

Health Care Finance and Administration	Section: Categories of Eligibility
Policy Manual Number: 015.050	Subject: Qualified Pregnant Woman Medically Needy

QUALIFIED PREGNANT WOMAN MEDICALLY NEEDED

Legal Authority: 42 CFR 435.4; 42 CFR 435.301; 42 CFR 435.601

1. Policy Statement

TennCare Medicaid benefits are available to pregnant women who are not eligible for the MAGI Pregnant Woman category, who have resources within the Medically Needy resource limit based on household size, and who have countable income equal to or less than the Medically Needy Income Standard (MNIS) based on household size, or meet the spend down requirement. Eligible women must meet all of the Qualified Pregnant Woman Medically Needy non-financial eligibility requirements.

2. Coverage Period

Pregnant women remain eligible for TennCare Medicaid benefits through a 60 day postpartum period, beginning the last day of the pregnancy and ending on the last day of the month in which the 60 day period ends. The 60 day postpartum period is automatic and applicable to all pregnant women who have applied, been determined eligible for and received TennCare Medicaid benefits prior to the end of the pregnancy. The postpartum coverage period is applied regardless of any change in household income and regardless of how the pregnancy ends.

3. Non-Financial Eligibility Requirements

Pregnant women eligible for the Qualified Pregnant Woman Medically Needy category must meet all non-financial eligibility requirements. Additional information about each condition of eligibility is available in the Non-Financial Eligibility chapters.

- i. **Age:** There is no minimum or maximum age for this category.
- ii. **Citizenship:** A pregnant woman must be a U.S. Citizen, U.S. National or eligible non-citizen.
- iii. **Enumeration:** A pregnant woman must possess and provide a valid Social Security Number (SSN) or proof of application for an SSN, unless she meets an exception.
- iv. **State Residence:** A pregnant woman must be a resident of Tennessee.
- v. **Cooperation with Child Support Services:** A pregnant woman is not required to agree to cooperate with Child Support Services for the unborn baby.
- vi. **Pregnancy:** A woman must be pregnant. Self-attestation of pregnancy is accepted and considered verified when determining eligibility.

4. Financial Eligibility Requirements

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a. Household Composition

Household composition is governed by the principle of FRRs. Financial responsibility is limited to spouse to spouse and parent to child. For household composition details, see the *Medically Needy Household Composition* policy.

b. Resource Test

The resource limit for the Qualified Pregnant Women Medically Needy category is \$2,000 for one person and \$3,000 for two people. An additional \$100 is added per additional individual.

Count the individually owned and pro-rata share of jointly owned assets of children under age 21 and their FRRs. Do not include resources of a Families First, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or needs-based Veterans Affairs (VA) Benefits recipient. See the *Treatment of Resources: Ownership, Equity Value & Accessibility* policy for additional information.

c. Household Income

Countable and excluded income is determined using the 1996 Aid to Dependent Children and Families (AFDC) methodology. See the *Medically Needy Countable and Excluded Income* Policy.

Count the income (except income subject to an exclusion or disregard) of the following household members:

- The pregnant woman for whom assistance is requested;
- The applicant’s children under age 21; and
- Her FRR (e.g., spouse).

The parents of a qualified pregnant woman are not included in the applicant’s household.

Do not use the income in the budget of an FRR who receives Families First, Supplemental Security (SSI) or needs-based Veterans Affairs (VA) Benefits.

d. Medically Needy Income Standard

MNIS Standard by Household Size

Household Size	Income Standard	Household Size	Income Standard
1	\$241	10	\$625
2	\$258	11	\$683
3	\$317	12	\$733
4	\$325	13	\$792
5	\$392	14	\$842
6	\$408	15	\$900
7	\$467	16	\$950

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8	\$517	17	\$1,008
9	\$567	18	\$1,058

e. Disregards

The following situations specify disregards that are applied to an individual's earned income:

i. Earned Income Disregard

A \$90 disregard per month for work expenses is permitted for each individual with earned income.

ii. Payments On Behalf Of Dependents Within The Home

A day care expense of up to \$175 per month per dependent age 2 or older is applied. A day care expense up to \$200 per month per dependent under age 2 is applied (see *Expenses* policy).

f. Income Budget

Income eligibility for the Qualified Pregnant Women Medically Needy category is determined using a two-step process. The first step determines the applicant's total net income, and the second step determines whether the applicant must meet a spend down. The table below provides an overview of how the total net income is determined.

If the applicant has total net income that is less than the MNIS by household size, and is otherwise eligible, the applicant will be approved for eligibility as Exceptionally Eligible.

If the applicant has total net income that is at or greater than the MNIS by household size, the applicant will have to spend down her net income to the MNIS using incurred medical expenses.

Budget Overview

Countable and excluded income is determined using the AFDC methodology See the *Medically Needy Countable and Excluded Income* Policy.

1. Net Unearned Income Computation (for each household member)

Gross Unearned Income = Net Unearned Income

2. Net Earned Income Computation (for each household member)

Gross Earned Income
 – Earned Income Disregard (\$90 work expense)

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- Dependent Care Disregard (\$175 for child age 2 and over; \$200 for child under age 2)
Net Earned Income

3. Total Net Income Computation (for household)

Net Unearned Income for all household members
+ Net Earned Income for all household members
Total Net Income

4. Determine Exceptional Eligibility

Is Total Net Income less than or equal to the MNIS for the household size?

If Yes, Pass the applicant as Exceptionally Eligible
If No, Continue processing eligibility. Go to Step 5.

5. Exclude Children with Sufficient Income

Determine whether any of the children in the household have countable income. A child with countable income may be excluded if his or her income makes the household ineligible, and this child is not the only eligible child in the household. Exclude the individually owned resources of any child excluded under this step during the resource determination.

Do not exclude any children who have been identified by the applicant as having special medical needs. Children with special medical needs should remain in the household and have eligibility determined under the spend down provision.

6. Determine Eligibility under Spend Down Provision

Total Net Income
- MNIS based on household size
= Spend Down Amount (See Section 4. Spend Down)

g. Example Budget

A pregnant woman (pregnant with one child) and her child, age 1 year, apply for coverage. The woman has no unearned income and \$5,000 in monthly earned income. The woman pays \$400 per week for childcare. The woman has \$50,000 of incurred allowable medical expenses.

1. Net Unearned Income Computation

\$0 Gross Unearned Income = \$0 Net Unearned Income

2. Net Earned Income Computation

\$5,000 Gross Earned Income

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- \$90 Earned Income Disregard (Work Expense)
- \$200 Dependent Care Expense Within the Home Disregard
- = \$4,710 Net Earned Income

3. Total Net Income Computation

- \$0 Net Unearned Income
- + \$4,710 Net Earned Income
- = \$4,710 Total Net Income

4. Determine Exceptional Eligibility

Is Total Net Income (\$4,710) less than or equal to the MNIS for 3 (\$317)?

No, the household is not exceptionally eligible. Proceed to Step 5.

5. Exclude Children with Sufficient Income

No child in the household has countable income, or can be excluded from the household.

6. Determine Eligibility under Spend Down Provision

- \$4,710 Total Net Income
- \$317 MNIS for Household Size 3
- = \$4,393 Spend Down Amount

The woman has sufficient incurred medical expenses (\$50,000) to satisfy spend down, and the household will be determined eligible.

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