and the funds are used for such a purpose within three (3) months of the date of receipt of the proceeds.

30. Promissory Notes and other Loans. A promissory note or other loan given by the household is considered personal property and is countable, unless the note/loan balance is inaccessible or the promissory note is held for reasons other than personal use. The lender holds legal interest and has the legal ability to make available his share in the note or loan. The equity value of the note/loan is countable.

(i) If a household makes a loan that is considered inaccessible, or is shown to have a significantly lower market value than the unpaid balance of the loan, the loan will be considered to be an uncompensated transfer of assets. The uncompensated asset transfer will be considered to be the outstanding balance due on the loan as of the date of the lender’s application for long term services and supports (nursing facility or HCBS services).

(ii) In addition, the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA) provides that funds used to purchase a promissory note, loan or mortgage must meet the following criteria, or the purchase will be treated as a transfer of assets for less than FMV:

(i) The repayment term must be actuarially sound (as determined by SSA standards);

(ii) Payments must be made in equal amounts during the term of the loan with no deferral payment and no balloon payments; and

(iii) The promissory note, loan or mortgage must prohibit the cancellation of the balance upon the death of the lender.

(iii) If the above criteria are not met, the purchase of the promissory note or loan must be treated as a transfer of assets. The amount used to calculate a penalty will be the outstanding balance of the loan due as of the date of application for TennCare Medicaid.

(iv) Promissory notes that are made for purposes other than personal use are treated according to their use. Promissory notes may be made for the following purposes:

(I) Burial;

(II) Business or Self-Employment; and

(III) Proceeds from the Sale of a Home.

31. Property that represents government authority to engage in an income-producing activity. Excluded if the property is used in trade, business or non-business income-producing activity. Exclude property that is currently not in use due to circumstances beyond the individual’s control and there is a reasonable expectation that the use will resume.

32. Prorated as Income. Excluded.

33. Qualified Tuition Savings Plan (529 Plans). Countable minus any early withdrawal penalties.

34. Real Property. The equity value in all real property the individual owns individually or jointly is a countable asset with the following exceptions:

(i) Property excluded as homestead;

(ii) The inaccessible equity value of real property;
(iii) Equity value of income-producing property (subject to the Rate of Return test);
(iv) Real property necessary for the production of earned income (see Business or Self-Employment); and
(v) Property excluded under a Conditional Assistance agreement between the individual and the State.

35. Retirement Funds. Retirement funds owned by an individual and held in an IRA, 401(k), or other work-related plan are resources if an individual has the option of withdrawing funds in a lump sum. The value of a retirement fund is the amount of money that the individual can currently withdraw less any penalty for early withdrawal. Retirement funds are not counted as resources if termination of employment is necessary to access the funds or an individual is eligible for and receiving periodic benefits (e.g., pension or annuity). Distributions and systematic withdrawals from a retirement account are conversions of a resource rather than income when an individual can withdraw any of the remaining account balance in a lump sum. Retirement funds are excluded from deeming if owned by an ineligible spouse or an ineligible parent (for non-institutional categories only).

(i) Funds held in a 401(k) or 403(b) retirement account are countable when an individual is no longer job-attached. Funds in a 401(k), part of a profit-sharing plan or stock bonus plan, or in a 403(b) retirement account are also countable when an individual reaches age 59 ½.

(ii) Funds held in an IRA are considered accessible any time. Count the equity value of an accessible IRA when determining eligibility. An IRA held in the form of an annuity will be evaluated as an annuity.

(iii) A Keogh plan established for a self-employed individual is considered accessible and is counted as a resource to the individual even if the household is not actually accessing the funds.

(iv) If the accessibility of a retirement fund cannot be determined based on the documentation received, the summary plan description or a written statement from the plan administrator shall be requested.

(v) Retirement funds are considered nonliquid resources unless there is evidence to suggest otherwise. An individual with excess retirement funds who is otherwise Medicaid-eligible may qualify for conditional assistance while waiting for retirement funds to become available, if the individual agrees in writing to use the funds to repay the medical assistance he received during the conditional assistance period.

36. Savings Accounts. Countable if it is characterized by personal use. If the current month's income has been deposited into the account it must be excluded when determining the current value of the account. A savings account may be excluded if it is used for one of the following purposes:

(i) Burial funds;
(ii) Business or Self-Employment;
(iii) Educational Income;
(iv) Individual Development Account;
(v) PASS;
(vi) Proceeds from the Sale of a Home (subject to time limits);
(vii) Prorated income;
37. Settlement or Disaster Payment. Payments or benefits provided under certain Federal statutes are excluded, if payments are not commingled with other funds. Excluded settlement and/or disaster payments include:

   (i) Agent Orange Settlement Payments;
   (ii) Disaster Relief Assistance received under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974;
   (iii) Distribution of perpetual judgment funds to Indian tribes under the following:
       (I) Indian Judgment Funds Distribution (P.L. 93-134);
       (II) Black Feet and Gros Ventre Tribes (P.L. 92-254);
       (III) Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians in Indian Claims Commission Docket No. 40-K;
       (IV) Tribes or groups under PL 93-134;
       (V) Yakima Indian Nation or the Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation (PL 95-433); and
       (VI) Receipts from land held in trust by the Federal government and distributed to certain Indian tribes under PL 94-114.
   (iv) Factor VIII or IX Concentrate Blood Products Litigation. The settlement payments made to hemophillia patients infected with HIV through blood plasma products as a result of the class action lawsuit;
   (v) Filipino Veterans Compensation Fund Payments. Lump sum payments made to certain veterans and spouses of veterans who served in the military of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines during WWII;
   (vi) Japanese-American and Aleutian Restitution Payments;
   (vii) Payments made to individuals because of their status as victims of Nazi persecutions;
   (viii) Payments to children born of Vietnam veterans diagnosed with spina bifida;
   (ix) Payments made under the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (State and local payments are only excluded for nine (9) months);
   (x) Revenues from the Alaska Native Fund paid under section 21(a) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act;
   (xi) Criminal Victims Compensation Funds paid to crime victims (excluded for nine (9) months); and
   (xii) Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA).

38. SSI/SSA Retroactive Payment. Excluded for nine (9) months after the payment is received and counted after that nine (9) month exclusion period.

39. Stocks/Bonds/Mutual Funds. Countable. Although personal mutual funds are countable, those held for purposes listed below are subject to different treatment:
Burial;

Business or Self-Employment;

Educational Income;

Proceeds from the Sale of a Home;

Prorated as Income; or

Settlement or Disaster Payment, if excluded by policy.

40. Tools of the Trade. Excluded.

41. Trusts. Countable or excluded based on the nature of the trust, the date the trust was created, the source of funds used to create the trust, plus other factors as specified in 42 U.S.C. § 1396p(d).

42. Vehicles. One car, truck, motorcycle, camper, motor home, aircraft, snowmobile, watercraft, boat, or all-terrain vehicle is excluded regardless of its value if it is used for transportation of the individual or a member of his household. If an applicant owns more than one vehicle, the equity value of that second vehicle is countable when it is owned by the applicant or a deemed filing unit member, and it cannot be excluded under another provision. Boats, motorcycles, snowmobiles, jet skis, ATVs, and aircraft are generally considered recreational vehicles. The equity value of these recreational vehicles is a countable resource unless it can be excluded under other provisions.

(d) Conditional Assistance. Nonliquid resources, which are not exempt under another resource provision, are exempt as a resource if the individual enters into a Conditional Assistance agreement with the State. Nonliquid resources include real and personal property that cannot be converted to cash within twenty (20) days. The individual must make a bona fide effort to dispose of the excess nonliquid resources at current market value, and use the proceeds to repay the State for medical expenses covered by TennCare during the period of conditional assistance.

1. The exclusion period for real property is not to exceed nine (9) months. The exclusion period for personal property is not to exceed three (3) months. However, a three (3) month extension may be granted if the individual is able to show a good cause for failure to dispose of the property. Property that remains unsold at the end of the exclusion period will be considered inaccessible so long as the individual continues the bona fide effort to sell.

2. Repayment of medical expenses covered by TennCare during the period of conditional assistance may not exceed the total net proceeds of the sale. Any proceeds remaining after the repayment of medical expenses is paid are considered a resource.

(e) Disregards and Expenses Allowed. Unless otherwise specified in Subparagraph (f) below, individuals described in Subparagraph (a) are subject to the following expense requirements.

1. Child Support Disregard. One-third (1/3) of child support payments (including child support arrearages) paid by an absent parent to or for a child under age 18, or under age twenty-two (22) and a student regularly attending school, is excluded per month.

2. General Deduction. A $20.00 monthly General Deduction is allowed per household, and is applied to unearned income. If any of the $20.00 deduction is not offset by unearned income, the remainder is applied to the spouse's unearned income and then to the applicant or enrollee's earned income.

3. Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE). Applies to the earnings of an individual who is under age twenty-two (22) and regularly attending school. The exclusion may apply to an eligible or ineligible individual, child, spouse, or parent(s). The SEIE monthly amount is determined by the
SSA. The SEIE does not apply to children attending elementary school.

4. Earned Income Deduction. The first $65.00 of the earned income of each aged, blind or disabled individual is disregarded.

5. Impairment-Related and Blind Work Expenses:

   (i) The gross countable earned income of each blind or disabled individual (not living in a medical institution) may be reduced by the amount of expenses attributable to earning the income. The allowable Blind Work Expenses (BWE) and allowable Impairment-Related Work Expenses (IRWE) are not the same. BWE and IRWE apply only to earned income. In order to deduct either BWE or IRWE, the individual must be:

      (I) Blind, blind and disabled, or disabled; and under age sixty-five (65), or

      (II) Age sixty-five (65) and older; and received SSI payments due to blindness or disability the month before attaining age sixty-five (65).

   (ii) These expenses do not apply to the Institutional Medicaid categories. Work expenses must not be payable or reimbursable by a third party, such as Medicaid, Medicare or other insurance.

6. One-Half Disregard. One-half of the remaining earned income in the month is disregarded. This disregard is deducted after Impairment-Related Work Expense (IRWE), but before deducting Blind Work Expenses (BWE).

(f) Mandatory deductions such as FICA and withholding tax on pensions and other unearned income are not included in gross income for Institutional Medicaid and the Medicare Savings Programs.

(g) Household Composition Rules. Household composition for the ABD categories is governed by the FRR principle. Financial responsibility is limited to spouse to spouse and parent to child. Household composition not only determines which income standard to use, but also how FRR income is "deemed" available, and the amount of income "deemed" or available to an individual. See 20 C.F.R. §§ 416.1160, et seq.

1. The following individuals are included in the applicant's household, if living in the same household:

   (i) The applicant; and

   (ii) The applicant's eligible spouse.

2. For Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs), include dependent children under age 21 in the household.

3. Step-children are considered in household composition when they live in the home and their natural parent is the spouse of the applicant and is included in the applicant's household.

4. Financial eligibility in the SSI-Related categories is determined based on a household size of one or two. Included household members are the applicant and if applicable, his spouse. If there are additional household members, they will be considered in deeming budgets, if appropriate.

5. Parent-to-child deeming applies when a blind or disabled child under age 18 is living with his parent(s), and a portion of the parent's income and resources may be deemed available to the child and counted as unearned income to the child in determining his TennCare Medicaid eligibility. The parent receives income disregards and allocations in order to meet his own needs and the needs of other children that live in the household. The needs of step-parents and step-siblings are also considered when they live in the home with the applicant and natural or adopted parent, and the step-parent is married to the natural or adopted parent. Children for
whom a child allocation is received must be unmarried and under age 18, or under age 22 and a student. Child and parental allocations are deducted from the parent’s income before any income is deemed to the applicant/enrollee. Parental deeming applies to the following TennCare Medicaid categories:

(i) Medicare Savings Program (QMB, SLMB, QI and QDWI); and

(ii) Pickle Passalong.

6. The countable income and resources of an applicant/enrollee’s TennCare Medicaid-ineligible spouse living in the home may be deemed available to the applicant/enrollee. Spousal deeming applies when the spouses share a living arrangement, i.e., live in the community or home together. The applicant/enrollee’s ineligible spouse is included in the household if the income of the spouse is deemed to the applicant/enrollee. Spousal deeming applies to the following TennCare Medicaid categories, which use SSI financial methodology:

(i) Medicare Savings Program (QMB, SLMB, QI, and QDWI); and

(ii) Pickle Passalong.

7. Financial eligibility for Institutional categories is determined based on a household size of one. The only included household member is the applicant/enrollee. However, the community spouse and dependents do impact budgeting of the post-eligibility treatment of income (i.e. patient liability), and the community spouse’s resources are considered in the resource assessment.

(h) Qualifying Income Trusts (QIT) for Institutional Applicants.

1. Individuals who are receiving or will receive nursing facility services or home and community based services (HCBS) offered either through the CHOICES program or through a Section 1915(c) HCBS waiver program and whose income exceeds the Medicaid Income Cap (MIC) may establish a QIT. Funds placed in a QIT that meets the standards set forth below are not treated as available resources or income for purposes of determining the individual’s TennCare eligibility.

2. A QIT is a trust consisting only of the individual’s pension income, SSI, and other monthly income created for the purpose of establishing income eligibility for TennCare coverage when an individual is or soon will be confined to a nursing facility, HCBS or ICF/IID waiver program offered either through the CHOICES program or through a Section 1915(c) HCBS waiver program.

3. An individual is eligible to establish a QIT if his income is above the level at which he would be financially eligible for nursing facility, HCBS offered either through the CHOICES program or through a Section 1915(c) HCBS waiver program, or ICF/IID care under Medicaid.

4. The amount of income that an applicant/recipient places in a QIT cannot be limited nor can it be counted when testing income against the MIC. However, it is used in determining patient liability during post-eligibility treatment of income. If the applicant/recipient’s income that is not placed in a QIT is over the MIC, the individual is not financially eligible for the Institutional category.

5. A valid QIT must meet the following criteria:

(i) The trust must be irrevocable and cannot be modified or amended in whole or in part by the Grantor at any time. However, the Trustee or a court of competent jurisdiction shall have the right and jurisdiction to modify any provision of the trust to the extent necessary to maintain the eligibility of the Grantor for medical assistance.

(ii) Each month the trustee shall distribute the entire amount of income transferred into the Trust except for an amount not to exceed $20.00, or other verified amount, for a QIT
maintenance fee.

(iii) The sole beneficiary of the Trust is the individual for whose benefit the Trust is established and the State of Tennessee. The Trust terminates upon the death of the individual, or when the Trust is no longer required to establish TennCare Medicaid eligibility in the State of Tennessee, or if nursing facility care or HCBS is no longer medically necessary for the individual, or if the individual is no longer receiving such services.

(iv) The Trust must provide that upon the death of the individual or termination of the Trust, whichever occurs sooner, the State of Tennessee shall receive all amounts remaining in the Trust up to the total amount of medical assistance paid by the State on behalf of the individual.

(v) Amounts remaining in the Trust that are owed to the State must be paid to TennCare within three (3) months after the death of the individual or termination of the Trust, whichever is sooner, along with an accounting of the payments from the Trust. TennCare may grant an extension if a written request is submitted within two (2) months of the termination of the Trust.

(vi) This Part applies to an income trust established on or after July 1, 2005, and under the hardship provision in Section 1613(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1382b(e)). Hardship may be considered to exist when the institutionalized individual or his spouse would have resources in excess of the resource limit, is otherwise eligible, and for whom TennCare Medicaid ineligibility would result in loss of essential nursing care which is not available.

(vii) Allowable payments from the Trust include:

(I) Personal Needs Allowance (PNA). The amount the individual is allowed to retain for his personal needs under TennCare Medicaid policies. As of January 1, 2005, this amount is $50.00 for confinement in a nursing facility or ICF/IID and three hundred percent (300%) of the SSI/FBR for HCBS enrollees and Self-Determination Waiver; and two hundred percent (200%) of the SSI/FBR for the Comprehensive Aggregate Cap (CAC) and Statewide Waivers.

(II) A deduction not to exceed $20.00, or other verified amount, for expenses necessary for managing the trust (i.e. bank charges).

(III) CSIMA or DIMA, if applicable.

(IV) Health Insurance Premiums. Allowed when the individual has health insurance other than TennCare Medicaid (for example, Medicare premium or a Medicare supplement policy).

(V) Incurred Medical Expenses. Payment for types of medical or remedial care recognized under State law, but not covered as medical assistance under TennCare Medicaid.

(viii) Any countable income not placed in the QIT and any Trust income remaining after allowable deductions are made shall be paid monthly to the nursing facility, HCBS provider, or MCO by the individual or from the Trust in an amount not to exceed the Medicaid reimbursement rate. Any excess income not distributed from the Trust shall accumulate in the Trust monthly.

(ix) No other deductions or expenses may be paid from the Trust. Expenses which cannot be paid from the Trust except as specifically provided herein include, but are not limited to, trustee fees, attorney fees and costs (including attorney fees and costs incurred in establishing the trust), accountant fees, court fees and costs, fees for guardians ad litem, funeral expenses, past due medical bills and other debts.
Annuities.

1. Disclosure. Disclosure of annuities is required for all applicants pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1396p(e). If an individual or her spouse refuses to disclose information related to an annuity, the individual will be denied Medicaid eligibility based on the individual's failure to cooperate.

2. Annuities and Transfer of Assets. An annuity will not be treated as a transfer of assets if the annuity meets the requirements of 42 U.S.C. § 1396p(c)(1)(G).

3. Requirement to name the State as the Remainder Beneficiary. The purchase of an annuity is subject to the transfer of assets provision unless it meets the requirements of 42 U.S.C. § 1396(c)(1)(F).
   (i) Annuities purchased or converted by the individual or his spouse on or after February 8, 2006, must be changed prior to TennCare Medicaid approval or redetermination to name the State of Tennessee as the remainder beneficiary of the annuity. If the individual has a community spouse, or a minor or disabled child, the State may be named in the second position following one of these individuals. If the State is named in the second position following a community spouse or child, the annuity must also provide that the State becomes the remainder beneficiary in the first position if the community spouse, child, or their representative disposes of any of the remainder of the annuity for less than fair market value.
   (ii) As a remainder beneficiary, the State may receive up to the total amount of medical assistance paid on behalf of the individual, including both long term services and supports and home and community based services. The State must notify the issuer of the State's right as the preferred remainder beneficiary and the issuer must notify the State if there are any changes in the amount of income or principal being withdrawn.
   (iii) An annuity may be amended to meet these criteria, so that the annuity purchase will not be treated as a transfer of assets for less than FMV.

4. Annuity Transactions. Certain annuity transactions may be treated as a transfer of assets for less than fair market value (FMV) according to 42 U.S.C. § 1396p(e).
   (i) Annuity transactions made by an individual, or by someone acting on an individual's behalf, are considered improper transfers if any of the individual's assets are disposed of for less than FMV.
   (ii) Transactions include any action that changes the course of payments to be made by an annuity or the treatment of the income or principal of an annuity. These actions include additions of principal, elective withdrawals, requests to change the distribution of an annuity, elections to annuitize the contract and other similar actions.
   (iii) Routine changes (e.g., notification of an address change or death or divorce of a remainder beneficiary) and changes beyond an individual's control are not considered transfers of assets for less than FMV.


Rule 1200-13-20-07 Family and Child Eligibility Groups paragraph (1) Caretaker Relatives subparagraph (c) is amended by deleting the word "minor" and replacing it with the word "dependent" and is further amended by inserting the language and punctuation "under age 18, or 18 and a full-time student," between the words "child" and "and" and is further amended by deleting the word "State" so that, as amended, paragraph (1) subparagraph (c) shall read:

(c) Special Eligibility Requirements: Individual must be a parent or caretaker relative of a dependent child under age 18, or 18 and a full-time student, and must agree to cooperate with Child Support Enforcement to establish paternity and medical support, if applicable. Failure to cooperate or show
Rule 1200-13-20-.07 Family and Child Eligibility Groups paragraph (1) Caretaker Relatives subparagraph (e) is amended by deleting the last sentence "Note: The FFM uses these numbers to establish an equivalent FPL." so that, as amended, paragraph (1) subparagraph (e) shall read:

(e) Income Limitation: Household income cannot exceed the monthly income levels as outlined in the State Plan.

Rule 1200-13-20-.07 Family and Child Eligibility Groups paragraph (2) TennCare Pregnant Women subparagraph (c) is amended by inserting the language "or in the post-partum period as defined in 42 C.F.R. § 435.4" between the word "pregnant" and the punctuation "." at the conclusion of the first sentence so that, as amended, paragraph (2) subparagraph (c) shall read:

(c) Special Eligibility Requirements: Individual must be pregnant or in the post-partum period as defined in 42 C.F.R. § 435.4. Self-attestation of pregnancy is accepted unless the State has information that is not reasonably compatible with such attestation.

Rule 1200-13-20-.07 Family and Child Eligibility Groups paragraph (2) TennCare Pregnant Women subparagraph (h) part 1 is amended by deleting the number "4" at the end of the citation "435.4" and replacing it with the numbers "170" so that, as amended, paragraph (2) subparagraph (h) part 1 shall read:

1. Eligibility is continuous through the last day of the month of the sixty (60)-day postpartum period as defined at 42 C.F.R. § 435.170, regardless of income changes.

Rule 1200-13-20-.07 Family and Child Eligibility Groups paragraph (2) TennCare Pregnant Women subparagraph (h) part 3 is amended by deleting it in its entirety.

Rule 1200-13-20-.07 Family and Child Eligibility Groups paragraph (6) Newborn Presumptive is amended by deleting it in its entirety and renumbering subsequent paragraphs appropriately.

Rule 1200-13-20-.07 Family and Child Eligibility Groups paragraph (8) renumbered as paragraph (7) Standard Child Uninsured subparagraph (e) is amended by deleting the language "at or" and "See Rule .04." so that, as amended, paragraph (7) subparagraph (e) shall read:

(e) Income Limitations: Household income must be below two hundred eleven percent (211%) of the FPL.

Rule 1200-13-20-.07 Family and Child Eligibility Groups paragraph (8) renumbered as paragraph (7) Standard Child Uninsured subparagraph (h) is amended by deleting the language "at or" and "or she" and is further amended by inserting the language "and eleven" between the words "hundred" and "percent" and is further amended by deleting the number "200" and replacing it with the number "211" so that, as amended, paragraph (7) subparagraph (h) shall read:

(h) Other: Includes uninsured children under age nineteen (19) who have been continuously enrolled in TennCare Standard since December 31, 2001, who have family incomes below two hundred and eleven percent (211%) of the FPL, and who have not purchased insurance even if they have access to it. This is a "grandfathered" eligibility category. If an individual loses eligibility in this category, he will not be able to re-enroll in it.

Rule 1200-13-20-.07 Family and Child Eligibility Groups paragraph (9) renumbered as paragraph (8) Standard Child Medically Eligible subparagraph (d) part 3 is amended by deleting the word "above" and is further amended by deleting the word "poverty" and replacing it with the language "the FPL or higher" so that, as amended, paragraph (8) subparagraph (d) part 3 shall read:

3. If a Medicaid enrollee under age nineteen (19) whose Medicaid eligibility is ending is determined to otherwise meet technical eligibility requirements for TennCare Standard, but is not eligible as uninsured because his income is two hundred eleven percent (211%) of the FPL or higher, he will be sent a ME packet.
Rule 1200-13-20-.07 Family and Child Eligibility Groups paragraph (9) renumbered as paragraph (8) Standard Child Medically Eligible subparagraph (f) is amended by deleting the word “exceed” and replacing it with the language “be at or above” and is further amended by deleting the last sentence “See Rule .06.” so that, as amended, paragraph (8) subparagraph (f) shall read:

(f) Income Limitations: Household income must be at or above two hundred eleven percent (211%) of the FPL.

Rule 1200-13-20-.07 Family and Child Eligibility Groups paragraph (10) renumbered as paragraph (9) “CoverKids – CHIP Children under age 19.” is amended by deleting the punctuation “-” so that, as amended, paragraph (9) shall read:

(9) CoverKids CHIP Children under age 19.

Rule 1200-13-20-.07 Family and Child Eligibility Groups paragraph (10) renumbered as paragraph (9) CoverKids CHIP Children under age 19 subparagraph (e) is amended by deleting the word “under” and replacing it with the language “no more than” so that, as amended, paragraph (9) subparagraph (e) shall read:

(e) Income Limitations: Must be over the applicable Medicaid limit and no more than two hundred fifty percent (250%) of the FPL. See Rule .06.

Rule 1200-13-20-.07 Family and Child Eligibility Groups paragraph (11) renumbered as paragraph (10) CoverKids Pregnant Women/Unborn Children is amended by deleting the language “/Unborn Children” and is further amended in subparagraph (e) by deleting the word “below” and replacing it with the language “no more than” so that, as amended, paragraph (10) and subparagraph (e) shall read:

(10) CoverKids Pregnant Women.

(e) Income Limitations: Must be ineligible for Medicaid and no more than two hundred fifty percent (250%) of the FPL. See Rule .06.

Rule 1200-13-20-.07 Family and Child Eligibility Groups paragraph (13) renumbered as paragraph (12) Transitional Medicaid is amended by deleting subparagraphs (c) and (e) in their entirety and renumbering the remaining subparagraphs appropriately.

Rule 1200-13-20-.07 Family and Child Eligibility Groups paragraph (14) renumbered as paragraph (13) Extended Medicaid subparagraph (c) is amended by deleting the last sentence so that, as amended, subparagraph (c) shall read:

(c) Special Eligibility Requirements: Eligible individuals must have been eligible for and receiving benefits for at least three (3) out of six (6) months immediately preceding the month of ineligibility.

Rule 1200-13-20-.07 Family and Child Eligibility Groups paragraph (14) renumbered as paragraph (13) Extended Medicaid is amended by deleting subparagraph (e) in its entirety and renumbering the remaining subparagraphs appropriately.

Rule 1200-13-20-.07 Family and Child Eligibility Groups paragraph (14) renumbered as paragraph (13) Extended Medicaid subparagraph (f) renumbered as subparagraph (e) part 3 is amended by deleting the word “Transitional” and replacing it with the word “Extended” so that, as amended, subparagraph (e) part 3 shall read:

3. The parent or caretaker relative must continue to have a dependent child in the home in order to receive Extended Medicaid.

Rule 1200-13-20-.07 Family and Child Eligibility Groups is amended by inserting a new paragraph (14) Hospital Presumptive Eligibility so that, as amended, paragraph (14) shall read:

(14) Hospital Presumptive Eligibility.

(a) Definition: See Rule .02.
(b) Technical Requirements: See Rule .04. Self-attestation of citizenship, residency and Social Security Number (SSN) are accepted at application for presumptive eligibility.

(c) Special Eligibility Requirements: Self-attestation of pregnancy is accepted unless the State has information that is not reasonably compatible with such attestation.

(d) Household size is based upon the MAGI household composition Rule .06.

(e) Income Limitation: Household income must not exceed the income standard for the TennCare Medicaid category for which the individual’s presumptive eligibility is being determined.

(f) Resource Limitation: None.

(g) Effective Date of Eligibility: The date of determination by the qualified entity. The presumptive eligibility period ends either the last day of the month following the month a presumptive eligibility determination was made, or if a full Medicaid application is submitted before the end of the month following the presumptive application, eligibility continues until a determination is made on a complete Medicaid application, or as otherwise agreed to by the Single State Agency and CMS. Applicants are allowed one period of HPE every two calendar years for non-pregnancy-related categories. For pregnant women, one period of presumptive eligibility is allowed per pregnancy.


Rule 1200-13-20-.08 Aged, Blind or Disabled Categories paragraph (2) Disabled Adult Child subparagraph (c) is amended by deleting and replacing the subparagraph in its entirety so that, as amended, subparagraph (c) shall read:

(c) Special Eligibility Requirements: Disabled adult children who lose SSI eligibility after July 1, 1987 because of the receipt of or increase in DAC payments under Title II of the Social Security Act will remain eligible for Medicaid if the initial entitlement or increase under Title II, whichever caused the ineligibility for SSI, and any subsequent COLA and non-COLA increases, were disregarded. Individuals must have been age 18 or older when SSI terminated.

Rule 1200-13-20-.08 Aged, Blind or Disabled Categories paragraph (3) Pickle Passalong subparagraph (c) is amended by deleting the words “Social Security benefits” and replacing them with the acronym “OASDI” and is further amended by deleting parts 1 and 2 and renumbering part 3 as part 1 and deleting the word “and” after the phrase and punctuation “Social Security Act,” and is further amended by inserting new parts 2 and 3 and is further amended in part 4 by deleting the words “applicable cost of living adjustments” and replacing them with the language “COLAs received since the last month in which the individual was eligible for both OASDI and SSI” so that, as amended, subparagraph (c) and parts 1 through 4 shall read:

(c) Special Eligibility Requirements: TennCare Medicaid benefits are available to individuals who would be eligible for SSI payments if increases in their OASDI due to COLAs were disregarded. Individuals who meet all other non-financial and financial eligibility requirements remain eligible for TennCare Medicaid if they:

1. Currently receive OASDI authorized under Title II of the Social Security Act;
2. Are not currently receiving SSI;
3. Were entitled to both OASDI and SSI benefits in the same month after April 1977, and
4. Have countable income equal to or less than the current SSI Federal Benefit Rate after all COLAs received since the last month in which the individual was eligible for both OASDI and SSI have been deducted.

Rule 1200-13-20-.08 Aged, Blind or Disabled Categories paragraph (3) Pickle Passalong subparagraph (f) is amended by deleting the numbers and punctuation “1200-13-20-“ and replacing them with the word “Rule” so that, as amended, subparagraph (f) shall read:

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Effective Date of Eligibility: Eligibility begins on the Application File Date, according to Rule .05, or the date all eligibility requirements are met, whichever is later.

Rule 1200-13-20-.08 Aged, Blind or Disabled Categories paragraph (4) Widow/Widower subparagraph (c) is amended by deleting part 4 and renumbering subsequent parts appropriately and is further amended in part 7 renumbered as part 6 by deleting the words "up to" and replacing them with the word "under" so that, as amended, subparagraph (c) parts 4 through 6 shall read:

4. Would be eligible for SSI if the Widow/Widower entitlement and all subsequent COLAs were disregarded;
5. Is not entitled to Medicare Part A; and
6. Is at least age fifty (50) and under age sixty-five (65).

Rule 1200-13-20-.08 Aged, Blind or Disabled Categories paragraph (5) Institutional Eligibility subparagraph (c) is amended by deleting and replacing the subparagraph in its entirety so that, as amended, subparagraph (c) shall read:

(c) Special Eligibility Requirements. To gain eligibility in this category, applicants must:

1. Be in a medical institution at least thirty (30) consecutive days or meet nursing facility level of care according to Chapter 1200-13-01; or
2. Receive CHOICES HCBS or ECF CHOICES and meet the medical (level of care) eligibility criteria, according to Chapter 1200-13-01, to receive payments for long term services and supports through CHOICES.
3. An individual who receives hospice services in a nursing facility for any length of time or dies in a nursing facility or ICF/IIID prior to thirty (30) days of continuous confinement meets the 30-day continuous confinement requirement.

Rule 1200-13-20-.08 Aged, Blind or Disabled Categories paragraph (5) Institutional Eligibility subparagraph (d) is amended by deleting the language "Aged, Blind and Disabled" and replacing it with the acronym "ABD" so that, as amended, subparagraph (d) shall read:

(d) Household size is based upon the ABD household composition Rule .06.

Rule 1200-13-20-.08 Aged, Blind or Disabled Categories paragraph (5) Institutional Eligibility subparagraph (h) part 1 subpart (i) is amended by deleting the word "certain" and subparagraph (h) part 1 is further amended by deleting subpart (iii) in its entirety and replacing it with a new subpart (iii) so that, as amended, subparagraph (h) part 1 subparts (i) and (iii) shall read:

(i) Individuals who purchase a qualified long term care insurance policy may have assets disregarded in the determination of eligibility for TennCare. TennCare shall disregard an individual's assets up to the amount of payments made by the individual's qualifying long-term care insurance policy for services covered under the policy at the time of TennCare application.

(iii) Assets disregarded during the TennCare Medicaid eligibility determination process because the enrollee purchased an LTCP policy are protected from estate recovery. When the amount of assets disregarded during the TennCare Medicaid eligibility determination process are less than the total benefits paid by the LTCP policy, additional assets up to the total amount of payments made by the LTCP policy may be protected during the estate recovery process.

Rule 1200-13-20-.08 Aged, Blind or Disabled Categories paragraph (5) Institutional Eligibility subparagraph (h) part 3 is amended by deleting the second sentence and replacing it with a new second sentence so that, as amended, subparagraph (h) part 3 shall read:

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3. Funds used to purchase a loan, mortgage or promissory note after February 8, 2006 must be treated as a transfer of assets unless it has a repayment term that is actuarially sound, provides for payments to be made in equal amounts during the term of the loan with no deferral or balloon payment, and prohibits cancellation of the balance upon the death of the lender. If a nursing home applicant uses his funds to purchase a loan, mortgage or promissory note and the purchase agreement does not meet the criteria of this part, the amount of the asset transfer will be the outstanding balance due on the loan, mortgage or promissory note as of the date of the application for Medicaid.

Rule 1200-13-20-.08 Aged, Blind or Disabled Categories paragraph (5) Institutional Eligibility subparagraph (i) is amended by deleting the subparagraph in its entirety and replacing it with a new subparagraph so that, as amended, subparagraph (i) shall read:

(i) Transfer of Assets. A transfer of assets is transferring ownership of a resource for less than fair market value (FMV). An applicant requesting payment for LTSS shall not transfer assets for less than FMV on or after the look-back date. The look-back date is sixty (60) months prior to the first date an individual has both applied for Medicaid and is institutionalized or is determined to have met the requirements for HCBS. If an individual is found to have transferred an asset for less than FMV, he will be ineligible for payments for LTSS.

Rule 1200-13-20-.08 Aged, Blind or Disabled Categories paragraph (5) Institutional Eligibility subparagraph (i) is amended by inserting a new part 2 and renumbering subsequent parts appropriately so that, as amended, subparagraph (i) part 2 shall read:

2. An individual shall not receive a period of ineligibility to the extent that the assets:

(i) Were transferred to a trust established solely for an individual under age 65 and that meets the requirements of 42 U.S.C. §1396p(d)(4)(A);

(ii) Were transferred to a trust that meets the requirements of 42 U.S.C. §1396p(d)(4)(B); or

(iii) Were transferred to a trust established solely for the benefit of an individual under the age of 65 who is disabled according to the Social Security Administration and that meets the requirements of 42 U.S.C. §1396p(d)(4)(C). Trusts created pursuant to this section shall not include language disallowing repayment to the state in the event the claim exceeds the amount remaining in the trust.

(iv) All trusts may be subject to review annually or upon request for a full accounting by TennCare. Failure to respond to such requests or provide this information may result in the ineligibility of an individual.

Rule 1200-13-20-.08 Aged, Blind or Disabled Categories paragraph (5) Institutional Eligibility subparagraph (i) part 2 renumbered as part 3 subparts (i) through (iii) are amended by deleting the language “within sixty (60) months of application for institutional care” and replacing the language with “on or after the look-back date” so that, as amended, subparagraph (i) part 3 subparts (i) through (iii) shall read:

(i) If the transfer of assets occurs on or after the look-back date.

(ii) If the institutionalized individual, his spouse, or any person, court or administrative body with authority to act on behalf of, or at the direction or request of, the individual or his spouse, establishes a trust or similar device, which includes the individual’s assets and cannot be used by or for the individual’s benefit, if it occurred on or after the look-back date.

(iii) If an asset is held jointly by the institutionalized individual with another person and the individual or other owner reduces or eliminates the institutionalized individual’s ownership or control of the asset, if it occurred on or after the look-back date.

Rule 1200-13-20-.08 Aged, Blind or Disabled Categories paragraph (5) Institutional Eligibility subparagraph (j)
part 3 subpart (ii) is amended by deleting the subpart in its entirety and replacing it with a new subpart (ii) so that, as amended, subparagraph (j) part 3 subpart (ii) shall read:

(ii) The penalty period for individuals receiving nursing home care begins the date the individual is eligible for Medicaid and would otherwise be receiving LTSS through the CHOICES program but for a penalty or the first day of the month of the transfer, whichever is later. The penalty period for HCBS begins the date the individual meets all eligibility requirements and would otherwise be receiving LTSS through the CHOICES program but for a penalty or the first day of the month of the transfer, whichever is later. The penalty period runs consecutively even if the individual leaves the nursing home for a period of time and later returns. If a penalty period is imposed for new applicants, Medicaid requires a notice of penalty. If a penalty period is imposed on an individual who is already receiving Medicaid, a ten (10) day adverse action notice is required.

Rule 1200-13-20-.08 Aged, Blind or Disabled Categories paragraph (5) Institutional Eligibility subparagraph (I) is amended by deleting the punctuation "-" and replacing it with the punctuation "." and is further amended by deleting the words "Institutional Eligibility" and replacing them with the words "institutional services" and is further amended by adding new second and third sentences to the subparagraph and is further amended by inserting a new part 1 and renumbering subsequent parts appropriately so that, as amended, subparagraph (I) part 1 shall read:

(I) Patient Liability. Individuals determined eligible for institutional services are required to contribute to the cost of their care as a resident in a nursing facility or as a Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) recipient. Patient liability is calculated based on total income remaining after deductions in accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 435.725, 42 C.F.R. § 435.726, and the State Plan. Total income includes all amounts of income available to an individual from all sources, which are considered to be income for eligibility purposes, unless specifically excluded from post-eligibility under the State Plan or based on other Federal laws.

1. Post-Eligibility Treatment of Certain Payments from the Department of Veterans Affairs. VA improved pensions limited to $90 per month are not considered in the post-eligibility process. If an unmarried, childless veteran or the surviving, childless spouse of a veteran is in a state veterans home and receives a VA pension that exceeds $90 per month, the VA pension, including any payment made for aid and attendance or for unreimbursed medical expenses, is counted in total income and applied to the state veterans home's cost of providing nursing home care to the veteran or surviving spouse.

Rule 1200-13-20-.08 Aged, Blind or Disabled Categories paragraph (5) Institutional Eligibility subparagraph (I) part 2 renumbered as part 2 is amended by deleting the words "the individual's gross" and replacing them with the language "an individual's total" and is further amended in subpart (i) item (I) by deleting the punctuation "," and inserting the language "or ICF/IID. For an individual with greater need who participates in a sheltered workshop, subtract up to $100 of earnings plus $50 for the PNA." and is further amended in item (II) by inserting the punctuation and acronym ", ECF" following the acronym "PACE" so that, as amended, subparagraph (I) part 2 and subpart (i) items (I) and (II) shall read:

2. Patient liability is determined by allowing the following deductions from an individual's total income:

   (I) Nursing Facility. $50.00 PNA from the gross income of an individual in a nursing facility or ICF/IID. For an individual with greater need who participates in a sheltered workshop, subtract up to $100 of earnings plus $50 for the PNA.

   (II) HCBS, PACE, ECF and Self-Determination ID Waivers. PNA is three hundred percent (300%) of the SSI FBR.

Rule 1200-13-20-.08 Aged, Blind or Disabled Categories paragraph (5) Institutional Eligibility subparagraph (I) part 2 renumbered as part 3 is amended by deleting the punctuation "-" from the first sentence and replacing it with the punctuation "." and is further amended in subpart (ii) by repealing and replacing items (I) and (II) so that, as amended, subparagraph (I) part 3 and subpart (ii) items (I) and (II) shall read:

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3. Community Spouse Income Maintenance Allowance (CSIMA). When determining an institutionalized individual’s patient liability, an allowance is deducted from his income for the needs of the community spouse. The CSIMA is allowed unless specifically refused by the institutionalized spouse. Funds must actually be transferred to the community spouse in order to be deducted.

   (I) Standard Maintenance Amount (SMA): The poverty level standard used to determine the community spouse’s monthly maintenance needs. The SMA is 150% of the FPL for a household of 2. This is subject to annual change by CMS and released with SSI and Spousal Impoverishment Standards.

   (II) Maintenance Needs Standard: The minimum amount of monthly income necessary to meet the community spouse’s maintenance needs and prevent impoverishment. The Maintenance Needs Standard is determined by adding the SMA and the Excess Shelter Allowance (ESA). This is subject to annual change by CMS and released with SSI and Spousal Impoverishment Standards.

Rule 1200-13-20-08 Aged, Blind or Disabled Categories paragraph (5) Institutional Eligibility subparagraph (I) part 3 renumbered as part 4 is amended by inserting the language “living at home” between the word “dependents” and the punctuation “.” and is further amended by repealing and replacing subparts (i) and (iv) in their entirety and by renumbering subpart (v) as subpart (vi) and by inserting new subparts (vi) and (vii) so that, as amended, subparagraph (I) part 4 and subparts (i) and (iv) through (vii) shall read:

4. Dependent Income Maintenance Allowance (DIMA): When determining patient liability, an allowance is deducted from the individual’s income for the needs of his dependents living at home.

   (i) Dependent relatives include the individual’s or the spouse’s adult dependent children, parents, siblings, and minor children who are living at home.

   (iv) The DIMA for each additional dependent family member living with the community spouse is equal to one-third of the difference between the SMA and the dependent’s gross income.

   (v) DIMA Calculation: The dependent allocation(s) equals the SMA for the community spouse minus the dependent’s own gross countable income divided by 3.

   (vi) The DIMA for dependent relatives living in the home without a community spouse is determined based on the MNIS.

   (vii) DIMA Calculation: The dependent allocation is the MNIS for the household size if the total net countable income of the dependent(s) is less than the MNIS. No dependent allocation is given if the total net countable income of the dependent(s) is more than the MNIS for the household size.

Rule 1200-13-20-08 Aged, Blind or Disabled Categories paragraph (5) Institutional Eligibility subparagraph (I) part 4 renumbered as part 5 is amended by deleting the language “Item D” wherever it appears and replacing it with the language “Incurred Medical” and is further amended by repealing and replacing subpart (v) in its entirety and is further amended in part 5 and in subpart (vi) by inserting the numbers “435” before the punctuation and numbers “.726(c)(4)” and “.832” so that, as amended, subparagraph (I) part 5 and subparts (v) and (vi) shall read:

5. Incurred Medical Expenses: Expenses for medical or remedial care not subject to third party payment as defined at 42 C.F.R. §§ 435.726(c)(4), 435.726(c)(4) and 435.832, and outlined in the State Plan are allowable deductions. Criteria for Deduction of an Incurred Medical Expense:

   (v) Medical expenses incurred during a period of ineligibility and up to three months prior to the month of application may be allowable medical expenses.

   (vi) Deductions will be allowed in compliance with 42 C.F.R. §§ 435.725(c)(4), 435.726(c)(4),
and 435.832, and the State Plan.

Rule 1200-13-20-08 Aged, Blind or Disabled Categories paragraph (5) Institutional Eligibility subparagraph (m) part 1 subpart (iii) is amended by deleting the acronym "HCFA" and replacing it with the word "TennCare" so that, as amended, subparagraph (m) part 1 subpart (iii) shall read:

(iii) An assessment remains in effect until a TennCare application is filed, regardless of any interruptions in long-term care. If a resource assessment is completed and the individual applies for TennCare Medicaid, but is found ineligible, the original resource assessment is still valid if the individual applies again in the future.

Rule 1200-13-20-08 Aged, Blind or Disabled Categories paragraph (5) Institutional Eligibility subparagraph (m) part 2 is amended by deleting the acronym "CSMRA" and replacing it with the acronym "CSRMA" and is further amended in subpart (iii) by deleting the language "a HCFA Eligibility Appeals" and replacing it with the word "an" so that, as amended, subparagraph (m) part 2 and subpart (iii) shall read:

2. Community Spouse Resource Maintenance Allowance: The CSRMA is based on the spouses' combined countable resources documented in the Resource Assessment. The amount of the CSRMA is the greater of:

(iii) The amount determined by an Administrative Judge due to a hardship situation (extreme financial duress).

Rule 1200-13-20-08 Aged, Blind or Disabled Categories paragraph (5) Institutional Eligibility subparagraph (m) part 4 is amended by deleting the punctuation "-" so that, as amended, subparagraph (m) part 4 shall read:

4. Refusal of CSRMA. A community spouse who receives needs-based assistance may accept or decline all, some or none of the CSRMA if the allocation would cause the loss of or decrease in those program benefits. If the community spouse accepts only a portion of the CSRMA, the unclaimed portion of the CSRMA is counted as part of the institutionalized spouse's resources.

Rule 1200-13-20-08 Aged, Blind or Disabled Categories paragraph (5) Institutional Eligibility subparagraph (m) part 5 subpart (i) is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following language so that, as amended, subparagraph (m) part 5 subpart (i) shall read:

(i) CSRMA "Grace Period": Following a resource assessment and initial approval of eligibility, resources must be transferred within twelve (12) months of the approval. Both spouses must agree to the transfer in order to use the institutionalized spouse's share in determining his eligibility. The transfer may require conveyance of resources from the institutionalized individual to the community spouse, or vice versa.

(ii) Transfer Refusal. When the community spouse refuses to transfer resources to the institutionalized individual, the institutionalized spouse may still be eligible if on appeal the State finds that undue hardship circumstances exist.

Rule 1200-13-20-08 Aged, Blind or Disabled Categories paragraph (5) Institutional Eligibility subparagraph (m) part 5 subpart (iii) is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following language so that, as amended, subparagraph (m) part 5 subpart (iii) shall read:

(iii) CSRMA Appeals.

(I) When the Individual and/or Spouse Has Appeal Rights. Appeal rights are considered only after a TennCare application has been filed and either spouse alleges that the assessment or eligibility determination decision is not correct. An assessment completed exclusive of a filed application cannot be appealed, 42 U.S.C. § 1396r-5(e)(2)(A). Revisions to the spousal allowance of resources can be made by an Administrative Judge or by court order.
(II) CSRMA Revisions. The amount of the CSRMA may only be revised by an Administrative Judge or by court order, and only if additional verification/documentation is provided. The CSRMA may only be revised when:

I. The initial assessment was alleged to be incorrect and the Administrative Judge confirms the allegations;

II. An Administrative Judge determines a larger CSRMA is necessary to raise the community spouse's available income to the Maintenance Needs Standard or to an amount by which exceptional maintenance needs, established at a fair hearing, exceed the community spouse's income; or

III. A court order is received against an institutionalized spouse for the support of the community spouse and resources are transferred pursuant to the court order.

(III) Allocation of Additional Resources to the Community Spouse.

I. When Additional Resources May be Allocated to Community Spouse: In the event that the institutionalized spouse does not have enough income to provide the community spouse with sufficient income to meet the Maintenance Needs Standard and the CSRMA is not enough to offset the income shortfall, additional resources may be allocated to the community spouse by an Administrative Judge if the couple has additional resources above the community spouse's protected amount (CSRMA).

II. The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005 requires all States to allocate the maximum amount of available income of the institutionalized spouse to the community spouse before granting an increase in the CSRMA. This is referred to as the "income-first" method.

III. TennCare uses the Single Fixed Annuity model to address appeals when there is insufficient income to provide the community spouse with the Maintenance Needs Standard and the couple has additional resources. A single fixed annuity can turn a portion of an individual's savings into income payments made for the rest of the individual's life. The procedure for establishing a Single Fixed Annuity is listed below.

A. Additional resources may be allocated to the community spouse through the TennCare eligibility appeals process to make up any shortfall between the amount of income allocated from the institutional spouse to the community spouse and the Maintenance Needs Standard, if determined appropriate.

B. The amount of additional resources that are necessary to cover the income shortfall shall be determined in reference to the purchase of a Single Premium Annuity as follows:

   (A) By calculating the shortfall between the amount of income allocated and the Maintenance Needs Standard, and then determining the amount of additional resources that must be invested in a single premium annuity in order to generate the income necessary to cover the shortfall.

   (B) The amount of resources needed to cover the shortfall shall be determined in reference to an annuity calculator as adopted by TennCare.

   (C) Additional Resources may be allocated to the community spouse if the amount of resources needed to cover the shortfall is
greater than the CSRMA.

C. The additional resource allocation to the community spouse does not require the actual purchase of a Single Premium Annuity that is used for purposes of calculating the amount of the additional resource allocation.

D. If a single premium annuity is actually purchased pursuant to these rules, the annuity must comply with all other relevant requirements of state and federal law.

E. The amount of additional resources that are necessary to cover the shortfall shall not be determined in reference to any investment which contemplates the return of the entire principal at maturity.

Rule 1200-13-20-.08 Aged, Blind or Disabled Categories paragraph (5) Institutional Eligibility subparagraph (m) part 5 subpart (iv) item (II) is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following language so that, as amended, subparagraph (m) part 5 subpart (iv) item (II) shall read:

(II) Should the spouse who received the allocation according to the resource assessment then transfer the resource to someone else for less than FMV, the transfer will not be treated as a transfer of assets since the resources of a couple are treated separately after the establishment of Institutional Medicaid eligibility.

Rule 1200-13-20-.08 Aged, Blind or Disabled Categories paragraph (6) Medicare Savings Programs subparagraph (a) is amended in part 5 by deleting the word "Below" and replacing it with the phrase "At or below" and is further amended in part 6 by deleting the acronym "SSA" and inserting instead the acronym "CMS" so that, as amended, subparagraph (a) parts 5 and 6 shall read:

5. Income Limitations: At or below one hundred percent (100%) of the FPL.

6. Resource Limitations: Limits for an individual and couple as determined by CMS.

Rule 1200-13-20-.08 Aged, Blind or Disabled Categories paragraph (6) Medicare Savings Programs subparagraph (b) is amended in part 6 by deleting the acronym "SSA" and inserting instead the acronym "CMS" so that, as amended, subparagraph (b) part 6 shall read:

6. Resource Limitations: Limits for an individual and couple as determined by CMS.

Rule 1200-13-20-.08 Aged, Blind or Disabled Categories paragraph (6) Medicare Savings Programs subparagraph (c) is amended in part 6 by deleting the language "the SSA" and inserting instead the acronym "CMS" so that, as amended, subparagraph (c) part 6 shall read:

6. Resource Limitations: Limits for an individual and couple as determined by CMS.

Rule 1200-13-20-.08 Aged, Blind or Disabled Categories paragraph (6) Medicare Savings Programs subparagraph (d) is amended in part 7 by inserting the language "for an individual or a couple, as applicable" following the acronym "SSI" so that, as amended, subparagraph (d) part 7 shall read:

7. Resource Limitations: Resources not exceeding twice the maximum for SSI for an individual or a couple, as applicable.

Rule 1200-13-20-.08 Aged, Blind or Disabled Categories paragraph (7) Other subparagraph (a) is amended in part 5 by deleting the term "spend-down" and inserting instead the word "spenddown" so that, as amended, subparagraph (a) part 5 shall read:

5. Income Limitations: Household income must be less than or equal to the MNIS, based on household size. When household income exceeds the MNIS, based on household size, the individual must meet a spenddown obligation as outlined in the State Plan. See Rule .06.
Rule 1200-13-20-.09 Redetermination and Termination paragraph (1) is amended by deleting the term "CoverKids" and the language "Medicaid's Core Medicaid Population, and TennCare Standard" and inserting instead the language "Medical Assistance" following the word "TennCare" so that, as amended, paragraph (1) shall read:

(1) Redetermination of eligibility for TennCare Medical Assistance.

Rule 1200-13-20-.09 Redetermination and Termination paragraph (1) subparagraph (a) is amended by deleting the acronym "HCFA" and inserting instead the word "TennCare" so that, as amended, subparagraph (a) shall read:

(a) Redetermination or renewal is the process of verifying whether an enrollee continues to meet the eligibility requirements of a particular TennCare program.

Rule 1200-13-20-.09 Redetermination and Termination paragraph (1) subparagraph (a) is amended in part 1 by deleting the language "A TennCare Medicaid, TennCare Standard or CoverKids" and replacing it with the word "An" and by inserting the language "according to 42 C.F.R. § 435.916" between the word "months" and the punctuation and word "," absent" and is further amended by deleting part 2 in its entirety and is further amended by renumbering part 1 as subparagraph (b) and renumbering subsequent subparagraphs appropriately so that, as amended, subparagraph (b) shall read:

(b) An enrollee must have eligibility redetermined once every twelve (12) months, and no more frequently than once every twelve (12) months according to 42 C.F.R. § 435.916, absent a waiver from CMS.

Rule 1200-13-20-.09 Redetermination and Termination paragraph (1) subparagraph (c) renumbered as (c) is amended by deleting the words "the State" and inserting instead the word "TennCare" so that, as amended, subparagraph (c) shall read:

(c) Enrollees eligible for TennCare Medicaid as a result of being eligible for SSI benefits shall follow the Redetermination requirements of the SSA. Once SSI benefits are terminated, these enrollees will be reviewed by TennCare for eligibility in all other categories prior to termination.

Rule 1200-13-20-.09 Redetermination and Termination paragraph (1) subparagraph (c) renumbered as (d) is amended by deleting the language "Medicaid, TennCare Standard or CoverKids" wherever it appears and inserting instead the words "Medical Assistance" and is further amended by deleting the words "medical assistance" and replacing them with the words "Medical Assistance" so that, as amended, subparagraph (d) shall read:

(d) An enrollee's TennCare Medical Assistance eligibility shall be redetermined as required by the appropriate category of Medical Assistance as described in this Rule, unless otherwise agreed to by the Single State Agency and CMS. Prior to the termination of TennCare Medical Assistance eligibility, eligibility will be redetermined according to the following process:

Rule 1200-13-20-.09 Redetermination and Termination paragraph (1) subparagraph (c) renumbered as (d) part 1 is amended by deleting the acronym "HCFA" and inserting instead the word "TennCare" so that, as amended, part 1 shall read:

1. TennCare will redetermine eligibility prior to the expiration of the enrollee's current eligibility period.

Rule 1200-13-20-.09 Redetermination and Termination paragraph (1) subparagraph (c) renumbered as (d) part 2 is amended by deleting the acronym "HCFA" wherever it appears and inserting instead the word "TennCare" and by deleting the words "issue a" and inserting the language "complete an ex parte review of eligibility. A" and is further amended by deleting the words "to redetermine" and inserting the words "will be issued when ex parte review does not result in a finding of" and is further amended by deleting the language "Medicaid, TennCare Standard or CoverKids" and inserting the language "Medical Assistance" and is further amended by deleting the language "mail, fax or in person" and inserting instead the language "the same modes permitted for filing an application specified at Rule .05" so that, as amended, part 2 shall read:
2. TennCare will complete an ex parte review of eligibility. A renewal packet will be issued when ex parte review does not result in a finding of eligibility. TennCare Medical Assistance enrollees will be given forty (40) days, inclusive of mail time, from the date the notice is mailed to return the completed renewal packet to TennCare. The mail date will be the date on the notice. The enrollee may provide information by the same modes permitted for filing an application specified at Rule .05, or as otherwise agreed to by the Single State Agency and CMS.

Rule 1200-13-20-.09 Redetermination and Termination paragraph (1) subparagraph (c) renumbered as (d) part 3 is amended by deleting the acronym "HCFA" and inserting instead the word "TennCare" and is further amended by deleting the punctuation and number "(4)" so that, as amended, part 3 shall read:

3. TennCare will provide assistance with submitting a renewal form according to Rule .05.

Rule 1200-13-20-.09 Redetermination and Termination paragraph (1) subparagraph (c) renumbered as (d) part 4 is amended by deleting the acronym "HCFA" wherever it appears and inserting instead the word "TennCare" so that, as amended, part 4 shall read:

4. TennCare will use the individual's responses in the renewal packet to complete redetermination. TennCare will request additional verification, as needed, to complete redetermination. The request for additional information or verification will provide the enrollee with twenty (20) days, inclusive of mail time, to submit the requested information.

Rule 1200-13-20-.09 Redetermination and Termination paragraph (1) subparagraph (c) renumbered as (d) part 5 is amended by deleting the acronym "HCFA" and inserting instead the word "TennCare" and by deleting the language "Medicaid, TennCare Standard or CoverKids" and inserting instead the words "Medical Assistance" and is further amended by inserting the language "known to TennCare, or information" between the words "information" and "provided" and is further amended by deleting the language "in addition to information known to HCFA" and by deleting the word "new" so that, as amended, part 5 shall read:

5. If TennCare is able to renew eligibility in a TennCare Medical Assistance category based on information known to TennCare, or information provided in the renewal packet, and requested verifications, the agency will notify the enrollee and enroll him in the appropriate category.

Rule 1200-13-20-.09 Redetermination and Termination paragraph (1) subparagraph (c) renumbered as (d) part 6 is amended by deleting the word "Medicaid" from between the words "their" and "category" and replacing it with the language "Medical Assistance and is further amended by deleting the language "Medicaid categories and CoverKids" and inserting the language "Medical Assistance categories" and is further amended by deleting the language "Medicaid, TennCare Standard or CoverKids" and inserting the language "Medical Assistance" and is further amended by deleting the acronym "HCFA" wherever it appears and inserting instead the word "TennCare" so that, as amended, part 6 shall read:

6. Enrollees who respond to the renewal form within the forty (40) day period shall retain their eligibility (subject to any changes in covered services generally applicable to enrollees in their Medical Assistance category) while TennCare reviews their eligibility for open Medical Assistance categories. If TennCare determines that the enrollee is eligible for a TennCare Medical Assistance category, the agency will notify the individual as follows:

Rule 1200-13-20-.09 Redetermination and Termination paragraph (1) subparagraph (c) renumbered as (d) part 6 subparts (i) through (iii) are amended by deleting the acronym "HCFA" wherever it appears and inserting instead the word "TennCare" and subpart (i) is further amended by deleting the word "The" in the second sentence and by inserting the language "If the individual is enrolled in a different TennCare Medicaid category of eligibility, the" so that, as amended, part 6 subparts (i) through (iii) shall read:

(i) If TennCare determines that the enrollee is eligible for an open TennCare Medicaid category, the agency will notify the enrollee and he will be enrolled in the appropriate category. If the individual is enrolled in a different TennCare Medicaid category of eligibility, the previous category will be closed with no further notice to the enrollee.

(ii) If TennCare determines that the enrollee is eligible for a TennCare Standard category,
the agency will notify the enrollee and he will be enrolled in the appropriate category. Notification of enrollment into TennCare Standard will include notification of the denial of TennCare Medicaid eligibility.

(iii) If TennCare determines that the enrollee is eligible for CoverKids, the agency will notify the enrollee and he will be enrolled into the CoverKids program. Notification of enrollment into CoverKids will include the denial of TennCare Medicaid eligibility.

Rule 1200-13-20-09 Redetermination and Termination paragraph (1) subparagraph (c) renumbered as (d) part 6 is amended by adding a new subpart (iv) as follows:

(iv) If TennCare determines that the enrollee is eligible for MSP, the agency will notify the enrollee and he will be enrolled into the appropriate MSP. If an individual is determined eligible for MSP and ineligible for TennCare Medicaid, notification of enrollment in an MSP will include notification of the denial of TennCare Medicaid. Notification of enrollment into SLMB or Q11 will include notification of the denial of QMB eligibility.

Rule 1200-13-20-09 Redetermination and Termination paragraph (1) subparagraph (c) renumbered as (d) part 7 is amended by deleting the acronym “HCFA” wherever it appears and inserting instead the word “TennCare” and is further amended by deleting the language “Medicaid categories or CoverKids” and inserting instead the words “Medical Assistance categories” so that, as amended, part 7 shall read:

7. If an enrollee provides some but not all of the necessary information to TennCare to determine his eligibility for open Medical Assistance categories during the forty (40) day period following the mailing of the renewal packet, TennCare will request additional information or verification. The request for additional information or verification will provide the enrollee with twenty (20) days, inclusive of mail time, to submit the requested information.

Rule 1200-13-20-09 Redetermination and Termination paragraph (1) subparagraph (c) renumbered as (d) part 9 is amended by deleting the acronym “HCFA” and inserting instead the word “TennCare” and is further amended by deleting the language “Medicaid categories, TennCare Standard or CoverKids” and inserting instead the words “Medical Assistance categories” so that, as amended, part 9 shall read:

9. If TennCare makes a determination that the enrollee is not eligible for any open Medical Assistance categories, the enrollee will be sent a notice of termination informing the enrollee that coverage will be terminated twenty (20) days from the date of the termination notice.

Rule 1200-13-20-09 Redetermination and Termination paragraph (1) subparagraph (c) renumbered as (d) part 10 is amended by deleting the acronym “HCFA” and inserting instead the word “TennCare” and is further amended by deleting the language “for TennCare Medicaid, TennCare Standard or CoverKids” so that, as amended, part 10 shall read:

10. Enrollees who respond to the additional information or verification request after the requisite time period specified in those notices but before the date of termination shall retain their eligibility while TennCare reviews their eligibility.

Rule 1200-13-20-09 Redetermination and Termination paragraph (1) subparagraph (c) renumbered as (d) part 11 is amended by deleting the words “and verification” from the second sentence so that, as amended, part 11 shall read:

11. Individuals may provide the renewal packet, or additional information and verifications specified in the request for additional information and verification notice, up to ninety (90) days after termination of eligibility. Renewal packets or additional information received during the ninety (90) day reconsideration period will be processed without requiring a new application. Individuals terminated for failure to respond and subsequently determined eligible during the ninety (90) day reconsideration period will have eligibility reinstated as of the date of termination.

Rule 1200-13-20-09 Redetermination and Termination paragraph (1) subparagraph (c) renumbered as (d) is amended by deleting part 12 in its entirety.

SS-7039 (October 2018) 66 RDA 1693
Rule 1200-13-20-.09 Redetermination and Termination paragraph (2) is amended by deleting the language "Medicaid, TennCare Standard and CoverKids eligibility" and inserting instead the language "Medical Assistance" following the word "TennCare" so that, as amended, paragraph (2) shall read:

(2) Termination of TennCare Medical Assistance.

Rule 1200-13-20-.09 Redetermination and Termination paragraph (2) subparagraph (a) is amended by deleting the acronym "HCFA" and inserting instead the word "TennCare" and by deleting the word "State" and inserting the word "state" and is further amended by deleting the language "open Medicaid or TennCare Standard categories, or CoverKids" and by inserting the language "any open category of Medical Assistance or who receive a change in benefits or services" so that, as amended, subparagraph (a) shall read:

(a) TennCare will send termination notices to all enrollees being terminated pursuant to state and federal law who are not determined to be eligible for any open category of Medical Assistance or who receive a change in benefits or services.

Rule 1200-13-20-.09 Redetermination and Termination paragraph (2) subparagraphs (b) through (d) are amended by deleting the acronym "HCFA" and inserting instead the word "TennCare" so that, as amended, subparagraphs (b) through (d) shall read:

(b) Termination notices will be sent twenty (20) days in advance of the date the coverage will be terminated. Termination notices will be sent two (2) days in advance of the date coverage will be prospectively terminated when an enrollee requests termination. Termination notices will be sent to the TennCare address of record.

(c) Termination notices will provide enrollees forty (40) days from the date of the notice to appeal the termination and will inform enrollees how they may request a hearing. Appeals will be processed by TennCare in compliance with Chapter 1200-13-19.

(d) TennCare will reconsider eligibility after termination in compliance with 42 C.F.R. § 435.916(a)(3)(iii).

I certify that this is an accurate and complete copy of rulemaking hearing rules, lawfully promulgated and adopted by the Division of TennCare (board/commission/other authority) on 05/14/2019 (mm/dd/yyyy), and is in compliance with the provisions of T.C.A. § 4-5-222.

I further certify the following:

Notice of Rulemaking Hearing filed with the Department of State on: 9/20/18

Rulemaking Hearing(s) Conducted on: (add more dates) 11/14/18

Date: 5/14/19
Signature: 

Name of Officer: John G. Roberts
Title of Officer: Director, Division of TennCare

Agency/Board/Commission: Division of TennCare
Rule Chapter Number(s): 1200-13-20

All rulemaking hearing rules provided for herein have been examined by the Attorney General and Reporter of the State of Tennessee and are approved as to legality pursuant to the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act, Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

Herbert H. Slatery III
Attorney General and Reporter 5/22/2019 Date

Department of State Use Only

Filed with the Department of State on: 5/24/19
Effective on: 9/22/19

Tre Hargett
Secretary of State
Public Hearing Comments

TennCare received comments from 15 organizations and individuals in response to this rulemaking. The comments and TennCare’s responses to the comments are summarized below.

Nine commenters expressed concern about the use of the term “nursing facility” at Rule 1200-13-20-.08(5)(c) (pertaining to continuous confinement). These commenters recommended that TennCare use the term “institution” instead. TennCare agreed with the commenters’ recommendation and has updated the rule to say “medical institution.” This term correctly reflects the intent of the rule.

One commenter requested clarification as to whether TennCare will continue to treat Medicare Savings Program (MSP) renewal packets as new applications when they are returned after more than 90 days. TennCare confirmed that eligibility renewal packets received during the 90-day reconsideration period will continue to be processed without requiring a new application. All valid applications, including eligibility renewal packets returned after the 90-day reconsideration, will be processed.

Two commenters objected to the deletion of a provision in the rule that, in cases when an individual’s eligibility for TennCare has been terminated and he reapplies for coverage, reinstates the individual’s eligibility as of the termination date. These commenters recommended that this language be retained. TennCare agreed with the commenters’ recommendation and modified the rule accordingly to retain the provision in question.

One commenter recommended that TennCare implement a new waiver program for children with disabilities or other special healthcare needs. TennCare did not make any changes to the rule based on this comment, as it is outside the scope of this rulemaking.

One commenter objected to the application of transfer rules when applicants age 65 or older make transfers to pooled trusts. In response, TennCare clarified instances in which pooled trusts are excluded resources for purposes of determining Medicaid eligibility under federal law. TennCare declined to make the requested modification to the rule.

One commenter recommended that TennCare use a distinct and separate application for persons applying for TennCare coverage of long-term services and supports (LTSS). In response, TennCare noted its obligation under federal regulations to have a single, streamlined application for all Medicaid applicants, and that the questions on the single application for LTSS applicants are similar to the questions on previous TennCare applications. TennCare declined to modify the rule based on this comment.

One commenter commented on the definition of “Completed Application” in the rule and noted that nursing facilities often assist their residents with applications when family members or other responsible parties are not readily available to assist. In response, TennCare noted that federal regulations require an applicant’s name, signature, and mailing address, and that therefore this is a minimum requirement for TennCare to process an application. TennCare also noted that the rule allows the submission of an application by nursing facilities. TennCare did not modify the rule based on this comment.

One commenter noted that the term defined as an “Incurred Medical Expense” in the rule has been commonly and historically known in Tennessee as “Item D.” The commenter recommended the inclusion of a parenthetical reference to “Item D” wherever appropriate so the new term will be easily understandable by providers. TennCare agreed with the commenter’s suggestion and modified the rule to reflect this recommendation.

One commenter noted a requirement in the rule for enrollees to promptly (within 10 days) provide information to TennCare regarding any change of information affecting eligibility and urged TennCare to apply this requirement with flexibility. In response, TennCare noted its obligation under federal regulation to establish procedures for enrollees to report changes of information. TennCare also noted that it will also process changes reported after more than 10 days. TennCare did not modify the rule based on this comment.
One commenter recommended that the rule be modified so that applicants have 10 days from the actual receipt of a notice to provide verification information, rather than 10 days from the notice itself. In response, TennCare has modified the rule to allow 20 days (inclusive of mail time) from the date of the notice for individuals to provide verification information.

One commenter indicated his belief that some applicants have difficulty applying for TennCare. This commenter also noted TennCare's obligation to obtain necessary information from third parties, and that TennCare may not require an applicant to provide certain information unless such information cannot be obtained electronically. In response, TennCare noted that it does not request information from an applicant or member if TennCare can verify the information electronically; however, TennCare does request additional verifications when an individual reports information that is either inconsistent with, or cannot be verified by, electronic sources. TennCare did not modify the rule based on this comment.

One commenter noted that this rulemaking makes substantial revisions to the eligibility requirements for Medicaid coverage and requested that TennCare provide a table or other tool to explain the various changes. In response, TennCare noted that its current eligibility rules and the current rulemaking have all been publically available and promulgated through the processes specified in the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act. TennCare did not modify the rule based on this comment.

One commenter objected to the proposed deletion of language describing TennCare's role in providing additional assistance with appeals for individuals with disabilities or other health problems. TennCare agreed with the commenter's recommendation and has chosen not to proceed with the deletion of this language.

Three commenters submitted comments that were not related to any specific section of the rule. These commenters expressed a general desire for TennCare not to make any changes that would have a negative impact on applicants or members. TennCare thanked these commenters for their comments.
Regulatory Flexibility Addendum

Pursuant to T.C.A. §§ 4-5-401 through 4-5-404, prior to initiating the rule making process, all agencies shall conduct a review of whether a proposed rule or rule affects small business.

The rules are not anticipated to have an effect on small businesses.
Impact on Local Governments

Pursuant to T.C.A. §§ 4-5-220 and 4-5-228 "any rule proposed to be promulgated shall state in a simple declarative sentence, without additional comments on the merits of the policy of the rules or regulation, whether the rule or regulation may have a projected impact on local governments." (See Public Chapter Number 1070 (http://publications.tnsosfiles.com/acts/106/pub/pc1070.pdf) of the 2010 Session of the General Assembly)

The rules are not anticipated to have an impact on local governments.
Additional Information Required by Joint Government Operations Committee

All agencies, upon filing a rule, must also submit the following pursuant to T.C.A. § 4-5-226(i)(1).

(A) A brief summary of the rule and a description of all relevant changes in previous regulations effectuated by such rule;

The rules are being promulgated to revise the current rule chapter to conform the rules to updated processes and procedures for determining eligibility for TennCare. The updates being made to the TennCare application process are in conjunction with the operationalization of a new computer system designed specifically for processing applications for medical assistance. The amendments also reflect changes within the Division of TennCare, state law and federal regulations.

(B) A citation to and brief description of any federal law or regulation or any state law or regulation mandating promulgation of such rule or establishing guidelines relevant thereto;

The rules are lawfully adopted by the Division of TennCare in accordance with T.C.A §§ 4-5-202, 71-5-105, 71-5-106, 71-5-110, 71-5-111 and 71-5-117.

(C) Identification of persons, organizations, corporations or governmental entities most directly affected by this rule, and whether those persons, organizations, corporations or governmental entities urge adoption or rejection of this rule;

The persons and entities most directly affected these rule amendments are TennCare enrollees, providers, and managed care contractors. The governmental entity most directly affected by these rules is the Division of TennCare, Tennessee Department of Finance & Administration.

(D) Identification of any opinions of the attorney general and reporter or any judicial ruling that directly relates to the rule or the necessity to promulgate the rule;

The rules were approved by the Tennessee Attorney General. No additional opinion was given or requested.

(E) An estimate of the probable increase or decrease in state and local government revenues and expenditures, if any, resulting from the promulgation of this rule, and assumptions and reasoning upon which the estimate is based. An agency shall not state that the fiscal impact is minimal if the fiscal impact is more than two percent (2%) of the agency's annual budget or five hundred thousand dollars ($500,000), whichever is less;

The promulgation of these rules is not anticipated to have an impact on state and local government revenues and expenditures.

(F) Identification of the appropriate agency representative or representatives, possessing substantial knowledge and understanding of the rule;

Donna K. Tidwell
Deputy General Counsel

(G) Identification of the appropriate agency representative or representatives who will explain the rule at a scheduled meeting of the committees;

Donna K. Tidwell
Deputy General Counsel

(H) Office address, telephone number, and email address of the agency representative or representatives who will explain the rule at a scheduled meeting of the committees; and

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Nashville, TN 37243
(615) 507-6852
donna.tidwell@tn.gov
SS-7039 (October 2018) 73 RDA 1693
(I) Any additional information relevant to the rule proposed for continuation that the committee requests.

GW10118351.dkt.2.CR.dkt2.DS.ab.
1200-13-20-.01 Scope and Authority.

(1) This Chapter governs the processes for determining financial and categorical eligibility for the TennCare and CoverKids programs. This Chapter will refer to the programs collectively as TennCare, unless a specific process or requirement for TennCare Medicaid, TennCare Standard, the Medicare Savings Program or CoverKids differs from the general TennCare process or requirement. This Chapter preempts any other TennCare and CoverKids Rules pertaining to eligibility determination to the extent that they are in conflict.

(2) The Tennessee Medical Assistance Act of 1968 and Executive Order Number 23, dated October 19, 1999, designate the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration as the Single State Agency for purposes of administering Title XIX of the Social Security Act (Medicaid).

(3) The CoverKids Act of 2006 authorizes the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration to establish and administer a program to provide health care coverage to uninsured children under Title XXI of the Social Security Act (State Children’s Health Insurance Program — CHIP: "CHIP").

(4) Titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act, TennCare Medicaid Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver as may be amended, extended, or renewed in the future, and 42 C.F.R. Parts 431 and 435 require the designated State agency to provide for eligibility determinations for applicants seeking assistance and services provided through the programs.

1200-13-20-.02 Definitions and Acronyms.

(1) AAAD — Area Agency for Aging and Disability

(2) ABD — Aged, Blind or Disabled

(3) Access to Health Insurance (TennCare). See definition in Rule 1200-13-13-01. Access to health insurance through the Federally-Facilitated Marketplace (FFM) shall not constitute “access to insurance” for purposes of eligibility for TennCare.

(4) Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Account. An account established under 26 U.S.C.A. § 529A. ABLE accounts or 529A accounts are tax-advantaged savings accounts for individuals with disabilities that are established under a qualified ABLE program.

(5) Active SSI Recipient. An individual who has been found eligible to receive SSI benefits by the SSA.

(6) AFDC — Aid to Families with Dependent Children

(7) Aged. An individual age sixty-five (65) or older.
(8)—Aid-to-Families-With-Dependent-Children (AFDC)—The name of the cash-assistance program for families and children prior to the passage of the Personal Responsibility and Work-Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) in July 1996.

(9)—Annuities. Contracts or agreements that, in exchange for a lump sum payment or series of payments, provide for the payment of income at regular intervals, e.g., monthly, quarterly, annually, etc. Annuities establish a source of income for a future period and are often used in retirement planning.

(10)—Applicant. An individual who is seeking an eligibility determination for himself through an application submission or a transfer from another agency or insurance affordability program. For purposes of this Chapter, applicant also includes an individual who is seeking an eligibility determination for himself through an application for Medicare Savings Programs (MSP).

(11)—Application. The single, streamlined form developed for use for all insurance affordability programs, as required by 42 C.F.R. § 435.907(b), or the application form used in determining Medicaid eligibility for Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS), Hospice Care, and Medicare Savings Programs (MSP).

(12)—Application File Date. See Rule 05(5).

(13)—APTC—Advanced Premium Tax Credit

(14)—APTC/CSR—Advanced Premium Tax Credit/Cost Sharing Reductions

(15)—Authorized Representative. An Authorized Representative as defined at 42 C.F.R. § 435.923.

(16)—BCSP—Breast and Cervical Screening Program

(17)—Blind. An individual who is determined to be blind by the SSA.

(18)—Breast and Cervical Cancer (BCC). The Medicaid eligibility category defined at Section 1902(aa) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396a(aa)). This eligibility category covers individuals who have been found to have breast or cervical cancer through the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, who are under age sixty-five (65), do not otherwise have creditable coverage (including current enrollment in Medicaid), as the term is used under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) (§ 2701(c) of the PHS Act (42 U.S.C. § 300gg(c)), are not otherwise eligible for Medicaid or receiving TennCare Standard, and who are currently undergoing treatment for breast or cervical cancer.

(19)—Bureau of TennCare (Bureau). See definition in Rule 1200-13-13-.01.

(20)—Caretaker Relative. A relative of a dependent child by blood, adoption, or marriage with whom the child lives, assumes primary responsibility for the child's care, and is one of the following:

(a) The child’s father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, brother, sister, stepfather, stepmother, stepbrother, stepsister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, or niece; or

(b) The spouse of such caretaker relative, even after the marriage is terminated by death or divorce.

(21)—CCRC—Continuing Care Retirement Community

(22)—CHIP. The Children’s Health Insurance Program established by Title XXI of the Social Security Act.

(23)—CHOICES. TennCare CHOICES in Long-Term Care, as defined in Rule 1200-13-01-.02.

(24)—CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services). See definition in Rule 1200-13-13-.01.

(25)—Community Spouse. The legal spouse of an institutionalized individual. A community spouse may not reside in a medical institution or nursing facility.

(26)—Comprehensive Aggregate Cap-Waiver. See definition in Tennessee’s 1915(c) Home and Community Based Services Waiver.
(27) Completed Application. An application that meets the following criteria:

(a) All required fields have been completed;

(b) Signed and dated by the applicant, the applicant’s parent or guardian, an individual acting on behalf of the applicant, or an authorized representative;

(c) Includes all supporting documentation required by the Bureau to determine TennCare or CoverKids eligibility, including technical and financial requirements as set out in this Chapter; and

(d) If the application is for the TennCare Standard Medically Eligible category, it includes all supporting documentation required to prove TennCare Standard medical eligibility as set out in this Chapter.

(28) Continuous Eligibility. Enrollment in TennCare or CoverKids with no lapse in coverage.

(29) Core Medicaid Population. Individuals eligible under Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1396, et seq., with the exception of the following groups: active SSI recipients who are receiving benefits as determined by the SSA; individuals eligible for emergency services as an undocumented or ineligible alien; individuals in a presumptive eligibility period; and children in DCS custody, including DCS children who meet the criteria for immediate eligibility and those receiving adoption assistance payments.

(30) CoverKids. The name given to the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in Tennessee under T.C.A. § 71-3-1101.

(31) CoverKids Pregnant Women/Unborn Children. Provides maternity care coverage for pregnant CoverKids enrollees, including the unborn children of pregnant women with no source of coverage, who meet the CoverKids eligibility requirements.

(32) CSIMA — Community Spouse Income Maintenance Allowance

(33) CSRMA — Community Spouse Resource Maintenance Allowance

(34) DAC — Disabled Adult Child

(35) DCS — Department of Children’s Services


(37) DIMA — Dependent Income Maintenance Allowance

(38) Disabled. An individual who has been determined to be disabled by the SSA. An individual that meets conditions in Rule .08(5)(c).

(39) Disabled Adult Child (DAC). The Medicaid eligibility category defined in Section 1634(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1383c(c)).

(40) Effective Date. The first date of eligibility for purposes of health care services coverage and payment.

(41) Eligible. An individual who has been determined to meet the eligibility criteria of TennCare Medicaid, TennCare Standard, or CoverKids.

(42) Enrollee. An individual eligible for and enrolled in the TennCare program or in any Tennessee federal Medicaid waiver program approved by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Sections 1115 or 1915 of the Social Security Act or in the CoverKids program. (42 U.S.C. §§ 1315 or 1396n). For purposes of this Chapter, enrollee also includes individuals eligible for and enrolled in the Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs).

(43) Enrollment. The process by which a TennCare or CoverKids eligible individual becomes enrolled in TennCare or CoverKids.
(44) Exchange. A governmental agency or non-profit entity that meets the applicable Federal standards and makes Qualified Health Plans (QHPs), including TennCare and CoverKids, available to qualified individuals and/or qualified employers. Unless otherwise identified, this term includes an Exchange serving the individual market for qualified individuals and a Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) serving the small-group market for qualified employers, regardless of whether the Exchange is established and operated by a State (including a regional Exchange or subsidiary Exchange) or by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

(45) Extended Medicaid. Medicaid eligibility authorized for enrollees who lose Child Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI), Pregnancy MAGI, or Caretaker Relative MAGI eligibility due to increased receipt of spousal support, whose household income prior to losing eligibility was at or below the current Caretaker Relative MAGI income standard for three (3) of the six (6) months preceding the month of the increase in income.

(46) Families-First (FF). Tennessee’s Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program was created by the PRWORA in 1996. TANF became effective in July 1996 and replaced what was then commonly known as the AFDC program.

(47) Federal Data Services Hub. An electronic service established by the HHS to facilitate sharing of data and other information between federal agencies, State agencies, and other entities involved in administering Insurance Affordability Programs.


(49) Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The poverty level established annually by HHS.

(50) Federally Facilitated Marketplace (FFM). See “Exchange.”

(51) FEMA—Federal Emergency Management Agency

(52) FF—Families First

(53) FFM—Federally Facilitated Marketplace

(54) FFP—Federal Financial Participation

(55) Financially-Responsible Relatives (FRR). Principle of financial responsibility between spouses and/or parents to their children which is used in determining household composition, income counting and resource counting for certain Medicaid categories.


(57) FPL—Federal Poverty Level

(58) FRR—Financially Responsible Relatives

(59) Full-Time Student. A student is defined as a child under age twenty-one (21), unless otherwise specified in this chapter, attending primary or secondary school, college, university, or a course of vocational or technical training.

(a) A child retains his or her student status during official school vacations and breaks if the requirement prior to the vacation or break was met, and the student plans to return.

(b) A child who is receiving elementary/secondary or equivalent vocational/technical instruction from a homebound teacher meets student requirements.

(c) An elementary school is defined as a State-approved educational institution comprised of grade kindergarten through eighth grade.

(d) Participation in apprenticeships, correspondence courses, other courses of home study and rehabilitation programs other than academic, institutional, vocational or technical training do not
qualify a child as a student.

(e) A full-time student for college or university is an individual who is enrolled in at least twelve (12) credit or semester hours per semester. A part-time student is an individual who is enrolled in at least six (6) but less than twelve (12) credit or semester hours per semester. T.C.A. §§ 49-4-902(18) and (29).

(60) Group Health Insurance. An employee benefit plan to the extent that the plan provides medical care to employees or their dependents (as defined under the terms of the plan) directly through an insurance reimbursement mechanism. This definition includes those types of health insurance found in the Health Insurance Portability And Accountability Act of 1996, as amended, definition of creditable coverage (with the exception that the 50 or more participants criteria do not apply), which includes Medicare and TRICARE. Health insurance benefits obtained through COBRA are included in this definition. It also covers group health insurance available to an individual through membership in a professional organization or a school.

(61) HCBS—Home and Community Based Services

(62) HCFA—Health Care Finance and Administration

(63) Health Care Finance and Administration (HCFA). The State agency that oversees most of the health care related divisions within the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration, including the Bureau of TennCare, the Office of eHealth, the Cover Tennessee Programs and the Strategic Planning and Innovation Group.

(64) Health Insurance (for CoverKids).

(a) Health insurance including, but not limited to, basic medical coverage (hospitalization plans), major medical insurance, comprehensive medical insurance, short-term medical policies, mini-medical plans, and high-deductible plans with health savings accounts. For purposes of eligibility, other coverage includes Medicare, TennCare, TRICARE, employer-sponsored coverage.

(b) Health insurance shall not include the following:

1. CoverTN;

2. AccessTN;

3. Catastrophic health insurance plans that only provide medical services after satisfying a deductible in excess of $3,000.00 (or the maximum allowed deductible for a health savings account plan);

4. Dental-only plans;

5. Vision-only plans;

6. Benefits provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or the Indian Health Service;

7. Coverage under the State of Tennessee's Children's Special Services program; or

8. Medical insurance that is available to an enrollee pursuant either to the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) of 1986 (20 U.S.C. §§ 1181, et seq.) and which the individual declined, or to T.C.A. §§ 56-7-2312, et seq., and which the individual declined.

(e) Consistent with 42 U.S.C. § 1397jj(b)(2)(B) and 42 C.F.R. §§ 457.301 and 457.310(c)(1)(ii), health insurance shall not include State-administered or other medical coverage offered by means of a family member's employment with a local education agency (LEA) if the LEA does not make more than a nominal contribution (as defined at 42 C.F.R. § 457.310(c)(1)(ii)) to the premium for the dependent, who is applying (or re-applying) for coverage through CoverKids.

(65) Health Insurance (for TennCare).
(a) Health insurance, for purposes of determining eligibility under these Rules, shall mean:

1. Any hospital or medical expense incurred policy;
2. Medicare;
3. TRICARE;
4. COBRA;
5. Medicaid;
6. State health high-risk pool;
7. Nonprofit health care service plan contract;
8. Health maintenance organization (HMO) subscriber contracts;
9. Group Health Insurance;
10. Coverage available to an individual through membership in a professional organization or a school;
11. Coverage under a policy covering one individual or all members of a family under a single policy where the contract exists solely between the individual and the insurance company;
12. Any of the above types of policies for which:
   (i) The policy contains a type of benefit (such as mental health benefits) which has been completely exhausted;
   (ii) The policy contains a type of benefit (such as pharmacy) for which an annual limitation has been reached;
   (iii) The policy has a specific exclusion or rider of non-coverage based on a specific prior existing condition or an existing condition or treatment of such a condition;
13. Any of the types of policies listed in part 12 will be considered Health Insurance even if one or more of the following circumstances exists:
   (i) The policy contains fewer benefits than TennCare;
   (ii) The policy costs more than TennCare; or
   (iii) The policy is one the individual could have bought during a specified period of time (such as COBRA) but chose not to do so.

(b) Health insurance, for purposes of determining eligibility under these Rules, shall not mean:

1. Short-term coverage;
2. Accident coverage;
3. Fixed indemnity insurance;
4. Long-term care insurance;
5. Disability income contracts;
6. Limited benefits policies as defined elsewhere in these Rules;
7. Credit insurance;
8. School-sponsored sports-related injury coverage;
9. Coverage issued as a supplement to liability insurance;
10. Automobile medical insurance;
11. Insurance under which benefits are payable with or without regard to fault and which are statutorily required to be contained in any liability insurance policy or equivalent self-insurance;
12. A medical care program of the Indian Health Services (IHS) or a tribal organization;
13. Benefits received through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; or
14. Health care provided through a government clinic or program such as, but not limited to, vaccinations, flu shots, mammograms, and care or services received through a disease- or condition-specific program such as, but not limited to, the Ryan White CARE Act.


(67) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). See definition in Rule 1200-13-01-.02.

(68) Household Size. The number of individuals counted as members of an individual's household for purposes of determining eligibility for TennCare or CoverKids.

(69) ICF/IID – Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities.

(70) Immediate Eligibility (for DCS children only). An arrangement whereby children in the custody of the State who are presumed to be TennCare-eligible may gain TennCare eligibility while their applications are being processed.

(71) Inactive SSI Enrollee. Individuals whose SSI cash benefits have been terminated by SSA and who remain eligible for TennCare until they have been reviewed for coverage in other eligibility categories. Inactive SSI enrollees are not eligible for CHOICES.

(72) Incarcerated. The state of being confined in a local, State, or federal prison, jail, youth development center, or other penal or correctional facility, including the state of being on furlough from such facility.

(73) Individual Health Insurance. Health insurance coverage under a policy covering one individual or all the members of a family under a single policy where the contract exists solely between that individual and the insurance company.

(74) Infants and Children Under Age 19. The Medicaid eligibility categories defined at Sections 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(I), (IV), (VI), and (VII); 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(IV) and (IX); and 1931(b) and (d) of the Social Security Act, (42 U.S.C. §§ 1396a(a)(10)(A)(i)(II), (IV), (VI) and (VII)), 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii)(IV) and (IX); and 1396u-1(b) and (d)).

(75) Insurance Affordability Program. A program that is one of the following:

(a) TennCare.
(b) CoverKids.
(c) APTC/CSR for participation in a QHP available through the FFM.

(76) Institutional Eligibility. The eligibility category defined at Section 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(V), (VI) and (VII) of the Social Security Act, (42 U.S.C. § 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii)(V), (VI) and (VII)).

(77) Institutional Spouse. An institutionalized individual who is the legal spouse of a Community Spouse.
(78)—Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID). An institution described at 42 C.F.R. Part 483, Subpart I.

(79)—IRA—Individual Retirement Account

(80)—ITEM D. The term used in Tennessee to refer to the methodology for deducting incurred expenses for necessary medical or remedial care for institutionalized individuals in the post-eligibility phase of income defined at 42 C.F.R. §§ 435.725(c)(4), 435.726(c)(4) and 435.832.

(81)—Joint Custody. Legal custody of a child held simultaneously by two (2) or more caretaker relatives. The caretaker relatives must exercise care and control of the child.

(82)—Limited Benefits Policy. A policy of health coverage for a specific disease (e.g., cancer), or an accident occurring while engaged in a specified activity (e.g., school-based sports), or which provides for a cash benefit payable directly to the insured in the event of an accident or hospitalization (e.g., hospital indemnity).

(83)—Long-Term Care. See “Long-Term Services and Supports” (LTSS).

(84)—Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Program. See definition in Rule 1200-13-01-02.

(85)—LTSS—Long-Term Services and Supports

(86)—MAGI—Modified Adjusted Gross Income

(87)—Marketplace. See “Exchange.”

(88)—Medicaid. See definition in Rule 1200-13-13-01.

(89)—Medicaid Income Cap (MIC). Three hundred percent (300%) of the SSI Federal Benefit Rate.

(90)—Medicaid “Rollover” Enrollee. A TennCare Medicaid enrollee under the age of 19 who no longer meets eligibility requirements for Medicaid and who is afforded an opportunity to enroll in TennCare Standard according to the provisions of these Rules.

(91)—Medically Needy. The Medicaid eligibility category described at Section 1902(a)(10)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396a(a)(10)(C)).


(93)—Medicare. The program administered through the SSA pursuant to Title XVIII, available to most individuals upon attaining age sixty-five (65), to some disabled individuals under age sixty-five (65), and to some individuals that have End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) or Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

(94)—Medicare Buy-In. The process by which TennCare “buys” Medicare beneficiaries into the Medicare program. The Medicare buy-in consists of paying for some or all of a beneficiary’s Medicare premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance.

(95)—Medicare Savings Program (MSP). One of the programs under which low-income Medicare beneficiaries can get assistance from Medicaid for paying for some or all of their Medicare premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance. These programs include the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) program, the Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB) program, the Qualifying Individual (QI) program, and the Qualified Disabled and Working Individual (QDWI) program.

(96)—Member. See “Enrollee.”

(97)—MIC—Medicaid Income Cap

(98)—Miller Trust. See “Qualified Income Trust.”
(99) MNIS—Medically Needy Income Standard

(100) Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI). See definition at 42 C.F.R. § 435.603(e).

(101) MSP—Medicare Savings Program

(102) Newborn Presumptive. The Medicaid eligibility category described at 42 C.F.R. § 435.1102.

(103) Nursing Facility (NF). See definition in Rule 1200-13-01-02.

(104) PACE—Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly

(105) PACE Carryover Group. See definition in Rule 1200-13-01-02.

(106) PASS—Plan to Achieve Self-Support

(107) Patient Liability. See definition in Rule 1200-13-01-02.

(108) Payment for Emergency Medical Services. Eligibility authorized by Section 1903(v) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396b(v)).


(110) Pickle Passalong. The eligibility category defined at 42 C.F.R. § 435.135.

(111) Pregnant Women. For purposes of the Medicaid program, the Medicaid eligibility category defined at Sections 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(I), (IV) and (VII), 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(I), (IV), and (IX); and 1931(b) and (d) of the Social Security Act, (42 U.S.C. §§ 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii)(I), (IV), and (IX); and 1386u-1(b) and (d)); and 42 C.F.R. § 435.116.

(112) Presumptive Eligibility for Individuals with Breast or Cervical Cancer. Individuals presumed to be eligible for coverage under the Medicaid category authorized by Section 1902(aa) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396a(aa)) based on a determination by the Tennessee Department of Health or other qualified entity.

(113) Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women. Women presumed to be eligible for coverage in the category defined at Sections 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(I), (IV) and (VII), 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(I), (IV), and (IX); and 1931(b) and (d) of the Social Security Act, (42 U.S.C. §§ 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii)(I), (IV), and (IX); and 1386u-1(b) and (d)); and in 42 C.F.R. § 435.1103 by the Tennessee Department of Health or other qualified entity.

(114) Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). See definition in Rule 1200-13-01-02.

(115) QDWI—Qualified Disabled and Working Individual

(116) QHP—Qualified Health Plan

(117) QII—Qualifying Individual

(118) QIT—Qualified Income Trust

(119) QMB—Qualified Medicare Beneficiary

(120) Qualified Disabled and Working Individual (QDWI). An individual who is under age sixty-five (65), has lost free Medicare Part A coverage due to substantial gainful activity, has a disabling impairment, has the option to purchase Medicare Part A for an indefinite period of time, and for whom Medicaid pays the Medicare Part A premium, if income is not more than two hundred percent (200%) of the FPL and resources are not more than twice the SSI limit and is not otherwise eligible for Medicaid. Eligibility is authorized by Sections 1905(p)(3)(A)(i) and (s), and 1902(a)(10)(E)(ii) of the Social Security Act, (42 U.S.C. §§ 1396d(p)(3)(A)(i) and (s), and 1396a(a)(10)(E)(ii)).

(121) Qualified Health Plan (QHP). See definition at 42 USC § 18021.

(123) Qualified Long-Term Care-Insurance Policy. A long-term care-insurance policy issued on or after October 1, 2006, that has been pre-certified by the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance pursuant to Rule 0780-01-01 as:

(a) A policy that meets all applicable Tennessee Long Term Care-Partnership requirements; or

(b) A policy that has been issued in another Partnership State and which is covered under a reciprocal agreement between that State and the State of Tennessee.

(124) Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB). An individual who is entitled to and receives Medicare Part A and for whom Medicaid pays the Medicare Part A and Part B premium, coinsurance and deductible for Medicare-covered services, and whose income is not more than one-hundred percent (100%) of the FPL. Eligibility is authorized by Sections 1905(p) and 1902(a)(10)(E)(i) of the Social Security Act, (42 U.S.C. §§ 1396d(p) and 1396a(a)(10)(E)(i)).

(125) Qualifying Individual 1 (QI1). An individual who is entitled to and receives Medicare Part A, for whom Medicaid pays Medicare Part B premiums on a first-come, first-served basis, and who has income at least one hundred and twenty percent (120%) of the FPL but not more than one-hundred and thirty-five percent (135%) of the FPL. Individuals are not enrolled in TennCare Medicaid or TennCare Standard. Eligibility is authorized by Sections 1902(a)(10)(E)(i) of the Social Security Act, (42 U.S.C. § 1396a(a)(10)(E)(i)) and 42 U.S.C. § 1396u-3.

(126) Qualifying Medical Condition. A medical condition included on a list of conditions established by the Bureau which will render a qualified uninsured applicant medically eligible.

(127) Redetermination. The process by which the Bureau evaluates the ongoing eligibility status of TennCare Medicaid enrollees who are considered a part of the Core Medicaid Population, as well as TennCare Standard and CoverKids enrollees. This is a periodic process that is conducted at specified intervals. The process is conducted according to TennCare’s, or its designee’s, policies and procedures. This is also referred to as “Renewal.”

(128) Renewal. See “Redetermination.”

(129) Responsible Party(ies). The following individuals, who are representatives and/or relatives of recipients of medical assistance who are not financially eligible to receive benefits: parents, spouses, children, and guardians; as defined at T.C.A. § 71-5-103.

(130) Single State Agency (CoverKids and TennCare). The Department of Finance and Administration.

(131) SLMB—Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiary.

(132) Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB). An individual who is eligible for Medicare Part A and for whom Medicaid pays Medicare Part B premiums, if income is at least one hundred percent (100%) but not more than one hundred twenty percent (120%) of the FPL. Eligibility is authorized by Sections 1905(p)(3)(A)(ii) and 1902(a)(10)(E)(iii) of the Social Security Act, (42 U.S.C. §§ 1396d(p)(3)(A)(ii) and 1396a(a)(10)(E)(iii)).

(133) Spend-down. The process by which excess income is utilized for recognized medical expenses and which, when depleted, results in a determination of eligibility if all other eligibility factors are met for the Medically Needy categories.

(134) SSA—Social Security Administration

(135) SSI—Supplemental Security Income

(136) SSI—Related Groups. Individuals who have been found eligible in one of the following categories:

(a) Disabled Adult Children (DAC).
(b) Pickle Passalong.

(c) Widow/Widower.

(137) Standard Child Medically Eligible. An uninsured child under age nineteen (19) who is losing eligibility for Medicaid or currently enrolled in TennCare Standard, whose household income exceeds two hundred and eleven percent (211%) of the FPL, who does not have access to health insurance, and who has been determined medically eligible according to these Rules.

(138) Standard Child Uninsured. The TennCare Demonstration category defined as including individuals in the following groups:

(a) Uninsured children under age nineteen (19) who are losing eligibility for Medicaid, or are currently enrolled in TennCare Standard, who have household incomes at or below two hundred and eleven percent (211%) of the FPL, and who do not have access to health insurance; or

(b) Uninsured children under age nineteen (19) who have been continuously enrolled in TennCare Standard since December 31, 2001, who have family incomes at or below two hundred percent (200%) of the FPL, and who have not purchased insurance even if they have access to it. This is a "grandfathered" eligibility category. When an individual loses eligibility in this category, he will not be able to re-enroll in it.

(139) Supplemental Security Income (SSI). A federal income supplement program funded by general tax revenues and is designed to help aged, blind and disabled individuals who have little or no income. Applications for SSI benefits are filed at the Social Security office. Individuals who are eligible for SSI are automatically entitled to Medicaid (42 U.S.C. §§ 1382, et seq.).

(140) TANF—Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

(141) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). A program created by the PRWORA in 1996. TANF became effective in July 1996 and replaced what was then commonly known as the AFDC program. The name given to Tennessee's TANF program is Families First.

(142) TennCare. The program administered by the Single State agency as designated by the State and CMS pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act and the Section 1115 Research and Demonstration waiver granted to the State of Tennessee.

(143) TennCare CHOICES in Long-Term Services and Supports. The program described in Rule 1200-13-01-05. CHOICES is a benefit package available to TennCare enrollees who are eligible in the Institutional eligibility category or who are active SSI enrollees and who meet the requirements of the program set out in Chapter 4200-13-01.

(144) TennCare Medicaid. That part of the TennCare program which covers individuals eligible for Medicaid under Tennessee's Title XIX State Plan for Medical Assistance. The following individuals are eligible for TennCare Medicaid:

(a) Tennessee residents determined to be eligible for Medicaid according to this Chapter.

(b) Individuals who qualify as dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid are enrolled in TennCare Medicaid.

(c) A Tennessee resident who is an uninsured individual, under age sixty-five (65), a US citizen or qualified alien, is not eligible for any other category of Medicaid, and has been diagnosed as the result of a screening at a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) site with breast or cervical cancer, including pre-cancerous conditions.

(d) Tennessee residents determined eligible for SSI benefits and TennCare Medicaid by the SSA are automatically enrolled in TennCare Medicaid.
(145) TennCare Standard. That part of the TennCare Program which provides health coverage for Tennessee residents who are not eligible for Medicaid and who meet the eligibility criteria found in this Chapter.

(146) Tennessee Health Connection (TNHC). Working title of the entity contracted with TennCare to provide service center functionality, including a call center and document intake.

(147) Termination. See definition in Rule 1200-13-13-01. Also means the discontinuance of an enrollee’s coverage under the CoverKids program.


(149) TNHC—Tennessee Health Connection

(150) Transitional Medicaid. Medicaid authorized for enrollees who lose Child MAGI, Pregnancy MAGI, or Caretaker Relative MAGI due to increased earnings and whose household income prior to losing eligibility was at or below the current Caretaker Relative MAGI income standard for three (3) of the six (6) months immediately preceding the month of the increase in income.

(151) Uninsured. See definition in Rule 1200-13-13-01.

(152) Valid Application. Either the single application form for all insurance affordability programs or the application form for LTSS or MSPs. It must include contact information and be signed by the Applicant, a Responsible Party, or the Authorized Representative.

(153) WIA—Workforce Investment Act


1200-13-20-02 Definitions and Acronyms.

(1) Access to Health Insurance (TennCare). The opportunity an individual has to obtain group health insurance as defined elsewhere in these rules. If a person could have enrolled in work-related or other group health insurance during an employer’s or group’s open enrollment period and chose not to enroll (or had the choice made for him by a family member) that person shall not be considered to lack access to insurance upon closure of the open enrollment period. Neither the cost of an insurance policy or health plan nor the fact that an insurance policy is not as comprehensive as that of the TennCare Program shall be considered in determining eligibility to enroll in any TennCare category where being uninsured is an eligibility prerequisite. Access to health insurance through the Federally Facilitated Marketplace (FFM) shall not constitute “access to insurance” for purposes of eligibility for TennCare.

(2) Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Account. An account established under 26 U.S.C.A. § 529A. ABLE accounts or 529A accounts are tax-advantaged savings accounts for individuals with disabilities that are established under a qualified ABLE program.

(3) Active SSI Recipient. An individual who has been found eligible to receive SSI benefits by the SSA.

(4) Aged. An individual age sixty-five (65) or older.

(5) Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC). The name of the cash assistance program for families and children prior to the passage of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) in July 1996.

(6) Annuities. Contracts or agreements that, in exchange for a lump sum payment or series of payments, provide for the payment of income at regular intervals, e.g., monthly, quarterly, annually, etc. Annuities establish a source of income for a future period and are often used in retirement planning.

(7) Applicant. An individual who is seeking an eligibility determination for himself through an application submission or a transfer from another agency or insurance affordability program. For purposes of this
Chapter, applicant also includes an individual who is seeking an eligibility determination for himself through an application for Medicare Savings Programs (MSP).

(8) Application. The single, streamlined form developed for use for all insurance affordability programs, as required by 42 C.F.R. § 435.907(b).

(9) Application File Date. See Rule .05(5).

(10) Authorized Representative. An Authorized Representative as defined at 42 C.F.R. § 435.923.

(11) Blind. An individual who is determined to be blind by the SSA.

(12) Breast and Cervical Cancer (BCC). The Medicaid eligibility category defined at Section 1902(aa) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396a(aa)). This eligibility category covers individuals who have been found to have breast or cervical cancer through the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, who are under age sixty-five (65), do not otherwise have creditable coverage (including current enrollment in Medicaid), as the term is used under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) § 2701(c) of the PHS Act (42 U.S.C. § 300gg(c)), are not otherwise eligible for Medicaid or receiving TennCare Standard, and who are currently undergoing treatment for breast or cervical cancer.

(13) Bureau of TennCare (Bureau). The agency within the Division of TennCare which directly administers the TennCare program.

(14) Caretaker Relative. A relative of a dependent child by blood, adoption, or marriage with whom the child lives, assumes primary responsibility for the child’s care, and is one of the following:

(a) The child’s father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, brother, sister, stepfather, stepmother, stepbrother, stepsister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, or niece; or

(b) The spouse of such caretaker relative, even after the marriage is terminated by death or divorce.

(15) Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Established by Title XXI of the Social Security Act and administratively included in the Division of TennCare.

(16) CHOICES. TennCare CHOICES in Long-Term Services and Supports, as defined in Rule 1200-13-01-.02.


(18) Community Spouse. The legal spouse of an institutionalized individual. A community spouse may not reside in a medical institution or nursing facility.

(19) Comprehensive Aggregate Cap Waiver. See definition in Tennessee’s 1915(c) Home and Community Based Services Waiver.

(20) Completed Application. An application that meets the following criteria:

(a) All required fields have been completed;

(b) Is signed and dated by the applicant, the applicant’s parent or guardian, an individual acting on behalf of the applicant, or an authorized representative;

(c) Includes all supporting documentation required by the Bureau to determine TennCare, Medicare Savings Program or CoverKids eligibility, including technical and financial requirements as set out in this Chapter; and

(d) If the application is for the TennCare Standard Medically Eligible category, it includes all supporting documentation required to prove TennCare Standard medical eligibility as set out in this Chapter.

(21) Core Medicaid Population. Individuals eligible under Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1396, et seq., with the exception of the following groups: active SSI recipients who are receiving benefits as determined by the SSA; individuals eligible for emergency services as an undocumented or ineligible alien.
individuals in a presumptive eligibility period, and children in DCS custody, including DCS children who meet the criteria for immediate eligibility and those receiving adoption assistance payments.

(22) CoverKids. The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in Tennessee under T.C.A. § 71-3-1101.

(23) CoverKids Pregnant Women (formerly referred to as “CoverKids Pregnant Women/Unborn Children”). Provides coverage for the unborn children of pregnant women with no source of coverage, who meet the CoverKids eligibility requirements.

(24) Deemed Newborn. An individual eligible in a Medicaid category authorized by Section 1902(e)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396a(e)(4)) and 42 C.F.R. § 435.117. A child is eligible for Medicaid in this category from birth until the child’s first birthday without application if, on the date of the child’s birth, the child’s mother was eligible for and received covered Medicaid services.

(25) Disabled. An individual who has been determined to be disabled by the SSA or meets conditions in Rule 08(5)(c).

(26) Disabled Adult Child (DAC). The Medicaid eligibility category defined in Section 1634(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1383c(c)).

(27) Division of TennCare. The Agency established within the Department of Finance and Administration to consolidate and administratively coordinate multiple health care programs, including the Bureau of TennCare and CoverKids.

(28) Effective Date. The first date of eligibility for purposes of health care services coverage and payment.

(29) Eligible. An individual who has been determined to meet the eligibility criteria for medical assistance under Tennessee’s State Plan or in any Tennessee federal Medicaid waiver program approved by the Secretary of the HHS pursuant to Sections 1115 or 1915 of the Social Security Act or in the CoverKids program. (42 U.S.C. §§ 1315 or 1396n).

(30) Enrollee. An individual eligible for and enrolled in the TennCare program or in any Tennessee federal Medicaid waiver program approved by the Secretary of the HHS pursuant to Sections 1115 or 1915 of the Social Security Act or in the CoverKids program. (42 U.S.C. §§ 1315 or 1396n). For purposes of this Chapter, enrollee also includes individuals eligible for and enrolled in the Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs).

(31) Enrollment. The process by which a TennCare, CoverKids, or Medicare Savings Program eligible individual becomes enrolled in TennCare, CoverKids or a Medicare Savings Program.

(32) Exchange. A governmental agency or non-profit entity that meets the applicable Federal standards and makes Qualified Health Plans (QHPs), including TennCare and CoverKids, available to qualified individuals and/or qualified employers. Unless otherwise identified, this term includes an Exchange serving the individual market for qualified individuals and a Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) serving the small group market for qualified employers, regardless of whether the Exchange is established and operated by a State (including a regional Exchange or subsidiary Exchange) or by the HHS.

(33) Extended Medicaid. Medicaid eligibility authorized for enrollees who lose Child Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) or Caretaker Relative MAGI eligibility due to increased receipt of spousal support, whose household income prior to losing eligibility was at or below the current Caretaker Relative MAGI income standard for three (3) of the six (6) months preceding the month of the increase in income.

(34) Families First (FF). Tennessee’s Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

(35) Federal Data Services Hub. An electronic service established by the HHS to facilitate sharing of data and other information between federal agencies, State agencies, and other entities involved in administering Insurance Affordability Programs.


(37) Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The poverty level established annually by HHS.
(38) Federally Facilitated Marketplace (FFM). See “Exchange.”

(39) Financially Responsible Relatives (FRR). Principle of financial responsibility that exists between spouses and of parents to their children which is used in determining household composition, income counting and resource counting for certain Medicaid categories.


(41) Group Health Insurance. An employee benefit plan to the extent that the plan provides medical care to employees or their dependents (as defined under the terms of the plan) directly through an insurance reimbursement mechanism. This definition includes those types of health insurance found in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, as amended, definition of creditable coverage (with the exception that the 50-or-more participants criteria do not apply), which includes Medicare and TRICARE. Health insurance benefits obtained through COBRA are included in this definition. It also covers group health insurance available to an individual through membership in a professional organization or a school.

(42) Health Insurance (for CoverKids).

(a) Health insurance, for purposes of determining eligibility for CoverKids under this Chapter, shall mean:

1. Basic medical coverage (hospitalization plans);
2. Major medical insurance;
3. Comprehensive medical insurance;
4. Short-term medical policies;
5. Mini-medical plans;
6. High-deductible plans with health savings accounts; or
7. Other coverage including Medicare, TennCare, TRICARE, and employer-sponsored coverage.

(b) Health insurance, for purposes of determining eligibility for CoverKids under this Chapter, shall not include the following:

1. AccessTN;
2. Catastrophic health insurance plans that only provide medical services after satisfying a deductible in excess of $3,000.00 (or the maximum allowed deductible for a health savings account plan);
3. Dental-only plans;
4. Vision-only plans;
5. Benefits provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or the Indian Health Service;
6. Coverage under the State of Tennessee’s Children’s Special Services program; or
7. Medical insurance that is available to an enrollee pursuant either to the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) of 1986 (29 U.S.C. §§ 1161, et seq.) and which the individual declined, or to T.C.A. §§ 56-7-2312, et seq., and which the individual declined.

(c) Consistent with 42 U.S.C. § 1397jj(b)(2)(B) and 42 C.F.R. §§ 457.301 and 457.310(c)(1)(ii), health insurance shall not include State-administered or other medical coverage offered by means of a family member’s employment with a local education agency (LEA) if the LEA does not make more
than a nominal contribution (as defined at 42 C.F.R. § 457.310(c)(1)(ii)) to the premium for the
dependent, who is applying (or re-applying) for coverage through CoverKids.

(43) Health Insurance (for TennCare).

(a) Health insurance, for purposes of determining eligibility for TennCare under this Chapter, shall mean:

1. Any hospital or medical expense-incurred policy;
2. Medicare;
3. TRICARE;
4. COBRA;
5. Medicaid;
6. State health high-risk pool;
7. Nonprofit health care service plan contract;
8. Health maintenance organization (HMO) subscriber contracts;
9. Group Health Insurance;
10. Coverage available to an individual through membership in a professional organization or a school;
11. Coverage under a policy covering one individual or all members of a family under a single policy where the contract exists solely between the individual and the insurance company;
12. Policies listed in parts 1 through 11 which include any of the following are health insurance:
   (i) The policy contains a type of benefit (such as mental health benefits) which has been completely exhausted;
   (ii) The policy contains a type of benefit (such as pharmacy) for which an annual limitation has been reached; or
   (iii) The policy has a specific exclusion or rider of non-coverage based on a specific prior existing condition or an existing condition or treatment of such a condition.
13. Any of the types of policies listed in this subparagraph will be considered Health Insurance even if one or more of the following circumstances exists:
   (i) The policy contains fewer benefits than TennCare;
   (ii) The policy costs more than TennCare; or
   (iii) The policy is one the individual could have bought during a specified period of time (such as COBRA) but chose not to do so.

(b) Health insurance, for purposes of determining eligibility under these Rules, shall not mean:

1. Short term coverage;
2. Accident coverage;
3. Fixed indemnity insurance;
4. Long-term care insurance.
5. Disability income contracts;
6. Limited benefits policies as defined elsewhere in this Rule;
7. Credit insurance;
8. School-sponsored sports-related injury coverage;
9. Coverage issued as a supplement to liability insurance;
10. Automobile medical insurance;
11. Insurance under which benefits are payable with or without regard to fault and which are
   statutorily required to be contained in any liability insurance policy or equivalent self-insurance;
12. A medical care program of the Indian Health Services (IHS) or a tribal organization;
13. Benefits received through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs;
14. Health care provided through a government clinic or program such as, but not limited to,
   vaccinations, flu shots, mammograms, and care or services received through a disease- or
   condition-specific program such as, but not limited to, the Ryan White CARE Act.

(44) Health Insurance Marketplace, also referred to as the "Marketplace", "Exchange" or "Federally Facilitated
   Marketplace". See "Exchange."

(45) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). See definition in Rule 1200-13-01-.02.

(46) Hospital Presumptive Eligibility (HPE). Medicaid eligibility determined pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 435.1110.

(47) Household Size. The number of individuals counted as members of an individual's household for purposes
   of determining eligibility for TennCare.

(48) Immediate Eligibility (for DCS children only). An arrangement whereby children in the custody of the State
   who are presumed to be TennCare-eligible may gain TennCare eligibility while their applications are being
   processed.

(49) Inactive SSI Enrollee. Individuals whose SSI cash benefits have been terminated by SSA and who remain
   eligible for TennCare until they have been reviewed for coverage in other eligibility categories. Inactive SSI
   enrollees are not eligible for CHOICES.

(50) Incarcerated. The state of being involuntarily confined in a local, State, or federal prison, jail, youth
   development center, or other penal or correctional facility, including the state of being on furlough from such
   facility.

(51) Incurred Medical Expense. The term used in Tennessee to refer to the methodology for deducting
   expenses incurred for necessary medical or remedial care for institutionalized individuals in the post-
   eligibility phase of income. Previously known as "Item D". See 42 C.F.R. §§ 435.725(c)(4), 435.726(c)(4) and
   435.832(c)(4).

(52) Infants and Children Under Age 19. The Medicaid eligibility categories defined at Sections
   1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(III), (IV), (V), (VI), and (VII); 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(IV) and (IX); and 1931(b) and (d) of the Social
   Security Act, (42 U.S.C. §§ 1396a(a)(10)(A)(i)(III), (IV), (VI) and (VII); 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii)(IV) and (IX), and
   1396u-1(b) and (d)).

(53) Insurance Affordability Program. A program that is one of the following:
   (a) TennCare.
   (b) CoverKids.
(c) APTC/CSR for participation in a QHP available through the FFM.

(54) Institutional Eligibility. The eligibility category defined at Section 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(V), (VI) and (VII) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii)(V), (VI) and (VII)).

(55) Institutional Spouse. An institutionalized individual who is the legal spouse of a Community Spouse.

(56) Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID). An institution described at 42 C.F.R. Part 483, Subpart I.

(57) Joint Custody. Legal custody of a child held simultaneously by two (2) or more caretaker relatives. The caretaker relatives must exercise care and control of the child.

(58) Limited Benefits Policy. A policy of health coverage for a specific disease (e.g., cancer), or an accident occurring while engaged in a specified activity (e.g., school-based sports), or which provides for a cash benefit payable directly to the insured in the event of an accident or hospitalization (e.g., hospital indemnity).

(59) Long-Term Care. See "Long-Term Services and Supports" (LTSS).

(60) Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Program. See definition in Rule 1200-13-01-.02.

(61) Marketplace. See "Exchange."

(62) Medicaid. The federal- and state-financed, state-run program of medical assistance pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act. Medicaid eligibility in Tennessee is determined by TennCare. Tennessee residents determined eligible for SSI benefits by the Social Security Administration are also enrolled in Tennessee's TennCare Medicaid program.

(63) Medicaid Income Cap (MIC). Three hundred percent (300%) of the SSI Federal Benefit Rate.

(64) Medicaid "Rollover" Enrollee. A TennCare Medicaid enrollee under the age of 19 who no longer meets eligibility requirements for Medicaid and who is afforded an opportunity to enroll in TennCare Standard according to the provisions of these Rules.

(65) Medical Assistance. All categories for which TennCare is authorized to make an eligibility determination, including Medicaid and MSP categories, CHIP, and categories granted under TennCare's Demonstration Agreement with CMS.

(66) Medically Needy. The Medicaid eligibility category described at Section 1902(a)(10)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396a(a)(10)(C)).


(68) Medicare. The program administered through the SSA pursuant to Title XVIII, available to most individuals upon attaining age sixty-five (65), to some disabled individuals under age sixty-five (65), and to some individuals that have End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) or Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), as determined by the SSA.

(69) Medicare Buy-In. The process by which TennCare "buys" Medicare beneficiaries into the Medicare program. The Medicare buy-in consists of paying for some or all of a beneficiary's Medicare premiums, deductibles, or coinsurance.

(70) Medicare Savings Program (MSP). One of the programs under which low-income Medicare beneficiaries can get assistance from Medicaid for paying for some or all of their Medicare premiums, deductibles or coinsurance. These programs include the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) program, the Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB) program, the Qualifying Individual (QI) program and the Qualified Disabled and Working Individual (QDWI) program.

(71) Miller Trust. See "Qualified Income Trust."
(72) **Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI)**. See definition at 42 C.F.R. § 435.603(e).

(73) **Nursing Facility (NF)**. See definition in Rule 1200-13-01-02.

(74) **PACE Carryover Group**. See definition in Rule 1200-13-01-02.

(75) **Patient Liability**. See definition in Rule 1200-13-01-02.

(76) **Payment for Emergency Medical Services**. Eligibility authorized by Section 1903(v) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396b(v)).

(77) **Personal Needs Allowance (PNA)**. A reasonable amount of money that is deducted by TennCare from the individual's funds pursuant to federal and State law and the Medicaid State Plan in the application of post-eligibility provisions and the calculation of Patient Liability for LTSS. The PNA is set aside for clothing and other personal needs of the individual while in the institution (Institutional PNA) and to also pay room, board and other living expenses in the community (Community PNA).

(78) **Pickle Passalong**. The eligibility category defined at 42 C.F.R. § 435.135.

(79) **Pregnant Women**. For purposes of the Medicaid program, the Medicaid eligibility category defined at Sections 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(III), (IV) and (VII); 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(I), (IV) and (IX); and 1931(b) and (d) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 1396a(a)(10)(A)(i)(III), (IV), and (VII); 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii)(I), (IV) and (IX); and 1396u-1(b) and (d)); and 42 C.F.R. § 435.116.

(80) **Presumptive Eligibility for Individuals with Breast or Cervical Cancer**. Individuals presumed to be eligible for coverage under the Medicaid category authorized by Section 1902(aa) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396a(aa)) based on a determination by the Tennessee Department of Health or other qualified entity.

(81) **Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women**. Women presumed to be eligible for coverage in the category defined at Sections 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(III), (IV) and (VII); 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(I), (IV) and (IX), and 1931(b) and (d) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 1396a(a)(10)(A)(i)(III), (IV), and (VII); 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii)(I), (IV) and (IX); and 1396u-1(b) and (d)); and 42 U.S.C. §§ 1396d(p)(3)(A)(i) and (s); and 1396a(a)(10)(E)(ii)).

(82) **Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)**. See definition in Rule 1200-13-01-02.

(83) **Qualified Disabled and Working Individual (QDWI)**. An individual who is under age sixty-five (65), has lost free Medicare Part A coverage due to substantial gainful activity, has a disabling impairment, has the option to purchase Medicare Part A for an indefinite period of time, and for whom Medicaid pays the Medicare Part A premium, if income is not more than two hundred percent (200%) of the FPL and resources are not more than twice the SSI limit and is not otherwise eligible for Medicaid. Eligibility is authorized by Sections 1905(p)(3)(A)(i) and (s); and 1902(a)(10)(E)(ii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 1396d(p)(3)(A)(i) and (s); and 1396a(a)(10)(E)(ii)).

(84) **Qualified Health Plan (QHP)**. See definition at 42 U.S.C. § 18021.

(85) **Qualified Income Trust (QIT)**. The trust defined at 42 U.S.C. § 1396p(d)(4)(B).

(86) **Qualified Long-Term Care Insurance Partnership Policy (LTCP)**. A long-term care insurance policy issued on or after October 1, 2008, that has been pre-certified by the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance pursuant to Rule 0780-01-61 as:

   (a) A policy that meets all applicable Tennessee Long Term Care Partnership requirements; or

   (b) A policy that has been issued in another Partnership State and which is covered under a reciprocal agreement between that State and the State of Tennessee.

(87) **Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB)**. An individual who is entitled to Medicare Part A and for whom Medicaid pays the Medicare Part A and Part B premium, coinsurance and deductible for Medicare-covered services, and whose income is not more than one hundred percent (100%) of the FPL. Eligibility is...
authorized by Sections 1905(p) and 1902(a)(10)(E)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 1396d(p) and 1396a(a)(10)(E)(i)).

(88) Qualifying Individual 1 (QI1). An individual who is entitled to Medicare Part A, for whom Medicaid pays Medicare Part B premiums on a first-come, first-served basis, and who has income at least one hundred and twenty percent (120%) of the FPL but less than one hundred and thirty-five percent (135%) of the FPL. Individuals are not enrolled in TennCare Medicaid or TennCare Standard. Eligibility is authorized by Section 1902(a)(10)(E)(iv) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396a(a)(10)(E)(iv)) and 42 U.S.C. § 1396u-3.

(89) Qualifying Medical Condition. A medical condition included on a list of conditions established by TennCare which will render a qualified uninsured applicant medically eligible.

(90) Redetermination. The process by which TennCare evaluates the ongoing eligibility status of TennCare Medicaid enrollees who are considered a part of the Core Medicaid Population, as well as TennCare Standard and CoverKids enrollees. This is a periodic process that is conducted at specified intervals. The process is conducted according to TennCare's, or its designee's, policies and procedures. This is also referred to as "Renewal."

(91) Renewal. See "Redetermination."

(92) Responsible Party(ies). The following individuals, who are representatives and/or relatives of recipients of medical assistance who are not financially eligible to receive benefits: parents, spouses, children, and guardians; as defined at T.C.A. § 71-5-103.

(93) Single State Agency (CoverKids and TennCare). The Department of Finance and Administration.

(94) Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB). An individual who is eligible for Medicare Part A and for whom Medicaid pays Medicare Part B premiums, if income is at least one hundred percent (100%) but less than one hundred twenty percent (120%) of the FPL. Eligibility is authorized by Sections 1905(p)(3)(A)(ii) and 1902(a)(10)(E)(iii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 1396d(p)(3)(A)(ii) and 1396a(a)(10)(E)(iii)).

(95) Spenddown. The process by which excess income is utilized for recognized medical expenses until it is depleted, which results in a determination of eligibility if all other eligibility factors are met for the Medically Needy categories.

(96) SSI - Related Groups. Individuals who have been found eligible in one of the following categories:

   (a) Disabled Adult Children (DAC).
   (b) Pickle Passalong.
   (c) Widow/Widower.

(97) Standard Child Medically Eligible. An uninsured child under age nineteen (19) who is losing eligibility for Medicaid or currently enrolled in TennCare Standard, whose household income is two hundred and eleven percent (211%) of the FPL or higher, who does not have access to health insurance, and who has been determined medically eligible according to these Rules.

(98) Standard Child Uninsured. The TennCare Demonstration category defined as including individuals in the following groups:

   (a) Uninsured children under age nineteen (19) who are losing eligibility for Medicaid, or are currently enrolled in TennCare Standard, who have household incomes below two hundred and eleven percent (211%) of the FPL, and who do not have access to health insurance; or
   (b) Uninsured children under age nineteen (19) who have been continuously enrolled in TennCare Standard since December 31, 2001, who have family incomes below two hundred and eleven percent (211%) of the FPL, and who have not purchased insurance even if they have access to it. This is a "grandfathered" eligibility category. When an individual loses eligibility in this category, he will not be able to re-enroll in it.
Student. A child under age twenty-one (21), unless otherwise specified in this Chapter, who is:

(a) Eligible for and attending grades kindergarten through twelve at a State-approved elementary or secondary school, or a course of vocational or technical training, or equivalent instruction from a homebound teacher; or

(b) Eligible for and attending a college or university.

1. Full-time student means enrollment in at least twelve (12) credit hours per semester.
2. Part-time student means enrollment in at least six (6) but less than twelve (12) credit hours per semester.

(c) Student status is retained during official school vacations and breaks if the conditions or requirements prior to the vacation or break were met, and the student plans to return after the break.

(d) Regularly attending school, except when circumstances beyond the student’s control justify a reduced credit load or attendance, means:

1. College or university, at least 8 hours per week (semester or quarter system);
2. Grades 7-12, including home-schooled, at least 12 hours per week;
3. Training course preparing for a paying job, at least 12 hours per week or 15 hours per week if the course involves shop practice; or
4. Homebound courses given by a school grades 7-12, college, university or government agency when the student must stay home due to a disability and has a home visitor or tutor from school who directs the studying or training.

(e) Individuals participating in apprenticeships, correspondence courses, other courses of home study and rehabilitation programs other than academic, institutional, vocational or technical training are excluded from this definition of student for purposes of this Chapter.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI). A federal income supplement program funded by general tax revenues and is designed to help aged, blind and disabled individuals who have little or no income. Applications for SSI benefits are filed at the Social Security office. Individuals who are eligible for SSI are automatically entitled to Medicaid (42 U.S.C. §§ 1382, et seg.).

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). A program created by the PRWORA in 1996. TANF became effective in July 1996 and replaced what was then commonly known as the AFDC program. The name given to Tennessee’s TANF program is Families First.

TennCare. The program administered by the Single State agency as designated by the State and CMS pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act and the Section 1115 Research and Demonstration waiver granted to the State of Tennessee; also, the name of the Division within the Department of Finance and Administration which includes the Bureau of TennCare and CoverKids; and, the name of the Bureau which directly administers the program.

TennCare CHOICES in Long-Term Services and Supports. The program described in Rule 1200-13-01-05, CHOICES is a benefit package available to TennCare enrollees who are eligible in the Institutional Medicaid category or who are active SSI enrollees and who meet the requirements of the program set out in Chapter 1200-13-01.

TennCare Medicaid. That part of the TennCare program which covers individuals eligible for Medicaid under Tennessee’s Title XIX State Plan for Medical Assistance. The following individuals are eligible for TennCare Medicaid:

(a) Tennessee residents determined to be eligible for Medicaid according to this Chapter.
(b) Individuals who qualify as dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid are enrolled in TennCare Medicaid.

(c) A Tennessee resident who is an uninsured individual, under age sixty-five (65), a US citizen or qualified alien, is not eligible for any other category of Medicaid, and has been diagnosed as the result of a screening at a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) site with breast or cervical cancer, including pre-cancerous conditions.

(d) Tennessee residents determined eligible for SSI benefits and TennCare Medicaid by the SSA are automatically enrolled in TennCare Medicaid.

(105) TennCare Standard. That part of the TennCare Program which provides health coverage for Tennessee residents who are not eligible for Medicaid and who meet the eligibility criteria found in this Chapter.

(106) Termination. The discontinuance of an enrollee's coverage under the Medical Assistance categories.


(108) Transitional Medicaid. Medicaid authorized for enrollees who lose Child MAGI or Caretaker Relative MAGI eligibility due to increased earnings and whose household income prior to losing eligibility was at or below the current Caretaker Relative MAGI income standard for three (3) of the six (6) months immediately preceding the month eligibility is lost.

(109) Uninsured. Any individual who does not have health insurance directly or indirectly through another family member, or who does not have access to group health insurance. For purposes of the Medicaid eligibility category of women under age 65 requiring treatment for breast or cervical cancer, “uninsured” shall mean any individual who does not have health insurance or access to health insurance which covers treatment of breast or cervical cancer.

(110) Valid Application. The single streamlined application form for all insurance affordability programs. It must include contact information and be signed by the Applicant, a Responsible Party, or the Authorized Representative.


(112) ACRONYMS. Following is a list of the acronyms used in this Chapter.

   (a) ABD - Aged, Blind or Disabled
   (b) AFDC - Aid to Families with Dependent Children
   (c) APTC - Advanced Premium Tax Credit
   (d) APTC/CSR - Advanced Premium Tax Credit/Cost Sharing Reductions
   (e) BCC - Breast and Cervical Cancer
   (f) BCSP - Breast and Cervical Screening Program
   (g) CCRC - Continuing Care Retirement Community
   (h) CHIP - Children’s Health Insurance Program
   (i) CHOICES - TennCare CHOICES in Long-Term Care
   (j) CMS - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
   (k) COLA - Social Security cost-of-living adjustment
1200-13-20-.03 Delineation of Roles and Responsibilities.

(1) Agencies’ Roles and Responsibilities.

(a) The Bureau of TennCare (Bureau) is responsible for determining eligibility for both TennCare and CoverKids Medical Assistance and for conducting appeals of eligibility-related decisions, unless otherwise agreed to by the Single State Agency and CMS. The Bureau TennCare is also responsible for coordinating the eligibility process for TennCare and CoverKids Medicaid and CHIP with the eligibility process for APTC/CSR in the FFM, in compliance with 42 C.F.R. §§ 435.1200 and 1205, unless otherwise agreed to by the Single State Agency and CMS.

(b) The Tennessee Department of Human Services (DHS) is under contract with the Bureau to determine initial eligibility for some TennCare Medicaid and TennCare Standard applicants who have open Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cases, as well as to redetermine, at regular intervals, whether eligibility should be continued for some enrollees. DHS is not responsible for making decisions about the presence of a qualifying medical condition for those applying as medically eligible individuals under TennCare Standard.

(eb) With respect to the eligibility of children applying for TennCare as medically eligible individuals, the Bureau TennCare is responsible for determining the presence of a qualifying medical condition under TennCare Standard.

(dc) The Tennessee Department of Children’s Services (DCS) is responsible for determining eligibility for Medicaid foster care and adoption assistance categories.

(ed) The Tennessee Department of Health (DOH) is responsible for conducting presumptive eligibility determinations for pregnant women and individuals in the BCC category.

(e) Approved Qualified Hospital Presumptive Eligibility (HPE) Entities are responsible for conducting presumptive eligibility determinations for Former Foster Care, Child MAGI, Caretaker Relative MAGI and Pregnancy MAGI categories.

(f) Approved Qualified Entities who are cancer detection and treatment providers are responsible for conducting presumptive eligibility determinations for individuals in the BCC category.

(g) The SSA is responsible for determining eligibility for receipt of benefits from the SSI program and for determining TennCare Medicaid eligibility for individuals who are eligible for SSI benefits. 42 U.S.C. § 1383c(a). Individuals determined eligible for SSI benefits and TennCare Medicaid by SSA are automatically enrolled in TennCare Medicaid.

(gh) The FFM is responsible for making TennCare Medicaid and CoverKids eligibility determinations assessments for categories using MAGI income methodologies, based on an agreement between the State and the FFM. The FFM is also responsible for assessing applicants who may be eligible for other Medicaid eligibility categories and transmitting those applications to the State for full review.

(2) Enrollee Roles and Responsibilities.

(a) Each TennCare enrollee and each CoverKids enrollee is responsible for reporting to HCFA any material change in the information affecting eligibility given by the applicant/enrollee to the bureau or to the FFM. This information includes, but is not limited to, changes in address, income, household size, employment, or access to insurance. When submitting changes to the State, the applicant/enrollee shall mail, fax, or present in person, any required documentation of any such change to TennCare. When submitting changes to the FFM the applicant/enrollee shall mail or electronically upload any required documentation of any such change to the FFM. General contact information such as phone number and address changes may be updated by phone call to TNHC. Changes must be reported within ten (10) days of the occurrence.

(b) All verifications requested must be furnished within ten (10) twenty (20) days of the notice requesting additional information unless otherwise specified by federal law.

(c) Each TennCare enrollee and each CoverKids enrollee is responsible for reporting to his provider that he is a TennCare or CoverKids enrollee.

(d) By accepting medical assistance through the TennCare program, every enrollee is deemed to assign to the State of Tennessee all third party insurance benefits or other third party sources of medical support or benefits. Individuals applying as Caretaker Relatives under Medicaid (see Rule .07) must cooperate in establishing the paternity of dependent children and obtaining medical support. Failure to cooperate in securing or collecting third party medical insurance, benefits or support is grounds for denying or terminating TennCare eligibility.

(e) Upon receipt of a notification of the beginning date of eligibility, each enrollee is responsible for complying with the instructions contained in the notice for submitting requests for reimbursement of costs of covered services incurred during the period of eligibility within sixty (60) days of the date of the notification.


1200-13-20-.04 Technical Eligibility Requirements.

(1) State Residency. Individuals enrolled in TennCare must meet the requirements for State residency established in 42 C.F.R. § 435.403. Individuals applying for CoverKids must also meet the requirements specified at 42 C.F.R. § 457.320(4).

(a) Temporary absence. Individual may be "temporarily absent" from Tennessee but still considered a resident of the State for purposes of TennCare and CoverKids eligibility. An individual who wishes to be considered temporarily absent from the State for continued eligibility purposes must provide the Bureau with an anticipated date of return. The Bureau will assess the continuation of an individual's temporary absence status ten (10) days after on the individual's anticipated date of return. A temporary absence from the State will not preclude continued eligibility under the following circumstances:

1. The absence is for a specific purpose such as a temporary work assignment, visit, hospitalization, participation in an educational or rehabilitation program not available in
2. The absence is for a child receiving specialized treatment out of State; and
3. The individual indicates his intent to return to Tennessee once the purpose for his absence is accomplished.

(b) Students.

1. Individuals who are dependents of a Tennessee resident and who attend school out of State will be considered Tennessee residents.

2. Individuals aged eighteen (18) to twenty-two (22) who are considered to be dependents of a non-Tennessee resident and who attend school full-time in State will not be considered Tennessee residents.

2. Individuals aged eighteen (18) to twenty-two (22) are not considered residents of the state if:
   (i) Neither parent lives in the state;
   (ii) The student is claimed as a tax dependent by someone in another state; and
   (iii) The student is applying on his own behalf.

(2) Citizenship. Individuals enrolled in TennCare or CoverKids must meet the requirements for citizenship or qualified non-citizen status established in 42 C.F.R. § 435.406.

   (a) Qualified aliens who entered the United States on or after August 22, 1996, are barred from receiving TennCare Medicaid or CoverKids benefits for five (5) years from the date of entering the U.S. before potential eligibility for TennCare or CoverKids unless they meet the exceptions to the five (5) year bar as outlined in 8 U.S.C. § 1613(b).

   (b) For CoverKids, unborn children are presumed to be U.S. citizens, regardless of the citizenship or immigration status of the mother.

(2) Citizenship. Individuals enrolled in TennCare must meet the requirements for citizenship or qualified non-citizen status established in 42 C.F.R. § 435.406 and in Tennessee’s Citizenship and Non-Citizen Eligibility State Plan Amendment. For CoverKids, unborn children are presumed to be U.S. citizens, regardless of the citizenship or immigration status of the mother.

(3) Social Security Number (SSN).

   (a) Individuals enrolled in TennCare or CoverKids must meet the SSN requirements of 42 C.F.R. § 435.910.

   (b) Unborn children enrolled in CoverKids Pregnant Women/Unborn Children are not required to have an SSN.

   (c) SSNs are not required for members of households who are not applying for TennCare or CoverKids coverage.

(4) Incarceration. Individuals who are incarcerated are eligible for TennCare in a suspended status pursuant to T.C.A. § 71-5-106(r), as long as all eligibility criteria are met. Individuals in a suspended status will be eligible for TennCare payments only for medical institution stays longer than twenty-four (24) hours. All other medical payments while in the suspended status are not subject to TennCare reimbursement. The suspended status will be removed once the State TennCare receives notice that the enrollee is no longer incarcerated. See also 42 C.F.R. § 435.1010.

(5) Residents of an Institution for Mental Disease (IMD). Individuals who are residents of an IMD are not eligible for FFP, except for those who are age sixty-five (65) or older and confined to an approved ward, or those who are under age twenty-two (22) and receiving inpatient psychiatric services. Confinement in an
IMD does satisfy and establish institutional status for individuals under age sixty-five (65) and those confined to unapproved wards who are subsequently admitted to a medical institution—nursing facility. See Section 1905 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396d).

1200-13-20-.05 General Application Requirements.

(1) Right to apply.

(a) Any individual wishing to do so shall have the opportunity to apply for TennCare Medicaid or CoverKids Medical Assistance without delay.

(b) Information about the TennCare or CoverKids program administered by HCFA shall be provided to any individual requesting it pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 435.905.

(c) Applications may be filed by the applicant, an individual listed in Rule .05(3)(b), his Authorized Representative or someone acting responsibly for him. See 42 C.F.R. § 435.923.

(d) Proof of eligibility is not required of an individual prior to filing an application.

(e) The right to file an application shall not be denied to any individual even if it is apparent that eligibility for TennCare or CoverKids Medical Assistance does not exist.

(2) Rights and responsibilities.

(a) By applying for TennCare or CoverKids Medical Assistance, an applicant grants permission and authorizes release of information to TennCare, or its designee, to investigate any and all information provided, or any information not provided if it could affect eligibility, to determine TennCare or CoverKids Medical Assistance eligibility; and if approved, what cost sharing, if any, may be required of the applicant. Information may be verified through, but not limited to, the following sources:

1. The United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS);
2. State income tax records for Tennessee or any other State where income is earned;
3. The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and other Employment Security offices within any State where the applicant may have received wages or been employed;
4. Credit bureaus;
5. Insurance companies; or,
6. Any other governmental agency or public or private source of information where such information may impact an applicant's eligibility or cost sharing requirements for the TennCare or CoverKids Program. The Federal Data Services Hub, or “electronic service” referred to in 42 C.F.R. § 435.949, is an example of such an information source.

(b) It is a felony offense, pursuant to T.C.A. § 71-5-2601, to apply for TennCare coverage Medical Assistance under false means or to help anyone obtain TennCare Medical Assistance under false means.

(c) By applying for TennCare-Medicaid Medical Assistance, an applicant agrees to provide information to the Bureau TennCare, or its designee, about any third party coverage in which the applicant is enrolled.

(3) Submitting an application.

(a) TennCare will accept Valid Applications in compliance with 42 C.F.R. § 435.907 and, for CoverKids applicants, 42 C.F.R. § 457.330, or as otherwise agreed to by the Single State Agency and CMS.
(b) An application can be filed by one of the following individuals, as applicable:

1. Adult applicants or an adult who is in the applicant’s household as defined in 42 C.F.R. § 435.603(f);
2. An adult who is in the applicant’s family, as defined in the Internal Revenue Code at 26 U.S.C. § 36B(d)(1);
3. Applicants who are over age fourteen (14) but under age eighteen (18) who are emancipated or are considered sufficiently mature to make their own health care decisions;
4. A parent who has primary custody of a minor child;
5. Either parent of a minor child when custody is equally divided between legal parents;
6. The legal guardian or conservator;
7. An Authorized Representative;
8. If the applicant is a minor or incapacitated, someone acting responsibly for the applicant; or
9. A representative of the long term care facility where the individual resides.

(c) Applications received from Tennessee residents living out of State.

1. Applications filed for Tennessee residents who are temporarily out of State may be accepted.
2. The application of someone who is hospitalized in another State and planning to return to Tennessee when discharged may be processed in the usual manner.

(d) Out of State applicants.

1. Applications received from individuals residing in another State and not intending to reside in Tennessee will be denied.
2. Individuals who are in Tennessee for a temporary purpose, such as a visit, and who intend to return to their home out of State are not eligible for TennCare or CoverKids.
3. Applicants must always be given the right to submit an application if they wish to do so and receive a decision on their application.

(4) Assistance with submitting an application. HCFA TennCare is required to provide assistance to any individual seeking help with the application or redetermination process in person by Certified Application Counselors (CACs), over the phone, and online in a manner that is accessible to individuals with disabilities and those who have limited English proficiency. Assistance includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(a) Help with application or other TennCare form completion;
(b) Help with securing a representative, if needed, and/or allowing someone of the applicant’s choice to assist with the application and renewal process; and
(c) Help in obtaining necessary information from third parties.

(5) Applications may be filed in any of the following ways:

(a) By mail.
1. LTSS and MSP: Paper LTSS/MSP applications must be submitted to TNHC. The Application File Date for LTSS/MSP applications mailed to TNHC will be the date the application is
(5) Applications may be filed in any of the following ways:

(a) By mail.

1. Paper applications mailed to TennCare. The Application File Date for an application mailed to TennCare will be the date a Valid Application is received.

2. Paper applications mailed to the FFM. The Application File Date will be the date provided by

(b) By phone.

1. Applicants may call TennCare to complete an application by phone. The Application File Date will be the date a Valid Application is completed telephonically.

2. The Application File Date for applications completed by phone through the FFM will be the date provided by the FFM.

(c) By fax. Paper applications may be faxed to TennCare. The Application File Date for applications faxed to TennCare will be the date a Valid Application is received.

(d) By online submission.

1. Applications may be submitted through TennCare’s online portal. The Application File Date will be the date a Valid Application is submitted.

2. The Application File Date for applications filed through the FFM will be the date provided by the FFM, unless documentary evidence of an earlier application date exists.

(e) In person at any DHS county office.

1. The Application File Date for paper applications submitted to DHS will be the date of receipt of a Valid Application at DHS.

2. Applicants may use kiosks provided at DHS to submit online applications. Applicants may use phones provided at DHS offices to complete an application.

(f) Low Income Subsidy (LIS) applications through the SSA. The Application File Date will be the date provided by the SSA.

(6) Processing time. Eligibility will be timely determined in compliance with 42 C.F.R. § 435.912, or as otherwise agreed to by the Single State Agency and CMS.

(7) Disposition.

(a) Eligibility is determined based on information contained on the completed application form Valid Application as well as information secured during the application process.

(b) All applications will be subject to one (1) of the following actions:

1. Approval. When all eligibility factors are met, the application is approved.

2. Denial. When one or more eligibility factor(s) is not met, the application is denied.

(i) Death is not an appropriate reason to deny a Medicaid application. If the applicant dies before a final eligibility determination is made, the application process must be continued to completion.

(ii) Applicants who do not respond to requests for verifications by the State in a timely manner will be denied for failure to respond to such requests.

(iii) Applicants who do not provide sufficient information in response to requests for verifications by the State will be denied.

(c) Withdrawal. When an applicant decides to withdraw his request for assistance during the application process, it is not necessary to complete any remaining verification and evaluation.
(1) Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Financial Eligibility Determinations.

(a) All applicants for TennCare or CoverKids will have their income calculated for eligibility purposes according to the MAGI-based requirements at 42 C.F.R. § 435.603. The only exceptions are the Medicaid applicants at 42 C.F.R. §§ 435.603(j)(1)-(6).

(b) In compliance with 42 C.F.R. § 435.603(g)(1), there is no resource or asset test for individuals whose income eligibility is required to be determined using MAGI income requirements.

(c) There is no resource or asset test for pregnant women or children enrolled in CoverKids.

(d) In compliance with 42 C.F.R. § 435.603(g)(2), there are no income or expense disregards for individuals whose eligibility is determined according to MAGI requirements, with the exception of those described at 42 C.F.R. §§ 435.603(d)(1) and (4).

(e) Household composition, for financial eligibility determination purposes, for TennCare Medicaid (Child, Pregnant Women, and Caretaker Relative categories), TennCare-Standard—Children—Uninsured, TennCare-Standard—Medically Eligible, and the CoverKids categories will be determined using the MAGI methodology in accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 435.603(f). Household composition for all other categories will be determined according to this Chapter. MAGI household composition methodology is based on federal tax rules and the principles of tax dependency, however the MAGI rules apply to both applicants who expect to file taxes or be claimed as tax dependents, and to those applicants who do not file taxes or are not claimed as tax dependents. Each applicant has his own household size constructed under MAGI rules, and it is permissible for applicants who live in the same household to have different household sizes.

1. Tax Filers.

(i) For applicants who expect to file taxes, the household includes the tax filer and any dependents the tax filer expects to claim.

(ii) For applicants claimed as tax dependents, the household is the same as the tax filer claiming the tax dependent. Tax dependents may include individuals not otherwise eligible for TennCare Medicaid or CoverKids, and who are not applying for benefits. If a non-custodial parent claims a child as a dependent, the dependent child will be included in the non-custodial parent’s household size.

(iii) For married couples who live together, each spouse will always be included in the other spouse’s household, regardless of the couple’s filing status.

(iv) There are three exceptions to the tax filer rule for applicants claimed as tax dependents. An applicant who meets any of the following is subject to the non-filer household composition rules:

(I) The tax filer is someone other than the applicant’s spouse, or natural, adopted or step-parent; or

(II) The applicant is under age nineteen (19), or twenty-one (21) if a full-time student, and is claimed as a tax dependent by one parent, but his or her parents live together and do not file a joint tax return; or

(III) The applicant is under age nineteen (19), or twenty-one (21) if a full-time student, and expects to be claimed as a tax dependent by a non-custodial parent.

2. Non-Filers. Applicants who do not file taxes are subject to the non-filer household composition rules. The non-filer household includes the applicant and if living with the applicant:

(i) The applicant’s spouse;

(ii) The applicant’s natural, adopted and step children under age nineteen (19), or twenty-
one (21) if a full-time student;

(iii) For applicants under age nineteen (19), or twenty-one (21) if a full-time student, the applicant’s natural, adopted or step parent; and

(iv) For applicants under age nineteen (19), or twenty-one (21) if a full-time student, the applicant’s natural, adoptive and step siblings who are under age nineteen (19), or (21) if a full-time student.

(f) The household size for a pregnant woman includes the number of children she is expected to deliver (the unborn child(ren)). The household size for other applicants in a pregnant woman’s household does not include the unborn child(ren).

(2) AFDC-Related Financial Determinations.

(a) Coverage groups whose financial eligibility is determined according to AFDC-based methodologies are:

1. Medically Needy Children; and

2. Qualified Medically Needy Pregnant Women.

(b) Income Determinations. Income for individuals described in this paragraph is calculated according to the AFDC cash assistance program’s income definitions and policies (Rules 1240-01-04, 12 and 14-19, and 45 C.F.R. § 233.20). Unless otherwise specified below, these individuals are subject to the following income requirements:

1. ABLE Accounts. Contributions and ABLE account earnings are excluded, except that contributions are not deducted from countable income of the individual making the contribution. Distributions from an ABLE account are not income of the designated beneficiary in any month regardless of whether the distribution is for non-housing QDEs, housing QDEs or non-qualified expenses. Distribution from an ABLE account is the conversion of a resource from one form to another.

2. Adoption Subsidies — Countable to the child if intended for general living expenses. Excluded if for reimbursement of child care while the adult responsible for the child is at work or seeking employment, for medical expenses, or from State adoption assistance programs or Title IV-E funds for special needs children.

3. Alimony Received — Countable.

4. Annuity Payments — If the underlying annuity is an excluded resource, the periodic payments are countable unearned income. If the underlying annuity is a countable resource, payments are excluded.

5. Assistance Payment from another State — Countable.


9. Cash Support — Countable, unless excluded as infrequent or irregular income.


12. Child/Spousal Support Transferred to IV-D Agency — Payments transferred by the household to DCS as assigned support are excluded.
13. Commissions - Countable.
14. CSIMA - Countable as unearned income only when the institutionalized individual is not in the community spouse’s household.
15. Contractual Payments - Countable.
16. Death Benefits - Countable income to an individual if the total amount exceeds the expense of the deceased person’s last illness and burial paid by the individual to whom the death benefit is issued.
17. Deferred Wages - Countable when the income would have normally been received if the wages are deferred at the employee’s request. Countable when received if the wages are deferred by the employer.
18. DIMA - Countable as unearned income only when the institutionalized individual is not in the dependent’s household.
20. Domestic Commercial Transportation Tickets - Excluded as long as the tickets are not converted to cash.
21. Domestic Volunteer Service Act Payments - Excluded as income if payments are made for supporting services or reimbursements for out-of-pocket expenses.
22. Dwelling-related Assistance - Excluded if housing assistance is provided by HUD or FMHA.
24. In-Kind Income: Wages, Food, Shelter or other - Countable.
25. Earned In-Kind Food or Shelter - Countable.
26. Earned In-Kind Not Food or Shelter - Countable.
27. Earned In-Kind Wages - Countable.
28. Education Income that is Not Work Study - Includes: Pell Grant; SEOG Grant; National Direct Student Loan; Guaranteed Student Loan; State Student Initiative and any financial-aid: (i) Excluded - if paid directly to the school and unavailable to the student.
(ii) Countable as unearned income: Any portion of the grant, scholarship or fellowship that is not used to pay tuition, fees, or other necessary education expenses.
29. FF/TANF Payments - Excluded.
30. Farmer Income - Countable.
31. Farmer/Fishing Income - Countable.
32. Gambling Prizes and Awards - Countable.
33. Gifts - Cash gifts are countable unless excluded as infrequent or irregular income. In-Kind gifts are countable, and the value is equal to the current market value.
34. Income Produced from Resources - Countable.
35. Inheritance Cash - Countable.
36. Interest Bearing Resources — Interest earned on a resource, dividends, royalties and other direct money payments is countable.

37. Interest on Burial Funds and Spaces — Excluded.

38. Irregular or Infrequent Income — Up to $30.00 of unearned or earned income received infrequently or irregularly per quarter is excluded.

39. Jury Duty Pay — Countable unless the income is turned over to an applicant's employer.

40. Low Income Home Energy Assistance Payments (LIHEAP) — Excluded.

41. Military Allotments — The Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA) and the Military Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) are countable as unearned income.

42. PASS Payments — Excluded.

43. Payments from FEMA — FEMA payments issued as a result of presidentially declared emergency or major disaster are excluded. Payments made by comparable disaster assistance programs by States, local governments and disaster assistance organizations are also excluded. FEMA payments which are made to a household to pay for rent, food and utility assistance when there is no major disaster or emergency declaration are countable.

44. Pensions — Countable.

45. Protective Payee Payments — Funds received by a protective payee (conservator, authorized representative or representative payee) and used for the care and maintenance of a third party beneficiary (adult or child) who may or may not be a member of the protective payee's household are excluded as income to the protective payee. Any part of the payment that is retained by the protective payee for his or her own use is countable income to the protective payee. Even if the protective payee retains a fee for his or her services, the entire payment issued on behalf of the beneficiary is countable income to the beneficiary.

46. Railroad Retirement Payments — Countable.

47. Rehabilitation Payments — Net rehabilitation payments are countable as unearned income. Deduct allowable expenses from the gross rehabilitation payment.

48. Reimbursements — Reimbursement of expenses an employee incurs in the performance of his duties for items other than normal living expenses are excluded.

49. Rental or Lease Income — Countable as earned income when the individual is actively engaged in producing such income, or bears some responsibility in earning the income. Countable as unearned income when the individual is not actively engaged in producing the income, or bears no responsibility in earning the income. Count the amount of income remaining after expenses related to maintaining the property are applied.

50. Royalties and Honoraria — Countable.

51. Self-Employment — Net earnings are countable.

52. Settlements and Restitutions — The following settlements and restitution payments are excluded as unearned income:

(i) Agent Orange Settlement Payments — Excluded as unearned income but counted when determining patient liability for institutionalized individuals;

(ii) Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act exclusions;

(iii) Criminal Victims Compensation Funds paid to crime victims;
(iv) Distribution of perpetual judgment funds to Indian tribes under the following:

(I) Black Feet and Gros Ventre Tribes (P.L. 92-254);

(II) Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians in Indian Claims Commission Docket No. 40-K;

(III) Indian Judgment Funds Distribution (P.L. 93-134);

(IV) Receipts from land held in trust by the Federal government and distributed to certain Indian tribes under P.L. 94-114;

(V) Tribes of groups under P.L. 93-134; and

(VI) Yakima Indian Nation or the Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation (P.L. 94-433);

(v) Filipino Veterans Compensation Fund Payments. Lump sum payments made to certain veterans and spouses of veterans who served in the military of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines during WWII;

(vi) German Reparation Payments;

(vii) Japanese-American and Aleutian Restitution Payments;

(viii) Payments made to individuals because of their status as victims of Nazi persecutions;

(ix) Payments to children born of Vietnam veterans diagnosed with spina bifida; and

(x) Revenues from the Alaska Native Fund paid under section 21(a) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

53. Severance — Countable.


56. Social Service Payments — Excluded.

57. SSI Payments — Excluded.

58. Strike Benefits — Countable.

59. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) — The value of a SNAP benefit is excluded. The value of free or reduced food under WIC or the National School Lunch Act is also excluded.

60. Temporary Disability Payments — Income is countable as unearned income to the extent it is not a reimbursement for specific costs and is paid directly to the applicant or any member of the applicant’s household.

61. Tips — Any amount over $20.00 per month is countable.

62. Trusts — Money withdrawn from the body of a trust or interest and dividends accrued to the trust and paid to the individual is countable.

63. Unemployment Compensation — Countable.

64. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Payments — Educational benefits. VA Aid & Attendance,
Augmented VA benefits and VA payments from Unusual Medical Expenses are excluded.

65. VISTA Payments – Countable.
66. Wages – Countable.
67. WIA Payments – Excluded.
68. Work Study Payments – Exclude college work study income up to the amount necessary to pay for tuition and mandatory fees. Income in excess of tuition and fee costs is countable earned income.
69. Workers’ Compensation – Countable.

(c) Resource Requirements. Resources for individuals described in this paragraph are calculated according to the AFDC-cash-assistance program’s resource definitions and policies (Rules 1240-01-04-06, .07, .08 and .10; 42 C.F.R. §§ 435.840 and 435.845; and 45 C.F.R. § 233.20). Individuals described in this paragraph are subject to the following resource requirements:

1. ABLE Accounts. ABLE account balances under $100,000.00 are not a countable resource of the designated beneficiary. Distributions from an ABLE account are countable as a resource when:
   (i) Distributions are retained past the month of receipt for a housing-related QDE or are used for or intended to be used for non-qualified disability expenses;
   (ii) Distributions are retained past the month of receipt and were previously excluded because intended for a QDE, but used for a non-qualified expense. Count the amount of funds used as a resource the first of the month in which funds were spent; or
   (iii) Distributions are retained past the month of receipt, have not been spent, and the intent to use the funds for a QDE has changed. Count the retained funds as a resource the first of the following month.
   (iv) Qualified disability expenses (QDE) are expenses related to the blindness or disability of the designated beneficiary and for the benefit of the designated beneficiary. In general, a QDE includes, but is not limited to, education, housing, transportation, employment training and support, assistive technology and personal support services, health, prevention and wellness, financial management and administrative services, legal fees, funeral and burial expenses, and basic living expenses.

2. Annuities. An annuity is a countable resource when it is revocable, assignable, or if it can be sold.
   (i) If an annuity is an excluded resource, payments being received from the annuity are countable unearned income. If the annuity is a countable resource, any payments being received from the annuity are excluded.
   (ii) The countable resource value of an annuity is its Fair Market Value (FMV). If the applicant is able to provide the FMV of the annuity, verified by two (2) credible sources in the legitimate business of selling and purchasing annuities, accept the verified value.
   (iii) If the applicant does not provide two (2) credible statements of FMV, multiply the total annual payment by the period remaining to determine the countable value. If the period of the annuity is based on an annuitant’s lifetime, the annual payments are multiplied by the annuitant’s life expectancy, according to SSA’s Period Life Table. If the annuity is a “period certain” annuity, annual payments are multiplied by the annuitant’s life expectancy or the period certain, whichever is less. The calculated value of an annuity may be rebutted by providing two (2) credible statements of FMV amounts.
3. Business or Self-Employment — Excluded as essential for the production of earned income. Such excluded resources may include:

   (i) Tools/equipment;
   (ii) Stock or raw materials;
   (iii) Personal property essential for income production;
   (iv) Real property;
   (v) Office equipment;
   (vi) Business loans for the purchase of capital assets;
   (vii) Inventory;
   (viii) Machinery and equipment;
   (ix) Business/commercial checking accounts; and
   (x) Life insurance.

4. Burial Contracts or Policies — Excluded. This does not include pre-paid or pre-need burial agreements.

5. Burial Plot — Exclude the value of burial plots and spaces for all household members.

6. Prepaid Burial Agreements or Burial Trusts — Exclude one burial agreement or burial trust with equity value of $1,500.00 or less per family member.

7. Cash — Countable.

8. Certificate of Deposit (CD) — Countable if held in a personal account. The value of a CD is the net amount that could be received after penalties for early withdrawal, if applicable. Taxes are not deducted in determining value.

9. Checking Account — Personal checking accounts are countable. Other checking accounts may be excluded if designated for burial needs, educational income, Individual Development Accounts, PASS, prorated as income, proceeds from the sale of a home, disaster or settlement funds and retroactive SSA payments.

10. Contract for Deed or Mortgage — The value of a contract for deed or mortgage may be a countable asset depending on the circumstances of the loan, including the individual’s role as lender or borrower and the accessibility of the asset:

   (i) When the individual is the lender for a contract for deed, the lender may sell or transfer the instrument to have immediate access to the unpaid principal. The value of the resource equity value is a countable asset. Any subsequent payments to the principal made by the debtor after approval are considered a resource because the unpaid loan principal is a resource. The value of the contract may be excluded from the countable resource if the individual can demonstrate that the contract cannot be sold without his realizing a net loss.

   (ii) If the individual is the borrower, the property agreement is not a resource. However, the property purchased may be a countable resource following the month of transaction.

11. Educational Income — All educational income is excluded as a resource, including Title IV, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of Veterans Affairs and work study for post-secondary education. The individual must be enrolled in school and attending classes to be considered a
student. Grants, scholarships, fellowships and gifts other than those previously listed intended to pay for tuition, fees or education expenses are excluded as a resource.

12. Farm, Business or other Equipment — The equity value of non-self-employment income-producing real property, other than the homestead, is countable. If the property is used for self-employment, it is excluded as Business or Self-Employment.

13. Rental property — Countable if the individual who owns the property is not in the business of renting property. Someone who is in the business of renting property is someone who materially participates in the operation and decision-making of the rental business for at least twenty (20) hours per week.

14. Home and Lot — The entire value of the home, whether on land or water, and lot and all adjoining land, not-separated by property owned by others and any related outbuildings are excluded in determining resource eligibility, as long as the home is the principal place of residence for the applicant/enrollee. Temporary absences from the home do not affect the home’s exemption, as long as the individual intends to return home at a specified time.


16. Individual Development Account (IDA) — Funds, including accrued interest, in the account are excluded as a resource as long as the individual complies with the IDA eligibility rules and continues to maintain or make contributions to the account.

17. Income-Producing Resource — Countable if accessible to the individual.


20. Items of Unusual Value — Exclude up to $2,000.00 of all total personal items of unusual value. If the individual’s equity value in one or more than one item of unusual value is greater than $2,000.00, the amount that exceeds $2,000.00 is countable towards the resource limit.

21. Life Estates:

(i) Property in which an individual holds a life estate is subject to the same exclusion rules as property the individual owns by title, subject to the following exceptions:

(I) A life estate will be excluded as the home when the property meets the home exemption.

(II) A life estate will be excluded when ownership is necessary for the production of earned income. See Business or Self-Employment in this Subparagraph.

(III) The terms of the life estate contract prevent the holder from selling his or her interest in the property.

(ii) If the life estate is not excluded based on the criteria above, the entire value of the life estate is a countable asset. The life estate value is determined by multiplying the fair market value of the property by the percentage listed in the "Life Estate Interest Table" for the age of the individual on whose lifetime the life estate is based. If more than one person owns the life estate, the value is based on the owner with the longest life expectancy.

22. Life Insurance — Excluded.

23. Livestock — The value of livestock necessary for business or self-employment, as a tool of the trade, or raised for home/personal consumption is an excluded resource. Income received is countable as self-employment income. Livestock that is used as non-business income-producing property is countable.

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24. Oil and Mineral Rights — May be included with land ownership or owned separately. If surface rights of the same property are excluded (for example, as a home), so are oil and mineral rights. Oil and mineral rights are countable when owned for personal use, or when the surface rights of the same property are countable (non-homestead, real property).

   (i) If oil or mineral rights are producing income under a lease agreement, the owner may be constrained from selling or otherwise disposing of those rights. If the land is already excluded, then oil and mineral rights are also excluded.

   (ii) If oil or mineral rights are producing income to the individual, and he or she is not actively engaged in the production of income, the equity value of the rights is countable.

25. Personal — Countable unless excluded based on the terms of the asset. A personal resource is typically for the use of the individual and/or his family.

26. Personal Consumption — Exclude as a resource the equity value of a non-business property used to produce goods or services essential to daily activities.

27. PASS — Income an SSI recipient places in an approved PASS account is excluded as a resource. The PASS account itself is also excluded. This exclusion expires when the PASS contract expires or ends, or when the individual is no longer an SSI recipient.

28. Proceeds from the Sale of a Home — Excluded to the extent that the funds are intended to be used to purchase another home subject to the homestead exclusion, and the funds are used for such a purpose within three (3) months of the date of receipt of the proceeds.

29. Promissory Note and Other Loans — A promissory note or other loan given by the household is considered personal property and is countable, unless the note/loan balance is inaccessible or the promissory note is held for reasons other than personal use. The lender holds legal interest and has the legal ability to make available his or her share in the note or loan. The equity value of the note/loan is countable.

30. Prorated as Income — Excluded.

31. Real Property — The equity value in all real property the individual owns individually or jointly is a countable asset with the following exceptions:

   (i) Property excluded as the homestead;

   (ii) The inaccessible equity value of real property;

   (iii) Equity value of income-producing property;

   (iv) Real property necessary for the production of earned income (see Business or Self-Employment in this Subparagraph); and

   (v) Real property excluded under a Conditional Assistance agreement between the individual and the State. The individual must make a bona fide effort to sell the property at its current market value, and repay the State for medical expenses covered by HCFA during the exclusion period with the proceeds of the sale. Exemption of the real property is not to exceed nine (9) months. Only one (1) parcel of property may be excluded under a Conditional Assistance agreement per period of eligibility.

   (I) Repayment of medical expenses covered by HCFA may not exceed the total of the net proceeds. Any proceeds remaining after repayment to the State are considered a resource.

   (II) If the property remains unsold after nine (9) months, the property is considered inaccessible so long as bona fide efforts to sell the property continue.
32. Retirement Accounts and Pension Plans — Excluded up to $20,000.00. Money held in an IRA, 401(K), or Keogh in excess of $20,000.00 is countable, minus any penalty for early withdrawal.

33. Savings Account — Countable if it is characterized by personal use. If the current month’s income has been deposited into the account, it must be excluded when determining the current value of the account. A savings account may be excluded if it is used for one of the following purposes:

(i) Burial funds;
(ii) Business or Self-Employment;
(iii) Educational Income;
(iv) Individual Development Account;
(v) PASS;
(vi) Proceeds from the Sale of a Home (subject to time limits);
(vii) Prorated as Income;
(viii) Settlement or Disaster Payment, if Excluded by Policy; and
(ix) SSI/SSA Retroactive Payment (subject to time limits).

34. Settlement or Disaster Payment — Payments or benefits provided under certain Federal statutes are excluded, if payments are not commingled with other funds. Excluded settlement and/or disaster payments include:

(i) Agent Orange Settlement Payments. Payments and interest are excluded as unearned income but counted when determining patient liability for institutionalized individuals;
(ii) Disaster Relief Assistance received under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974;
(iii) Distribution of perpetual judgment funds to Indian tribes under the following:
   (I) Indian Judgment Funds Distribution (P.L. 93-134)
   (II) Black Feet and Gros Ventre Tribes (P.L. 92-264)
   (III) Grand River Band of Ottawa Indiana in Indian Claims Commission Docket No. 40-K;
   (IV) Tribes of groups under P.L. 93-134;
   (V) Yakima Indian Nation or the Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation (P.L. 94-433); and
   (VI) Receipts from land held in trust by the Federal government and distributed to certain Indian tribes under P.L. 94-114;
(iv) Factor VIII or IX Concentrate Blood Products Litigation. The settlement payments (and interest from payments) made as a result of the class action lawsuit to hemophilia patients infected with HIV through blood plasma products;
(v) Filipino Veterans Compensation Fund Payments. Lump sum payments (and interest from payments) made to certain veterans and spouses of veterans who served in the military of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines during WWII;
(vi) Japanese-American and Aleutian Restitution Payments (and interest from payments);
(vii) Payments made to individuals because of their status as victims of Nazi persecutions (and interest from payments);

(viii) Payments to children born of Vietnam veterans diagnosed with spina bifida (and interest from payments);

(ix) Payments made under the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (interest is not excluded);

(x) Revenues from the Alaska Native Fund paid under Section 21(a) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act;

(xi) Criminal Victims Compensation Funds paid to crime victims (excluded for nine (9) months); and:

(xii) Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA).

35. SSI/SSA Retroactive Payments — Excluded for nine (9) months after the payment is received and countable after the nine (9) month exclusion period.

36. Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds — Countable if asset is held for personal use. Stocks, bonds or mutual funds held for purposes listed below are subject to different treatment:
   (i) Burial;
   (ii) Business or Self-Employment;
   (iii) Educational Income;
   (iv) Proceeds from the Sale of a Home;
   (v) Prorated as Income; or
   (vi) Settlement or Disaster Payment, if Excluded by Policy.

37. Tools of the trade — Excluded when essential for the production of earned income.

38. Trusts — Countable or excluded, when the applicant or household member is either the trust’s trustee or beneficiary, based on the nature of the trust, the date the trust was created, the source of funds used to create the trust, plus other factors as specified in 42 U.S.C. § 4366(q).

39. Vehicles — Exclude up to $4,600.00 of the equity value of one (1) vehicle in the applicant’s household. The equity value of any other vehicle is countable, unless the vehicle can be excluded based on its use. The equity value of recreational vehicles (boats, snowmobiles, jet skis, ATVs and aircraft) is a countable resource.

(d) Disregards and Expenses Allowed — For purposes of determining the income of individuals described in this paragraph, the following expenses will be disregarded from their income:

1. Child Support Disregard — Disregard $50.00 per month per household if a child living in the home receives child support payments (current only) and the family receives TANF benefits.

2. Earned Income Disregard — Disregard $90.00 per month from each household member’s total earned income.

3. Payments made on Behalf of Dependents within the Home — Disregard up to $175.00 per month of day care expenses per dependent age two (2) or older. Disregard up to $200.00 per month of day care expenses per dependent under age two (2).
4. Student Income — Disregard the earnings of a child who is a full-time student or part-time student and not employed full-time.

(e) Household composition for TennCare Medicaid Medically Needy categories is based on the principle of FRR.

1. The following individuals must be included in the applicant's household for TennCare Medicaid Medically Needy Child, if living with the applicant:

(i) The applicant;

(ii) The applicant's spouse;

(iii) The applicant's children under age twenty-one (21);

(iv) For applicants who are under age twenty-one (21), the applicant's natural or adoptive parents; and

(v) The applicant's siblings who are under age twenty-one (21) (including unborn children).

2. The TennCare Medicaid Medically Needy child applicant's parent(s) are not included if the applicant is an emancipated minor.

3. A step parent living in the home with a child applicant for TennCare Medicaid Medically Needy is not included in the child's household.

4. The following individuals must be included in the TennCare Medicaid Medically Needy Qualified Pregnant Woman applicant's household, if living with the applicant:

(i) The pregnant woman applicant;

(ii) The applicant's unborn child(ren);

(iii) The applicant's spouse; and

(iv) The applicant's children under age twenty-one (21);

5. Parents of a pregnant woman applying for TennCare Medicaid Medically Needy Qualified Pregnant Woman coverage are not included in the applicant's household.

(f) Spend-down:

1. Applicants must produce proof of relevant medical expenses in order to "spend-down" monthly income to the TennCare Medically Needy Income Standard (MNIS) to be eligible in a Medically Needy category. If income is below the MNIS, spend-down will not be necessary. Applicants may reduce available monthly income with countable expense, as listed below, in order to qualify for eligibility in the Medically Needy categories. The income limits for the Medically Needy category are published in the State Plan.

2. Countable Expenses. The following Rules apply to the expenses that may be used to meet spend-down:

(i) Countable expenses incurred during the month of application, whether paid or unpaid.

(ii) Countable expenses paid during the month of application, regardless of when such expenses were incurred.

(iii) Countable expenses incurred during the three (3) calendar months prior to the month of application, whether paid or unpaid.

(iv) Expenses paid during the three calendar months prior to the month of application...
will not be counted unless such expenses were also incurred during those three calendar months.

(II) Any expenses incurred before the three (3) calendar months prior to the month of application will not be counted unless payment is made on those expenses during the month of application, in which case only the amount paid during the month of application is counted.

(III) When a Medically-Needy enrollee has been eligible for twelve (12) months, he will be expected to meet spend-down again as described in this section, except verified expenses that are documented in the enrollee’s Medicaid record can be carried over to the next year as long as the individual remains continuously eligible, the expenses remain unpaid, and the bills are not written off by the provider. Only the portions of expenses that were not previously used to meet spend-down can be carried over to the next eligibility determination. If an enrollee loses eligibility at any point, the carryover of unpaid medical expenses ends and the enrollee must meet spend-down as if he were a new applicant.

(iv) All medical expenses are considered incurred the date the service is provided with the following exception: medical expenses related to maternity care (e.g., global fee) are considered incurred the month the physician presents a bill once services have begun (i.e., initial examination by the physician at a minimum).

(v) If spend-down is not met by the medical bills incurred as of the date of application submission or as of the date of submission of a renewal application during redetermination, the daily countable medical expenses incurred during the application month will be added until spend-down liability is reached.

3. Incurred or paid expenses for the following individuals may be considered countable expenses for purposes of determining Medically Needy financial eligibility:

(i) The applicant;

(ii) Members of the applicant’s household;

(iii) The applicant’s FRRs or anyone for whom the applicant is financially responsible; and

(iv) Individuals not living in the applicant’s home or eligible for inclusion if the applicant’s household member or an applicant’s FRR is legally obligated to pay the applicant’s medical expenses.

4. Countable expenses are those for which the individual is still liable and that are:

(i) For medical or remedial care, including costs for over the counter medications and costs incurred for medical insurance premiums, co-payments, and deductibles. Health insurance premiums may be deducted as a spend-down expense only when payment is due, even if paid in another month;

(ii) Verifiable and for which the individual provides substantiation;

(iii) Incurred by eligible individuals and are the legal responsibility of a household member and not subject to payment in full or part by a third party;

(iv) Recognized under State law but not covered under the State’s TennCare Medicaid plan or waiver (continuously eligible individuals); or

(v) Covered under TennCare Medicaid but incurred during the spend-down period (new applicants);

5. The following list includes but is not limited to the types of medical expenses that are considered Countable Medical Expenses for the Medically Needy categories:
(i) Acupuncture services.

(ii) Bed held at a Long-Term Care Facility (Medicaid rate).

(iii) Dental expenses.

(iv) Doctor's fees — includes fees from services rendered by practitioners and others providing medical services, physicians, surgeons, dentists, optometrists, chiropractors, osteopaths, podiatrists, psychiatrists, psychologists, and Christian Science providers.

(v) Drugs prescribed by a physician (prior to TennCare eligibility) — includes charges for medicines and drugs prescribed by a doctor incurred prior to establishing TennCare Medicaid eligibility and which remained unpaid or paid in the month under consideration (i.e., Spend-Down month).

(vi) Guide dogs — Guide dogs for the blind or deaf and the costs of their maintenance.

(vii) Hospital charges.

(viii) Medical care charges included in tuition costs — Charges for medical care included in the tuition fee of a college or private school which is paid on a monthly basis, provided that a breakdown of the charges is included in the bill or is furnished separately by the institution.

(ix) Nursing home costs.

(x) Nursing services — Nursing services include nursing care in an individual's home, if for the purpose of treatment or alleviation of a physical, mental, or emotional disorder and ordered by a provider acting within the provider's scope of practice. The care needed must be medical, e.g., administering medication or therapy. Cost of services solely domestic in nature, such as the preparation of meals and the performance of housework, is not deductible.

(xi) Organ transplant expenses.

(xii) Prosthetic devices — Artificial teeth, limbs, hearing aids and component parts, eyeglasses and crutches.

(xiii) Psychiatric care — Psychiatric care primarily for alleviating a mental illness or defect; the cost of maintaining a mentally ill individual at a specially equipped medical center where the individual receives continual medical care.

(xiv) Special education for handicapped — Special school for mentally or physically handicapped individuals if for the alleviation of handicap. The costs of meals and lodging, if supplied by the institution, and/or ordinary education furnished incidental to the special services are medical expenses.

(xv) Substance abuse treatment — Treatment at a therapeutic center for drug addicts or alcoholics, including meals and lodging furnished as a necessary incident to the treatment.

(xvi) Transportation for medical/remedial purposes — Transportation essential to medical care, e.g., bus, taxi, train, or plane fares, and forty-seven cents ($0.47) for each mile that the individual's car is used for medical purposes, in addition to parking fees and tolls.

(xvii) Over the counter (non-prescription) medicine — $10.00 per month is deducted for these expenses without verification, using only the applicant's statement. All of these expenses must be verified if the amount is more than $10.00 per month.

The following are types of medical expenses that are not considered Countable Medical
Expenses for the Medically Needy categories:

(i) Expenses that have been written off as uncollectible or have been forgiven by the provider.

(ii) Expenses that are covered by the State’s TennCare Medicaid plan and are incurred during a period of eligibility:

(I) Costs incurred during a period of TennCare eligibility due to co-pays or services not covered such as dental, hearing and eye care for adults are allowable as a medical expense.

(II) Bills incurred during TennCare eligibility which are subject to TennCare reimbursement are not considered outstanding for subsequent spend down periods even if not paid by TennCare.

(3) ABD Financial Determinations:

(a) Coverage groups whose financial eligibility is determined based on SSI financial methodology are:

1. Members of SSI-Related Groups.

2. MSP Applicants.

3. Individuals applying for coverage of LTSS, under the Institutional Eligibility category.

(b) Income Determinations. Income countable for purposes of individuals described in this paragraph is defined at 20 C.F.R. §§ 416.1100, et seq., and as set forth below. Unless otherwise specified below, these individuals are subject to the following income requirements:

1. ABLE Accounts. Contributions and ABLE account earnings are excluded, except that contributions are not deducted from countable income of the individual making the contribution. Distributions from an ABLE account are not income of the designated beneficiary in any month regardless of whether the distribution is for non-housing QDEs, housing QDEs or non-qualified expenses. Distribution from an ABLE account is the conversion of a resource from one form to another.

2. Adoption Subsidies—Countable to the child if intended for general living expenses. Excluded if for reimbursement of child care while the adult responsible for the child is at work or seeking employment, or for medical expenses.

3. Alimony—Countable.

4. Annuity Payments—If the underlying annuity is an excluded resource, the periodic payments are countable unearned income. If the underlying annuity is a countable resource, payments are excluded.

5. Assistance Payment from another State—Countable.


7. Care and Contribution in Exchange for a Transferred Asset—Countable.


10. Cash Support—Countable, unless excluded as irregular or infrequent income.

11. Child Support Arrearage—Countable to the child(ren) the payments are intended to support. Exclude one-third (1/3) of the child support arrearage payment to or for an eligible child. The
one-third (1/3) exclusion does not apply to ineligible children.

12. Child Support Payments — Countable to the child(ren) the payments are intended to support. Exclude one-third (1/3) of the child support payment to or for an eligible child. The one-third (1/3) exclusion does not apply to ineligible children.


14. CSIMA — Countable as unearned income only when the institutionalized individual is not in the community spouse’s household. If the applicant is a deemed member of the institutionalized individual’s household, the CSIMA is excluded.

15. Contractual Payments — Excluded.

16. Death Benefits — Countable income to an individual if the total amount exceeds the expense of the deceased person’s last illness and burial paid by the individual to whom the death benefit is issued.

17. DIMA — Countable as unearned income only when the institutionalized individual is not in the dependent’s household. If the applicant is a deemed member of the institutionalized individual’s household, the DIMA is excluded.


19. Domestic Volunteer Service Act Payments — Excluded if received through the following programs: Title II Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, and Foster Grandparent Program; Title III Service Corps of Retired Executives, Senior Companion Program, and Active Corps of Executives.


21. Earned In-Kind Food or Shelter — Countable.

22. Earned In-Kind Not Food or Shelter — Excluded.

23. Earned In-Kind Wages — Countable.

24. Education Income that is Not Work Study — Excluded.

25. Farmer/Fishing Income — Countable.


27. General Assistance Payments — Countable.


30. Income Produced from Resources — Income generated by a resource that is excluded is countable unearned income. Income generated by a resource that is countable is excluded as income.

31. Inheritance Cash — Countable.

32. Interest Bearing Resources — Interest earned on a countable resource is excluded as unearned income. Interest earned on an excluded resource is countable as income.

33. Irregular or Infrequent Income — Exclude up to $60.00 per calendar quarter of unearned income when it is received infrequently or irregularly. Exclude up to $30.00 per calendar quarter of earned income when it is received infrequently or irregularly.
34. Jury Duty Pay — Countable unless the income is turned over to an applicant's employer.

35. Long Term Care Insurance Payments — Countable if the payment is not assigned to the nursing home or lead HCBS agency.

36. Military Allotments — The Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA) and the Military Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) are counted as unearned income.

37. Older Americans Act Payments — Countable.

38. Payments from FEMA — FEMA payments issued as a result of a presidentially-declared emergency or major disaster are excluded. Payments made by comparable disaster assistance programs by States, local governments and disaster assistance organizations are also excluded. FEMA payments which are made to a household to pay for rent, food and utility assistance when there is no major disaster or emergency declaration are countable.


40. PASS Payments — Funds received by a protective payee (conservator, authorized representative or representative payee) and used for the care and maintenance of a third-party beneficiary (adult or child) who may or may not be a member of the protective payee’s household are excluded as income to the protective payee. Any part of the payment that is retained by the protective payee for his or her own use is countable income to the protective payee. Even if the protective payee retains a fee for his or her services, the entire payment issued on behalf of the beneficiary is countable income to the beneficiary.

41. Rental or Lease Income — Countable as earned income when the individual is in the business of renting or leasing property, i.e., self-employment. Countable as unearned income when the individual is not in the business of renting or leasing property. Count the amount of income remaining after expenses related to maintaining the property are applied.

42. Royalties and Honoraria — Countable.

43. Self-Employment — Net earnings are countable.

44. Settlements or Disaster Payments — The following settlements and disaster payments are excluded as unearned income:

   (i) Agent Orange Settlement Payments. Payments and interest are excluded as unearned income but counted when determining patient liability for institutionalized individuals;

   (ii) Disaster Relief Assistance received under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974;

   (iii) Distribution of perpetual judgment funds to Indian tribes under the following:

   (I) Indian Judgment Funds Distribution (P.L. 93-134)

   (II) Black Feet and Gros Ventre Tribes (P.L. 92-254)

   (III) Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians in Indian Claims Commission Docket No. 40-K;

   (IV) Tribes of groups under P.L. 93-134;

   (V) Yakima Indian Nation or the Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation (P.L. 94-433); and

   (VI) Receipts from land held in trust by the Federal government and distributed to certain Indian tribes under P.L. 94-114.
(iv) Factor VIII or IX Concentrate Blood Products Litigation. The settlement payments (and interest from payments) made as a result of the class action lawsuit to hemophilia patients infected with HIV through blood plasma products;

(v) Filipino-Veterans Compensation Fund Payments. Lump sum payments (and interest from payments) made to certain veterans and spouses of veterans who served in the military of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines during WWII;

(vi) Japanese-American and Aleutian Restitution Payments (and interest from payments);

(vii) Payments made to individuals because of their status as victims of Nazi persecutions (and interest from payments);

(viii) Payments to children born of Vietnam veterans diagnosed with spina bifida (and interest from payments);

(ix) Payments made under the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (interest is not excluded);

(x) Revenues from the Alaska Native Fund paid under section 21(a) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act; and

(xi) Criminal Victims Compensation Funds paid to crime victims.

45. Severance — Countable.

46. Sheltered Workshop Payments — Excluded.

47. Sick/Disability Payments — Countable.


49. Social Service Payments — Excluded.

50. SSI — Excluded.

51. Temporary Disability Insurance — Income is countable as unearned income to the extent it is not a reimbursement for specific costs and is paid directly to the household.

52. Tips — Any amount over $20.00 per month is countable.

53. Trusts — Dividends, interest, rents and other income generated by a trust fund, unless otherwise excluded, that can be paid to the beneficiary or to a third party on the beneficiary’s behalf are countable income to the beneficiary for the period the fund is intended to cover, beginning the month the funds become available, regardless of whether the income is actually paid out to the beneficiary. When funds are withdrawn irregularly, the payments are countable in the month received.

(i) Monies withdrawn from the principal of an accessible (countable) trust fund are excluded as income to the beneficiary, because an accessible trust fund is a countable resource. Money cannot be considered income and a resource in the same month.

(ii) Monies disbursed from the principal of an inaccessible trust fund are counted as income because an inaccessible trust fund is an excluded resource.

(iii) Monies received by the trustee of a trust and used for the care and maintenance of a third party beneficiary (adult or child) are excluded as income for the trustee.

54. Unearned In-Kind Income or In-Kind Support and Maintenance — Unearned In-Kind income in the form of food and/or shelter may be countable or excluded and is subject to certain rules that determine the countable or excluded value.
55. Unearned In-Kind Income, Not Food or Shelter — Excluded.

56. Unemployment Compensation — Countable.

57. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Payments:
   (i) Additional Child Allotment — Excluded.
   (ii) Compensation — Countable.
   (iii) Death Benefit — Countable as unearned income to an individual if the total amount exceeds the expense of the deceased person’s last illness and burial paid by the individual to whom the death benefit is issued.
   (iv) Dependency and Indemnity Compensation — Countable.
   (v) Pension — Veteran’s benefits other than Aid and Attendance (A&A) are countable income. Homebound allowances are countable income. Any part of a veteran’s pension that is attributable to A&A is excluded as income, but is treated as third-party liability available to help meet the veteran’s medical expenses. A&A will be contributed to the cost of care in the nursing-home.
   (vi) If an institutionalized veteran receives the $90.00 reduced, improved pension, exclude the $90.00 from countable income and the cost of care calculation.

58. VISTA Payments — Excluded.

59. Wages — Countable.

60. Worker’s Compensation — Countable as unearned income to the extent it is not an expense attributable to obtaining the compensation.

61. WIA Payments — Excluded.


6(c) Resource Determinations. Resources countable for purposes of individuals described in this paragraph are defined at 20 C.F.R. §§ 416.1201, et seq. Unless otherwise specified below, individuals described in this paragraph are subject to the following resource requirements:

1. ABLE Accounts. ABLE account balances under $100,000.00 are not a countable resource of the designated beneficiary. Distributions from an ABLE account are countable as a resource when:
   (i) Distributions are retained past the month of receipt for a housing-related QDE or are used for or intended to be used for non-qualified disability expenses; or
   (ii) Distributions are retained past the month of receipt and were previously excluded because intended for a QDE, but used for a non-qualified expense. Count the amount of funds used as a resource the first of the month in which funds were spent; or
   (iii) Distributions are retained past the month of receipt, have not been spent, and the intent to use the funds for a QDE has changed. Count the retained funds as a resource the first of the following month;
   (iv) Qualified disability expenses (QDE) are expenses related to the blindness or disability of
2. Annuities are countable resources for individuals when accessible according to 20 C.F.R. § 416.1201. An annuity is a countable resource when it is revocable, assignable, or if can be sold.

   (i) If the annuity is an excluded resource, payments being received from the annuity may be countable unearned income. If the annuity is a countable resource, any payments being received from the annuity are excluded.

   (ii) The countable resource value of an annuity is its FMV. If the applicant is able to provide the FMV of the annuity, verified by two (2) credible sources in the legitimate business of selling and purchasing annuities, accept the verified value.

   (iii) If the applicant does not provide two credible statements of FMV, multiply the total annual payment by the period remaining to determine the countable value. If the period of the annuity is based on an annuitant’s lifetime, the annual payments are multiplied by the annuitant’s life expectancy, according to SSA’s Period Life Table. If the annuity is a “period certain” annuity, annual payments are multiplied by the annuitant’s life expectancy or the period certain, whichever is less. The calculated value of an annuity may be rebutted by providing two (2) credible statements of FMV amounts.

   (iv) Individuals applying for or receiving LTSS must meet additional requirements regarding asset transfers and exclusion of annuities at Rule .06(3)(h).

3. Business or Self-Employment—Excluded as essential for the production of earned income. Resources may include:

   (i) Tools/equipment;

   (ii) Stock or raw materials;

   (iii) Personal property essential for income production;

   (iv) Real property;

   (v) Office equipment;

   (vi) Business loans for the purchase of capital assets;

   (vii) Inventory;

   (viii) Machinery and equipment;

   (ix) Business/commercial checking accounts; and

   (x) Life insurance.

4. Burial Funds:

   (i) Burial funds which are not commingled are excluded resources when:

   (i) The funds are used to purchase a life insurance policy which is then irrevocably assigned to a funeral provider. Either the ownership of the policy or proceeds may be assigned to the funeral provider. The purpose of the assignment is to fund a burial contract.
(II) The funds are invested in an irrevocable pre-paid or pre-need burial contract established by a funeral provider and the contract meets the following conditions:

I. Both the individual and the funeral home representative have signed the document;

II. An itemized list of the services provided under the contract is provided;

III. The total dollar amount of the agreement is specified;

IV. The individual was neither a minor nor legally declared incompetent when the agreement was signed; and

V. The agreement specifies in writing that the money is not refundable under any circumstances;

(III) The funds are invested in a burial trust established by the individual, and the total funds in the trust, including interest payments, do not exceed $6,000.00 per individual. Transport costs which cause the trust value to exceed $6,000.00 are excluded.

(ii) Burial funds are countable resources when:

(I) The funds are used to purchase a life insurance policy and a revocable assignment of the policy or proceeds is made to a funeral provider;

(II) The funds are invested in a revocable pre-paid or pre-need burial contract established by a funeral provider.

(iii) Burial Reserve — An individual is allowed to set aside $1,500.00 in resources to cover expenses connected to his or her burial, cremation or other funeral arrangements. Funds allowed to be excluded as part of the burial reserve include revocable, countable burial funds. These funds must not be commingled with other resources, and must be set aside for burial expenses. The $1,500.00 maximum amount of the burial reserve is first reduced by:

(I) Life insurance, if the total value of all life insurance owned by the individual is $1,500.00 or less; and

(II) Funds in an irrevocable burial agreement or contract.

5. Burial Plots — Exclude the value of one burial space for each family member, e.g. spouse, child, parent, sibling, whether living in the home or not. Burial plots and spaces include a gravesite, crypt, mausoleum, niche or other repository for bodily remains, vaults, headstones, markers, plaques, containers and arrangement for opening and closing the gravesite.


7. Certificates of Deposit (CD) — Countable if held in a personal account. The value of a CD is the net amount that could be received after penalties for early withdrawal, if applicable. Taxes are not deducted in determining net value.

8. Checking Accounts — Personal checking accounts are countable. Some checking accounts that may be excluded include those designated for burial needs, educational income, Individual Development Accounts, PASS, prorated as income, proceeds from the sale of a home, disaster or settlement funds if excluded by policy, and retroactive SSA payments.

9. CCRC Deposit or Fee — The value of an entrance fee paid to a CCRC is a countable resource.
when it meets the following conditions:

(i) The entrance fee can be used to pay for care under the terms of the entrance contract should other resources of the individual be insufficient;

(ii) The entrance fee or its remaining portion is refundable when the individual dies or terminates the contract and leaves the CCRC; and

(iii) The entrance fee does not confer any ownership interest in the community.

10. Contracts for Deed or Mortgage — The value of a contract for deed or mortgage may be a countable asset dependent on the circumstances of the loan, including the individual’s role as lender or borrower and the accessibility of the asset.

(i) When the individual is the lender for a contract for deed, the lender may sell or transfer the instrument to have immediate access to the unpaid principal. The value of the resource equity value is a countable asset. Any subsequent payments to the principal made by the debtor after approval are considered a resource because the unpaid loan principal is a resource. The value of the contract may be excluded from the countable resources if the individual can demonstrate that the contract cannot be sold without his realizing a net loss.

(ii) If the individual is the borrower the property agreement is not a resource. However, the property purchased may be a countable resource following the month of transaction.

11. Educational Income:

(i) Educational income received under Title IV, Bureau of Indian Affairs, or Department of Veterans Affairs programs is excluded as a resource.

(ii) Grants other than Title IV or Bureau of Indian Affairs grants, scholarships, fellowships and gifts intended to pay for tuition, fees or educational expenses are excluded for nine (9) months beginning the month after the funds are received. The individual must be enrolled in school and attending classes to be considered a student.

12. Farm, Business, Other Equipment — The equity value of non-self-employment income-producing real property, other than the homestead, is a countable resource. Exclude up to $6,000.00 in equity and count only the amount that exceeds the limit, if the net income totals at least six percent (6%) of the equity value. If the property is used for self-employment, it is excluded as Business or Self-Employment.

13. Rental property is countable if the individual who owns the property is not in the business of renting property. Someone who is in the business of renting property is someone who materially participates in the operation and decision making of the rental business for at least (20) hours per week.

14. Homestead Exclusion — The entire value of the home, whether on land or water, all adjoining land not separated by property owned by others and any related outbuildings are excluded in determining resource eligibility as long as:

(i) The home is the principal place of residence for the individual and/or his spouse and/or dependents relatives; and

(ii) If the individual resides in a long-term care facility, his intent to return to the home is established.

(iii) For an institutionalized individual, the home is excluded if the above are true and the individual’s equity interest does not exceed $552,000.00, with one exception: the home equity limit does not apply to an institutionalized individual if the spouse of the individual, the individual’s child under age twenty-one (21), or a blind or permanently and totally disabled child is residing in the home. An institutionalized individual whose home
exceeds the $552,000.00 limit and who does not have a spouse, a child under age twenty-one (21) or a disabled or blind child living in the home, is not eligible for payment of long term services and supports, unless it is determined undue hardship exists.

(iv) An individual must have lived in the home for it to be considered his home or principal place of residence.

(v) The value of the home and surrounding land will not be counted as a resource during the individual's absence from an unoccupied home when he intends to return to the property. An absence from the home can be necessary to accomplish a specific purpose such as hospitalization, confinement in a nursing home or receipt of services, such as nursing or personal care services not available to the individual in his home.

(vi) An intent to return home is nullified by any efforts to sell or dispose of the property during the exemption period. The exemption based on the intent to return ends the first day of the month after the month efforts are made to sell or dispose of the homestead property.

(vii) Rental of a homestead which has been excluded because of intent to return does not nullify the exclusion. The homestead retains the exclusion as long as there is a clear, non-contradictory intent to return, and no efforts are made to sell or dispose of the property. The rent will be counted as unearned income in the month received.

(viii) The exemption based on residence of the enrollee's dependent relative ends the first day of the month after the relative last lived in the homestead, if the relative does not intend to return. Real property located outside of Tennessee can be excluded from countable resources as homestead property, if there is substantiation of the individual's intent to return to the home or the property is the principal residence of the individual's spouse or dependent relatives.

15. Individual Development Account—Funds, including accrued interest, in the account are excluded as a resource as long as the individual complies with the IDA eligibility rules and continues to maintain or make contributions into the account.

16. Income-Producing Resource—Exclude up to $6,000.00 of an individual's equity in an income-producing resource if it produces a net annual income to the individual of at least six percent (6%) of the property's equity value. If the individual's equity value is greater than $6,000.00, the amount that exceeds $6,000.00 is countable towards the resource limit.

(i) If an income-producing resource does not produce a net annual income of at least six percent (6%) of the resource's equity value, the entire equity value of the resource is countable.

(ii) If the individual owns more than one piece of income-producing resource and each produces income, each is reviewed to determine whether the six percent (6%) test is met. Then the amounts of the individual's equity in all of those properties producing six percent (6%) are totaled to determine if the total equity of all properties is $6,000.00 or less. If the total equity value in the properties that meet the six percent (6%) rule is over the $6,000.00 equity limit, the amount exceeding $6,000.00 is counted as a resource.

17. Insurance—Exclude Sick and Disability Insurance and Burial Insurance.

18. Items of Unusual Value, Household Goods, and Personal Effects—In general, an item may be considered an item of unusual value if the item is not excluded as a household good or personal effect, and the equity value of the item is greater than $500.00. An item of unusual value that generates income for the individual is countable. The countable value is determined by applying the Rate of Return test (see Income-Producing Resource above). A personal item of unusual value is excluded. Household Goods and Personal Effects are also excluded.

19. Life Estates—Property in which an individual holds a life estate is subject to the same exclusion rules as property the individual owns by title, subject to the following exceptions:
(i) A life estate will be excluded as the home when the property meets the homestead exemption.

(ii) If the property is used in the passive production of income, then the life estate is subject to the Rate of Return test (see, Income-Producing Resource above).

(iii) A life estate will be excluded when ownership is necessary for the production of earned income.

(iv) The terms of the life estate contract prevent the holder from selling his or her interest in the property.

(v) If the life estate is not excluded based on the criteria (i)-(iv) above, the entire value of the life estate is a countable asset. The life estate value is determined by multiplying the Fair Market Value (FMV) of the property by the percentage listed in the SSA's Life Estate and Remainder Interest Tables for the age of the individual on whose lifetime the life estate is based. If more than one person owns the life estate, the value is based on the owner with the longest life expectancy.

(vi) When an individual purchases, or, in some other way receives, as compensation in a transaction, a life estate in another individual's home, the purchase of the life estate is considered an asset transfer subject to penalty, unless the individual then lives in the home for a period of at least one year after receiving the life estate.

(vii) If the individual does live in the home for a period of one year after receiving or purchasing the life estate, then the amount of the transfer is the entire amount used to purchase the life estate.

(viii) If an individual purchases a life estate in another individual's home and then does live there for one year after the purchase, the life estate is an excluded resource while being used as the individual’s (or the individual’s spouse's) home. However, if payment for a life estate exceeds the FMV of the life estate the difference between the amount paid and the FMV should be treated as an asset transfer. In addition, if an individual makes a gift or transfer of a life estate interest, the value of the life estate should be treated as a transfer of assets.

20. Life Insurance — Countable or excluded based on the type of life insurance owned by the individual and its intended use. Exclude all life insurance if the total face value of all policies does not exceed $1,500.00 per owner.

21. Livestock—The value of livestock necessary for business or self-employment, as a tool of the trade, or raised for home/personal consumption is an excluded resource. Income received is countable as self-employment income. The equity value of livestock that are pets is countable. Livestock that is used as non-business income-producing property is countable, and subject to treatment as an Income-Producing Resource as described in this subparagraph.

22. Oil and Mineral Rights — May be included with land ownership or owned separately. If surface rights of the same property are excluded (for example, as a home) so are oil and mineral rights. Oil and mineral rights are countable when owned for personal use, or when the surface rights of the same property are countable (non-homestead, real property).

(i) If oil or mineral rights are producing income under a lease agreement, the owner may be constrained from selling or otherwise disposing of those rights. If the land is already excluded, the oil and mineral rights are excluded.

(ii) If oil or mineral rights are producing income to the individual, and he or she is not actively engaged in the production of income, the equity value of the rights is subject to the Rate of Return test. See Income-Producing Resource above.

23. Patient Trust Account — The balance of the account at the time of application and redetermination is a countable resource.
24. Personal—Countable unless excluded based on the terms of the asset. A personal resource is typically for the use of the individual and his family.

25. Personal Consumption—Exclude up to $6,000.00 of the equity value of non-business property currently in use to produce goods or services essential to daily activities. Any portion of the property's equity value in excess of $6,000.00 is a countable resource.

26. PASS—Any income an SSI recipient places in an approved PASS account is excluded as a resource. The PASS account itself is also excluded. This exclusion expires when the PASS contract expires or ends, or when the individual is no longer an SSI recipient.

27. Prepayment of Rent—Countable unless the individual cannot receive the money back under any circumstances (i.e., the lease agreement includes a no-refund policy, or the landlord provides a statement that the funds will not be returned to the renter). Prepayment of an applicant's mortgage is not considered a resource.

28. Prepayment of Nursing-Home Care—Prepayment for care deposited by an applicant upon his admission to a TennCare Medicaid partipating long-term care facility is a countable resource for the individual who is subsequently approved for TennCare Medicaid benefits if the deposit was paid from the individual's own funds.

29. Proceeds from the Sale of a Home—Excluded to the extent that the funds are intended to be used to purchase another home subject to the homestead exclusion, and the funds are used for such a purpose within three (3) months of the date of receipt of the proceeds.

30. Promissory Notes and other Loans—A promissory note or other loan given by the household is considered personal property and is countable, unless the note/loan balance is inaccessible or the promissory note is held for reasons other than personal use. The lender holds legal interest and has the legal ability to make available his or her share in the note or loan. The equity value of the note/loan is countable.

(i) If a household makes a loan that is considered inaccessible, or is shown to have a significantly lower market value than the unpaid balance of the loan, the loan will be considered to be an uncompensated transfer of assets. The uncompensated asset transfer will be considered to be the outstanding balance due on the loan as of the date of the lender's application for long-term services and supports (nursing facility or HCBS services).

(ii) In addition, the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA) provides that funds used to purchase a promissory note, loan or mortgage must meet the following criteria, or the purchase will be treated as a transfer of assets for less than FMV:

(i) The repayment term must be actuarially sound (as determined by SSA standards);

(ii) Payments must be made in equal amounts during the term of the loan with no deferral payment and no balloon payments; and

(iii) The promissory note, loan or mortgage must prohibit the cancellation of the balance upon the death of the lender.

(iii) If the above criteria are not met, the purchase of the promissory note or loan must be treated as a transfer of assets. The amount used to calculate a penalty will be the outstanding balance of the loan due as of the date of application for TennCare Medicaid.

(iv) Promissory notes that are made for purposes other than personal use are treated according to their use. Promissory notes may be made for the following purposes:

(I) Burial;

(II) Business or Self-Employment; and
31. Property that represents government authority to engage in an income-producing activity—Excluded if the property is used in trade, business or non-business income-producing activity. Exclude property that is currently not in use due to circumstances beyond the individual's control and there is a reasonable expectation that the use will resume.

32. Prorated as Income — Excluded.

33. Real Property — The equity value in all real property the individual owns individually or jointly is a countable asset with the following exceptions:

(i) Property excluded as homestead;

(ii) The inaccessible equity value of real property;

(iii) Equity value of income-producing property (subject to the Rate of Return test);

(iv) Real property necessary for the production of earned income (see Business or Self-Employment); and

(v) Property excluded under a Conditional Assistance agreement between the individual and the State.

34. Retirement Accounts and Pension Plans — If retirement benefits are being received out of such accounts, the principal is not considered a resource. If payments are not being received and the account is accessible, then the equity value is countable. The equity value is the cash surrender value minus any early withdrawal penalty.

(i) Funds held in a 401(k) retirement account are countable when the individual or his or her spouse is no longer job-attached because the funds are accessible after employment terminates. If the individual is still job-attached, the value of the 401(k) is excluded. A 401(k) retirement account owned by a deemed spouse or a deemed parent is excluded as a resource.

(ii) Funds held in an IRA are considered accessible to the individual or community spouse. Count the equity value of an accessible IRA when determining eligibility. IRA funds owned by a community spouse are also considered countable and accessible when determining a CSRMA. IRA funds owned by a deemed spouse (for non-institutional categories) or deemed parent are excluded from the resource determination.

(iii) Keogh plans are considered accessible and counted as resources to the individual or community spouse even if the household is not actually accessing the funds. Keogh funds are countable resources in determining the CSRMA. Keogh plans owned by a deemed spouse (non-institutional) or deemed parent are excluded as resources.

35. Savings Accounts — Countable if it is characterized by personal use. If the current month's income has been deposited into the account it must be excluded when determining the current value of the account. A savings account may be excluded if it is used for one of the following purposes:

(i) Burial funds;

(ii) Business or Self-Employment;

(iii) Educational Income;

(iv) Individual Development Account.
(v) Proceeds from the Sale of a Home (subject to time limits);
(vi) Prorated as income;
(viii) Settlement or Disaster Payment, if excluded by policy; and
(ix) SSI/SSA Retroactive Payment (subject to time limits).

36. Settlement or Disaster Payment—Payments or benefits provided under certain Federal statutes are excluded, if payments are not commingled with other funds. Excluded settlement and/or disaster payments include:

(i) Agent Orange Settlement Payments;

(ii) Disaster Relief Assistance received under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974;

(iii) Distribution of perpetual judgment funds to Indian tribes under the following:

(I) Indian Judgment Funds Distribution (P.L. 93-134);

(II) Black Feet and Gros Ventre Tribes (P.L. 92-254);

(III) Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians in Indian Claims Commission Docket No. 40-K;

(IV) Tribes of groups under PL 93-134;

(V) Yakima Indian Nation or the Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation (PL 94-433); and

(VI) Receipts from land held in trust by the Federal government and distributed to certain Indian tribes under PL 94-114.

(iv) Factor VIII or IX Concentrate Blood Products Litigation. The settlement payments made to hemophilia patients infected with HIV through blood plasma products as a result of the class-action lawsuit;

(v) Filipino Veterans Compensation Fund Payments. Lump sum payments made to certain veterans and spouses of veterans who served in the military of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines during WWII;

(vi) Japanese-American and Aleutian Restitution Payments;

(vii) Payments made to individuals because of their status as victims of Nazi-persecutions;

(viii) Payments to children born of Vietnam veterans diagnosed with spina bifida;

(ix) Payments made under the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (State and local payments are only excluded for nine (9) months);

(x) Revenues from the Alaska Native Fund paid under section 21(a) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act;

(xi) Criminal Victims Compensation Funds paid to crime victims (excluded for nine (9) months); and

(xii) Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA).

37. SSI/SSA Retroactive Payment—Excluded for nine (9) months after the payment is received.
and counted after that nine (9) month exclusion period.

38. Stocks/Bonds/Mutual Funds—Countable. Although personal mutual funds are countable, those held for purposes listed below are subject to different treatment:

   (i) Burial;
   (ii) Business or Self-Employment;
   (iii) Educational Income;
   (iv) Proceeds from the Sale of a Home;
   (v) Prorated as Income; or
   (vi) Settlement or Disaster Payment, if excluded by policy.


40. Trusts—Countable or excluded based on the nature of the trust, the date the trust was created, the source of funds used to create the trust, plus other factors as specified in 42 U.S.C. § 1396p(d).

41. Vehicles—One car, truck, motorcycle, camper, motor home, aircraft, snowmobile, watercraft, boat, or all-terrain vehicle is excluded regardless of its value if it is used for transportation of the individual or a member of his or her household. If an applicant owns more than one vehicle, the equity value of that second vehicle is countable when it is owned by the applicant or a deemed filing unit member, and it cannot be excluded under another provision. Boats, motorcycles, snowmobiles, jet skis, ATVs, and aircraft are generally considered recreational vehicles. The equity value of these recreational vehicles is a countable resource unless it can be excluded under other provisions.

(d) Conditional Assistance. Real and personal property, which is not exempt under another resource provision, is exempt as a resource if the individual enters into a Conditional Assistance agreement with the State. The individual must make a bona fide effort to sell the property at its current market value, and repay the State for medical expenses covered by HCFA during the period of conditional assistance.

1. The exclusion period for real property is not to exceed nine (9) months. The exclusion period for personal property is not to exceed three (3) months, however a three (3) month extension may be granted if the individual is able to show a good cause for failure to dispose of the property. Property that remains unsold at the end of the exclusion period will be considered inaccessible so long as the individual continues the bona fide effort to sell.

2. Repayment of medical expenses covered by HCFA during the period of conditional assistance may not exceed the total net proceeds of the sale. Any proceeds remaining after the repayment of medical expenses is paid are considered a resource.

(e) Disregards and Expenses Allowed. Unless otherwise specified in Subparagraph (f) below, individuals described in Subparagraph (a) are subject to the following expense requirements.

1. Court Ordered Child Support Payments—Exclude amount actually paid up to the full court-ordered obligation. A child support disregard will not be allowed for the same individual for whom a CSIMA or DIMA is allowed in an Institutionalized Medicaid budget.

2. Legally Obligated Alimony Payments—Alimony is an expense to the payer of the alimony and is allowed when alimony is paid during the month of application. The payments must be in cash, including checks and money orders, to be considered alimony. The following payments are not alimony: child support, noncash property settlements, and payments to keep up the payer's property. Alimony expenses do not include voluntary payments.
3. General Income Disregard — A $20.00 monthly General Income Disregard is allowed per household, and is applied to unearned income. If any of the $20.00 disregard is not offset by unearned income, the remainder is applied to the spouse’s unearned income and then to the applicant or enrollee’s earned income.

4. Child Support Disregard — If the applicant receives child support payments (current only), exclude up to $50.00 per month of child support payments received if the family also receives TANF benefits.

5. Earned Income Disregard — The first $65.00 of the earned income of each aged, blind or disabled individual is disregarded.

6. Blind and Disability Related Work Expenses:

(i) The gross countable earned income of each blind or disabled individual (not living in a medical institution) may be reduced by the amount of expenses attributable to earning the income. The allowable Blind Work Expenses (BWE) and allowable Disability Related Work Expenses (DRWE) are not the same. BWE and DRWE apply only to earned income. In order to deduct either BWE or DRWE, the individual must be:

(I) Blind, blind and disabled, or disabled; and under age sixty-five (65), or

(II) Age sixty-five (65) and older, and received SSI payments due to blindness or disability the month before attaining age sixty-five (65).

(ii) These expenses do not apply to the Institutionalized Medicaid categories. Work expenses must not be payable or reimbursable by a third party, such as Medicaid, Medicare or other insurance.

7. One-Half Disregard — If an individual’s gross earned income, less any of the following disignards: General Income Disregard ($20.00) remainder, Earned Income Disregard ($65.00), Disabled Work Expense and Impairment-Related Work Expenses (IRWE), is greater than $0, disregard one-half (1/2) of the remainder.

8. Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE) — Applies to the earnings of an individual who is under age twenty-two (22) and regularly attending school. The exclusion may apply to an eligible or ineligible individual, child, spouse, or parent(s). The SEIE monthly amount is determined by the SSA. The SEIE does not apply to children attending elementary school.

(f) Household Composition Rules — Household composition for the ABD categories is governed by the FRR principle. Financial responsibility is limited to spouse to spouse and parent to child. Household composition not only determines which income standard to use, but also how FRR income is “deemed” or available, and the amount of income “deemed” or available to an individual. See 20 C.F.R. §§ 1160, et seq.

1. The following individuals must be included in the applicant’s household, if living in the same household:

(i) The applicant’s spouse;

(ii) The applicant’s children under eighteen (18) years of age or under twenty-two (22) years of age if a student;

(iii) The applicant’s parents, for children under eighteen (18) years of age or under twenty-two (22) years of age if a student; and

(iv) The applicant’s siblings that are under eighteen (18) years of age or under twenty-two (22) years of age if a student.

2. Step-children are included in the household when they live in the home and their natural parent is the spouse of the applicant and living in the home. Step-parents are included when they live
in the home with the applicant and natural or adopted parent, and are married to the natural or adopted parent. Step-siblings are included when their natural or adopted parent lives in the home and is considered the applicant’s step-parent.

3. Financial eligibility is determined based on a household size of one or two. Included household members are the applicant and if applicable, his spouse. If there are additional household members, they will be considered in deeming budgets, if appropriate.

4. Parent-to-child deeming applies when a blind or disabled child is living with his parent(s), and a portion of the parent’s income and resources may be deemed available to the child and counted as unearned income to the child in determining his TennCare Medicaid eligibility. The parent receives income disregards and allocations in order to meet his own needs and the needs of other children that live in the household. Child and parental allocations are deducted from the parent’s income before any income is deemed to the applicant/enrollee. Parental deeming applies to the following TennCare Medicaid categories:

(i) Medicare Savings Program (QMB, SLMB, QI and QDWI);

(ii) Pickle Passalong Aged and Blind/Disabled; and

(iii) Institutional Eligibility.

5. The countable income and resources of an applicant/enrollee’s TennCare Medicaid-ineligible spouse living in the home may be deemed available to the applicant/enrollee. Spousal deeming only applies when the spouses share a living arrangement, i.e., live in the community or home together. Spousal deeming applies to the following TennCare Medicaid Categories:

(i) Medicare Savings Program (QMB, SLMB, QI, and QDWI); and

(ii) Pickle Passalong Aged and Blind/Disabled.

6. The countable income and resources of an LTSS applicant/enrollee’s TennCare Medicaid-ineligible spouse living in the home is made available to the applicant/enrollee under the Spousal Impoverishment rules.

(g) Qualifying Income Trusts (QIT) for Institutional Applicants:

1. Individuals who are receiving or will receive nursing facility services or home and community based services (HCBS) offered either through the CHOICES Program or through a Section 1915(c) HCBS waiver program and whose income exceeds the Medicaid Income Cap (MIC) may establish a qualified income trust. Funds placed in a QIT that meets the standards set forth below are not treated as available resources or income for purposes of determining the individual’s TennCare eligibility.

2. A QIT is a trust consisting only of the individual’s pension income, SSI, and other monthly income that is created for the purpose of establishing income eligibility for TennCare coverage when an individual is or soon will be confined to a nursing facility. HCBS or ICF/IID waiver program offered either through the CHOICES Program or through a Section 1915(c) HCBS waiver program.

3. An individual is eligible to establish a QIT if his income is above the level at which he would be financially eligible for nursing facility, HCBS offered either through the CHOICES Program or through a Section 1915(c) HCBS waiver program, or ICF/IID care under Medicaid.

4. The amount of income that an applicant/recipieent places in a QIT cannot be limited nor can it be counted when testing income against the MIC. However, it is used in determining patient liability during post-eligibility treatment of income. If the applicant/recipieent’s income that is not placed in a QIT is over the MIC, the individual is not financially eligible for the Institutional category.

5. A valid QIT must meet the following criteria:
(i) The trust must be irrevocable and cannot be modified or amended in whole or in part by
the Grantor at any time. However, the Trustee or a court of competent jurisdiction shall
have the right and jurisdiction to modify any provision of the trust to the extent necessary
to maintain the eligibility of the Grantor for medical assistance.

(ii) Each month the trustee shall distribute the entire amount of income transferred into the
Trust except for an amount not to exceed $20.00 for expenses of the Trust.

(iii) The sole beneficiaries of the Trust are the individual for whose benefit the Trust is
established and the State of Tennessee. The Trust terminates upon the death of the
individual, or when the Trust is no longer required to establish TennCare Medicaid
eligibility in the State of Tennessee, or if nursing facility care or HCBS is no longer
medically necessary for the individual, or if the individual is no longer receiving such
services.

(iv) The Trust must provide that upon the death of the individual or termination of the Trust,
whichever occurs sooner, the State of Tennessee shall receive all amounts remaining in
the Trust up to the total amount of medical assistance paid by the State on behalf of the
individual.

(v) Amounts remaining in the Trust that are owed to the State must be paid to HCFA within
three (3) months after the death of the individual or termination of the Trust, whichever is
sooner, along with an accounting of the payments from the Trust. HCFA may grant an
extension if a written request is submitted within two (2) months of the termination of the
Trust.

(vi) This Part applies to an income trust established on or after July 1, 2005, and under the
hardship provision in Section 1613 (e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1382b(e)).
Hardship may be considered to exist when the institutionalized individual or his spouse
would have resources in excess of the resource limit, is otherwise eligible, and for whom
TennCare Medicaid ineligibility would result in loss of essential nursing care which is not
available.

(vii) Allowable payments from the Trust include:

(I) Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) — The amount the individual is allowed to retain
for his personal needs under TennCare Medicaid policies. As of January 1, 2005,
this amount is $50.00 for confinement in a nursing facility or ICF/IID and three
hundred percent (300%) of the SSI/FBR for HCBS enrollees and Self-Determination
Waiver, and two hundred percent (200%) of the SSI/FBR for the Arlington and Statewide
Waivers.

(II) A deduction of up to $20.00 for expenses necessary for managing the trust (i.e.
bank charges).

(III) CSIMA or DIMA, if applicable.

(IV) Health Insurance Premiums — Allowed when the individual has health insurance
other than TennCare Medicaid (for example, Medicare premium or a Medicare
supplement policy).

(V) Item D deductions — Payment for types of medical or remedial care recognized
under State law, but not covered as medical assistance under TennCare Medicaid.

(viii) Any countable income not placed in the QIT and any Trust income remaining after
allowable deductions are made shall be paid monthly to the nursing facility, HCBS
provider, or MCO by the individual or from the Trust in an amount not to exceed the
Medicaid reimbursement rate. Any excess income not distributed from the Trust shall
accumulate in the Trust monthly.
(ix) No other deductions or expenses may be paid from the Trust. Expenses which cannot be paid from the Trust except as specifically provided herein include, but are not limited to, trustee fees, attorney fees and costs (including attorney fees and costs incurred in establishing the trust), accountant fees, court fees and costs, fees for guardians ad litem, funeral expenses, past due medical bills and other debts.

(h) Annuities:

1. Disclosure. Disclosure of annuities is required for all applicants pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1396p(e). If an individual or his or her spouse refuses to disclose information related to an annuity, the individual will be denied Medicaid eligibility based on the individual’s failure to cooperate.

2. Annuities and Transfer of Assets. An annuity will not be treated as a transfer of assets if the annuity meets the requirements of 42 USC 1396p(c)(1)(G).

3. Requirement to name the State as the Remainder Beneficiary. The purchase of an annuity is subject to the transfer of assets provision unless it meets the requirements of 42 U.S.C. § 1396(c)(1)(F).

(i) Annuities purchased or converted by the individual or his spouse on or after February 8, 2009, must be changed prior to TennCare Medicaid approval or redetermination to name the State of Tennessee as the remainder beneficiary of the annuity, in the following order, if applicable:

   (I) Community Spouse.
   (II) A minor, blind or disabled child.
   (III) State of Tennessee.

(ii) As a remainder beneficiary, the State may receive up to the total amount of medical assistance paid on behalf of the individual, including both long-term services and supports and home and community based services. The State must notify the issuer of the State’s right as the preferred remainder beneficiary and the issuer must notify the State if there are any changes in the amount of income or principal being withdrawn.

(iii) An annuity may be amended to meet these criteria, so that the annuity purchase will not be treated as a transfer of assets for less than FMV.

1200-13-20-06 Financial Eligibility Determinations.

(1) Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Financial Eligibility Determinations.

   (a) All applicants for TennCare will have their income calculated for eligibility purposes according to the MAGI-based requirements at 42 C.F.R. § 435.603. The only exceptions are the Medicaid applicants at 42 C.F.R. §§ 435.603(j)(1)-(6).

   (b) In compliance with 42 C.F.R. § 435.603(g)(1), there is no resource or asset test for individuals whose income eligibility is required to be determined using MAGI income requirements.

   (c) There is no resource or asset test for pregnant women or children enrolled in CoverKids.

   (d) In compliance with 42 C.F.R. § 435.603(g)(2), there are no income or expense disregards for individuals whose eligibility is determined according to MAGI requirements, with the exception of those described at 42 C.F.R. §§ 435.603(d)(1) through (4).

   (e) Household composition, for financial eligibility determination purposes, for Child MAGI, Pregnancy MAGI, Caretaker Relative MAGI, TennCare Standard Uninsured, TennCare Standard Medically Eligible, and CoverKids categories will be determined using the MAGI methodology in accordance
Household composition for all other categories will be determined according to this Chapter. MAGI household composition methodology is based on federal tax rules and the principles of tax dependency, however the MAGI rules apply to both applicants who expect to file taxes or be claimed as tax dependents, and to those applicants who do not file taxes or are not claimed as tax dependents. Each applicant has his own household size constructed under MAGI rules, and it is permissible for applicants who live in the same household to have different household sizes.

1. Tax Filers.

   (i) For applicants who expect to file taxes, the household includes the tax filer and any dependents the tax filer expects to claim.

   (ii) For applicants claimed as tax dependents, the household is the same as the tax filer claiming the tax dependent. Tax dependents may include individuals not otherwise eligible for Medical Assistance, and who are not applying for benefits. If a non-custodial parent claims a child as a dependent, the dependent child will be included in the non-custodial parent's household size.

   (iii) For married couples who live together, each spouse will always be included in the other spouse's household, regardless of the couple's tax filing status.

   (iv) For married couples who expect to file joint taxes but live separately, each spouse will be included in the other spouse's household.

   (v) There are three exceptions to the tax filer rule for applicants claimed as tax dependents. An applicant who meets any of the following is subject to the non-filer household composition rules:

       (I) The tax filer is someone other than the applicant's spouse, or natural, adopted or step parent; or

       (II) The applicant is under age nineteen (19), or twenty-one (21) if a full-time student, and is claimed as a tax dependent by one parent, but her parents live together and do not file a joint tax return; or

       (III) The applicant is under age nineteen (19), or twenty-one (21) if a full-time student, and expects to be claimed as a tax dependent by a non-custodial parent.

2. Non-Filers. Applicants who do not file taxes are subject to the non-filer household composition rules. The non-filer household includes the applicant and if living with the applicant:

   (i) The applicant's spouse;

   (ii) The applicant's natural, adopted and step children under age nineteen (19), or twenty-one (21) if a full-time student;

   (iii) For applicants under age nineteen (19), or twenty-one (21) if a full-time student, the applicant's natural, adopted or step parent, and

   (iv) For applicants under age nineteen (19), or twenty-one (21) if a full-time student, the applicant's natural, adoptive and step siblings who are under age nineteen (19), or (21) if a full-time student.

   (f) The household size for a pregnant woman includes the number of children she is expected to deliver (the unborn child(ren)). The household size for other applicants in a pregnant woman's household does not include the unborn child(ren).

(2) AFDC-Related Financial Determinations.

   (a) Coverage groups whose financial eligibility is determined according to AFDC-based methodologies
1. Medically Needy Children; and
2. Qualified Medically Needy Pregnant Women.

(b) Income Determinations. Income for individuals described in this paragraph is calculated according to the AFDC cash assistance program's income definitions and policies (Rules 1240-01-04-.12 and .14-.19, and 45 C.F.R. § 233.20). Unless otherwise specified below, these individuals are subject to the following income requirements:

1. ABLE Accounts. Contributions made by a third party, including a trust, and ABLE account earnings are excluded, except that contributions are not deducted from countable income of the individual making the contribution. Distributions from an ABLE account are not income of the designated beneficiary in any month regardless of whether the distribution is for non-housing QDEs, housing QDEs or non-qualified expenses. A distribution from an ABLE account is the conversion of a resource from one form to another.

2. Adoption Subsidies. Payments to an individual from state adoption assistance programs or Title IV-E funds for special needs children are excluded.

3. Alimony Received. Countable.

4. Annuity Payments. If the underlying annuity is an excluded resource, the periodic payments are countable unearned income. If the underlying annuity is a countable resource, payments are excluded.

5. Assistance Payment from another state. Countable.


10. Cash Support. Countable, unless excluded as infrequent or irregular income.


13. Child/Spousal Support Transferred to IV-D Agency. Payments transferred by the household to DCS as assigned support are excluded.


16. CSIMA. Countable as unearned income only when the institutionalized individual is not in the community spouse's household.


18. Death Benefits. Countable income to an individual if the total amount exceeds the expense of the deceased person's last illness and burial paid by the individual to whom the death benefit is issued.

19. Deferred Wages. Countable when the income would have normally been received if the wages are deferred at the employee's request. Countable when received if the wages are deferred by
20. DIMA. Countable as unearned income only when the institutionalized individual is not in the
dependent's household.


22. Domestic Volunteer Service Act Payments. Payments made to volunteers under the Domestic
Volunteer Service Act are excluded, unless the Corporation for National and Community
Service (CNCS) determines that the value of the payments, based on the number of hours
served, are equal to or greater than the federal or state minimum wage where the volunteer is
serving, whichever is higher. This includes payments made to foster grandparents, senior
companions, and persons serving in the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and
Americorps VISTA.

23. Dwelling-related Assistance. Excluded if housing assistance is provided by HUD or USDA's
Rural Housing Service.


State Student Incentive Grants, Work Study, and any student financial assistance received
under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, or under Bureau of Indian
Affairs education assistance programs. Other grants, scholarships, fellowships, or gifts are
excluded to the extent they are used or set aside for educational expenses.

27. FF/TANF Payments. Excluded.


31. Gifts. Cash gifts are countable unless excluded as infrequent or irregular income.


33. Income Produced from Resources. Income generated by an excluded resource is countable
unearned income. Income generated by a countable resource is excluded as income.

34. Inheritance Cash. Countable.

35. Interest Income. Interest earned on a countable resource is excluded as unearned income.
Interest earned on an excluded resource is countable as income, unless specifically excluded
under a Federal statute.

36. Interest on Burial Funds and Spaces. Excluded.

37. Irregular or Infrequent Income. Up to $30.00 of unearned or earned income received
infrequently or irregularly per quarter is excluded.

38. Jury Duty Pay. Countable unless the income is turned over to an applicant's employer.

39. Long Term Care (LTC) Insurance Payout. Payments from long term care insurance used for
medical care are excluded.

41. **Military Allotments.** Cash allowances paid to active-duty service members and their families for housing, food, clothing and special circumstances count as earned income in the month of receipt. The basic allowance for subsistence (BAS), paid to military personnel to offset the cost of meals, counts as earned income. The basic allowance for housing (BAH) counts as earned income when the payment is made to military personnel living in private housing. When the BAH is paid to service members living on base or in privatized military housing and the allowance is paid and deducted from the service member’s pay in the same month or paid directly to the housing contractor, the BAH is excluded.

42. **Older Americans Act Benefits.** Count only wages and salaries paid to individuals as a result of their participation in a program funded under Title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 as earned income. Benefits received under Title VII, Nutrition Program for the Elderly, of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended, are excluded.

43. **PASS Income.** Any earned or unearned income received and used to fulfill an approved plan to achieve self-support is excluded.

44. **Payments from FEMA.** FEMA payments issued as a result of presidentially declared emergency or major disaster are excluded. Payments made by comparable disaster assistance programs by States, local governments and disaster assistance organizations are also excluded. FEMA payments which are made to a household to pay for rent, food and utility assistance when there is no major disaster or emergency declaration are countable.

45. **Pensions.** Countable.

46. **Protective Payee Payments.** Funds received by a protective payee (conservator, authorized representative or representative payee) and used for the care and maintenance of a third party beneficiary (adult or child) who may or may not be a member of the protective payee’s household are excluded as income to the protective payee. Any part of the payment that is retained by the protective payee for her own use is countable income to the protective payee. Even if the protective payee retains a fee for her services, the entire payment issued on behalf of the beneficiary is countable income to the beneficiary.

47. **Railroad Retirement Payments.** Countable.

48. **Reimbursements.** Reimbursement of expenses an employee incurs in the performance of his duties for items other than normal living expenses are excluded.

49. **Rental or Lease Income.** Countable as earned income when the individual is actively engaged in producing such income, or bears some responsibility in earning the income. Countable as unearned income when the individual is not actively engaged in producing the income, or bears no responsibility in earning the income. Count the amount of income remaining after expenses related to maintaining the property are excluded.

50. **Royalties and Honoraria.** Countable.

51. **Self-Employment Income.** Net earnings are countable.

52. **Settlements and Restitutions.** The following settlements and restitution payments are excluded as unearned income:

   (i) **Agent Orange Settlement Payments:**

   (ii) **Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act exclusions:**

   (iii) **Criminal Victims Compensation Funds paid to crime victims:**

   (iv) **Distribution of perpetual judgment funds to Indian tribes under the following:**

      (I) **Black Feet and Gros Ventre Tribes (P.L. 92-254):**
(II) Grand River Band of Ottawah Indiana in Indian Claims Commission Docket No. 40-K;

(III) Indian Judgment Funds Distribution (P.L. 93-134);

(IV) Receipts from land held in trust by the Federal government and distributed to certain Indian tribes under P.L. 94-114;

(V) Tribes or groups under P.L. 93-134; and

(VI) Yakima Indian Nation or the Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation (P.L. 95-433).

(v) Filipino Veterans Compensation Fund Payments. Lump sum payments made to certain veterans and spouses of veterans who served in the military of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines during WWII;

(vi) German Reparation Payments;

(vii) Japanese-American and Aleutian Restitution Payments;

(viii) Payments made to individuals because of their status as victims of Nazi persecutions;

(ix) Payments to children born of Vietnam veterans diagnosed with spina bifida; and

(x) Revenues from the Alaska Native Fund paid under section 21(a) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.


57. Social Service Payments. Excluded.

58. SSI Payments. Excluded.

59. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The value of a SNAP benefit is excluded. The value of free or reduced food under WIC or the National School Lunch Act is also excluded.

60. Temporary Disability Payments. Income is countable as unearned income to the extent it is not a reimbursement for specific costs and is paid directly to the applicant or any member of the applicant's household.


62. Trusts. Money withdrawn from the body of a trust or interest and dividends accrued to the trust and paid to the individual is countable.


64. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Payments. Educational benefits, VA Aid & Attendance, and VA payments from Unusual Medical Expenses are excluded. VA Disability and VA Pension payments made to a veteran are countable. Augmented VA, Apportioned VA, and VA Survivor (DIC) payments are countable for the dependant spouse, child or parent for whom or to whom the benefits are paid.
Wages. Countable.

Work Study Payments. Excluded.

Workers’ Compensation. Countable as unearned income to the extent it is not earmarked and used for the purpose for which it is paid (i.e., medical bills or legal expenses).

(c) Resource Requirements. Resources for individuals described in this paragraph are calculated according to the AFDC cash assistance program’s resource definitions and policies (Rules 1240-01-04-05, 07, 09 and 10; 42 C.F.R. §§ 435.840 and 435.845; and 45 C.F.R. § 233.20). Individuals described in this paragraph are subject to the following resource requirements:

1. ABLE Accounts. ABLE account balances and distributions from an ABLE account for a QDE are not a countable resource of the designated beneficiary. Distributions from an ABLE account are countable as a resource when:
   (i) Distributions are retained past the month of receipt for non-qualified disability expenses;
   (ii) Qualified disability expenses (QDE) are expenses related to the blindness or disability of the designated beneficiary and for the benefit of the designated beneficiary. In general, a QDE includes, but is not limited to education, housing, transportation, employment training and support, assistive technology and personal support services, health, prevention and wellness, financial management and administrative services, legal fees, funeral and burial expenses, and basic living expenses.

2. Annuities. An annuity is a countable resource when it is revocable, assignable, or if it can be sold.
   (i) If an annuity is an excluded resource, payments being received from the annuity are countable unearned income. If the annuity is a countable resource, any payments being received from the annuity are excluded.
   (ii) The countable resource value of an annuity is its Fair Market Value (FMV). If the applicant is able to provide the FMV of the annuity, verified by two (2) credible sources in the legitimate business of selling and purchasing annuities, accept the verified value.
   (iii) If the applicant does not provide two (2) credible statements of FMV, multiply the total annual payment by the period remaining to determine the countable value. If the period of the annuity is based on an annuitant’s lifetime, the annual payments are multiplied by the annuitant’s life expectancy, according to SSA’s Period Life Table. If the annuity is a “period certain” annuity, annual payments are multiplied by the annuitant’s life expectancy or the period certain, whichever is less. The calculated value of an annuity may be rebutted by providing two (2) credible statements of FMV amounts.

3. Business or Self-Employment. Excluded as essential for the production of earned income. Such excluded resources may include:
   (i) Tools/equipment;
   (ii) Stock or raw materials;
   (iii) Personal property essential for income production;
   (iv) Real property;
   (v) Office equipment;
   (vi) Business loans for the purchase of capital assets;
   (vii) Inventory;
(viii) Machinery and equipment;
(ix) Business/commercial checking accounts; and
(x) Life insurance.

4. Burial Contracts or Policies. Excluded. This does not include pre-paid or pre-need burial agreements.

5. Burial Plot. Exclude one burial plot per household member.

6. Prepaid Burial Agreements or Burial Trusts. Exclude one burial agreement or burial trust with equity value of $1,500.00 or less per family member.

7. Cash: Countable.

8. Certificate of Deposit (CD). Countable if held in a personal account. The value of a CD is the net amount that could be received after penalties for early withdrawal, if applicable. Taxes are not deducted in determining value.

9. Checking Account. Personal checking accounts are countable. Other checking accounts may be excluded if designated for burial needs, educational income, Individual Development Accounts, PASS, prorated as income, proceeds from the sale of a home, disaster or settlement funds and retroactive SSA payments.

10. Contract for Deed or Mortgage. The value of a contract for deed or mortgage may be a countable asset depending on the circumstances of the loan, including the individual's role as lender or borrower and the accessibility of the asset:
   (i) When the individual is the lender for a contract for deed, the lender may sell or transfer the instrument to have immediate access to the unpaid principal. The value of the contract is the unpaid loan principal. Any portion of a payment that represents the loan principal is a conversion of a resource. Any portion of a payment that represents interest is considered unearned income in the month of receipt and a resource thereafter. The value of the contract may be excluded from countable resources if the individual can demonstrate that the contract cannot be sold without his realizing a net loss.
   (ii) If the individual is the borrower, the property agreement is not a resource. However, the property purchased may be a countable resource following the month of transaction.

11. Educational Income. All educational income is excluded as a resource, including student financial assistance received under Title IV of the Higher Education Act and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The individual must be enrolled in school and attending classes to be considered a student. Grants, scholarships, fellowships and gifts other than those previously listed intended to pay for tuition, fees or educational expenses are excluded as a resource.

12. Farm, Business or other Equipment. The equity value of non-self-employment income-producing real property, other than the homestead, is countable. If the property is used for self-employment, it is excluded as Business or Self-Employment.

13. Home and Lot. The entire value of the home, whether on land or water, and lot and all adjoining land not separated by property owned by others and any related outbuildings are excluded in determining resource eligibility, as long as the home is the principal place of residence for the applicant/enrollee. Temporary absences from the home do not affect the home's exemption, as long as the individual intends to return home at a specified time.


15. Individual Development Account (IDA). Up to $5,000.00 in the account is disregarded as a resource as long as the individual complies with the IDA eligibility rules and continues to maintain or make contributions to the account.

17. Sick and Disability Insurance. Excluded.


19. Items of Unusual Value. Exclude up to $2,000.00 of all total personal items of unusual value. If the individual’s equity value in one or more than one item of unusual value is greater than $2,000.00, the amount that exceeds $2,000.00 is countable towards the resource limit.

20. Life Estates:

(i) Property in which an individual holds a life estate is subject to the same exclusion rules as property the individual owns by title, subject to the following exceptions:

(I) A life estate will be excluded as the home when the property meets the home exemption.

(II) A life estate will be excluded when ownership is necessary for the production of earned income. See Business or Self-Employment in this Subparagraph.

(III) The terms of the life estate contract prevent the holder from selling her interest in the property.

(ii) If the life estate is not excluded based on the criteria above, the entire value of the life estate is a countable asset. The life estate value is determined by multiplying the fair market value of the property by the percentage listed in the “Life Estate Interest Table” for the age of the individual on whose lifetime the life estate is based. If more than one person owns the life estate, the value is based on the owner with the longest life expectancy.


22. Livestock. The value of livestock necessary for business or self-employment, as a tool of the trade, or raised for home/personal consumption is an excluded resource. Income received is countable as self-employment income. Livestock that is used as non-business, income-producing property is countable.

23. Oil and Mineral Rights. May be included with land ownership or owned separately. If surface rights of the same property are excluded (for example, as a home) so are oil and mineral rights. Oil and mineral rights are countable when owned for personal use, or when the surface rights of the same property are countable (non-homestead, real property).

(i) If oil or mineral rights are producing income under a lease agreement, the owner may be constrained from selling or otherwise disposing of those rights. If the land is already excluded, then oil and mineral rights are also excluded.

(ii) If oil or mineral rights are producing income to the individual, and he is not actively engaged in the production of income, the equity value of the rights is countable.

24. Personal Use Resource. Countable unless excluded based on the terms of the asset. A personal resource is typically for the use of the individual and/or his family.

25. Personal Consumption. Exclude as a resource the equity value of a non-business property used to produce goods or services essential to daily activities.

26. PASS. Income an SSI recipient places in an approved PASS account is excluded as a resource. The PASS account itself is also excluded. This exclusion expires when the PASS contract expires or ends, or when the individual is no longer an SSI recipient.
27. Proceeds from the Sale of a Home. Excluded to the extent that the funds are intended to be used to purchase another home subject to the homestead exclusion, and the funds are used for such a purpose within three (3) months of the date of receipt of the proceeds.

28. Promissory Note and Other Loans. A promissory note or other loan given by the household is considered personal property and is countable, unless the note/loan balance is inaccessible or the promissory note is held for reasons other than personal use. The lender holds legal interest and has the legal ability to make available her share in the note or loan. The equity value of the note/loan is countable.


30. Real Property. The equity value in all real property the individual owns individually or jointly is a countable asset with the following exceptions:

(i) Property excluded as the homestead;

(ii) The inaccessible equity value of real property;

(iii) Equity value of income-producing property;

(iv) Real property necessary for the production of earned income (see Business or Self-Employment in this Subparagraph); or

(v) Real property excluded under a Conditional Assistance agreement between the individual and the State. The individual must make a bona fide effort to sell the property at its current market value, and repay the State for medical expenses covered by TennCare during the exclusion period with the proceeds of the sale. Exemption of the real property is not to exceed nine (9) months. Only one (1) parcel of property may be excluded under a Conditional Assistance agreement per period of eligibility.

(I) Repayment of medical expenses covered by TennCare may not exceed the total of the net proceeds. Any proceeds remaining after repayment to the State are considered a resource.

(II) If the property remains unsold after nine (9) months, the property is considered inaccessible so long as bona fide efforts to sell the property continue.

31. Rental property. Countable if the individual who owns the property is not 'in the business of' renting property. Someone who is in the business of renting property is someone who materially participates in the operation and decision making of the rental business for at least twenty (20) hours per week.

32. Retirement Accounts and Pension Plans. Excluded up to $20,000.00. Money held in an IRA, 401(K), or Keogh in excess of $20,000.00 is countable, minus any penalty for early withdrawal. Pension funds that are not accessible are excluded as a resource. If the pension becomes accessible due to retirement or termination it becomes a countable resource.

33. Savings Account. Countable if it is characterized by personal use. If the current month's income has been deposited into the account, it must be excluded when determining the current value of the account. A savings account may be excluded if it is used for one of the following purposes.

(i) Burial funds;

(ii) Business or Self-Employment;

(iii) Educational Income;

(iv) Individual Development Account;

(v) PASS:
(vi) Proceeds from the Sale of a Home (subject to time limits);

(vii) Prorated as Income;

(viii) Settlement or Disaster Payment, if Excluded by Policy; or

(ix) SSI/SSA Retroactive Payment (subject to time limits).

34. Settlement or Disaster Payment. Payments or benefits provided under certain Federal statutes are excluded if payments are not commingled with other funds. Excluded settlement and/or disaster payments include:

(i) Agent Orange Settlement Payments (and interest from payments);

(ii) Disaster Relief Assistance received under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974;

(iii) Distribution of perpetual judgment funds to Indian tribes under the following:

(I) Indian Judgment Funds Distribution (P.L. 93-134)

(II) Black Feet and Gros Ventre Tribes (P.L. 92-254)

(III) Grand River Band of Ottawah Indiana in Indian Claims Commission Docket No. 40-K;

(IV) Tribes or groups under P.L. 93-134;

(V) Yakima Indian Nation or the Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation (P.L. 95-433); and

(VI) Receipts from land held in trust by the Federal government and distributed to certain Indian tribes under P.L. 94-114.

(iv) Factor VIII or IX Concentrate Blood Products Litigation. The settlement payments (and interest from payments) made as a result of the class action lawsuit to hemophilia patients infected with HIV through blood plasma products;

(v) Filipino Veterans Compensation Fund Payments. Lump sum payments (and interest from payments) made to certain veterans and spouses of veterans who served in the military of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines during WWII;

(vi) Japanese-American and Aleutian Restitution Payments (and interest from payments);

(vii) Payments made to individuals because of their status as victims of Nazi persecutions (and interest from payments);

(viii) Payments to children born of Vietnam veterans diagnosed with spina bifida (and interest from payments);

(ix) Payments made under the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (interest is not excluded);

(x) Revenues from the Alaska Native Fund paid under Section 21(a) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act;

(xi) Criminal Victims Compensation Funds paid to crime victims (excluded for nine (9) months); or

(xii) Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA).
35. SSI/SSA Retroactive Payments. Excluded for nine (9) months after the payment is received and countable after the nine (9) month exclusion period.

36. Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds. Countable if asset is held for personal use. Stocks, bonds or mutual funds may be excluded if held for the purposes listed below:
   (i) Burial;
   (ii) Business or Self-Employment;
   (iii) Educational Income;
   (iv) Proceeds from the Sale of a Home;
   (v) Prorated as Income; or
   (vi) Settlement or Disaster Payment, if Excluded by Policy.

37. Tools of the trade. Excluded when essential for the production of earned income.

38. Trusts. Countable or excluded, when the applicant or household member is either the trust’s trustee or beneficiary, based on the nature of the trust, the date the trust was created, the source of funds used to create the trust, plus other factors as specified in 42 U.S.C. § 1396p(d).

39. Vehicles. Exclude up to $4,600.00 of the equity value of one (1) vehicle in the applicant’s household. The equity value of any other vehicle is countable, unless the vehicle can be excluded based on its use. The equity value of recreational vehicles (boats, snowmobiles, jet skis, ATVs and aircraft) is a countable resource.

(d) Disregards and Expenses Allowed. For purposes of determining the income of individuals described in this paragraph, the following expenses will be disregarded from their income:

1. Child Support Disregard. Disregard $50.00 per month per household if a child living in the home receives child support payments (current only).

2. Earned Income Disregard. Disregard $90.00 per month from each household member’s total earned income.

3. Payments made on Behalf of Dependents within the Home. Disregard up to $175.00 per month of day care expenses per dependent age two (2) or older. Disregard up to $200.00 per month of day care expenses per dependent under age two (2).

4. Student Income. Disregard the earnings of a full-time student who works part or full time. Disregard the earnings of a part-time student who works part time. Earnings of a part-time student who works full time are not to be disregarded.

(e) Household composition for TennCare Medicaid Medically Needy categories is based on the principle of FRR.

1. For unmarried applicants, the following individuals are included in the applicant’s household for Child Medically Needy, if living in the home:
   (i) The applicant;
   (ii) The applicant’s children under age twenty-one (21);
   (iii) The applicant’s unborn child(ren);
   (iv) The applicant’s natural or adoptive parents; and
2. The Child Medically Needy applicant's parent(s) are not included if the applicant is an emancipated minor.

3. For married applicants, the following individuals must be included in the applicant's household for Child Medically Needy, if living in the home:
   (i) The applicant;
   (ii) The applicant's children under age 21;
   (iii) The applicant's unborn child(ren); and
   (iv) The applicant's spouse (if under age 21 and applying for Medical Assistance).

(v) When the applicant's spouse is living in the home and is over age 21 or under age 21 and not applying for Medical Assistance, the spouse's income and resources are deemed to the applicant. When income and resources are deemed from a spouse, the household size will be increased to account for the deemed spouse.

4. The Child Medically Needy applicant's step parent living in the home is not included in the child's household.

5. The following individuals must be included in the Medically Needy Qualified Pregnant Woman applicant's household, if living in the home:
   (i) The pregnant woman applicant;
   (ii) The applicant's unborn child(ren);
   (iii) The applicant's spouse, if under 21 and applying for Medical Assistance; and
   (iv) The applicant's children under age twenty-one (21).

(v) If the applicant's spouse is living in the home and is over age 21 or under age 21 and not applying for Medical Assistance, the spouse's income and resources are deemed to the applicant. When income and resources are deemed from a spouse, the household size will be increased to account for the deemed spouse.

6. Parents of a pregnant woman applying for TennCare Medicaid Medically Needy Qualified Pregnant Woman coverage are not included in the applicant's household.

(f) Spenddown.

1. Applicants must produce proof of relevant medical expenses in order to "spend down" monthly income to the TennCare Medically Needy Income Standard (MNIS) to be eligible in a Medically Needy category. If income is below the MNIS, spenddown will not be necessary. Applicants may reduce available monthly income with countable expenses, as listed below, in order to qualify for eligibility in the Medically Needy categories. The income limits for the Medically Needy category are published in the State Plan.

2. Countable Expenses. The following Rules apply to the expenses that may be used to meet spenddown:
   (i) Countable expenses incurred during the month of application, whether paid or unpaid.
   (ii) Countable expenses paid during the month of application, regardless of when such expenses were incurred.
(iii) Countable expenses incurred during the three (3) calendar months prior to the month of application, whether paid or unpaid.

(I) Expenses paid during the three calendar months prior to the month of application will not be counted unless such expenses were also incurred during those three calendar months.

(II) Any expenses incurred before the three (3) calendar months prior to the month of application will not be counted unless payment is made on those expenses during the month of application, in which case only the amount paid during the month of application is counted.

(III) When a Medically Needy enrollee has been eligible for twelve (12) months, he will be expected to meet spenddown again as described in this section, except verified expenses that are documented in the enrollee’s Medicaid record can be carried forward to the next year as long as the individual remains continuously eligible, the expenses remain unpaid, and the bills are not written off by the provider. Only the portions of expenses that were not previously used to meet spenddown can be carried forward to the next eligibility determination. If an enrollee loses eligibility at any point, the carry forward of unpaid medical expenses ends and the enrollee must meet spenddown as if he were a new applicant.

(iv) All medical expenses are considered incurred the date the service is provided with the following exception: medical expenses related to maternity care (e.g., global fee) are considered incurred the month the physician presents a bill once services have begun (i.e., initial examination by the physician at a minimum).

(v) If spenddown is not met by the medical bills incurred as of the date of application submission or as of the date of submission of a renewal application during redetermination, the daily countable medical expenses incurred during the application month will be added until spenddown liability is reached.

3. Incurred or paid expenses for the following individuals may be considered countable expenses for purposes of determining Medically Needy financial eligibility:

(i) The applicant;

(ii) Members of the applicant's household;

(iii) The applicant's FRRs or anyone for whom the applicant is financially responsible; and

(iv) Individuals not living in the applicant's home or eligible for inclusion if the applicant's household member or the applicant's FRR is legally obligated to pay their medical expenses.

4. Countable expenses are those for which the individual is still liable and that are:

(i) For medical or remedial care, including costs for over the counter medications and costs incurred for medical insurance premiums, co-payments and deductibles. Health insurance premiums may be deducted as a spenddown expense only when payment is due, even if paid in another month;

(ii) Verifiable and for which the individual provides substantiation;

(iii) Incurred by eligible individuals and are the legal responsibility of a household member and not subject to payment in full or part by a third party;

(iv) Recognized under State law but not covered under the State's TennCare Medicaid plan or waiver (continuously eligible individuals); or

(v) Covered under TennCare Medicaid but incurred during the spenddown period (new
The following list includes but is not limited to the types of medical expenses that are considered Countable Medical Expenses for the Medically Needy categories:

(i) Acupuncture services.

(ii) Bed hold at a Long Term Care Facility (Medicaid rate).

(iii) Dental expenses.

(iv) Doctor’s fees. Includes fees from services rendered by practitioners and others providing medical services, physicians, surgeons, dentists, optometrists, chiropractors, osteopaths, podiatrists, psychiatrists, psychologists, and Christian Science providers.

(v) Drugs prescribed by a physician (prior to TennCare eligibility). Includes charges for medicines and drugs prescribed by a doctor incurred prior to establishing TennCare Medicaid eligibility and which remained unpaid or paid in the month under consideration (i.e., spenddown month).

(vi) Guide dogs. Guide dogs for the blind or deaf and the costs of their maintenance.

(vii) Hospital charges.

(viii) Medical care charges included in tuition costs. Charges for medical care included in the tuition fee of a college or private school which is paid on a monthly basis, provided that a breakdown of the charges is included in the bill or is furnished separately by the institution.

(ix) Nursing home costs.

(x) Nursing services. Nursing services include nursing care in an individual’s home, if for the purpose of treatment or alleviation of a physical, mental, or emotional disorder and ordered by a provider acting within the provider’s scope of practice. The care needed must be medical, e.g., administering medication or therapy. Cost of services solely domestic in nature, such as the preparation of meals and the performance of housework, is not deductible.

(xi) Organ transplant expenses.

(xii) Prosthetic devices. Artificial teeth, limbs, hearing aids and component parts, eyeglasses and crutches.

(xiii) Psychiatric care. Psychiatric care primarily for alleviating a mental illness or defect, the cost of maintaining a mentally ill individual at a specially equipped medical center where the individual receives continual medical care.

(xiv) Special education for handicapped. Special school for mentally or physically handicapped individuals if for the alleviation of handicap. The costs of meals and lodging, if supplied by the institution, and/or ordinary education furnished incidental to the special services are medical expenses.

(xv) Substance abuse treatment. Treatment at a therapeutic center for drug addicts or alcoholics, including meals and lodging furnished as a necessary incident to the treatment.

(xvi) Transportation for medical/remedial purposes. Transportation essential to medical care, e.g., bus, taxi, train, or plane fares, and forty-seven cents ($0.47) for each mile that the individual’s car is used for medical purposes, in addition to parking fees and tolls.

(xvii) Over the counter (non-prescription) medicine. $10.00 per month is deducted for these
expenses without verification, using only the applicant’s statement. All of these expenses must be verified if the amount is more than $10.00 per month.

6. The following are types of medical expenses that are not considered Countable Medical Expenses for the Medically Needy categories:

   (i) Expenses that have been written off as uncollectible or have been forgiven by the provider.

   (ii) Expenses that are covered by the state’s TennCare Medicaid plan and are incurred during a period of eligibility:

       (I) Costs incurred during a period of TennCare eligibility due to co-pays or services not covered such as dental, hearing and eye care for adults are allowable as a medical expense.

       (II) Bills incurred during TennCare eligibility which are subject to TennCare reimbursement are not considered outstanding for subsequent spenddown periods even if not paid by TennCare.

(3) ABD Financial Determinations.

   (a) Coverage groups whose financial eligibility is determined based on SSI financial methodology are:

       1. Individuals applying for SSI-Related categories.

       2. MSP Applicants.

       3. Individuals applying for coverage of LTSS, under the Institutional Eligibility category.

   (b) Income Determinations. Income countable for purposes of individuals described in this paragraph is defined at 20 C.F.R. §§ 416.1100, et seq., and as set forth below, except gross income, under the Institutional Eligibility category, in accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 435.1005, does not take into account the income exclusions under 20 C.F.R. § 416.1112 and 20 C.F.R. § 416.1124, unless specified under another Federal statute. Unless otherwise specified in this rule, these individuals are subject to the following income requirements:

       1. ABLE Accounts. Contributions made by a third party, including a trust, and ABLE account earnings are excluded, except that contributions are not deducted from countable income of the individual making the contribution. Distributions from an ABLE account are not income of the designated beneficiary in any month regardless of whether the distribution is for non-housing QDEs, housing QDEs or non-qualified expenses. Distribution from an ABLE account is the conversion of a resource from one form to another.

       2. Adoption Subsidies. Countable to the child if intended for general living expenses. Excluded if for reimbursement of child care while the adult responsible for the child is at work or seeking employment, or for medical expenses.


       4. Americorps and Americorps NCCC. Cash or in-kind payments are excluded.

       5. Annuity Payments. If the underlying annuity is an excluded resource, the periodic payments are countable unearned income. If the underlying annuity is a countable resource, payments are excluded. Payments are also excluded if an annuity is paid by a state to an individual or spouse based on the state’s determination that the individual is a veteran who is aged, blind or disabled.


10. Cash Support. Countable, unless excluded as irregular or infrequent income.

11. Child Support Arrearage. Countable to the child(ren) the payments are intended to support. Exclude one-third (1/3) of the child support arrearage payment paid by an absent parent to or for an eligible child under age 18 or under age twenty-two (22) if a student regularly attending school. The one-third (1/3) exclusion does not apply to ineligible children.

12. Child Support Payments. Countable to the child(ren) the payments are intended to support. Exclude one-third (1/3) of the child support payment paid by an absent parent to or for an eligible child under age 18 or under age twenty-two (22) if a student regularly attending school. The one-third (1/3) exclusion does not apply to ineligible children.


15. CSIMA. Countable as unearned income only when the institutionalized individual is not in the community spouse's household.


17. Death Benefits. Countable income to an individual if the total amount exceeds the expense of the deceased person's last illness and burial paid by the individual to whom the death benefit is issued.

18. DIMA. Countable as unearned income only when the institutionalized individual is not in the dependent's household.


20. Domestic Volunteer Service Act Payments. Payments made to volunteers under the Domestic Volunteer Service Act are excluded, unless the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) determines that the value of the payments, based on the number of hours served, are equal to or greater than the federal or state minimum wage where the volunteer is serving, whichever is higher. This includes payments made to foster grandparents, senior companions, and persons serving in the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and AmeriCorps VISTA.


22. Earned In-Kind Not Food or Shelter. Excluded.


24. Educational Income. Excluded. Includes: Pell Grants, Federal SEOG, Federal Student Loans, State Student Incentive Grants, Work Study, and any student financial assistance received under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, or under Bureau of Indian Affairs education assistance programs. Other grants, scholarships, fellowships, or gifts are excluded to the extent they are used or set aside for educational expenses.

25. Farming/Fishing Income. Countable.


29. Income Produced from Resources. Income generated by a resource that is excluded is countable unearned income. Income generated by a resource that is countable is excluded as income.

30. Inheritance Cash, Countable.

31. Interest Income. Interest earned on a countable resource is excluded as unearned income. Interest earned on an excluded resource is countable as income, unless specifically excluded under a Federal statute.


33. Irregular or Infrequent Income. Exclude up to $60.00 per calendar quarter of unearned income when it is received infrequently or irregularly. Exclude up to $30.00 per calendar quarter of earned income when it is received infrequently or irregularly.

34. Jury Duty Pay. Countable unless the income is turned over to an applicant’s employer.

35. Long Term Care Insurance Payments. Countable if the payment is not assigned or provided to the nursing home, HCBS provider, or MCO.

36. Military Allowances. Countable. The basic allowance for housing (BAH) is counted as earned income when the payment is made to military personnel living in private housing. The BAH should be treated as unearned income in the form of in-kind support and maintenance (ISM) subject to the Presumed Maximum Value (PMV) rule for service members and their families who live on base or in privatized military housing.

37. Older Americans Act Payments. Count only wages or salaries.

38. PASS Payments. Any earned or unearned income received and used to fulfill an approved plan to achieve self-support is excluded.

39. Payments from FEMA. FEMA payments issued as a result of a presidentially declared emergency or major disaster are excluded. Payments made by comparable disaster assistance programs by States, local governments and disaster assistance organizations are also excluded. FEMA payments which are made to a household to pay for rent, food and utility assistance when there is no major disaster or emergency declaration are countable.


41. Protective Payee Payments. Funds received by a protective payee (conservator, authorized representative or representative payee) and used for the care and maintenance of a third party beneficiary (adult or child) who may or may not be a member of the protective payee’s household are excluded as income to the protective payee. Any part of the payment that is retained by the protective payee for her own use is countable income to the protective payee. Even if the protective payee retains a fee for her services, the entire payment issued on behalf of the beneficiary is countable income to the beneficiary.

42. Rental or Lease Income. Countable as earned income when the individual is in the business of renting or leasing property, i.e., self-employment. Countable as unearned income when the individual is not in the business of renting or leasing property. Count the amount of income remaining after expenses related to maintaining the property are applied.

43. Royalties and Honoraria. Countable.

44. Self-Employment. Net earnings are countable.

45. Settlements or Disaster Payments. The following settlements and disaster payments are excluded as unearned income.
(i) Agent Orange Settlement Payments (and interest from payments);
(ii) Disaster Relief Assistance received under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974;
(iii) Distribution of perpetual judgment funds to Indian tribes under the following:
(I) Indian Judgment Funds Distribution (P.L. 93-134)
(II) Black Feet and Gros Ventre Tribes (P.L. 92-254)
(III) Grand River Band of Ottawah Indiana in Indian Claims Commission Docket No. 40-K;
(IV) Tribes or groups under P.L. 93-134;
(V) Yakima Indian Nation or the Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation (P.L. 95-433); and
(VI) Receipts from land held in trust by the Federal government and distributed to certain Indian tribes under P.L. 94-114.
(iv) Factor VIII or IX Concentrate Blood Products Litigation. The settlement payments (and interest from payments) made as a result of the class action lawsuit to hemophilia patients infected with HIV through blood plasma products;
(v) Filipino Veterans Compensation Fund Payments. Lump sum payments (and interest from payments) made to certain veterans and spouses of veterans who served in the military of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines during WWII;
(vi) Japanese-American and Aleutian Restitution Payments (and interest from payments);
(vii) Payments made to individuals because of their status as victims of Nazi persecutions (and interest from payments);
(viii) Payments to children born of Vietnam veterans diagnosed with spina bifida (and interest from payments);
(ix) Payments made under the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (interest is not excluded);
(x) Revenues from the Alaska Native Fund paid under section 21(a) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act; and
(xi) Criminal Victims Compensation Funds paid to crime victims.

46. Severance. Countable.
47. Sheltered Workshop Payments. Countable.
50. Social Service Payments. Excluded.
51. SSI. Excluded.
52. Temporary Disability Insurance. Income is countable as unearned income to the extent it is not a reimbursement for specific costs and is paid directly to the household.
53. **Tips.** Tips that total more than $20.00 in a calendar month for any one employer are countable earned income. Tips totaling less than $20.00 in a calendar month are countable unearned income.

54. **Trusts. Dividends, interest, rents and other income generated by a trust fund, unless otherwise excluded, that can be paid to the beneficiary or to a third party on the beneficiary's behalf are countable income to the beneficiary for the period the fund is intended to cover, beginning the month the funds become available, regardless of whether the income is actually paid out to the beneficiary. When funds are withdrawn irregularly, the payments are countable in the month received.

   (i) Monies withdrawn from the principal of an accessible (countable) trust fund are excluded as income to the beneficiary, because an accessible trust fund is a countable resource. Money cannot be considered income and a resource in the same month.

   (ii) Monies disbursed from the principal of an inaccessible trust fund are counted as income because an inaccessible trust fund is an excluded resource.

   (iii) Monies received by the trustee of a trust and used for the care and maintenance of a third party beneficiary (adult or child) are excluded as income for the trustee.

55. **Unearned In-Kind Income or In-Kind Support and Maintenance.** Unearned In-Kind income in the form of food and/or shelter may be countable or excluded depending on the source. If countable, it is subject to either the Value of the One-Third Reduction (VTR) rule or the Presumed Maximum Value (PMV) rule.

56. **Unearned In-Kind Income, Not Food or Shelter.** Excluded.

57. **Unemployment Compensation.** Countable.

58. **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Payments:**

   (i) **Aid and Attendance and Housebound Allowances.** Excluded.

   (ii) **Apportioned.** Payments made to a dependent spouse, child, or parent are countable for the individual to whom the benefits are paid.

   (iii) **Augmented Benefit.** Payments received on behalf of a dependent spouse, child, or parent are countable for the individual for whom the benefits are paid.

   (iv) **Compensation.** Countable.

   (v) **Death Benefit.** Countable as unearned income to an individual if the total amount exceeds the expense of the deceased person's last illness and burial paid by the individual to whom the death benefit is issued.

   (vi) **Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).** Countable.

   (vii) **Educational Benefits.** Excluded.

   (viii) **Payments for Unreimbursed Medical Expenses.** Excluded.

   (ix) **Pension.** Countable. If an institutionalized veteran receives a VA improved pension limited to $90.00 per month, the VA pension is excluded.

59. **Wages.** Countable.

60. **Workers' Compensation.** Countable as unearned income to the extent it is not an expense attributable to obtaining the compensation.

61. **WIOA Payments.** Countable, unless the payments are for supportive services, such as child...
care, transportation, or job placement services. Wages earned by a student in the Job Corps program may be excluded under the student earned income exclusion.


(c) Resource Determinations. Resources countable for purposes of individuals described in this paragraph are defined at 20 C.F.R. §§ 416.1201, et seq. Unless otherwise specified below, individuals described in this paragraph are subject to the following resource requirements:

1. ABLE Accounts. Distributions from an ABLE account are excluded if used or intended to be used for QDEs as long as the distributions are identifiable. Distributions from an ABLE account used for non-qualified expenses are excluded if spent in the month of receipt. Distributions from an ABLE account are countable as a resource when:

   (i) Distributions are retained past the month of receipt and are used for or intended to be used for non-qualified disability expenses; or

   (ii) Distributions are retained past the month of receipt and were previously excluded because intended for a QDE, but used for a non-qualified expense. Count the amount of funds used as a resource the first of the month in which funds were spent; or

   (iii) Distributions are retained past the month of receipt, have not been spent, and the intent to use the funds for a QDE has changed. Count the retained funds as a resource the first of the following month.

   (iv) Qualified disability expenses (QDE) are expenses related to the blindness or disability of the designated beneficiary and for the benefit of the designated beneficiary. In general, a QDE includes, but is not limited to, education, housing, transportation, employment training and support, assistive technology and personal support services, health, prevention and wellness, financial management and administrative services, legal fees, funeral and burial expenses, and basic living expenses.

2. Annuities are countable resources for individuals when accessible according to 20 C.F.R. § 416.1201. An annuity is a countable resource when it is revocable, assignable, or can be sold.

   (i) If the annuity is an excluded resource, payments being received from the annuity will be countable unearned income, except as excluded at Subpart (v). If the annuity is a countable resource, any payments being received from the annuity are excluded.

   (ii) Generally, annuities are revocable while in the accumulation phase though an owner will not receive a full refund, unless the annuity is cancelled during the free-look period. Once an annuity has been annuitized, the annuity is excluded as a resource if the funds are unavailable in a lump sum.

   (iii) The countable value of an annuity during the free-look period is the purchase value. The countable value of an annuity during the accumulation phase is the cash value minus any withdrawals and surrender charges or penalty fees for early withdrawal. If an annuity contains a provision that allows an individual to cash in a contract after annuitization, the countable value of the annuity is the commuted cash value, i.e., the present value of all future payments.

   (iv) Distributions from an annuity, such as systematic withdrawals and required minimum distributions (RMDs), are considered conversions of a resource rather than income.

   (v) Any amount of an annuity held following the month of receipt is a countable resource, except when an annuity is a state annuity for certain veterans. A state annuity is an annuity paid by a state to an individual or an individual’s spouse based on the state’s determination that the individual is a veteran who is aged, blind or disabled.

   (vi) Annuities that are funded by a pension or a retirement fund held by an employer or union should not be counted as a resource, while the individual is employed, if termination of
employment would be necessary to access the funds.

(vii) Individuals applying for or receiving LTSS must meet additional requirements regarding asset transfers and exclusion of annuities at Rule 06(3)(h).

3. Business or Self-Employment Excluded as essential for the production of earned income.

Resources may include:

(i) Tools/equipment;

(ii) Stock or raw materials;

(iii) Personal property essential for income production;

(iv) Real property;

(v) Office equipment;

(vi) Business loans for the purchase of capital assets;

(vii) Inventory;

(viii) Machinery and equipment;

(ix) Business/commercial checking accounts; and

(x) Life insurance.


(i) Burial funds which are not commingled are excluded resources when:

(I) The funds are used to purchase a life insurance policy which is then irrevocably assigned to a funeral provider. Either the ownership of the policy or proceeds may be assigned to the funeral provider. The purpose of the assignment is to fund a burial contract.

(II) The funds are invested in an irrevocable pre-paid or pre-need burial contract established by a funeral provider and the contract meets the following conditions:

I. Both the individual and the funeral home representative have signed the document;

II. An itemized list of the services provided under the contract is provided;

III. The total dollar amount of the agreement is specified;

IV. The individual was neither a minor nor legally declared incompetent when the agreement was signed; and

V. The agreement specifies in writing that the money is not refundable under any circumstances.

(III) The funds are invested in a burial trust established by the individual, and the total funds in the trust, including interest payments, do not exceed $6,000.00 per individual. Transport costs which cause the trust value to exceed $6,000.00 are excluded.

(ii) Burial funds are countable resources when:

(I) The funds are used to purchase a life insurance policy and a revocable assignment
of the policy or proceeds is made to a funeral provider.

(I) The funds are invested in a revocable pre-paid or pre-need burial contract established by a funeral provider.

(II) Countable burial funds are eligible to be excluded as part of the individual's burial reserve.

(i) Burial Reserve. An individual is allowed to set aside $1,500.00 in resources to cover expenses connected to her burial, cremation or other funeral arrangements. Funds allowed to be excluded as part of the burial reserve include revocable, countable burial funds. These funds must not be commingled with other resources, and must be set aside for burial expenses. The $1,500.00 maximum amount of the burial reserve is first reduced by:

(I) Life insurance, if the total value of all life insurance owned by the individual is $1,500.00 or less; and

(II) Funds in an irrevocable burial agreement or contract.

5. Burial Plots. Exclude the value of one burial space for each family member, e.g. spouse, child, parent, sibling, whether living in the home or not. Burial plots and spaces include a gravesite, crypt, mausoleum, niche or other repository for bodily remains, vaults, headstones, markers, plaques, containers and arrangement for opening and closing the gravesite.


7. Certificates of Deposit (CD). Countable if held in a personal account. The value of a CD is the net amount that could be received after penalties for early withdrawal, if applicable. Taxes are not deducted in determining net value.

8. Checking Accounts. Personal checking accounts are countable. Some checking accounts that may be excluded include those designated for burial needs, educational income, Individual Development Accounts, PASS, prorated as income, proceeds from the sale of a home, disaster or settlement funds if excluded by policy, and retroactive SSA payments.

9. CCRC Deposit or Fee. The value of an entrance fee paid to a CCRC is a countable resource when it meets the following conditions:

(i) The entrance fee can be used to pay for care under the terms of the entrance contract should other resources of the individual be insufficient;

(ii) The entrance fee or its remaining portion is refundable when the individual dies or terminates the contract and leaves the CCRC; and

(iii) The entrance fee does not confer any ownership interest in the community.

10. Contracts for Deed or Mortgage. The value of a contract for deed or mortgage may be a countable asset dependent on the circumstances of the loan, including the individual's role as lender or borrower and the accessibility of the asset.

(i) When the individual is the lender for a contract for deed, the lender may sell or transfer the instrument to have immediate access to the unpaid principal. The value of the contract is the unpaid loan principal. Any portion of a payment that represents the loan principal is a conversion of a resource. Any portion of the payment that represents interest is considered unearned income in the month of receipt and a resource thereafter. The value of the contract may be excluded from the countable resources if the individual can demonstrate that the contract cannot be sold without his realizing a net loss.

(ii) If the individual is the borrower the property agreement is not a resource. However, the property purchased may be a countable resource following the month of transaction.
11. Educational Income.
   (i) Educational income received under Title IV of the Higher Education Act or under the
       Bureau of Indian Affairs is excluded as a resource.
   (ii) Any portion of a VA educational benefit that is a withdrawal of a veteran's own
       contribution is a countable resource if retained in the month following the month of
       receipt.
   (iii) Other grants, scholarships, fellowships and gifts intended to pay for tuition, fees or
       educational expenses are excluded for nine (9) months beginning the month after the
       funds are received. The individual must be enrolled in school and attending classes to be
       considered a student.

12. Farm, Business, Other Equipment. The equity value of non-self-employment income-producing
    real property, other than the homestead, is a countable resource. Exclude up to $6,000.00 in
    equity and count only the amount that exceeds the limit, if the net income totals at least six
    percent (6%) of the equity value. If the property is used for self-employment, it is excluded as
    Business or Self-Employment.

13. Rental property is countable if the individual who owns the property is not in the business of
    renting property. Someone who is in the business of renting property is someone who
    materially participates in the operation and decision making of the rental business for at least
    (20) hours per week.

14. Homestead Exclusion. The entire value of the home, whether on land or water, all adjoining
    land not separated by property owned by others and any related outbuildings are excluded in
    determining resource eligibility as long as:
    (i) The home is the principal place of residence for the individual and/or his spouse and/or
        dependent relatives; and
    (ii) If the individual resides in a long-term care facility, his intent to return to the home is
        established.
    (iii) For an institutionalized individual, the home is excluded if Subparts (i) and (ii) above are
        true and the individual's equity interest does not exceed the home equity limit established
        by CMS, with one exception: the home equity limit does not apply to an institutionalized
        individual if the spouse of the individual, the individual's child under age twenty-one (21),
        or a blind or permanently and totally disabled child is residing in the home. An
        institutionalized individual whose home exceeds the home equity limit established by
        CMS and who does not have a spouse, a child under age twenty-one (21) or a disabled
        or blind child living in the home, is not eligible for payment of long term services and
        supports, unless it is determined undue hardship exists.
    (iv) An individual must have lived in the home for it to be considered his home or principal
        place of residence.
    (v) The value of the home and surrounding land will not be counted as a resource during the
        individual's absence from an unoccupied home when he intends to return to the property.
        An absence from the home can be necessary to accomplish a specific purpose such as
        hospitalization, confinement in a nursing home or receipt of services, such as nursing or
        personal care services not available to the individual in his home.
    (vi) An intent to return home is nullified by any efforts to sell or dispose of the property during
        the exemption period. The exemption based on the intent to return ends the first day of
        the month after the month efforts are made to sell or dispose of the homestead property.
    (vii) Rental of a homestead which has been excluded because of intent to return does not
        nullify the exclusion. The homestead retains the exclusion as long as there is a clear,
non-contradictory intent to return, and no efforts are made to sell or dispose of the property. The rent will be counted as unearned income in the month received.

(viii) The exemption based on residence of the enrollee's dependent relative ends the first day of the month after the relative last lived in the homestead, if the relative does not intend to return. Real property located outside of Tennessee can be excluded from countable resources as homestead property, if there is substantiation of the individual's intent to return to the home or the property is the principal residence of the individual's spouse or dependent relatives.

15. Individual Development Account. Funds, including accrued interest, in the account are excluded as a resource as long as the individual complies with the IDA eligibility rules and continues to maintain or make contributions into the account.

16. Income-Producing Resource. Exclude up to $6,000.00 of an individual's equity in an income-producing resource if it produces a net annual income to the individual of at least six percent (6%) of the property's equity value. If the individual's equity value is greater than $6,000.00, the amount that exceeds $6,000.00 is countable towards the resource limit.

(i) If an income-producing resource does not produce a net annual income of at least six percent (6%) of the resource's equity value, the entire equity value of the resource is countable.

(ii) If the individual owns more than one piece of income-producing resource and each produces income, each is reviewed to determine whether the six percent (6%) test is met. Then the amounts of the individual's equity in all of those properties producing six percent (6%) are totaled to determine if the total equity of all properties is $6,000.00 or less. If the total equity value in the properties that meet the six percent (6%) rule is over the $6,000.00 equity limit, the amount exceeding $6,000.00 is counted as a resource.

17. Insurance. Exclude Sick and Disability Insurance and Burial Insurance.

18. Items of Unusual Value, Household Goods, and Personal Effects. In general, an item may be considered an item of unusual value if the item is not excluded as a household good or personal effect, and the equity value of the item is greater than $500.00. An item of unusual value that generates income for the individual is countable. The countable value is determined by applying the Rate of Return test (see Income-Producing Resource above). A personal item of unusual value is excluded. Household Goods and Personal Effects are also excluded.

19. Life Estates. Property in which an individual holds a life estate is subject to the same exclusion rules as property the individual owns by title, subject to the following exceptions:

(i) A life estate will be excluded as the home when the property meets the homestead exemption.

(ii) If the property is used in the passive production of income, then the life estate is subject to the Rate of Return test (see, Income-Producing Resource above).

(iii) A life estate will be excluded when ownership is necessary for the production of earned income.

(iv) The terms of the life estate contract prevent the holder from selling his interest in the property.

(v) If the life estate is not excluded based on the criteria (i)-(iv) above, the entire value of the life estate is a countable asset. The life estate value is determined by multiplying the Fair Market Value (FMV) of the property by the percentage listed in the SSA's Life Estate and Remainder Interest Tables for the age of the individual on whose lifetime the life estate is based. If more than one person owns the life estate, the value is based on the owner with the longest life expectancy.

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(vi) When an individual purchases, or in some other way receives, as compensation in a transaction, a life estate in another individual's home, the purchase of the life estate is considered an asset transfer subject to penalty, unless the individual then lives in the home for a period of at least one year after receiving the life estate.

(vii) If the individual does live in the home for a period of one year after receiving or purchasing the life estate, then the amount of the transfer is the entire amount used to purchase the life estate.

(viii) If an individual purchases a life estate in another individual's home and then lives there for one year after the purchase, the life estate is an excluded resource while being used as the individual's (or the individual's spouse's) home. However, if payment for a life estate exceeds the FMV of the life estate the difference between the amount paid and the FMV should be treated as an asset transfer. In addition, if an individual makes a gift or transfer of a life estate interest, the value of the life estate should be treated as a transfer of assets.

20. Life Insurance. Countable or excluded based on the type of life insurance owned by the individual and its intended use. Exclude all life insurance if the total face value of all policies does not exceed $1,500.00 per owner.

21. Livestock. The value of livestock necessary for business or self-employment, as a tool of the trade, or raised for home/personal consumption is an excluded resource. Income received is countable as self-employment income. The equity value of livestock that are pets is countable. Livestock that is used as non-business income-producing property is countable, and subject to treatment as an Income-Producing Resource as described in this subparagraph.

22. Oil and Mineral Rights. May be included with land ownership or owned separately. If surface rights of the same property are excluded (for example, as a home) so are oil and mineral rights. Oil and mineral rights are countable when owned for personal use, or when the surface rights of the same property are countable (non-homestead, real property).

(i) If oil or mineral rights are producing income under a lease agreement, the owner may be constrained from selling or otherwise disposing of those rights. If the land is already excluded, the oil and mineral rights are excluded.

(ii) If oil or mineral rights are producing income to the individual, and he is not actively engaged in the production of income, the equity value of the rights is subject to the Rate or Return test. See Income-Producing Resource above.

23. Patient Trust Account. The balance of the account at the time of application and redetermination is a countable resource.

24. Personal Resource. Countable unless excluded based on the terms of the asset. A personal resource is typically for the use of the individual and his family.

25. Personal Consumption. Exclude up to $6,000.00 of the equity value of non-business property currently in use to produce goods or services essential to daily activities. Any portion of the property's equity value in excess of $6,000.00 is a countable resource.

26. PASS. Any income an SSI recipient places in an approved PASS account is excluded as a resource. The PASS account itself is also excluded. This exclusion expires when the PASS contract expires or ends, or when the individual is no longer an SSI recipient.

27. Prepayment of Rent. Countable unless the individual cannot receive the money back under any circumstances (i.e., the lease agreement includes a no refund policy, or the landlord provides a statement that the funds will not be returned to the renter). Prepayment of an applicant's mortgage is not considered a resource.

28. Prepayment of Nursing Home Care. Prepayment for care deposited by an applicant upon his admission to a TennCare Medicaid-participating long-term care facility is a countable resource.
for the individual who is subsequently approved for TennCare Medicaid benefits if the deposit was paid from the individual's own funds.

29. Proceeds from the Sale of a Home. Excluded to the extent that the funds are intended to be used to purchase another home subject to the homestead exclusion, and the funds are used for such a purpose within three (3) months of the date of receipt of the proceeds.

30. Promissory Notes and other Loans. A promissory note or other loan given by the household is considered personal property and is countable, unless the note/loan balance is inaccessible or the promissory note is held for reasons other than personal use. The lender holds legal interest and has the legal ability to make available his share in the note or loan. The equity value of the note/loan is countable.

(i) If a household makes a loan that is considered inaccessible, or is shown to have a significantly lower market value than the unpaid balance of the loan, the loan will be considered to be an uncompensated transfer of assets. The uncompensated asset transfer will be considered to be the outstanding balance due on the loan as of the date of the lender’s application for long term services and supports (nursing facility or HCBS services).

(ii) In addition, the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (ORA) provides that funds used to purchase a promissory note, loan or mortgage must meet the following criteria, or the purchase will be treated as a transfer of assets for less than FMV:

(I) The repayment term must be actuarially sound (as determined by SSA standards);

(II) Payments must be made in equal amounts during the term of the loan with no deferral payment and no balloon payments; and

(III) The promissory note, loan or mortgage must prohibit the cancellation of the balance upon the death of the lender.

(iii) If the above criteria are not met, the purchase of the promissory note or loan must be treated as a transfer of assets. The amount used to calculate a penalty will be the outstanding balance of the loan due as of the date of application for TennCare Medicaid.

(iv) Promissory notes that are made for purposes other than personal use are treated according to their use. Promissory notes may be made for the following purposes:

(I) Burial;

(II) Business or Self-Employment; and

(III) Proceeds from the Sale of a Home.

31. Property that represents government authority to engage in an income-producing activity. Excluded if the property is used in trade, business or non-business income-producing activity. Exclude property that is currently not in use due to circumstances beyond the individual’s control and there is a reasonable expectation that the use will resume.

32. Prorated as Income. Excluded.


34. Real Property. The equity value in all real property the individual owns individually or jointly is a countable asset with the following exceptions:

(i) Property excluded as homestead;

(ii) The inaccessible equity value of real property.
(iii) Equity value of income-producing property (subject to the Rate of Return test);
(iv) Real property necessary for the production of earned income (see Business or Self-Employment); and
(v) Property excluded under a Conditional Assistance agreement between the individual and the State.

35. Retirement Funds. Retirement funds owned by an individual and held in an IRA, 401(k), or other work-related plan are resources if an individual has the option of withdrawing funds in a lump sum. The value of a retirement fund is the amount of money that the individual can currently withdraw less any penalty for early withdrawal. Retirement funds are not counted as resources if termination of employment is necessary to access the funds or an individual is eligible for and receiving periodic benefits (e.g., pension or annuity). Distributions and systematic withdrawals from a retirement account are conversions of a resource rather than income when an individual can withdraw any of the remaining account balance in a lump sum. Retirement funds are excluded from deeming if owned by an ineligible spouse or an ineligible parent (for non-institutional categories only).

(i) Funds held in a 401(k) or 403(b) retirement account are countable when an individual is no longer job-attached. Funds in a 401(k), part of a profit-sharing plan or stock bonus plan, or in a 403(b) retirement account are also countable when an individual reaches age 59 ½.

(ii) Funds held in an IRA are considered accessible any time. Count the equity value of an accessible IRA when determining eligibility. An IRA held in the form of an annuity will be evaluated as an annuity.

(iii) A Keogh plan established for a self-employed individual is considered accessible and is counted as a resource to the individual even if the household is not actually accessing the funds.

(iv) If the accessibility of a retirement fund cannot be determined based on the documentation received, the summary plan description or a written statement from the plan administrator shall be requested.

(v) Retirement funds are considered nonliquid resources unless there is evidence to suggest otherwise. An individual with excess retirement funds who is otherwise Medicaid-eligible may qualify for conditional assistance while waiting for retirement funds to become available, if the individual agrees in writing to use the funds to repay the medical assistance he received during the conditional assistance period.

36. Savings Accounts. Countable if it is characterized by personal use. If the current month's income has been deposited into the account it must be excluded when determining the current value of the account. A savings account may be excluded if it is used for one of the following purposes:

(i) Burial funds;
(ii) Business or Self-Employment;
(iii) Educational Income;
(iv) Individual Development Account;
(v) PASS;
(vi) Proceeds from the Sale of a Home (subject to time limits);
(vii) Prorated as income.
37. Settlement or Disaster Payment. Payments or benefits provided under certain Federal statutes are excluded, if payments are not commingled with other funds. Excluded settlement and/or disaster payments include:

(i) Agent Orange Settlement Payments;

(ii) Disaster Relief Assistance received under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974;

(iii) Distribution of perpetual judgment funds to Indian tribes under the following:

(I) Indian Judgment Funds Distribution (P.L. 93-134);

(II) Black Feet and Gros Ventre Tribes (P.L. 92-254);

(III) Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians in Indian Claims Commission Docket No. 40-K;

(IV) Tribes or groups under PL 93-134;

(V) Yakima Indian Nation or the Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation (PL 95-433); and

(VI) Receipts from land held in trust by the Federal government and distributed to certain Indian tribes under PL 94-114.

(iv) Factor VIII or IX Concentrate Blood Products Litigation. The settlement payments made to hemophilia patients infected with HIV through blood plasma products as a result of the class action lawsuit;

(v) Filipino Veterans Compensation Fund Payments. Lump sum payments made to certain veterans and spouses of veterans who served in the military of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines during WWII;

(vi) Japanese-American and Aleutian Restitution Payments;

(vii) Payments made to individuals because of their status as victims of Nazi persecutions;

(viii) Payments to children born of Vietnam veterans diagnosed with spina bifida;

(ix) Payments made under the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (State and local payments are only excluded for nine (9) months);

(x) Revenues from the Alaska Native Fund paid under section 21(a) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act;

(xi) Criminal Victims Compensation Funds paid to crime victims (excluded for nine (9) months); and

(xii) Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA).

38. SSI/SSA Retroactive Payment. Excluded for nine (9) months after the payment is received and counted after that nine (9) month exclusion period.

39. Stocks/Bonds/Mutual Funds. Countable. Although personal mutual funds are countable, those held for purposes listed below are subject to different treatment:

(i) Burial;
(ii) Business or Self-Employment;

(iii) Educational Income;

(iv) Proceeds from the Sale of a Home;

(v) Prorated as Income, or

(vi) Settlement or Disaster Payment, if excluded by policy.

40. **Tools of the Trade. Excluded.**

41. **Trusts.** Countable or excluded based on the nature of the trust, the date the trust was created, the source of funds used to create the trust, plus other factors as specified in 42 U.S.C. § 1396p(d).

42. **Vehicles.** One car, truck, motorcycle, camper, motor home, aircraft, snowmobile, watercraft, boat, or all-terrain vehicle is excluded regardless of its value if it is used for transportation of the individual or a member of his household. If an applicant owns more than one vehicle, the equity value of that second vehicle is countable when it is owned by the applicant or a deemed filing unit member, and it cannot be excluded under another provision. Boats, motorcycles, snowmobiles, jet skis, ATVs, and aircraft are generally considered recreational vehicles. The equity value of these recreational vehicles is a countable resource unless it can be excluded under other provisions.

(d) **Conditional Assistance.** Nonliquid resources, which are not exempt under another resource provision, are exempt as a resource if the individual enters into a Conditional Assistance agreement with the State. Nonliquid resources include real and personal property that cannot be converted to cash within twenty (20) days. The individual must make a bona fide effort to dispose of the excess nonliquid resources at current market value, and use the proceeds to repay the State for medical expenses covered by TennCare during the period of conditional assistance.

1. The exclusion period for real property is not to exceed nine (9) months. The exclusion period for personal property is not to exceed three (3) months, however a three (3) month extension may be granted if the individual is able to show a good cause for failure to dispose of the property. Property that remains unsold at the end of the exclusion period will be considered inaccessible so long as the individual continues the bona fide effort to sell.

2. Repayment of medical expenses covered by TennCare during the period of conditional assistance may not exceed the total net proceeds of the sale. Any proceeds remaining after the repayment of medical expenses is paid are considered a resource.

(e) **Disregards and Expenses Allowed.** Unless otherwise specified in Subparagraph (f) below, individuals described in Subparagraph (a) are subject to the following expense requirements.

1. **Child Support Disregard.** One-third (1/3) of child support payments (including child support arrearages) paid by an absent parent to or for a child under age 18, or under age twenty-two (22) and a student regularly attending school, is excluded per month.

2. **General Deduction.** A $20.00 monthly General Deduction is allowed per household, and is applied to unearned income. If any of the $20.00 deduction is not offset by unearned income, the remainder is applied to the spouse's unearned income and then to the applicant or enrollee's earned income.

3. **Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE).** Applies to the earnings of an individual who is under age twenty-two (22) and regularly attending school. The exclusion may apply to an eligible or ineligible individual, child, spouse, or parent(s). The SEIE monthly amount is determined by the SSA. The SEIE does not apply to children attending elementary school.

4. **Earned Income Deduction.** The first $65.00 of the earned income of each aged, blind or
disabled individual is disregarded.

5. Impairment-Related and Blind Work Expenses:

   (i) The gross countable earned income of each blind or disabled individual (not living in a medical institution) may be reduced by the amount of expenses attributable to earning the income. The allowable Blind Work Expenses (BWE) and allowable Impairment-Related Work Expenses (IRWE) are not the same. BWE and IRWE apply only to earned income. In order to deduct either BWE or IRWE, the individual must be:

   (I) Blind, blind and disabled, or disabled, and under age sixty-five (65), or

   (II) Age sixty-five (65) and older, and received SSI payments due to blindness or disability the month before attaining age sixty-five (65).

   (ii) These expenses do not apply to the Institutional Medicaid categories. Work expenses must not be payable or reimbursable by a third party, such as Medicaid, Medicare or other insurance.

6. One-Half Disregard. One-half of the remaining earned income in the month is disregarded. This disregard is deducted after Impairment-Related Work Expense (IRWE), but before deducting Blind Work Expenses (BWE).

   (f) Mandatory deductions such as FICA and withholding tax on pensions and other unearned income are not included in gross income for Institutional Medicaid and the Medicare Savings Programs.

(g) Household Composition Rules. Household composition for the ABD categories is governed by the FRR principle. Financial responsibility is limited to spouse to spouse and parent to child. Household composition not only determines which income standard to use, but also how FRR income is "deemed" available, and the amount of income "deemed" or available to an individual. See 20 C.F.R. §§ 416.1160, et seq.

1. The following individuals are included in the applicant's household, if living in the same household:

   (i) The applicant; and

   (ii) The applicant's eligible spouse.

2. For Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs), include dependent children under age 21 in the household.

3. Step-children are considered in household composition when they live in the home and their natural parent is the spouse of the applicant and is included in the applicant's household.

4. Financial eligibility in the SSI-Related categories is determined based on a household size of one or two. Included household members are the applicant and if applicable, his spouse. If there are additional household members, they will be considered in deeming budgets, if appropriate.

5. Parent-to-child deeming applies when a blind or disabled child under age 18 is living with his parent(s), and a portion of the parent's income and resources may be deemed available to the child and counted as unearned income to the child in determining his TennCare Medicaid eligibility. The parent receives income disregards and allocations in order to meet his own needs and the needs of other children that live in the household. The needs of step-parents and step-siblings are also considered when they live in the home with the applicant and natural or adopted parent, and the step-parent is married to the natural or adopted parent. Children for whom a child allocation is received must be unmarried and under age 18, or under age 22 and a student. Child and parental allocations are deducted from the parent's income before any income is deemed to the applicant/enrollee. Parental deeming applies to the following
TennCare Medicaid categories:

(i) Medicare Savings Program (QMB, SLMB, QI1 and QDWI); and

(ii) Pickle Passalong.

6. The countable income and resources of an applicant/enrollee’s TennCare Medicaid-ineligible spouse living in the home may be deemed available to the applicant/enrollee. Spousal deeming applies when the spouses share a living arrangement, i.e., live in the community or home together. The applicant/enrollee’s ineligible spouse is included in the household if the income of the spouse is deemed to the applicant/enrollee. Spousal deeming applies to the following TennCare Medicaid categories, which use SSI financial methodology:

(i) Medicare Savings Program (QMB, SLMB, QI, and QDWI); and

(ii) Pickle Passalong.

7. Financial eligibility for Institutional categories is determined based on a household size of one. The only included household member is the applicant/enrollee. However, the community spouse and dependents do impact budgeting of the post-eligibility treatment of income (i.e., patient liability), and the community spouse’s resources are considered in the resource assessment.

(h) Qualifying Income Trusts (QIT) for Institutional Applicants.

1. Individuals who are receiving or will receive nursing facility services or home and community based services (HCBS) offered either through the CHOICES program or through a Section 1915(c) HCBS waiver program and whose income exceeds the Medicaid Income Cap (MIC) may establish a QIT. Funds placed in a QIT that meets the standards set forth below are not treated as available resources or income for purposes of determining the individual’s TennCare eligibility.

2. A QIT is a trust consisting only of the individual’s pension income, SSI, and other monthly income created for the purpose of establishing income eligibility for TennCare coverage when an individual is or soon will be confined to a nursing facility, HCBS or ICF/IID waiver program offered either through the CHOICES program or through a Section 1915(c) HCBS waiver program.

3. An individual is eligible to establish a QIT if his income is above the level at which he would be financially eligible for nursing facility, HCBS offered either through the CHOICES program or through a Section 1915(c) HCBS waiver program, or ICF/IID care under Medicaid.

4. The amount of income that an applicant/recipient places in a QIT cannot be limited nor can it be counted when testing income against the MIC. However, it is used in determining patient liability during post-eligibility treatment of income. If the applicant/recipient’s income that is not placed in a QIT is over the MIC, the individual is not financially eligible for the Institutional category.

5. A valid QIT must meet the following criteria:

(i) The trust must be irrevocable and cannot be modified or amended in whole or in part by the Grantor at any time. However, the Trustee or a court of competent jurisdiction shall have the right and jurisdiction to modify any provision of the trust to the extent necessary to maintain the eligibility of the Grantor for medical assistance.

(ii) Each month the trustee shall distribute the entire amount of income transferred into the Trust except for an amount not to exceed $20.00, or other verified amount, for a QIT maintenance fee.

(iii) The sole beneficiary of the Trust is the individual for whose benefit the Trust is established and the State of Tennessee. The Trust terminates upon the death of the
individual, or when the Trust is no longer required to establish TennCare Medicaid eligibility in the State of Tennessee, or if nursing facility care or HCBS is no longer medically necessary for the individual, or if the individual is no longer receiving such services.

(iv) The Trust must provide that upon the death of the individual or termination of the Trust, whichever occurs sooner, the State of Tennessee shall receive all amounts remaining in the Trust up to the total amount of medical assistance paid by the State on behalf of the individual.

(v) Amounts remaining in the Trust that are owed to the State must be paid to TennCare within three (3) months after the death of the individual or termination of the Trust, whichever is sooner, along with an accounting of the payments from the Trust. TennCare may grant an extension if a written request is submitted within two (2) months of the termination of the Trust.

(vi) This Part applies to an income trust established on or after July 1, 2005, and under the hardship provision in Section 1613 (e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1382b(e)). Hardship may be considered to exist when the institutionalized individual or his spouse would have resources in excess of the resource limit, is otherwise eligible, and for whom TennCare Medicaid ineligibility would result in loss of essential nursing care which is not available.

(vii) Allowable payments from the Trust include:

(I) Personal Needs Allowance (PNA). The amount the individual is allowed to retain for his personal needs under TennCare Medicaid policies. As of January 1, 2005, this amount is $50.00 for confinement in a nursing facility or ICF/IID and three hundred percent (300%) of the SSI/FBR for HCBS enrollees and Self-Determination Waiver; and two hundred percent (200%) of the SSI/FBR for the Comprehensive Aggregate Cap (CAC) and Statewide Waivers.

(II) A deduction not to exceed $20.00, or other verified amount, for expenses necessary for managing the trust (i.e., bank charges).

(III) CSIMA or DIMA, if applicable.

(IV) Health Insurance Premiums. Allowed when the individual has health insurance other than TennCare Medicaid (for example, Medicare premium or a Medicare supplement policy).

(V) Incurred Medical Expenses. Payment for types of medical or remedial care recognized under State law, but not covered as medical assistance under TennCare Medicaid.

(viii) Any countable income not placed in the QIT and any Trust income remaining after allowable deductions are made shall be paid monthly to the nursing facility, HCBS provider, or MCO by the individual or from the Trust in an amount not to exceed the Medicaid reimbursement rate. Any excess income not distributed from the Trust shall accumulate in the Trust monthly.

(ix) No other deductions or expenses may be paid from the Trust. Expenses which cannot be paid from the Trust except as specifically provided herein include, but are not limited to, trustee fees, attorney fees and costs (including attorney fees and costs incurred in establishing the trust), accountant fees, court fees and costs, fees for guardians ad litem, funeral expenses, past due medical bills and other debts.

(i) Annuities.

1. Disclosure. Disclosure of annuities is required for all applicants pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1396p(e). If an individual or her spouse refuses to disclose information related to an annuity,
the individual will be denied Medicaid eligibility based on the individual's failure to cooperate.

2. Annuities and Transfer of Assets. An annuity will not be treated as a transfer of assets if the annuity meets the requirements of 42 U.S.C. §1396p(c)(1)(G).

3. Requirement to name the State as the Remainder Beneficiary. The purchase of an annuity is subject to the transfer of assets provision unless it meets the requirements of 42 U.S.C. §1396(c)(1)(F).

(i) Annuities purchased or converted by the individual or his spouse on or after February 8, 2006, must be changed prior to TennCare Medicaid approval or redetermination to name the State of Tennessee as the remainder beneficiary of the annuity. If the individual has a community spouse, or a minor or disabled child, the State may be named in the second position following one of these individuals. If the State is named in the second position following a community spouse or child, the annuity must also provide that the State becomes the remainder beneficiary in the first position if the community spouse, child, or their representative disposes of any of the remainder of the annuity for less than fair market value.

(ii) As a remainder beneficiary, the State may receive up to the total amount of medical assistance paid on behalf of the individual, including both long-term services and supports and home and community based services. The State must notify the issuer of the State's right as the preferred remainder beneficiary and the issuer must notify the State if there are any changes in the amount of income or principal being withdrawn.

(iii) An annuity may be amended to meet these criteria, so that the annuity purchase will not be treated as a transfer of assets for less than FMV.

4. Annuity Transactions. Certain annuity transactions may be treated as a transfer of assets for less than fair market value (FMV) according to 42 U.S.C. §1396p(e).

(i) Annuity transactions made by an individual, or by someone acting on an individual's behalf, are considered improper transfers if any of the individual's assets are disposed of for less than FMV.

(ii) Transactions include any action that changes the course of payments to be made by an annuity or the treatment of the income or principal of an annuity. These actions include additions of principal, elective withdrawals, requests to change the distribution of an annuity, elections to annuitize the contract and other similar actions.

(iii) Routine changes (e.g., notification of an address change or death or divorce of a remainder beneficiary) and changes beyond an individual's control are not considered transfers of assets for less than FMV.

1200-13-20-.07 Family and Child Eligibility Groups.

(1) Caretaker Relatives.

(a) Definition: See Rule .02.

(b) Technical Requirements: See Rule .04.

(c) Special Eligibility Requirements: Individual must be a parent or caretaker relative of a minor dependent child under age 18, or 18 and a full-time student, and must agree to cooperate with State Child Support Enforcement to establish paternity and medical support, if applicable. Failure to cooperate or show good cause for not cooperating once eligible shall result in termination.

(d) Household size is based upon the MAGI household composition Rule .06.
(e) Income Limitation: Household income cannot exceed the monthly income levels as outlined in the State Plan. Note: The FFM uses these numbers to establish an equivalent FPL.

(f) Resource Limitation: None.

(g) Effective Date of Eligibility: Eligibility begins on the Application File Date, according to Rule .05, or the date all eligibility requirements are met, whichever is later.

(h) Individuals in this category may also be eligible for Extended Medicaid as described in 42 C.F.R. § 435.115 and Transitional Medicaid as described in 42 C.F.R. § 435.112.

(2) TennCare Pregnant Women.

(a) Definition: See Rule .02.

(b) Technical Requirements: See Rule .04.

(c) Special Eligibility Requirements: Individual must be pregnant or in the post-partum period as defined in 42 C.F.R. § 435.4. Self-attestation of pregnancy is accepted unless the State has information that is not reasonably compatible with such attestation.

(d) Household size is based upon the MAGI household composition Rule .06.

(e) Income Limitation: Household income cannot exceed one hundred ninety five percent (195%) of the FPL. See Rule .06.

(f) Resource Limitation: None.

(g) Effective Date of Eligibility: Eligibility begins on the Application File Date, according to Rule .05, or the date all eligibility requirements are met, whichever is later.

(h) Other:

1. Eligibility is continuous through the last day of the month of the sixty (60)-day postpartum period as defined at 42 C.F.R. §435.4 435.170, regardless of income changes.

2. An individual in this category is eligible for all medically necessary covered services, other than LTSS, because TennCare considers all medically necessary covered services to be pregnancy-related. A pregnant woman could be eligible for LTSS if she is determined to meet the criteria for an Institutional Eligibility category.

(3) Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women.

(a) Definition: See Rule .02.

(b) Technical Requirements: See Rule .04. Self-attestation of citizenship, residency and Social Security Number (SSN) are accepted at application for presumptive eligibility.

(c) Special Eligibility Requirements: Individual must be pregnant at the time of application. Self-attestation of pregnancy is accepted unless the State has information that is not reasonably compatible with such attestation.

(d) Household size is based upon the MAGI household composition Rule .06.

(e) Income Limitation: Household income cannot exceed one hundred ninety five percent (195%) of the FPL. See Rule .06.

(f) Resource Limitation: None.
(g) Effective Date of Eligibility: The date of determination by the Tennessee Department of Health or other qualified entity. The presumptive eligibility period ends either the last day of the month following the month a presumptive eligibility determination was made, or if a full Medicaid application is submitted before the end of the month following the presumptive application, eligibility continues until a determination is made on a complete Medicaid application, or as otherwise agreed to by the Single State Agency and CMS. Only one presumptive period of eligibility is allowed for each pregnancy.

(4) Infants and Children under Age 19.
(a) Definition: See Rule .02.
(b) Technical Requirements: See Rule .04.
(c) Special Eligibility Requirements: Individual must be younger than nineteen (19) years of age.
(d) Household size is based upon the MAGI household composition Rule .06.
(e) Income Limitations:
1. Infants younger than age one (1): Household income cannot exceed one hundred ninety-five percent (195%) of the FPL.
2. Children from age one (1) to age five (5): Household income cannot exceed one hundred forty-two percent (142%) of the FPL.
3. Children from age six (6) to age nineteen (19): Household income cannot exceed one hundred thirty-three percent (133%) of the FPL. See Rule .06.
(f) Resource Limitations: None.
(g) Effective Date of Eligibility: Eligibility begins on the Application File Date, according to Rule .05, or the date all eligibility requirements are met, whichever is later.
(h) Individuals in this category may also be eligible for Extended Medicaid as described in 42 C.F.R. § 435.115 and Transitional Medicaid as described in 42 C.F.R. § 435.112.

(5) Deemed Newborns.
(a) Definition: See Rule .02.
(b) Technical Requirements: See Rule .04, except Deemed Newborns are not subject to citizenship rules. Newborns without an SSN must be enumerated by age one (1) to remain eligible for another category, or before they can be approved in another category, whichever occurs first.
(c) Special Eligibility Requirements: Newborns must be twelve (12) months or younger. A baby born to a mother eligible for and receiving TennCare Medicaid shall be eligible for TennCare Medicaid for one (1) year from the date of birth, as long as the newborn remains a resident of Tennessee during that time.
(d) Income Limitations: None.
(e) Resource Limitations: None.
(f) Effective Date of Eligibility: The child’s date of birth, if mother was eligible for and receiving TennCare Medicaid at the time of birth.

(6) Newborn Presumptive.
(a) Definition: See Rule .02.
(b) Technical Requirements: See Rule .04. Self-attestation of residency is accepted at application for presumptive eligibility. SSN is not required for newborns to age one (1).

(c) Special Eligibility Requirements: Newborns must be twelve (12) months or younger.

(d) Household size is based upon the MAGI household composition Rule .06.

(e) Income Limitations: Household income cannot exceed one hundred ninety-five percent (195%) of the FPL.

(f) Resource Limitations: None.

(g) Effective Date of Eligibility: The date of determination by the qualified entity. The presumptive eligibility period extends from the date of application through the end of the following month, or if a full Medicaid application is submitted before the end of the month following the presumptive application, eligibility continues until a determination is made on a complete Medicaid application or as otherwise agreed to by the Single State Agency and CMS.

(78) Former Foster Care Children up to Age 26.

(a) Definition: See Rule .02.

(b) Technical Requirements: See Rule .04.

(c) Special Eligibility Requirements: The individual must be under age twenty-six (26), have been in foster care provided by the State of Tennessee, and must have been receiving Medicaid in the foster care category at the time he aged out of custody in order to qualify for this category.

(d) Income Limitations: None.

(e) Resource Limitations: None.

(f) Effective Date of Eligibility: Eligibility begins on the Application File Date, according to Rule .05, or the date all eligibility requirements are met, whichever is later.

(87) Standard Child Uninsured.

(a) Definition: See Rule .02.

(b) Technical Requirements: See Rule .04.

(c) Special Eligibility Requirements: Must be a Medicaid "Rollover" enrollee as defined in Rule .02, or currently enrolled in TennCare Standard, and does not have insurance or access to health insurance.

(d) Household size is based upon the MAGI household composition Rule .06.

(e) Income Limitations: Household income must be at or below two hundred eleven percent (211%) of the FPL. See Rule .04.

(f) Resource Limitations: None.

(g) Effective Date of Eligibility: The day following the TennCare Medicaid coverage end date.

(h) Other: Includes uninsured children under age nineteen (19) who have been continuously enrolled in TennCare Standard since December 31, 2001, who have family incomes at or below two hundred eleven percent (200 211%) of the FPL, and who have not purchased insurance even if they have access to it. This is a "grandfathered" eligibility category. If an individual loses eligibility in this category, he or she will not be able to re-enroll in it.

(a) Definition: See Rule .02.

(b) Technical Requirements: See Rule .04.

(c) Special Eligibility Requirements: Must be an uninsured child under age nineteen (19) who is losing eligibility for Medicaid or being renewed as TennCare Standard, who does not have access to health insurance, and who has been determined to have a qualifying medical condition according to these rules.

(d) Special Application Procedures:

1. Must be a Medicaid "Rollover" enrollee as defined in Rule .02, or currently enrolled in TennCare Standard.

2. Applicants have three (3) options for proving medical eligibility:
   (i) Option 1: Physician's attestation on the Medically Eligible (ME) Packet of specific qualifying conditions.
   (ii) Option 2: A completed ME packet and medical records to support a qualifying medical condition with a signed release for medical records in the event additional medical records are needed.
   (iii) Option 3: An existing Medically Eligible determination in Interchange.

3. If a Medicaid enrollee under age nineteen (19) whose Medicaid eligibility is ending is determined to otherwise meet technical eligibility requirements for TennCare Standard, but is not eligible as uninsured because his income is above two hundred eleven percent (211%) of poverty the FPL or higher, he will be sent a ME packet.

4. TennCare will send the enrollee a ME packet with an explanation regarding how to apply for TennCare Standard as a medically eligible individual. The enrollee will have sixty (60) days from the date of the notice letter (inclusive of mail time) to submit his medical eligibility packet. If the individual is determined to qualify as medically eligible, coverage will be provided throughout the eligibility determination period and will continue with no break.

5. The required ME application information must be returned to the address specified within sixty (60) days from the date of the letter included in the packet. A ME form and documentation received after that time will not be processed as it exceeds the timely filing requirement. Packets which are not completed by the sixtieth (60th) day will be denied with a notice of appeal rights.

(e) Household size is based upon the MAGI household composition Rule .06.

(f) Income Limitations: Household income must exceed be at or above two hundred eleven percent (211%) of the FPL. See Rule .06.

(g) Resource Limitations: None.

(h) Effective Date of Eligibility: The day following the TennCare Medicaid coverage end date.

(409) CoverKids - CHIP Children under age 19.

(a) Definition: See Rule .02.

(b) Technical Requirements: See Rule .04.

(c) Special Eligibility Requirements: Includes children under age 19 who do not have Health Insurance, as defined in Rule .02.

(d) Household size is based upon the MAGI household composition Rule .06.
(c) Income Limitations: Must be over the applicable Medicaid limit and under no more than two hundred fifty percent (250%) of the FPL. See Rule .06.

(f) Resource Limitations: None.

(g) Effective Date of Eligibility: Eligibility begins on the Application File Date, according to Rule .05, or the date all eligibility requirements are met, whichever is later.

(4110) CoverKids Pregnant Women/Unborn Children.

(a) Definition: See Rule .02.

(b) Technical Requirements: See Rule .04. The pregnant woman's unborn child is presumed to be a U.S. citizen, regardless of the citizenship or immigration status of the mother. The mother is not required to provide proof of citizenship or immigration status.

(c) Special Eligibility Requirements: Includes pregnant women who do not have Health Insurance, as defined in Rule .02, or do not have maternity benefits or have exhausted maternity benefits.

(d) Household size is based upon the MAGI household composition Rule .06.

(e) Income Limitations: Must be ineligible for Medicaid and below no more than two hundred fifty percent (250%) of the FPL. See Rule .06.

(f) Resource Limitations: None.

(g) Effective Date of Eligibility: Eligibility begins on the Application File Date, according to Rule .05, or the date all eligibility requirements are met, whichever is later.

(h) Other: Eligibility for the pregnant woman is continuous through the 60 days postpartum period as defined at 42 C.F.R. § 435.4. Eligibility for the newborn child continues twelve (12) months from the mother's effective date of eligibility.

(1211) IE Foster Care, Foster Care, and Adoption Assistance.

(a) Definition: Children in State foster care or in a subsidized adoptive home.

(b) Eligibility for these categories is determined by the Tennessee Department of Children's Services.

(1312) Transitional Medicaid.

(a) Definition: See Rule .02.

(b) Technical Requirements: See Rule .04.

(c) Special Eligibility Requirements for Transitional Medicaid: Eligible individuals must have been eligible for and receiving benefits for at least three (3) of the six (6) months immediately preceding the month of ineligibility. Eligible individuals receive twelve (12) months of Medicaid.

(d) Special Eligibility Requirements for children: Transitional Medicaid benefits are provided to children who lose Child MAGI eligibility when the following conditions are met:

1. The child's parent or caretaker relative was previously eligible in a MAGI category with income under the Caretaker Relative income standard for three (3) of the previous six (6) months but lost eligibility due to an increase in earnings; and

2. The child was eligible and enrolled in a Child MAGI category for three (3) of the six (6) months immediately preceding the month the parent or caretaker relative lost eligibility.

(e) Special Eligibility Requirements for Pregnant women: Transitional Medicaid benefits are provided to...
prenant women who lose Pregnancy MAGI eligibility when all of the following conditions are met:

1. The individual was eligible and enrolled in the Pregnancy MAGI category for three (3) of the six (6) months immediately preceding the month eligibility was lost;
2. The woman's loss of eligibility is due to an increase in earnings; and
3. The woman's household income was at or below the Caretaker Relative income standard for three (3) of the six (6) months immediately preceding the month eligibility was lost.

(fd) Special Eligibility Requirements for Caretaker Relatives: Transitional Medicaid benefits are provided to parents and caretaker relatives who lose Caretaker Relative MAGI eligibility when all of the following conditions are met:

1. The individual was eligible and enrolled in the Caretaker Relative MAGI category for three (3) of the six (6) months immediately preceding the month eligibility was lost;
2. Loss of eligibility was due to an increase in earnings; and
3. The parent or caretaker relative must continue to have a dependent child in the home in order to receive Transitional Medicaid.

(ge) Household size is based upon the MAGI household composition Rule .06.

(hf) Income Limitations: See Rule .06.

(413) Extended Medicaid.

(a) Definition: See Rule .02.

(b) Technical Requirements: See Rule .04.

(c) Special Eligibility Requirements: Eligible individuals must have been eligible for and receiving benefits for at least three (3) out of six (6) months immediately preceding the month of ineligibility. Eligible individuals receive twelve (12) months of Medicaid.

(d) Special Eligibility Requirements for children: Extended Medicaid benefits are provided to children who lose Child MAGI eligibility when the following conditions are met:

1. The child's parent or caretaker relative was previously eligible in a MAGI category with income under the Caretaker Relative income standard for three (3) of the previous six (6) months but lost eligibility due to an increase in spousal support; and
2. The child was eligible and enrolled in a Child MAGI category for three (3) of the six (6) months immediately preceding the month the parent or caretaker relative lost eligibility.

(e) Special Eligibility Requirements for Pregnant women: Extended Medicaid benefits are provided to pregnant women who lose Pregnancy MAGI eligibility when the following conditions are met:

1. The individual was eligible and enrolled in the Pregnancy MAGI category for three (3) of the six (6) months immediately preceding the month eligibility was lost;
2. The woman's loss of eligibility is due to an increase in spousal support; and
3. The woman's household income was at or below the Caretaker Relative income standard for three (3) of the six (6) months immediately preceding the month eligibility was lost.

(fe) Special Eligibility Requirements for Caretaker Relatives: Extended Medicaid benefits are provided to parents and caretaker relatives who lose Caretaker Relative MAGI eligibility when the following conditions are met:
1. The individual was eligible and enrolled in the Caretaker Relative MAGI category for three (3) of the six (6) months immediately preceding the month eligibility was lost;  
2. Loss of eligibility was due to an increase in spousal support; and 
3. The parent or caretaker relative must continue to have a dependent child in the home in order to receive Transitional Extended Medicaid.

(gf) Household size is based upon the MAGI household composition Rule .06.

(hg) Income Limitations: See Rule .06.

(14) Hospital Presumptive Eligibility.

(a) Definition: See Rule .02.

(b) Technical Requirements: See Rule .04. Self-attestation of citizenship, residency and Social Security Number (SSN) are accepted at application for presumptive eligibility.

(c) Special Eligibility Requirements: Self-attestation of pregnancy is accepted unless the State has information that is not reasonably compatible with such attestation.

(d) Household size is based upon the MAGI household composition Rule .06.

(e) Income Limitation: Household income must not exceed the income standard for the TennCare Medicaid category for which the individual's presumptive eligibility is being determined.

(f) Resource Limitation: None.

(g) Effective Date of Eligibility: The date of determination by the qualified entity. The presumptive eligibility period ends either the last day of the month following the month a presumptive eligibility determination was made, or if a full Medicaid application is submitted before the end of the month following the presumptive application, eligibility continues until a determination is made on a complete Medicaid application, or as otherwise agreed to by the Single State Agency and CMS. Applicants are allowed one period of HPE every two calendar years for non-pregnancy-related categories. For pregnant women, one period of presumptive eligibility is allowed per pregnancy.

1200-13-20-.08 Aged, Blind or Disabled Categories.

(1) Supplementary Security Income (SSI) Cash recipient.

(a) Aged, blind or disabled individuals who are determined eligible for SSI payments by the SSA are eligible for TennCare Medicaid. Once SSI payments in Tennessee stop, the individual becomes an inactive SSI enrollee who must be reviewed for eligibility in all other categories.

(b) Effective date of eligibility: Date of eligibility as determined by the SSA.

(2) Disabled Adult Child.

(a) Definition: See Rule .02.

(b) Technical Requirements: See Rule .04.

(c) Special Eligibility Requirements: Disabled adult children who lose SSI eligibility after July 1, 1987 because of the receipt of or an increase in benefits for DAC payments under Title II of the Social Security Act will remain eligible for Medicaid if the initial entitlement under Title II above and/or cost of living increases, whichever caused the ineligibility for SSI, were disregarded.

(c) Special Eligibility Requirements: Disabled adult children who lose SSI eligibility after July 1, 1987 because of the receipt of or increase in DAC payments under Title II of the Social Security Act will remain eligible for Medicaid if the initial entitlement or increase under Title II, whichever caused the
ineligibility for SSI, and any subsequent COLA and non-COLA increases, were disregarded. Individuals must have been age 18 or older when SSI terminated.

(d) Income Limitations: SSI Federal Benefit Rate.

(e) Resource Limitations: $2,000.00 for an individual, $3,000.00 for a couple.

(f) Effective Date of Eligibility: Eligibility begins on the Application File Date, according to Rule .05, or the date all eligibility requirements are met, whichever is later.

(3) Pickle Passalong.

(a) Definition: See Rule .02.

(b) Technical Requirements: See Rule .04.

(c) Special Eligibility Requirements: TennCare Medicaid benefits are available to individuals who would be eligible for SSI payments if increases in their Social Security benefits OASDI due to cost of living adjustments COLAs were disregarded. Individuals who meet all other non-financial and financial eligibility requirements remain eligible for TennCare Medicaid if they:

1. Were eligible for and received both Social Security and SSI benefits in the same month since April 1977. The SSI recipient who receives Social Security retroactive benefits is considered for TennCare Medicaid purposes to have received SSI and Social Security benefits in the same month, if Social Security eligibility overlaps a month the individual also received SSI benefits;

2. Lost eligibility for SSI since April 1977;

3. Currently receive Social Security benefits OASDI authorized under Title II of the Social Security Act; and

4. Are not currently receiving SSI;

5. Were entitled to both OASDI and SSI benefits in the same month after April 1977; and

4. Have countable income equal to or less than the current SSI Federal Benefit Rate after all applicable cost of living adjustments COLAs received since the last month in which the individual was eligible for both OASDI and SSI have been deducted.

(d) Income Limitations: SSI Federal Benefit Rate.

(e) Resource Limitations: $2,000.00 for an individual, $3,000.00 for a couple.

(f) Effective Date of Eligibility: Eligibility begins on the Application File Date, according to Rule .05, or the date all eligibility requirements are met, whichever is later.

(4) Widow/Widower.

(a) Definition: See Rule .02.

(b) Technical Requirements: See Rule .04.

(c) Special Eligibility Requirements. A disabled widow/widower is eligible for TennCare Medicaid for any month in which he is entitled to a Social Security Widow/Widower benefit, but is not eligible for SSI, if he:

1. Was eligible for SSI based on his own disability;

2. Was entitled to the Social Security Widow/Widower benefit any time after the age of fifty (50);

3. Lost SSI eligibility in the first month that the Social Security Widow/Widower benefit was paid;
4.—Has been continuously entitled to the Social-Security Widow/Widower benefit from the month that the SSI was authorized;

54. Would be eligible for SSI if the Widow/Widower entitlement and all subsequent COLAs were disregarded;

65. Is not entitled to Medicare Part A; and

76. Is at least age fifty (50) and up to under age sixty-five (65).

(d) Income Limitations: SSI Federal Benefit Rate.

(e) Resource Limitations: $2,000.00 for an individual, $3,000.00 for a couple.

(f) Effective Date of Eligibility: Eligibility begins on the Application File Date, according to Rule .05, or the date all eligibility requirements are met, whichever is later.

(5) Institutional Eligibility.

(a) Definition: See Rule .02.

(b) Technical Requirements: See Rule .04.

(c) Special Eligibility Requirements: To gain eligibility in this category, applicants must either be determined to meet the medical (level of care) eligibility criteria for CHOICES or ECF CHOICES, according to Rule Chapter 1200-13-01, to receive payments for long-term services and supports through the CHOICES or ECF CHOICES benefits package or be continuously confined in an institution for thirty (30) consecutive days. Receipt of hospice services in a nursing facility for any length of time meets the 30-day continuous confinement requirement.

(d) Household size is based upon the Aged, Blind, and Disabled ABD household composition Rule .06.

(e) Income Limitations: Income shall not exceed three hundred percent (300%) of the SSI Federal Benefit Rate for an individual.

(f) Resource Limitations: Resources shall not exceed $2,000.00 for an individual.

(g) Effective Date of Eligibility: Eligibility begins on the Application File Date, according to Rule .05, or the date all eligibility requirements are met, whichever is later.

(h) Special Asset Rules:

1. Asset Disregards for Qualified Long-Term Care Insurance Policies:

(i) Individuals who purchase a qualified long term care insurance policy may have certain assets disregarded in the determination of eligibility for TennCare. TennCare shall disregard an individual's assets up to the amount of payments made by the individual's
qualifying long-term care insurance policy for services covered under the policy at the
time of TennCare application.

(ii) The amount of the individual's assets properly disregarded under these provisions shall
continue to be disregarded through the lifetime of the individual.

(iii) Assets which were disregarded for purposes of Medicaid eligibility determination during
the individual's lifetime are also protected from estate recovery. When the amount of
assets disregarded during the individual's lifetime was less than total benefits paid by the
qualified long-term care insurance policy, additional assets may be protected in the estate
recovery process up to the amount of payments made by the individual's qualifying-long
term care policy for services covered under the policy. If no assets were disregarded
during the individual's lifetime, the personal representative may designate assets to
protect from estate recovery up to the lesser of the two options specified above, even if a
qualified long-term care policy's benefits were not completely exhausted.

(iii) Assets disregarded during the TennCare Medicaid eligibility determination process
because the enrollee purchased an LTCP policy are protected from estate recovery.
When the amount of assets disregarded during the TennCare Medicaid eligibility
determination process are less than the total benefits paid by the LTCP policy, additional
assets up to the total amount of payments made by the LTCP policy may be protected
during the estate recovery process.

2. Entrance Fees: Any contractual provision requiring the resident to deposit entrance fees must
take into account the required allocation of resources or income to the community spouse
before determining the resident's cost of care. In addition, the entrance fee paid to the
Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) or life care community is treated as a
resource to an individual for purposes of determining Medicaid eligibility. The following three (3)
conditions must be met in order for the entrance fee to be considered an available resource:

(i) Any portion of the entrance fee is refunded or used to pay for care under the terms of the
entrance contract should other resources of the individual be insufficient;

(ii) The entrance fee, or any portion thereof, is refundable under the terms of the contract
when the individual dies or terminates the contract and leaves the CCRC or life care
community, whether or not any amount is actually refunded; and

(iii) The entrance fee does not confer an ownership interest in the community.

3. Funds used to purchase a loan, mortgage or promissory note after February 8, 2006 must be
treated as a transfer of assets unless it has a repayment term that is actuarially sound, provides
for payments to be made in equal amounts during the term of the loan with no defeerral or
balloon payment, and prohibits cancellation of the balance upon the death of the lender. If an
individual purchases a home from a nursing home applicant and the purchase agreement does
not meet the criteria of this part, the value of the home will be the outstanding balance due as
of the date of the application for Medicaid. If a nursing home applicant uses his funds to
purchase a loan, mortgage or promissory note and the purchase agreement does not meet the
criteria of this part, the amount of the asset transfer will be the outstanding balance due on the
loan, mortgage or promissory note as of the date of the application for Medicaid.

4. A life estate interest purchased by a nursing home applicant in another individual's home shall
be treated as a transfer of assets unless the nursing home applicant resides in the home for a
period of at least one (1) year after the date of the purchase.

(i) Transfer of Assets. A transfer of assets is transferring ownership of a resource for less than fair
market value (FMV). An applicant for Institutional Eligibility shall not transfer assets for less than
FMV during the sixty (60) months prior to the date of application. If an individual is found to have
transferred an asset for less than FMV, he will be ineligible for payments for Long-Term Services and
Supports.
market value (FMV). An applicant requesting payment for LTSS shall not transfer assets for less than FMV on or after the look-back date. The look-back date is sixty (60) months prior to the first date an individual has both applied for Medicaid and is institutionalized or is determined to have met the requirements for HCBS. If an individual is found to have transferred an asset for less than FMV, he will be ineligible for payments for LTSS.

1. An individual shall not receive a period of ineligibility to the extent that the transfer meets the requirements of 42 USC 1396p(c)(2).

2. An individual shall not receive a period of ineligibility to the extent that the assets:

   (i) Were transferred to a trust established solely for an individual under age 65 and that meets the requirements of 42 U.S.C. §1396p(d)(4)(A);

   (ii) Were transferred to a trust that meets the requirements of 42 U.S.C. §1396p(d)(4)(B); or

   (iii) Were transferred to a trust established solely for the benefit of an individual under the age of 65 who is disabled according to the Social Security Administration and that meets the requirements of 42 U.S.C. §1396p(d)(4)(C). Trusts created pursuant to this section shall not include language disallowing repayment to the state in the event the claim exceeds the amount remaining in the trust.

   (iv) All trusts may be subject to review annually or upon request for a full accounting by TennCare. Failure to respond to such requests or provide this information may result in the ineligibility of an individual.

23. The transfers indicated below, if occurring on or after February 8, 2006, may be considered a transfer of assets for less than FMV with respect to an individual applying for Medicaid based on institutionalization:

   (i) If the transfer of assets occurs within sixty (60) months of application for institutional care on or after the look-back date.

   (ii) If the institutionalized individual, his spouse, or any person, court or administrative body with authority to act on behalf of, or at the direction or request of, the individual or his spouse, establishes a trust or similar device, which includes the individual's assets and cannot be used by or for the individual's benefit, if it occurred within sixty (60) months of application for institutional care on or after the look-back date.

   (iii) If an asset is held jointly by the institutionalized individual with another person and the individual or other owner reduces or eliminates the institutionalized individual's ownership or control of the asset, if it occurred within sixty (60) months of application for institutional care on or after the look-back date.

   (j) Penalty for transfer of assets.

   1. The institutionalized individual may be subject to penalty if the transfer was completed by the individual; the individual's spouse; a person (including a court) or administrative body with legal authority to act in place of, or on behalf of, or at the direction or request of the institutionalized individual or his spouse.

   2. Assets include all income and resources, including the home, unless transferred as indicated in subparagraph (i) above, of the institutionalized individual and his spouse, (including income and/or resources the individual is entitled to, but does not receive because of any action by the individual or his spouse or a person (including a court) or administrative body with legal authority to represent the individual, his spouse, or who acts at the direction or request of the individual and his spouse).

   3. Penalty period: The period of ineligibility for payments for long-term services and supports in the CHOICES Program imposed for transfers of assets within sixty (60) months prior to application for long term care nursing services.
(i) The penalty period is determined by dividing the uncompensated value of the transferred asset by the average daily nursing home private pay rate. In determining the penalty for a transfer a State may not round down or disregard any fractional period of ineligibility. There is no limit on the maximum months of ineligibility. The penalty continues until expired unless hardship is considered to exist.

(ii) The penalty period for individuals receiving nursing home care begins the month the individual becomes eligible for LTSS through the CHOICES Program or the month of the transfer, whichever is later. The penalty period for HCBS begins the date of application or the date of the transfer for individuals already receiving HCBS. The penalty period runs consecutively even if the individual leaves the nursing home for a period of time and later returns. If a penalty period is imposed for new applicants, Medicaid requires a notice of penalty. If a penalty period is imposed on an individual who is already receiving Medicaid, a ten (10) day adverse action notice is required.

(iii) Applicants for, or enrollees in, nursing home coverage can still remain eligible in an Institutional Eligibility category while payments for LTSS are withheld. Applicants for, or enrollees in, HCBS cannot be eligible for an Institutional Eligibility category while subject to the period of ineligibility.

(iv) Penalty periods for more than one transferred asset will run consecutively, not concurrently. Any uncompensated value from multiple transfers is added to the initial uncompensated value if penalty periods overlap to determine the consecutive penalty period.

(k) Undue hardship.

1. Undue Hardship shall exist only when:

   (i) An application of a transfer of assets provision would deprive the individual of medical care, such that the individual's health or life would be endangered, or of food, clothing, shelter, or other necessities of life;

   (ii) The institutionalized individual has no available resources (other than the uncompensated value) in excess of the resource limitations, and

   (iii) The necessary care is not available from any other source.

2. The individual, the individual’s responsible party, or the facility in which an institutionalized individual resides may file an undue hardship claim on behalf of the applicant/recipient. TennCare will determine whether hardship exists and notify the applicant/recipient within thirty (30) days of filing.

3. If undue hardship is determined not to exist, the denial of undue hardship may be appealed within forty (40) days.

(I) Patient Liability – Individuals determined eligible for Institutional Eligibility institutional services are required to contribute to the cost of their care as a resident in a nursing facility or as a Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) recipient. Patient liability is calculated based on total income.
remaining after deductions in accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 435.725, 42 C.F.R. § 435.726, and the
State Plan. Total income includes all amounts of income available to an individual from all sources,
which are considered to be income for eligibility purposes, unless specifically excluded from post-
eligibility under the State Plan or based on other Federal laws.

1. Post-Eligibility Treatment of Certain Payments from the Department of Veterans Affairs. VA
improved pensions limited to $90 per month are not considered in the post-eligibility process. If
an unmarried, childless veteran or the surviving, childless spouse of a veteran is in a state
veterans home and receives a VA pension that exceeds $90 per month, the VA pension,
including any payment made for aid and attendance or for unreimbursed medical expenses, is
counted in total income and applied to the state veterans home’s cost of providing nursing
home care to the veteran or surviving spouse.

42. Patient liability is determined by allowing the following deductions from the individual’s gross an
individual’s total income:

(i) A Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) for clothing and other personal needs while receiving
Institutional Eligibility. Apply the appropriate PNA based on the type of long term services
and supports the individual receives, as follows:

(I) Nursing Facility. $50.00 PNA from the gross income of an individual in a nursing
facility, or ICF/IID. For an individual with greater need who participates in a
sheltered workshop, subtract up to $100 of earnings plus $50 for the PNA.

(II) HCBS, PACE, ECF and Self-Determination ID Waivers. PNA is three hundred
percent (300%) of the SSI FBR.

(III) Statewide ID and Comprehensive Aggregate Cap ID Waivers. PNA is two hundred
percent (200%) of the SSI FBR.

(ii) An allowance equivalent to the monthly fee for maintenance of a QIT, if applicable.

(iii) A CSIMA for institutionalized individuals with a spouse residing in the community.

(iv) A DIMA for institutionalized individuals with a dependent residing in the community.

(v) Health insurance premiums, coinsurance and deductibles.

(vi) Expenses for medical services as defined at 42 C.F.R. §§ 435.725(c)(4) and 726(c)(4).

2.3. Community Spouse Income Maintenance Allowance (CSIMA) —. When determining an
institutionalized individual’s patient liability, an allowance is deducted from his income for the
needs of the community spouse. The CSIMA is allowed unless specifically refused by the
institutionalized spouse. Funds must actually be transferred to the community spouse in order
to be deducted.

(i) CSIMA is allowed under the following conditions:

(I) CSIMA is not allowed if both spouses are receiving Institutional Eligibility, unless
one spouse is receiving HCBS.

(II) If the community spouse applies for TennCare Medicaid, the CSIMA will be
counted as unearned income at the time of application.

(III) A community spouse receiving need-based assistance does not have to accept the
total or any of the income allocation if it will result in the termination or decrease of
those benefits.

(IV) If a couple is married but living separately, and considers themselves to be
separated, the CSIMA may be allowed if both individuals agree to the allocation
and the community spouse is not institutionalized.
(V) If the community spouse lives out of State, the CSIMA is allowed if the community spouse can be located and the couple is still married.

(ii) CSIMA Terms and Standards:

(I) Standard Maintenance Amount (SMA): The minimum monthly amount of income, as determined by CMS, that the Community Spouse must receive to meet basic needs. This is subject to annual change by CMS and released with SSI and Spousal Impoverishment Standards.

(II) Maximum Maintenance Needs Allowance (Maximum MNA): The maximum monthly amount of income, as determined by CMS, that the Community Spouse can receive as a CSIMA. This is subject to annual change by CMS and released with SSI and Spousal Impoverishment Standards.

(I) Standard Maintenance Amount (SMA): The poverty level standard used to determine the community spouse's monthly maintenance needs. The SMA is 150% of the FPL for a household of 2. This is subject to annual change by CMS and released with SSI and Spousal Impoverishment Standards.

(II) Maintenance Needs Standard: The minimum amount of monthly income necessary to meet the community spouse's maintenance needs and prevent impoverishment. The Maintenance Needs Standard is determined by adding the SMA and the Excess Shelter Allowance (ESA). This is subject to annual change by CMS and released with SSI and Spousal Impoverishment Standards.

(III) Standard Utility Amount (SUA): The SUA is used when the community spouse is responsible for heating and/or cooling costs. If the SUA is used, then it is considered to cover all utilities, including garbage, water, lighting, etc. The SUA is subject to annual change by the Tennessee Department of Human Services.

(IV) Standard Housing Allowance (SHA): The SHA is used to determine whether the community spouse requires an Excess Shelter Allowance. This is subject to annual change by CMS and released with SSI and Spousal Impoverishment Standards.

(iii) CSIMA Calculation: The CSIMA is calculated using three steps:

(I) Determine Excess Shelter Allowance (ESA).

I. An ESA is allowed when the total shelter costs for rent, mortgage, taxes and insurance, maintenance charges and utility costs exceed the SHA. The SHA is thirty percent (30%) of the Standard Maintenance Amount.

II. The SUA is used when the community spouse is responsible for heating or cooling costs. If the SUA is used then it is considered to cover all utilities (no additional allowance for garbage, telephone, etc.). When there is no or reduced cost to the community spouse because the cost of a particular utility is paid by a third party (in cash or in-kind), reduce the amount of the SUA by the third party payment.

III. To determine the ESA, add rent, mortgages, taxes, insurance, etc., to the SUA, then subtract the SHA.

(II) Determine Community Spouse Net Income. Defined as income over which the Community Spouse has control and which is actually available to him. Child support payments and other types of court-ordered payments made by the Community Spouse are not considered income available to the Community Spouse.

(III) Calculate CSIMA: The CSIMA is calculated by adding the SMA and the ESA, and
then subtracting the Community Spouse's net income.

34. Dependent Income Maintenance Allowance (DIMA): When determining patient liability, an allowance is deducted from the individual's income for the needs of his dependents living at home.

(i) Dependent relatives include all individuals who can be or are being claimed as tax dependents.

(ii) Dependent relatives include the individual's or the spouse's adult dependent children, parents, siblings, and minor children who are living at home.

(iii) A DIMA is not allowed for any dependent receiving HCBS or who is institutionalized.

(iv) Pursuant to the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act, a dependent does not have the option of declining all or a portion of the income allocation for any reason, even if needs-based benefits may be decreased or lost because of the allocation.

(v) The total of both the CSIMA and DIMA combined cannot exceed the Maximum MNA.

(vi) The DIMA for each additional dependent family member living with the community spouse is equal to one-third of the difference between the SMA and the dependent's gross income.

(vii) The Maximum MNA for each additional dependent family member is equal to one-third of the difference between the SMA and the dependent's gross income.

(viii) DIMA Calculation: The dependent allocation(s) equals the SMA for the community spouse minus the dependent's own gross countable income divided by 3.

(v) The DIMA for dependent relatives living in the home without a community spouse is determined based on the MNIS.

(vii) DIMA Calculation: The dependent allocation is the MNIS for the household size if the total net countable income of the dependent(s) is less than the MNIS. No dependent allocation is given if the total net countable income of the dependent(s) is more than the MNIS for the household size.

45. Item-D Incurred Medical Expenses: Expenses for medical or remedial care not subject to third party payment as defined at 42 C.F.R. §§ 435.725(c)(4), 435.726(c)(4) and 435.832, and outlined in the State Plan are allowable deductions. Criteria for Deduction of an Item-D Incurred Medical Expense:

(i) The expense must not be subject to payment by a third party not expecting reimbursement, e.g., medical or health insurance, the individual's spouse or family or medical trust fund, Medicare, etc.

(ii) The expense may be unpaid or paid by the individual during the month(s) of eligibility determination or paid by a member of the individual's family and reimbursement is expected by the family member.

(iii) The expense must not have been allowed previously as an allowed necessary item.

(iv) If payment for the item is outstanding, it must be considered collectible by the party who provided the medical service and one for which the individual is legally liable.

(v) Medical expenses incurred during TennCare Medicaid ineligibility do not impact whether the bill is an allowable medical expense.

(v) Medical expenses incurred during a period of ineligibility and up to three months prior to the month of application may be allowable medical expenses.
(vi) Deductions will be allowed in compliance with 42 C.F.R. §§ 435.725(c)(4), 435.726(c)(4), and 435.832, and the State Plan.

(m) Resource Assessment and CSRMA.

1. Resource Assessment: When determining eligibility for a married institutionalized applicant, a calculated amount of the couple's assets is allocated to the community spouse in order to be used for her own needs. The resource assessment is a snapshot of all countable assets owned by the couple at the time the individual enters the nursing facility but conducted when the individual applies or when an assessment is requested prior to application, or is a snapshot at the time of application resulting in enrollment in an HCBS waiver. All of the countable resources owned individually or jointly by both spouses are counted; resources excluded under the ABD resource rules are not counted in the resource assessment.

(i) Only one resource assessment will be completed for a married couple.

(ii) Under no circumstances can a resource assessment be completed prior to the date of admission to a long term care facility or enrollment in an HCBS waiver.

(iii) An assessment remains in effect until a TennCare application is filed, regardless of any interruptions in long-term care. If a resource assessment is completed and the individual applies for TennCare Medicaid, but is found ineligible, the original resource assessment is still valid if the individual applies again in the future.

2. Community Spouse Resource Maintenance Allowance: The CSRMA is based on the spouses' combined countable resources documented in the Resource Assessment. The amount of the CSRMA is the greater of:

   (i) One-half (1/2) of the total countable resources, but not less than the Minimum Resource Standard or greater than the Maximum Resource Standard (released in the SSI and Spousal impoverishment Standards and subject to change annually);

   (ii) The court-ordered amount; or

   (iii) The amount determined by an HCFA Eligibility Appeals Administrative Judge due to a hardship situation (extreme financial duress).

3. When an application is filed by or on behalf of the spouse seeking LTSS, the CSRMA amount determined in the resource assessment is the amount allocated to the community spouse. This amount is deducted from the combined resources of both spouses as of the first day of the first month for which assistance is requested. None of the community spouse's share of the resources is considered available to the individual seeking eligibility when determining her TennCare Medicaid eligibility.

4. Refusal of CSRMA: A community spouse who receives needs-based assistance may accept or decline all, some or none of the CSRMA if the allocation would cause the loss of or decrease in those program benefits. If the community spouse accepts only a portion of the CSRMA, the unclaimed portion of the CSRMA is counted as part of the institutionalized spouse's resources.

5. Resource Transfer as a Result of Assessment:

   (i) CSRMA „Grace Period“ - Following a resource assessment and initial approval of eligibility, resources must be transferred within twelve (12) months of the approval. Both spouses must agree to the transfer in order to use the institutionalized spouse's share in determining his or her eligibility. The transfer may require conveyance of resources from the institutionalized individual to the community spouse, or vice versa.

   (ii) Transfer Refusal - When the community spouse refuses to transfer resources to the institutionalized individual, the institutionalized spouse may still be eligible if on appeal the State finds that undue hardship circumstances exist.
(I) If the community spouse has available assets over the CSRMA she is legally obligated to provide support.

(II) Hardship cannot be determined to exist unless assets have been reallocated as the result of an appeal decision or a court order.

(iii) CSRMA Appeals:

(I) When the Individual and/or Spouse Has Appeal Rights—Appeal rights are considered only after a HCFA application has been filed and either spouse alleges that the assessment or eligibility determination decision is not correct. An assessment completed exclusive of a filed application cannot be appealed. 42 U.S.C. §1396r-5(a)(2)(A). Revisions to the spousal allowance of resources can be made by an HCFA Eligibility Appeals Administrative Judge or by court order.

(II) CSRMA Revisions—The amount of the CSRMA may only be revised by an HCFA Eligibility Appeals Administrative Judge or by court order, and only if additional verification/documentation is provided. The CSRMA may only be revised when:

I. The initial assessment was alleged to be incorrect and the HCFA Eligibility Appeals Administrative Judge confirms the allegations.

II. The community spouse’s income, including the CSIMA, is inadequate to meet the basic standard maintenance amount.

(III) Allocation of Additional Resources to the Community Spouse:

I. When Additional Resources May be Allocated to Community Spouse—An HCFA Eligibility Appeals Administrative Judge may determine a larger CSRMA if necessary to offset a CSIMA that is below the required SMA. In the event that the institutionalized spouse does not have enough income to provide the community spouse with the SMA, and the couple has additional resources above the community spouse’s protected amount (CSRMA), some or all of the institutionalized individual’s resources can be allocated to the community spouse.

II. The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005 requires all States to allocate the maximum amount of available income of the institutionalized spouse to the community spouse before granting an increase in the CSRMA. This is referred to as the “income-first” method.

III. Procedure: HCFA uses the Single Fixed Annuity model to address appeals when there is insufficient income to provide the community spouse with the minimum required CSIMA and the couple has additional resources. A single fixed annuity can turn a portion of an individual’s savings into income payments made for the rest of the individual’s life. The procedure for establishing a Single Fixed Annuity is listed below.

A. Additional resources may be allocated to the community spouse through the HCFA eligibility appeals process to make up any shortfall between the amount of income allocated from the institutional spouse to the community spouse and the SMA, if determined appropriate.

B. The amount of additional resources that are necessary to cover the income shortfall shall be determined in reference to the purchase of a Single Premium Annuity as follows:

(A) By calculating the shortfall between the amount of income allocated and the SMA, and then determining the amount of additional resources that must be invested in a single premium
annuity in order to generate the income necessary to cover the shortfall.

(B) The amount of resources needed to cover the shortfall shall be determined in reference to an annuity calculator as adopted by the HCFA.

(C) The additional resource allocation to the community spouse does not require the actual purchase of a Single-Premium Annuity that is used for purposes of calculating the amount of the additional resource allocation.

(D) The amount of the community spouse's protected resources shall be excluded from this calculation.

(E) If a single-premium annuity is actually purchased pursuant to these rules, the annuity must comply with all other relevant requirements of State and federal law.

(F) The amount of additional resources that are necessary to cover the shortfall in the SMA shall not be determined in reference to any investment which contemplates the return of the entire principal at maturity.

(iii) CSRMA Appeals.

(I) When the Individual and/or Spouse Has Appeal Rights. Appeal rights are considered only after a TennCare application has been filed and either spouse alleges that the assessment or eligibility determination decision is not correct. An assessment completed exclusive of a filed application cannot be appealed. 42 U.S.C. § 1396r-5(e)(2)(A). Revisions to the spousal allowance of resources can be made by an Administrative Judge or by court order.

(II) CSRMA Revisions. The amount of the CSRMA may only be revised by an Administrative Judge or by court order, and only if additional verification/documentation is provided. The CSRMA may only be revised when:

I. The initial assessment was alleged to be incorrect and the Administrative Judge confirms the allegations;

II. An Administrative Judge determines a larger CSRMA is necessary to raise the community spouse's available income to the Maintenance Needs Standard or to an amount by which exceptional maintenance needs, established at a fair hearing, exceed the community spouse's income; or

III. A court order is received against an institutionalized spouse for the support of the community spouse and resources are transferred pursuant to the court order.

(III) Allocation of Additional Resources to the Community Spouse.

I. When Additional Resources May be Allocated to Community Spouse: In the event that the institutionalized spouse does not have enough income to provide the community spouse with sufficient income to meet the Maintenance Needs Standard and the CSRMA is not enough to offset the income shortfall, additional resources may be allocated to the community spouse by an Administrative Judge if the couple has additional resources above the community spouse's protected amount (CSRMA).

II. The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005 requires all States to allocate the
maximum amount of available income of the institutionalized spouse to the community spouse before granting an increase in the CSRMA. This is referred to as the "income-first" method.

III. TennCare uses the Single Fixed Annuity model to address appeals when there is insufficient income to provide the community spouse with the Maintenance Needs Standard and the couple has additional resources. A single fixed annuity can turn a portion of an individual's savings into income payments made for the rest of the individual's life. The procedure for establishing a Single Fixed Annuity is listed below.

A. Additional resources may be allocated to the community spouse through the TennCare eligibility appeals process to make up any shortfall between the amount of income allocated from the institutional spouse to the community spouse and the Maintenance Needs Standard, if determined appropriate.

B. The amount of additional resources that are necessary to cover the income shortfall shall be determined in reference to the purchase of a Single Premium Annuity as follows:

   (A) By calculating the shortfall between the amount of income allocated and the Maintenance Needs Standard, and then determining the amount of additional resources that must be invested in a single premium annuity in order to generate the income necessary to cover the shortfall.

   (B) The amount of resources needed to cover the shortfall shall be determined in reference to an annuity calculator as adopted by TennCare.

   (C) Additional Resources may be allocated to the community spouse if the amount of resources needed to cover the shortfall is greater than the CSRMA.

C. The additional resource allocation to the community spouse does not require the actual purchase of a Single Premium Annuity that is used for purposes of calculating the amount of the additional resource allocation.

D. If a single premium annuity is actually purchased pursuant to these rules, the annuity must comply with all other relevant requirements of state and federal law.

E. The amount of additional resources that are necessary to cover the shortfall shall not be determined in reference to any investment which contemplates the return of the entire principal at maturity.

(iv) Transfer of Assets for Less than Fair Market Value.

   (I) A transfer of assets for less than FMV is not considered to have occurred when resources are transferred from the institutionalized individual to the community spouse or vice versa according to a completed resource assessment.

   (II) Should the spouse who received the allocation according to the resource assessment then transfer the resource to someone else for less than FMV, the transfer will be treated as a transfer of assets by the institutionalized individual.
(II) Should the spouse who received the allocation according to the resource assessment then transfer the resource to someone else for less than FMV, the transfer will not be treated as a transfer of assets since the resources of a couple are treated separately after the establishment of Institutional Medicaid eligibility.

(III) Transfer of assets for less than FMV is considered part of the application process whether or not a resource assessment has been requested previously or is requested at application. Transfer of assets is not considered if a resource assessment only (no TennCare Medicaid application filed concurrently) is requested.

(6) Medicare Savings Programs.

(a) QMB.

1. Definition: See Rule .02.
2. Eligibility for this program is not eligibility for Medicaid coverage. An individual eligible for QMB is eligible for TennCare Buy-in of his Medicare premiums, and payment of Medicare coinsurance and deductibles.
4. Household size is based upon the ABD household composition Rule .06.
5. Income Limitations: Below At or below one hundred percent (100%) of the FPL.
6. Resource Limitations: Limits for an individual and couple as determined by SSACMS.
7. Effective Date: First day of the month following the month in which the application is approved.

(b) SLMB.

1. Definition: See Rule .02.
2. Eligibility for this program is not eligibility for Medicaid coverage. An individual eligible for SLMB is eligible for TennCare Buy-in of his Medicare Part B premiums.
4. Household size is based upon the ABD household composition Rule .06.
5. Income Limitations: Over one hundred percent (100%) but less than one hundred twenty percent (120%) of the FPL.
6. Resource Limitations: Limits for an individual and couple as determined by SSACMS.
7. Effective Date: Eligibility begins on the Application File Date, according to Rule .05, or the date all eligibility requirements are met, whichever is later.

(c) QI1.

1. Definition: See Rule .02.
2. Eligibility for this program is not eligibility for Medicaid coverage. An individual eligible for QI1 is eligible for TennCare Buy-in of his Medicare Part B premiums, pursuant to State allocation of federal funds. The individual may not be receiving TennCare Medicaid.
4. Household size is based upon the ABD household composition Rule .06.
5. Income Limitations: Over one hundred twenty percent (120%) but less than one hundred thirty-five percent (135%) of FPL.

6. Resource Limitations: Limits for an individual and couple as determined by the SSACMS.

7. Effective Date: Eligibility begins on the Application File Date, according to Rule .05, or the date all eligibility requirements are met, whichever is later.

(d) QDWI.

1. Definition: See Rule .02.

2. Eligibility for this program is not eligibility for Medicaid coverage. An individual eligible for QDWI is eligible for TennCare Buy-in of his Medicare Part A premiums, but not for Part B premiums.


4. Special Eligibility Requirements: An individual must be under age sixty-five (65), have a disabling impairment as determined by the SSA, and be eligible to enroll in Medicare Part A but no longer entitled to free Medicare Part A due to substantial gainful activity.

5. Household size is based upon the ABD household composition Rule .06.

6. Income Limitations: Two hundred percent (200%) of FPL.

7. Resource Limitations: Resources not exceeding twice the maximum for SSI for an individual or a couple, as applicable.

8. Effective Date: Eligibility begins on the Application File Date, according to Rule .05, or the date all eligibility requirements are met, whichever is later.

(7) Other.

(a) Medically Needy Children and Pregnant Women.

1. Definition: See Rule .02.


3. Special Eligibility Requirements: Applicants for the Medically Needy Pregnant Woman category must be pregnant at the time of application. Applicants for the Child Medically Needy category must be under age twenty-one (21).

4. Household size is based upon the AFDC-Related household composition information set out in Rule .06.

5. Income Limitations: Household income must be less than or equal to the MNIS, based on household size. When household income exceeds the MNIS, based on household size, the individual must meet a spend-down obligation as outlined in the State Plan. See Rule .06.

6. Resource Limitations: Medically Needy applicants are permitted to retain resources not to exceed $2,000.00 for an individual, $3,000.00 for two individuals and an additional $100.00 is added per additional individual. See Rule .06.

7. Effective Date of Eligibility: Eligibility begins on the Application File Date, according to Rule .05, or the date all eligibility requirements are met, whichever is later.

8. Other: Pregnant women enrolled in the Medically Needy program shall receive continuous coverage through two (2) months postpartum, regardless of income changes.
(b) Breast and Cervical Cancer Category of Eligibility.

1. Definition: See Rule .02.


3. Special Eligibility Requirements:
   (i) Individuals must be younger than age sixty-five (65) and must lack health insurance that will cover treatment for breast and/or cervical cancer. Once third party coverage of cancer has been exhausted, the applicant will be considered to no longer have health insurance.
   (ii) Individuals must first be screened and approved by the Department of Health's BCSP.
   (iii) Individuals must be actively undergoing treatment for breast or cervical cancer. A Treatment Plan Form signed by the applicant's physician must be submitted to TennCare. Individuals who are determined to require only routine monitoring services for a precancerous breast or cervical condition are not considered to need treatment for purposes of this section. Surveillance after treatment of cancer (breast or cervical) will not qualify as treatment for purposes of this section.

4. Income Limitations: Income cannot exceed two hundred fifty percent (250%) of the FPL, as determined by the Department of Health through its BCSP.

5. Resource Limitations: None.

6. Effective Date of Eligibility: Eligibility begins on the Application File Date, according to Rule .05, or the date all eligibility requirements are met, whichever is later.

(c) Presumptive Breast or Cervical Cancer.

1. Definition: See Rule .02.


3. Special Eligibility Requirements:
   (i) Individual must be determined to be presumptively eligible by the Department of Health.
   (ii) Individual must be younger than age sixty-five (65) and must lack access to health insurance that will cover treatment for breast and/or cervical cancer.
   (iii) The presumptive eligibility period will last either until the end of the month following the month of application or determination of a full Medicaid application, as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 1396r-1b.

4. Income Limitations: Income cannot exceed two hundred fifty percent (250%) of the FPL, as determined by the Department of Health through its BCSP program.

5. Resource Limitations: None.

6. Effective Date of Eligibility: The date eligibility is determined by the Tennessee Department of Health.

(d) Payment for Emergency Medical Services.

1. Definition: See Rule .02.

2. Technical Requirements: See Rule .04. Individuals must meet eligibility requirements for a
3. Special Eligibility Requirements: Individuals who meet all eligibility criteria except citizenship and immigration status for the following TennCare categories of eligibility:
   (i) Caretaker Relative;
   (ii) Infants and Children Under Age 19;
   (iii) Pregnant Woman; or
   (iv) Child or Qualified Pregnant Woman Medically Needy.

4. Individuals in one of the above categories may qualify for payment for emergency medical services in which the individual has a medical condition, including labor and delivery, manifested by acute symptoms of sufficient severity which, if not attended to immediately, could reasonably be expected to result in:
   (i) Placing the patient's health in serious jeopardy;
   (ii) Severe impairment to bodily functions; or
   (iii) Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.

5. Household size is based upon the appropriate TennCare category for which the enrollee is seeking coverage.

6. Income Limitations: Must meet financial criteria of one of the respective TennCare categories (Caretaker Relative, Infants and Children Under Age 19, TennCare Pregnant Woman, or Child or Qualified Pregnant Woman Medically Needy).

7. Resource Limitations: If an individual would be otherwise eligible for a Medically Needy category except for citizenship or immigration status, then the individual's resource limits are identical to those found in Rule .06, AFDC-Related Financial Determinations. If an individual would be otherwise eligible for a MAGI category except for citizenship or immigration status, then the individual's resources are not considered.

8. Effective Date of Eligibility: Eligibility will not begin prior to the date of admission, nor will coverage begin prior to the date of application, and will be limited to the length of time required to stabilize the emergent episode, as defined at 42 C.F.R. § 440.255. Only the services involved in the emergency itself will be reimbursed and coverage is only provided for the single episode of care.

1200-13-20-.09 Redetermination and Termination.

(1) Redetermination of eligibility for CoverKids, TennCare Medicaid's Core Medicaid Population, and TennCare Standard Medical Assistance.

   (a) Redetermination or renewal is the process of verifying whether an enrollee continues to meet the eligibility requirements of a particular HCFA TennCare program.

   (b) A TennCare Medicaid, TennCare Standard or TennCare An enrollee must have eligibility redetermined once every twelve (12) months, and no more frequently than once every twelve (12) months according to 42 C.F.R. § 435.916, absent a waiver from CMS.

   2. Redetermination dates are set twelve (12) months from the date the individual is determined eligible for TennCare Medicaid, TennCare Standard or CoverKids, or as otherwise agreed between the Single State Agency and CMS.
Enrollees eligible for TennCare Medicaid as a result of being eligible for SSI benefits shall follow the Redetermination requirements of the SSA. Once SSI benefits are terminated, these enrollees will be reviewed by the State TennCare for eligibility in all other categories prior to termination.

An enrollee’s TennCare Medicaid, TennCare Standard or CoverKids Medical Assistance eligibility shall be redetermined as required by the appropriate category of medical assistance Medical Assistance as described in this Rule, unless otherwise agreed to by the Single State Agency and CMS. Prior to the termination of TennCare Medicaid, TennCare Standard or CoverKids Medical Assistance eligibility, eligibility will be redetermined according to the following process:

1. **HCFA TennCare** will redetermine eligibility prior to the expiration of the enrollee’s current eligibility period.

2. **HCFA TennCare** will issue a complete an ex parte review of eligibility. A renewal packet to redetermine will be issued when ex parte review does not result in a finding of eligibility. TennCare Medicaid, TennCare Standard or CoverKids Medical Assistance enrollees will be given forty (40) days, inclusive of mail time, from the date the notice is mailed to return the completed renewal packet to HCFA TennCare. The mail date will be the date on the notice. The enrollee may provide information by mail, fax or in-person the same modes permitted for filing an application specified at Rule 05, or as otherwise agreed to by the Single State Agency and CMS.

3. **HCFA TennCare** will provide assistance with submitting a renewal form according to Rule 05(4).

4. **HCFA TennCare** will use the individual’s responses in the renewal packet to complete redetermination. HCFA TennCare will request additional verification, as needed, to complete redetermination. The request for additional information or verification will provide the enrollee with twenty (20) days, inclusive of mail time, to submit the requested information.

5. If **HCFA TennCare** is able to renew eligibility in a TennCare Medicaid, TennCare Standard or CoverKids Medical Assistance category based on information known to TennCare, or information provided in the renewal packet, in addition to information known to HCFA and requested verifications, the agency will notify the enrollee and enroll him in the new appropriate category.

6. Enrollees who respond to the renewal form within the forty (40) day period shall retain their eligibility (subject to any changes in covered services generally applicable to enrollees in their Medicaid Medical Assistance category) while HCFA TennCare reviews their eligibility for open Medicaid categories and CoverKids Medical Assistance categories. If HCFA TennCare determines that the enrollee is eligible for a TennCare Medicaid, TennCare Standard or CoverKids Medical Assistance category, the agency will notify the individual as follows:

   (i) If **HCFA TennCare** determines that the enrollee is eligible for an open TennCare Medicaid category, the agency will notify the enrollee and he will be enrolled in the appropriate category. The if the individual is enrolled in a different TennCare Medicaid category of eligibility, the previous category will be closed with no further notice to the enrollee.

   (ii) If **HCFA TennCare** determines that the enrollee is eligible for a TennCare Standard category, the agency will notify the enrollee and he will be enrolled in the appropriate category. Notification of enrollment into TennCare Standard will include notification of the denial of TennCare Medicaid eligibility.

   (iii) If **HCFA TennCare** determines that the enrollee is eligible for CoverKids, the agency will notify the enrollee and he will be enrolled into the CoverKids program. Notification of enrollment into CoverKids will include the denial of TennCare Medicaid eligibility.

   (iv) If TennCare determines that the enrollee is eligible for MSP, the agency will notify the enrollee and he will be enrolled into the appropriate MSP. If an individual is determined eligible for MSP and ineligible for TennCare Medicaid, notification of enrollment in an
MSP will include notification of the denial of TennCare Medicaid. Notification of enrollment into SLMB or QI1 will include notification of the denial of QMB eligibility.

7. If an enrollee provides some but not all of the necessary information to HCFA TennCare to determine his eligibility for open Medicaid categories or CoverKids Medical Assistance categories during the forty (40) day period following the mailing of the renewal packet, HCFA TennCare will request additional information or verification. The request for additional information or verification will provide the enrollee with twenty (20) days, inclusive of mail time, to submit the requested information.

8. Enrollees who do not respond to the renewal packet within forty (40) days, or enrollees who do not respond to a request for additional information or verification within twenty (20) days from the request for additional information or verification, will be sent a notice of termination informing the enrollee that coverage will be terminated twenty (20) days from the date of the termination notice.

9. If HCFA TennCare makes a determination that the enrollee is not eligible for any open Medicaid categories, TennCare Standard or CoverKids Medical Assistance categories, the enrollee will be sent a notice of termination informing the enrollee that coverage will be terminated twenty (20) days from the date of the termination notice.

10. Enrollees who respond to the additional information or verification request after the requisite time period specified in those notices but before the date of termination shall retain their eligibility for TennCare Medicaid, TennCare Standard or CoverKids while HCFA TennCare reviews their eligibility.

11. Individuals may provide the renewal packet, or additional information and verifications specified in the request for additional information and verification notice, up to ninety (90) days after termination of eligibility. Renewal packets or additional information and verification received during the ninety (90) day reconsideration period will be processed without requiring a new application. Individuals terminated for failure to respond and subsequently determined eligible during the ninety (90) day reconsideration period will have eligibility reinstated as of the date of termination.

12. Renewal packets returned after ninety (90) days will not be considered and the individual must file a new application in accordance with Rule .05.

(de) An individual who has been determined eligible for TennCare Medicaid under the rules for BCC shall annually recertify eligibility in terms of continuation of active treatment, address, and access to health insurance. If the individual is found to no longer be eligible through this review, the individual will be reviewed using the redetermination process set forth in this paragraph.

(2) Termination of TennCare Medicaid, TennCare Standard and CoverKids eligibility Medical Assistance.

(a) HCFA TennCare will send termination notices to all enrollees being terminated pursuant to State state and federal law who are not determined to be eligible for open Medicaid or TennCare Standard categories, or CoverKids any open category of Medical Assistance or who receive a change in benefits or services.

(b) Termination notices will be sent twenty (20) days in advance of the date the coverage will be terminated. Termination notices will be sent two (2) days in advance of the date coverage will be prospectively terminated when an enrollee requests termination. Termination notices will be sent to the HCFA TennCare address of record.

(c) Termination notices will provide enrollees forty (40) days from the date of the notice to appeal the termination and will inform enrollees how they may request a hearing. Appeals will be processed by HCFA TennCare in compliance with Chapter 1200-13-19.

(d) HCFA TennCare will reconsider eligibility after termination in compliance with 42 C.F.R. 435.916(a)(3)(iii).
(e) Enrollees with a physical health problem, mental health problem, learning problem or a disability will be given the opportunity to request additional assistance for their appeal. Enrollees with limited English proficiency will have the opportunity to request translation assistance for their appeal.