Chapter 388-492 WAC
WASHINGTON COMBINED APPLICATION PROJECT

WAC 388-492-0020 What are WASHCAP food benefits and what do I need to know about WASHCAP?

1. WASHCAP is a simplified food benefits program for most single supplemental security income (SSI) recipients.
   (a) WASHCAP uses policy of the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP).
      (i) The food and nutrition act of 2008;
      (ii) Federal regulations for the SNAP program under Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations; and
      (iii) The current demonstration project waiver for WASHCAP approved by USDA food and nutrition service (FNS).
   (b) Unless specifically stated in chapter 388-492 WAC, WASHCAP food benefits follow all the program requirements of the Basic Food program as described under Title 388 WAC.

2. The Social Security Administration (SSA) asks you if you want to get food benefits when you apply for SSI in Washington state. You do not have to go to your local community services office (CSO) to apply for WASHCAP.

(11/30/16)

(3) If you meet the requirements of WAC 388-492-0030, you will get WASHCAP food benefits unless you can choose Basic Food benefits under WAC 388-492-0040.

(4) If you are eligible for WASHCAP food benefits under WAC 388-492-0030, SSA will electronically send us the information we need to open and update your WASHCAP food benefits.

(5) When the DSHS and SSA systems match exactly, WASHCAP food benefits begin the first month after the month you apply and are eligible for ongoing SSI and meet WASHCAP program requirements.

(6) If you want Basic Food benefits before WASHCAP food benefits begin, you can apply:
   (a) By contacting the customer service center (CSC) at 1-877-501-2233 to request an application be mailed to you;
   (b) Online at washingtonconnection.org;
   (c) At any community services office (CSO);
   (d) At any home and community services office (HCS);
   (e) At any Social Security Administration (SSA) office.

(7) If you get Basic Food benefits, these benefits will continue:
   (a) Through the end of your certification period; or
   (b) Through the month before your WASHCAP food benefits start.

(8) We calculate your WASHCAP benefits using the information we receive from SSA. Because of this, you must report all changes to SSA.

(9) You do not have to report changes to your WASHCAP worker. See WAC 388-492-0080.

(10) When the department learns of a change in your circumstances, we may also update your WASHCAP food benefits.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500, 74.04.510, 74.08.090, 74.08A.903, and 7 C.F.R. 273.23.]

WAC 388-492-0030 Who can get WASHCAP? (1)

You can receive WASHCAP food benefits if:
(a) You receive federal SSI benefits; and
(b) You do not have earned income when you apply for WASHCAP; and
(c) You are eighteen years of age or older; and
(i) You live alone, or SSA considers you as a single household;
(ii) You are age eighteen through twenty-one, living with your parent(s) who do not get Basic Food benefits, and you purchase food separately; or

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(iii) You live with others but buy and cook your food separately from them.

(2) You are not eligible for WASHCAP food benefits if:
(a) You live in an institution;
(b) You are under age eighteen;
(c) You live with your spouse;
(d) You are under age twenty-two and you live with your parent(s) who are getting Basic Food benefits;
(e) You begin working after you have been approved for WASHCAP and have earned income for more than three consecutive months;
(f) You live with others and do not buy and cook your food separately from them; or
(g) You live with your child who is under 22 years of age that you are responsible for;
(h) You are ineligible for Basic Food benefits for a reason described in WAC 388-400-0040(12).

(3) If you already receive WASHCAP, and begin receiving earned income, you can continue to receive WASHCAP only if:
(a) You do not have earned income for three or more consecutive months;
(b) SSI removes earned income from the State Data Exchange (SDX) SSA uses to communicate changes to the department; and
(c) You continue to receive SSI.

(4) If you already receive WASHCAP and move to an institution, you can continue to receive WASHCAP if you are in the institution for ninety days or less. We must close WASHCAP benefits earlier than 90 days if you move to an institution, you are not responsible for your own food purchase or preparation, and the change is reported directly to the department.

(5) We use information from SSA as well as other sources including local, state, and federal agencies to determine your WASHCAP eligibility.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500, 74.08.090, 74.08A.903, and Title 7 C.F.R. Part 273. WSR 14-22-075, § 388-492-0030, filed 11/3/14, effective 12/1/14.
Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500, 74.08.090, 74.08A.903, and 7 C.F.R. 273.23. WSR 12-21-011, § 388-492-0030, filed 10/12/12, effective 12/1/12.]

WAC 388-492-0040 May I choose whether I get WASHCAP food benefits or basic food benefits? You may choose to have basic food benefits instead of Washington state combined application project (WASHCAP) food benefits when one or more of the following apply:

(1) Your allowable out-of-pocket medical expenses are more than thirty-five dollars a month;

(2) You chose to have basic food benefits instead of WASHCAP benefits prior to April 25, 2005 and have remained WASHCAP eligible continuously since April 25, 2005;

(3) Your food benefits under basic food would be at least forty dollars more than what you receive from WASHCAP.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500, 74.04.510, 74.08.090, and 7 C.F.R. 282.1 and 273.1(a). WSR 16-24-034, § 388-492-0040, filed 11/30/16, effective 12/31/16. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500, 74.04.510, 74.08.090. WSR 07-12-025, § 388-492-0040, filed 5/29/07, effective 6/29/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500, 74.08.090 and 7 C.F.R. 273.9 (d)(6)(iii)(b). WSR 06-21-011, § 388-492-0040, filed 10/6/06, effective 11/6/06.
Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500, 74.08.090. WSR 05-18-036, § 388-492-0040, filed 8/30/05, effective 10/1/05.
WSR 05-08-009, § 388-492-0040, filed 3/25/05, effective 4/25/05.
Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500. WSR 03-21-036, § 388-492-0040, filed 10/7/03, effective 12/1/03.
Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500. WSR 03-01-045, § 388-492-0040, filed 12/10/02, effective 1/10/03.
WSR 02-15-148, § 388-492-0040, filed 7/22/02, effective 9/1/02.
WSR 01-21-058, § 388-492-0040, filed 10/16/01, effective 12/1/01.]

WAC 388-492-0050 How do I apply for WASHCAP? (1) You apply for WASHCAP food benefits at the Social Security Administration (SSA) when you apply for supplemental security income (SSI).

(2) If you want food benefits, your SSA worker will ask you WASHCAP food eligibility questions when you have your SSI interview.

(3) If you are eligible for WASHCAP food benefits, your benefits will start the first of the month after the month you apply and are eligible for ongoing SSI benefits.

(4) If you need food benefits in seven days or less, you must apply for expedited services at:
(a) Any community services office (CSO);
(b) Any home and community services office (HCS) if you get long-term care services; or
(c) Any SSA office if you give them an application for Basic Food expedited services when you apply for SSI.

(5) If you want Basic Food benefits before you get SSI, you must apply at:
(a) SSA if you give them a Basic Food application when you apply for SSI;
(b) Any CSO; or
(c) Any HCS office if you get long-term care services.

(6) If you already receive SSI and want WASHCAP food benefits, you can apply at:
(a) Any SSA office;
(b) Any CSO; or
(c) Any HCS office if you get long-term care services.

(7) If you get Basic Food benefits, these benefits will continue:
(a) Through the end of your certification period; or
(b) Through the month before your WASHCAP food benefits start.

(8) If your Basic Food benefits end before you are eligible for WASHCAP food benefits, you must reapply to continue these benefits.

(9) If you get Basic Food benefits and you become eligible for WASHCAP food benefits, we will automatically change your Basic Food benefits to WASHCAP food benefits.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500, 74.04.510, 74.08.090. WSR 10-23-115, § 388-492-0050, filed 10/17/10, effective 12/18/10.
Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.510, 74.08.090.
Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500, 74.08.090, 74.08A.903, and 7 C.F.R. 273.23. WSR 12-21-011, § 388-492-0030, filed 10/12/12, effective 12/1/12.]

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WAC 388-492-0060 How do I get my WASHCAP food benefits? (1) If you are eligible for WASHCAP, you will get your food benefits through electronic benefits transfer (EBT).

(2) The department issues your EBT food benefits according to WAC 388-412-0025.

WAC 388-492-0070 How are my WASHCAP food benefits calculated? We calculate your Washington state combined application project (WASHCAP) food benefits as follows:

(1) We begin with your gross income.

(2) We subtract the current standard deduction for one person under WAC 388-450-0185 from your gross income to get your countable income.

(3) We figure your shelter cost based on information we receive from the Social Security Administration (SSA) unless you report a change as described under WAC 388-492-0080.

(a) If you pay three hundred twenty dollars or more a month for shelter, we use four hundred dollars as your shelter cost.

(b) If you pay less than three hundred twenty dollars a month for shelter, we use two hundred and thirty-five dollars as your shelter cost.

(c) We add the current standard utility allowance under WAC 388-450-0195 to the shelter cost we use under either subsection (3)(a) or (b) of this section to determine your total shelter cost.

(4) We figure your shelter deduction by subtracting one half of your countable income from your total shelter cost under subsection (3)(c) of this section.

(5) We figure your net income by subtracting your shelter deduction from your countable income and rounding the resulting figure up from fifty cents and down from forty-nine cents to the nearest whole dollar.

(6) We figure your WASHCAP food benefits (allowment) by:

(a) Multiplying your net income by thirty percent and rounding up to the next whole dollar; and

(b) Subtracting the result from the maximum allotment under WAC 388-478-0060.

(7) If you are eligible for WASHCAP, you will get at least the minimum monthly benefit for basic food under WAC 388-412-0015.

WAC 388-492-0080 Where do I report changes? (1) You report all changes to the Social Security Administration (SSA) according to their reporting requirements. SSA provides the department the necessary information to update your WASHCAP benefits.

(2) Even if you don't report a change, we use information from SSA as well as other sources including local, state, and federal agencies to determine your WASHCAP eligibility.

(3) SSA will not accept or report shelter costs changes to WASHCAP until SSA does its redetermination.

(4) You do not have to report any changes to your WASHCAP worker.

(5) You can choose to report the following changes to your WASHCAP worker to see if you will get more food benefits:

(a) A change in your address;

(b) An increase in your shelter costs; or

(c) An increase in your out-of-pocket medical expenses.

(6) If you or someone you authorize reports changes to DSHS, we may need proof of the change.

(7) If you report a change that could increase the amount of your food benefits, we will not increase the benefit amount if we have asked for proof and it has not been provided.

WAC 388-492-0090 How often do my WASHCAP food benefits need to be reviewed? (1) Your eligibility for WASHCAP food benefits must be reviewed at least every thirty-six months.

(2) Your certification period is the amount of time your assistance unit is eligible for WASHCAP food benefits.
WAC 388-492-0100 How is my eligibility for WASHCAP food benefits reviewed? (1) If the Social Security Administration (SSA) reviews your supplemental security income (SSI) eligibility, they may also complete your review for WASHCAP. SSA sends us this information electronically, which we use to update your benefits.

(a) We will automatically extend your WASHCAP certification period if you are still eligible for benefits.

(b) If SSA's review tells us you are not eligible for WASHCAP, we will end your WASHCAP benefits. You can apply for benefits under the Washington Basic Food program.

(2) If SSA does not review your SSI eligibility, we will mail you a one-page application two months before your WASHCAP benefits end. You must complete and return this application to the WASHCAP unit or your local home and community services office (HCS).

(3) We do WASHCAP reviews by mail. If you bring your WASHCAP application to the local office, we will process the application as follows:

(a) If you get long-term care services, your local HCS office will process your application; or

(b) If you do not get long-term care services, the WASHCAP central unit will process your application.

(4) If we get your completed application after your WASHCAP food benefits end, we will reopen your benefits back to the start of the month if:

(a) We get your application form any time during the first month following the end of your certification period; and

(b) You are still eligible for WASHCAP food benefits.

(5) If we get your completed application form after the end of the month following the end of your certification period WASHCAP food benefits open the first of the next month after:

(a) You turn in your application; and

(b) SSA shows you are eligible for WASHCAP in their system.

(6) If your application is not complete, we will return it to you to complete.

(7) If you want Basic Food benefits while you are waiting for WASHCAP food benefits, you must apply for these benefits:

(a) By contacting the customer service center (CSC) at 1-877-501-2233 to request an application be mailed to you;

(b) Online at washingtonconnection.org;

(c) At any community services office (CSO);

(d) At any home and community services office (HCS) office; or

(e) At any Social Security Administration (SSA) office.

WAC 388-492-0110 What happens if my WASHCAP food benefits end? (1) If your WASHCAP food benefits end because you did not have the review required under WAC 388-492-0100, you must finish the required review or apply for Basic Food benefits:

(a) By contacting the customer service center (CSC) at 1-877-501-2233;

(b) Over the internet;

(c) At any community services office (CSO);

(d) At any home and community services (HCS) office; or

(e) At any Social Security Administration (SSA) office.

(2) If your WASHCAP benefits end because you are disqualified under WAC 388-400-0040 (12)(b) or (e), you are not eligible for Basic Food benefits and if you are a HCS client, your medical case will remain at HCS.

(3) If your WASHCAP benefits end for any other reason:

(a) We will send you an application for Basic Food benefits along with the address of your local CSO.

(b) For the local CSO to decide if you are eligible for Basic Food benefits, you must:

(i) Finish the application process for Basic Food benefits under chapter 388-406 WAC; and

(ii) Have an interview for Basic Food benefits under WAC 388-452-005.