

Department of Public Health  
and Human Services

Section:  
TABLE OF STANDARDS

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Subject:  
Nursing Home Residents

**Supersedes:** MA 005 (07/01/2014)

**References:** ARM 37.82.101, .1313, .1320, .1330, .1331, .1336-.1338

GENERAL RULE - Use the following standards to determine resource eligibility and category of coverage (categorically versus medically needy) for residential medical institution Medicaid benefits.

Otherwise eligible institutionalized individuals and spouses are income-eligible for nursing home coverage so long as their monthly nursing home costs equal or exceed their monthly income. See STEP I of the eligibility process in MA 904-1.

After a nursing home resident has been determined eligible for nursing home coverage as either categorically or medically needy, the amount the client is responsible to apply toward the cost of care must be calculated in STEP II of the eligibility process. See MA 904-1 through 904-3.

**INDIVIDUAL  
RESOURCE  
STANDARD**

The resource standard for an unmarried institutionalized individual is \$2000. The general resource limit for an institutionalized spouse is also \$2000. See MA 903-1 regarding Community Spouse Resource Maintenance Allowance policy.

**COMMUNITY  
SPOUSE RESOURCE  
MAINTENANCE  
ALLOWANCE**

When completing a couple's resource assessment, the community spouse resource maintenance allowance (CSRMA) is the **greater** of:

- ▶ 1. One-half (not to exceed \$119,220) the couple's combined countable resources;
- ▶ 2. The minimum resource maintenance allowance of \$23,844;
- 3. An amount designated by hearings officer (override); or
- 4. An amount which has been court ordered (override).

**CATEGORICALLY  
NEEDY INCOME  
STANDARD**

The monthly categorically needy income standard for an institutionalized individual is \$30.

**MEDICALLY  
NEEDY INCOME  
LEVEL**

The monthly medically needy income level (MNIL) is \$525.

**COMMUNITY  
SPOUSE INCOME  
MAINTENANCE  
ALLOWANCE**

When computing the amount of monthly income the nursing home spouse must apply toward the cost of care (STEP II), the community spouse's income maintenance allowance is the **lesser** of:

1. \$2,981 less the community spouse's own gross monthly income; or
2. A combination of:
  - a. Shelter expenses for the community spouse's principal residence which exceed the basic shelter allowance of \$598; **plus**
  - b. The basic needs standard of \$1992; **less**
  - c. The community spouse's own gross income.



See the 900 section in this manual for further information.

**UTILITY  
EXPENSES  
▶ (10/01/15)**

The standard utility allowance to be used in the calculation of the community spouse's shelter expenses when the community spouse is responsible for a major heating or cooling expense is **\$517**.

If the community spouse is not responsible for a major heating/cooling cost, but does have a telephone, the standard telephone allowance of \$37 per month may be used.

nc/JP

o O o