

Income

- SSI Earned Income Disregard: \$65 and ½ of the remainder are subtracted from earned income and from gross profit from self-employment earnings. See item C below.
- Impairment-Related Work Expenses: Expenses for items or services which are directly related to enabling a person with a disability to work and which are necessarily incurred by the individual due to a physical or mental impairment. The individual must be:
 - Disabled, but not blind; and
 - Under age 65; or
 - Received SSI or SSI-Related Medicaid as a disabled individual for the month before becoming age 65.

In addition, the severity of the impairment must require the individual to purchase or rent items and services in order to work and the expense must be reasonable and not reimbursable from another source, such as, but not limited to, Medicare or private insurance. The payment must be made with income received for a month in which the person both worked and received the services or used the item, or the payment may be made before the earned income is received when the person is working.

Examples of impairment-related work expenses include, but are not limited to, attendant care services both at home and at work, drugs and medical supplies and devices, federal, state and local income taxes and FICA, guide dogs, fees such as union dues, mandatory contributions such as pensions, meals consumed during work hours, work-related equipment or services, physical therapy, prosthesis, structural modifications to the person's home, transportation to and from work and vehicle modification.

- SSI Work-Related Expenses (Blind Persons Only): A deduction for impairment-related expenses necessary for employment is allowed, such as a seeing-eye dog, cane training, purchase of special equipment needed to perform or advance on the job, etc.
- Earnings Diverted to a PASS: Any earnings diverted to a PASS account are deducted from income.

- SSI Student Child Earned Income Disregard: **\$1,640** per month, but no more than **\$6,600** in a calendar year, is disregarded when the child meets the following criteria:
 - Is under age 22, unmarried and not head of a household; and
 - Takes one or more courses of study and attends classes as follows:
 - In a college or university at least 8 hours a week; or
 - In grades 7-12 at least 12 hours a week; or
 - In a course of training to prepare for a paying job for at least 15 hours a week, if shop practice is involved, or 12 hours a week, if shop practice is not involved; or
 - For less than the amount of time indicated above for reasons beyond the student's control, such as illness, if circumstances justify a reduced load or attendance.

This applies to homebound students when a disability requires home school and a home visitor or tutor from school directs the study.

2. Unearned Income

- SSI \$20 Disregard: A \$20 Disregard is applied to the total gross unearned income. If unearned income is less than \$20, the remainder is subtracted from earned income, prior to the application of any other earned income disregards and deductions.

NOTE: The SSI \$20 disregard is not applied to any unearned income received which is based on need. This includes, but is not limited to, VA benefits based on need. See VA Benefits in Section 10.3.

- Unearned Income Diverted to a PASS: Any unearned income diverted to a PASS account is deducted from income.
- For SSI-Related Children Only: 1/3 of the child support intended for the SSI-Related child is disregarded.

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- Periodic payments made by a state under a program established before 7/1/73 and based solely on duration of residence and attaining age 65. Only Alaska makes such payments.
- Infrequent or irregular income
- Work expenses of a blind individual
- Income of the ineligible individual or parent which is paid under a federal, State or local program to provide chore, attendant or homemaker services to the eligible individual
- Home energy assistance
- The earned income of a student child, up to **\$1,640** a month, but not more than **\$6,600** per year, is excluded from the income of an ineligible child for purpose of determining the ineligible child allocation

When the ineligible spouse's non-excluded income, as shown above and in Section 10.3, minus only the needs of ineligible children in the home, is greater than the Allocation Standard, the ineligible spouse's income is added to the eligible spouse's income. These are the SSI deeming provisions, which also require use of the couple income limit to determine eligibility for the individual when income is deemed. If the SSI-Related individual is a child, the income of the parent(s) is also deemed, and the above exclusions are applied to their income.

NOTE: The income of separated spouses is not counted or deemed beginning in the month following the month in which the couple separates.

c. Deeming From Ineligible Spouse to SSI-Related Spouse

The deeming calculations are as follows:

Step 1: Determine the ineligible spouse's total non-excluded unearned income.

Step 2: Subtract the needs of all ineligible dependent children. See Section 10.1 for the definition of ineligible child.

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The need of each ineligible child is determined separately by subtracting the child's income from the Allocation Standard. The difference, if any, represents the child's needs.

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EXAMPLE: SSI payment level for 1 and 2 persons is **\$674** and **\$1,011**.

The Allocation Standard is **\$337**. Child #1's income is **\$340**. Because the child's income exceeds **\$337**, there is no deduction for Child #1's needs. Child #2's income is \$125. The allocation for this child's needs is **\$212**.

After a separate determination is made for each ineligible child, the allocations are added together and then subtracted from income.

- Step 3: Determine the ineligible spouse's total gross non-excluded earned income.
- Step 4: Subtract the remainder of the needs of all ineligible children which could not be subtracted in Step 2.
- Step 5: Add together the ineligible spouse's remaining earned and unearned income.
- Step 6: Compare the amount from Step 5 to the Allocation Standard.

When the remaining amount is less than the Allocation Standard, no income is deemed from the ineligible spouse and the individual income limit is used.

When the remaining amount is in excess of the Allocation Standard, the ineligible spouse's remaining earned income from Step 4 is added to the SSI-Related spouse's earned income, and the ineligible spouse's remaining unearned income from Step 2 is added to the SSI-Related spouse's unearned income. The income limit for 2 persons is used, even though only one spouse is in the AG.

- d. Deeming From Parent(s) to SSI-Related Child(ren) See Section 10.1 for the definition of child.

The deeming calculations are as follows:

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- Step 1: Determine the total non-excluded gross unearned income of the eligible and ineligible parents.
- Step 2: Subtract the needs of all ineligible children. The need of each ineligible child is determined separately by subtracting the child's own income from the Allocation Standard.

After a separate determination is made for each ineligible child, the allocations are added together and then subtracted from income.
- Step 3: Determine the total non-excluded gross earned income of the eligible and ineligible parents.
- Step 4: Subtract the needs of the ineligible children, which were not subtracted in Step 2.
- Step 5: Subtract the SSI \$20 Disregard from the amount in Step 2.
- Step 6: Subtract any remainder of the SSI \$20 Disregard from the amount in Step 4.
- Step 7: Apply the SSI \$65 + ½ Earned Income Disregard to the amount remaining from Step 6.

NOTE: When the person from whom income is deemed receives RSDI based on disability or received that benefit prior to becoming age 65, Impairment-Related Work Expenses, if appropriate, are deducted after the \$65, but prior to deducting the remaining ½. See Section 10.22,B,1.
- Step 8: Add together the amounts from Steps 5 and 7.
- Step 9: Subtract the Parental Living Allowance. See Section 10.1, Definitions.

The remaining amount is deemed to the SSI-Related child as unearned income. If there is more than one SSI-Related child, divide the remaining amount equally among the SSI-Related children.