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State/Territory Name: Washington

State Plan Amendment (SPA) #: 24-0018-2

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- 2) CMS 179 Form/Summary Form (with 179-like data)
- 3) Approved SPA Pages

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Medicaid and CHIP Operations Group
601 E. 12th st, Room 335
Kansas City, MO 64106



Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services

May 03, 2024

Sue Birch and Dr. Charissa Fotinos
Health Care Authority Director
Washington State Health Care Authority
PO Box 45502
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: Approval of State Plan Amendment WA-24-0018-2

Dear Director Birch and Dr. Fotinos,

On April 03, 2024, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) received Washington State Plan Amendment (SPA) WA-24-0018-2, in which the state proposed new income disregards for the Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMB) and Qualifying Individuals eligibility groups.

We approve Washington State Plan Amendment (SPA) WA-24-0018-2 with an effective date of April 01, 2024.

If you have any questions regarding this amendment, please contact Edwin Walaszek at edwin.walaszek1@cms.hhs.gov, or, at (212) 616-2512.

Sincerely,
James G. Scott
Director, Division of Program Operations
Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services

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CMS-10434 OMB 0938-1188

Submission - Summary

MEDICAID | Medicaid State Plan | Eligibility | WA2024MS00070 | WA-24-0018-2

Package Header

Package ID WA2024MS00070
Submission Type Official
Approval Date 05/03/2024
Superseded SPA ID N/A

SPA ID WA-24-0018-2
Initial Submission Date 4/3/2024
Effective Date N/A

State Information

State/Territory Name: Washington

Medicaid Agency Name: Health Care Authority

Submission Component

- State Plan Amendment
- Medicaid
- CHIP

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SPA ID and Effective Date

SPA ID WA-24-0018-2

Reviewable Unit	Proposed Effective Date	Superseded SPA ID
Mandatory Eligibility Groups	4/1/2024	WA-23-0008
Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries	4/1/2024	WA-22-0034
Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiaries	4/1/2024	WA-22-0034
Qualifying Individuals	4/1/2024	WA-22-0034

Submission - Summary

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Executive Summary

Summary Description Including Goals and Objectives SPA WA 24-0018-2 will increase the income limit for two of the Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs), Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) and Qualified Individual (QI-1). MSPs help with Medicare co-pays, deductibles, and monthly premiums for qualified recipients. The Agency will increase the income limit of QMB from 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 110 percent and increase the FPL of QI-1 from 135 percent FPL to 138 percent FPL. Increasing the income limit for Medicare Savings Programs will allow more low-income Medicare recipients to qualify and brings more federal resources, such as the Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) drug benefit, to more needy individuals. The result allows individuals to keep more of their income for other necessary things, reduces administrative burden, and puts more federal money into the local economy.

Federal Budget Impact and Statute/Regulation Citation

Federal Budget Impact

	Federal Fiscal Year	Amount
First	2024	\$0
Second	2025	\$0

Federal Statute / Regulation Citation

Sections 1902(r)(2), 1902(a)(10)(E)(i), 1902(a)(10)(E)(iv), 1905(p) of the Social Security Act

Supporting documentation of budget impact is uploaded (optional).

Name	Date Created
No items available	

Submission - Summary

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Governor's Office Review

- No comment
- Comments received
- No response within 45 days
- Other

Describe Exempt

PRA Disclosure Statement: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) collects this mandatory information in accordance with (42 U.S.C. 1396a) and (42 CFR 430.12); which sets forth the authority for the submittal and collection of state plans and plan amendment information in a format defined by CMS for the purpose of improving the state application and federal review processes, improve federal program management of Medicaid programs and Children's Health Insurance Program, and to standardize Medicaid program data which covers basic requirements, and individualized content that reflects the characteristics of the particular state's program. The information will be used to monitor and analyze performance metrics related to the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program in efforts to boost program integrity efforts, improve performance and accountability across the programs. Under the Privacy Act of 1974 any personally identifying information obtained will be kept private to the extent of the law. According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0938-1188. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to range from 1 hour to 80 hours per response (see below), including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: CMS, 7500 Security Boulevard, Attn: PRA Reports Clearance Officer, Mail Stop C4-26-05, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

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CMS-10434 OMB 0938-1188

Medicaid State Plan Eligibility

Mandatory Eligibility Groups

MEDICAID | Medicaid State Plan | Eligibility | WA2024MS00070 | WA-24-0018-2

Package Header

Package ID	WA2024MS00070	SPA ID	WA-24-0018-2
Submission Type	Official	Initial Submission Date	4/3/2024
Approval Date	05/03/2024	Effective Date	4/1/2024
Superseded SPA ID	WA-23-0008		
	System-Derived		

Mandatory Coverage

A. The state provides Medicaid to mandatory groups of individuals. The mandatory groups covered are:

Families and Adults

Eligibility Group Name		Covered In State Plan	Include RU In Package ?	Included in Another Submission Package	Source Type ?
Infants and Children under Age 19		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	APPROVED
Parents and Other Caretaker Relatives		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	CONVERTED
Pregnant Women		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	APPROVED
Deemed Newborns		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	NEW
Children with Title IV-E Adoption Assistance, Foster Care or Guardianship Care		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	APPROVED
Former Foster Care Children		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	APPROVED
Transitional Medical Assistance		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	APPROVED
Extended Medicaid due to Spousal Support Collections		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	NEW

Aged, Blind and Disabled

Eligibility Group Name		Covered In State Plan	Include RU In Package ?	Included in Another Submission Package	Source Type ?
SSI Beneficiaries		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	NEW
Closed Eligibility Groups		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	APPROVED
Individuals Deemed To Be Receiving SSI		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	NEW
Working Individuals under 1619(b)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	APPROVED
Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	APPROVED
Qualified Disabled and Working Individuals		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	NEW
Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiaries		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	APPROVED
Qualifying Individuals		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	APPROVED

Mandatory Eligibility Groups

MEDICAID | Medicaid State Plan | Eligibility | WA2024MS00070 | WA-24-0018-2

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B. The state elects the Adult Group, described at 42 CFR 435.119.

Yes No

Families and Adults

Eligibility Group Name		Covered In State Plan	Include RU In Package ?	Included in Another Submission Package	Source Type ?
Adult Group		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	CONVERTED

C. Additional Information (optional)

Eligibility Groups Deselected from Coverage

The following eligibility groups were previously covered in the source approved version of the state plan and deselected from coverage as part of this submission package:

- N/A

Medicaid State Plan Eligibility

Eligibility Groups - Mandatory Coverage

Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries

MEDICAID | Medicaid State Plan | Eligibility | WA2024MS00070 | WA-24-0018-2

Individuals with income equal to or less than 100% of the FPL, who are entitled to Medicare Part A, and who qualify for Medicare cost-sharing.

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Superseded SPA ID	WA-22-0034		
	System-Derived		

The state covers the mandatory qualified Medicare beneficiaries group in accordance with the following provisions:

A. Characteristics

Individuals qualifying under this eligibility group must meet the following criteria:

1. Are entitled to hospital insurance benefits under part A of title XVIII (Medicare Part A), including individuals who have purchased a premium to enroll in Part A.
2. Have income and resources at or below the standard for this group.

Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries

MEDICAID | Medicaid State Plan | Eligibility | WA2024MS00070 | WA-24-0018-2

Package Header

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Superseded SPA ID WA-22-0034
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SPA ID WA-24-0018-2
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B. Financial Methodologies

1. SSI methodologies are used in calculating household income. Please refer as necessary to Non-MAGI Methodologies, completed by the state.

2. Less restrictive methodologies are used in calculating countable income.

- Yes
- No

The less restrictive income methodologies are:

The difference between one income standard and another is disregarded.

- Between the following percentages of the FPL:
FPL 100.00%
- Between the medically needy income limit and a percentage of the FPL:
and
- Between the SSI Federal Benefit Rate and:
FPL 110.00%
- Between other income standards:

Census Bureau wages are disregarded.

Description of disregard: Wages paid by the Census Bureau for temporary employment related to census activities are excluded.

The following less restrictive methodologies are used:

Name of methodology:	Description:
Income tax obligation	Unearned income withheld, prior receipt by the individual, for income tax purposes, or otherwise withheld beyond the individual's control, is considered exempt when determining eligibility.
MSP	When determining the available income of an individual for the QMB or SLMB program the agency shall exclude from countable income an amount equal to that expended on medical expenses.

3. Less restrictive methodologies are used in calculating countable resources.

- Yes
- No

The less restrictive resource methodologies are:

All resources are disregarded. No resource test is applied.

Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries

MEDICAID | Medicaid State Plan | Eligibility | WA2024MS00070 | WA-24-0018-2

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C. Income Standard Used

The amount of the income standard for this group is 100% FPL.

D. Resource Standard Used

The resource standard is the same used to determine eligibility for the Medicare Part D full-benefit low-income subsidy (LIS) (but without regard to the life insurance policy exclusion applied in LIS resource eligibility determinations). This standard is three times the SSI resource standard, adjusted annually in accordance with the consumer price index.

E. Medical Assistance Provided

Medical assistance is limited to payment of co-insurance and deductibles for Medicare Parts A, B and C and payment for the premiums for Medicare Parts A and B.

Medical assistance begins the first day of the month following the month in which the individual is determined to qualify for this eligibility group.

Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries

MEDICAID | Medicaid State Plan | Eligibility | WA2024MS00070 | WA-24-0018-2

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F. Additional Information (optional)

Medicaid State Plan Eligibility

Eligibility Groups - Mandatory Coverage

Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiaries

MEDICAID | Medicaid State Plan | Eligibility | WA2024MS00070 | WA-24-0018-2

Individuals with income above 100% and below 120% of the FPL who are entitled to Medicare Part A, who qualify for payment of Medicare Part B premiums.

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Superseded SPA ID	WA-22-0034		
	System-Derived		

The state covers the mandatory specified low income Medicare beneficiaries group in accordance with the following provisions:

A. Characteristics

Individuals qualifying under this eligibility group must meet the following criteria:

1. Would qualify as Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (described in section 1905(p)(1) of the Act), except that their income exceeds the income level for that eligibility group.
2. Have income below the income standard and resources at or below the resource standard for this group.

Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiaries

MEDICAID | Medicaid State Plan | Eligibility | WA2024MS00070 | WA-24-0018-2

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SPA ID WA-24-0018-2
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Effective Date 4/1/2024

B. Financial Methodologies

1. SSI methodologies are used in calculating household income. Please refer as necessary to Non-MAGI Methodologies, completed by the state.

2. Less restrictive methodologies are used in calculating countable income.

- Yes
 No

The less restrictive income methodologies are:

Census Bureau wages are disregarded.

Description of disregard: Wages paid by the Census Bureau for temporary employment related to census activities are excluded.

The following less restrictive methodologies are used:

Name of methodology:	Description:
Income tax obligation	Unearned income withheld, prior receipt by the individual, for income tax purposes, or otherwise withheld beyond the individual's control, is considered exempt when determining eligibility
MSP	When determining the available income of an individual for the QMB or SLMB program the agency shall exclude from countable income an amount equal to that expended on medical expenses.

3. Less restrictive methodologies are used in calculating countable resources.

- Yes
 No

The less restrictive resource methodologies are:

All resources are disregarded. No resource test is applied.

Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiaries

MEDICAID | Medicaid State Plan | Eligibility | WA2024MS00070 | WA-24-0018-2

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C. Income Standard Used

Family income must be above 100% FPL and below 120% FPL.

D. Resource Standard Used

The resource standard is the same used to determine eligibility for the Medicare Part D full-benefit low-income subsidy (LIS) (but without regard to the life insurance policy exclusion applied in LIS resource eligibility determinations). This standard is three times the SSI resource standard, adjusted annually in accordance with the consumer price index.

E. Medical Assistance Provided

Medical assistance is limited to payment for Medicare Part B premiums.

Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiaries

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F. Additional Information (optional)

SLMB FPL between 101-110% FPL is being subsumed into the QMB group due to the requested expansion.

Medicaid State Plan Eligibility

Eligibility Groups - Mandatory Coverage

Qualifying Individuals

MEDICAID | Medicaid State Plan | Eligibility | WA2024MS00070 | WA-24-0018-2

Individuals with income at or above 120% and below 135% of the FPL who are entitled to Medicare Part A, who qualify for payment of Medicare Part B premiums.

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The state covers the mandatory qualifying individuals group in accordance with the following provisions:

A. Characteristics

Individuals qualifying under this eligibility group must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Would qualify as Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (described in section 1905(p)(1) of the Act), except that their income exceeds the income level for that eligibility group.
2. Are not otherwise eligible for Medicaid under the state plan.
3. Have income below the income standard and resources at or below the resource standard for this group.

Qualifying Individuals

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B. Financial Methodologies

1. SSI methodologies are used in calculating household income. Please refer as necessary to Non-MAGI Methodologies, completed by the state.

2. Less restrictive methodologies are used in calculating countable income.

- Yes
- No

The less restrictive income methodologies are:

The difference between one income standard and another is disregarded.

- Between the following percentages of the FPL:
FPL 135.00%
- Between the medically needy income limit and a percentage of the FPL:
and
- Between the SSI Federal Benefit Rate and:
FPL 138.00%
- Between other income standards:

Census Bureau wages are disregarded.

Description of disregard: Wages paid by the Census Bureau for temporary employment related to census activities are excluded.

The following less restrictive methodologies are used:

Name of methodology:	Description:
Income tax obligation	Unearned income withheld, prior receipt by the individual, for income tax purposes, or otherwise withheld beyond the individual's control, is considered exempt when determining eligibility.

3. Less restrictive methodologies are used in calculating countable resources.

- Yes
- No

The less restrictive resource methodologies are:

All resources are disregarded. No resource test is applied.

Qualifying Individuals

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C. Income Standard Used

Family income must be at or above 120% FPL and below 135% FPL.

D. Resource Standard Used

The resource standard is the same used to determine eligibility for the Medicare Part D full-benefit low-income subsidy (LIS) (but without regard to the life insurance policy exclusion applied in LIS resource eligibility determinations). This standard is three times the SSI resource standard, adjusted annually in accordance with the consumer price index.

E. Medical Assistance Provided

Medical assistance is limited to payment for Medicare Part B premiums.

Qualifying Individuals

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F. Additional Information (optional)

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