



MONTANA  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
REGISTER



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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NOTICE OF ADOPTION

MAR NOTICE NO. 2025-112.3

**Summary**

Amendment of ARM 37.36.604 pertaining to the Montana Accessible Communications (MTAC) Financial Eligibility Criteria

**Previous Notice(s) and Hearing Information**

On November 7, 2025, the Department of Public Health and Human Services published MAR Notice No. 2025-112.1 pertaining to the public hearing on the proposed amendment of the above-stated rules in the 2025 Montana Administrative Register, Issue Number 21. In addition, a supplemental MAR Notice No. 2025-112.2 was published on December 19, 2025, in the 2025 Montana Administrative Register, Issue Number 24.

A hearing was held on January 8, 2026.

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**Final Rulemaking Action – Effective March 21, 2026**

**AMEND AS PROPOSED**

The agency has amended the following rule as proposed:

**37.36.604 FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

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**Statement of Reasons**

The agency has considered the comments and testimony received. A summary of the comments received, and the agency's responses are as follows:

COMMENT #1: One commenter stated that they wholeheartedly support the proposed amendment of ARM 37.36.604 to adopt the 2025 federal poverty guidelines. This same commenter further urges that eligibility determinations include an accounting of expenses and family needs. Lastly, the commenter wanted other programs and nonprofits to ensure that independent living services continue in the event that funding patterns change.

RESPONSE #1: The department appreciates the support for this amendment. Additionally, the department understands the commenter’s suggestion that eligibility determinations consider household expenses and family needs. While this narrow proposed amendment aimed at aligning with the more recent federal poverty guidelines does not address those factors, a separate section of the Administrative Rules of Montana is where the definition of “Income” comes from; ARM 37.36.101(10) outlines what is included when determining income eligibility. In the event that ARM 37.36.101 is updated through the rulemaking process, these considerations could be applicable. The commenter’s suggestions for other programs and nonprofits fall outside the scope of this proposed amendment.

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**Rule Reviewer**

Olivia Schuler

**Approval**

Charles T. Brereton, Director  
Department of Public Health and Human Services