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Eligibility: Who Makes the Call?

<p>“Screening” for Eligibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Seeing if someone <i>might</i> qualify ☛ Anyone can do this ☛ Cover Virginia, Healthcare.gov, and CommonHelp screening tools 	<p>“Determining” Eligibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Deciding if someone <i>does</i> qualify ☛ ONLY done by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Local Department of Social Services (LDSS) – Cover Virginia Central Processing Unit (CPU) – Health Insurance Marketplace
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Eligibility Screening Steps

- ☛ When screening an individual or family for eligibility for Medicaid/FAMIS, it is important to assess **each household member’s eligibility separately**.
- ☛ Follow these three steps **for each** household member when screening for eligibility:
 - Step 1:** Assess person’s **household composition**.
 - Step 2:** Assess the **income** for the person’s household.
 - Step 3:** **Compare** household size and income to the income limits for the program in question.

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Step 1: Assess Household Composition

First, figure out what **type of household member** each person will be.

☛ Individuals will fit into one of three categories:

1. **Tax filer**
(not claimed as a dependent on anyone's taxes)
2. **Tax dependent**
3. **Non-filer and not claimed as a tax dependent**

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Household Composition: Tax Filer

Household =
Tax filer +
Any joint filers +
All dependents




(Note: Married couples living together, who file taxes separately, are considered to be in the same household)

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Example: Single Person

John is a single adult living on his own. He files taxes and is not claimed as anyone else's dependent. He has no dependents of his own.



John's household size = 1

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Household Composition: Tax Dependents

Household is the **same as the tax filer** who claims them as a dependent.



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Example: Married Couple with Children

Bob and Jane are married and have two children. They file a joint tax return and claim both of their children as dependents.

Bob's household size = 4
Bob + Jane (joint filer) + 2 children (dependents)

Jane's household size = 4
Jane + Bob (joint filer) + 2 children (dependents)

Each child's household size = 4
Household size = household size of the tax filer claiming them as a dependent



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Example: Young Adult Dependent Living Outside the Home

Claire is an 18-year-old college student at James Madison University. She is claimed as a dependent by her married parents, and has no siblings.

Claire's household size = 3
Self + 2 parents

Each parent's household size = 3
2 parents + Claire



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Example: Young Adult Living Outside the Home

Fast forward to next year. Claire, now age 19, works full-time and goes to school part-time. She'll file her own taxes. She no longer lives at home, and her parents no longer provide her with support. They won't claim her as a tax dependent.



Claire's household size = 1
Just herself

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Household Composition: Tax Dependent Exception #1

If individual is a tax dependent who is not a child or spouse of the tax filer, then...



Household =
Individual +
Their spouse (if living with him/her) +
Their children under age 19 (if living with them)

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Example: Multi-Generation Household

Rose lives with and supports her 60-year-old mother, Maria. Rose also has a 9-year-old daughter, Natalie. Rose is the tax filer. She claims her mother and her daughter as dependents.



Rose's household size = 3
Herself + 2 dependents (mom and daughter)

Maria's (Rose's Mother) household size = 1
Only herself (Exception #1 for tax dependents)

Natalie's (Rose's Daughter) household size = 3
Same as the tax filer claiming her (her mother, Rose)

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Household Composition: Tax Dependent Exception #2

If individual is a child living with both parents who are not married, then...

Household =
Child +
Their parents +
Their siblings (under age 19 and living in the home)



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Example: Non-married Parents

Dan and Jen live together with their 2 kids.
They both work and are not married.
They file taxes separately. Dan claims both children.

Dan's household size = 3
Himself + 2 children

Jen's household size = 1
Just herself

Each child's household size = 4
Self + sibling + both parents



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Household Composition: Tax Dependent Exception #3

If individual is a child claimed as a tax dependent by a non-custodial parent, then...

Household =
Child +
Their siblings +
The parent(s) with whom he/she is living
(can be biological, adoptive, or step-parents)



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Example: Child Claimed by a Non-Custodial Parent

Lisa lives with her daughter, Alex. Lisa files her taxes as an individual without dependents. Alex is claimed as a dependent by her father, who she does not live with.

Lisa's household size = 1
Just herself

Alex's household size = 2
Alex and the parent she lives with (Lisa)



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Household Composition: Non-Filer/Non-Dependent

☛ For an **adult** who does not file taxes and is not a tax dependent...

☛ For a **child** (≤18 years old) in a non-filing household...

Household =
Individual +
Their spouse
(if living with them) +
Biological, adoptive
or step-children
(if living with them)

Household =
Child +
Their siblings
(biological, adoptive, or step, if living with them) +
Parents
(biological, adoptive, or step, if living with them)

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Warning! Pregnant Person Counts as 2 (or More)

When figuring out household size(s) for a family that includes a pregnant individual:

- ☛ The unborn child(ren) **only increases the size of the pregnant person's household**
 - The pregnant person counts as **one** person for determining the eligibility of all other household members.

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Step 2: Assess Household Income

- ☞ Total up the Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) of all persons **who are included in the applicant's household**.
 - ☞ Eligibility for Medicaid/FAMIS is based on **monthly income for the month prior to application**
 - Income will be verified electronically.
 - If reported monthly income **is** reasonably compatible with income tax records, no income verification is necessary.
- If **not**, LDSS or Cover Virginia will request income verification.

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What Income is Counted?

- ☞ **Taxable income:**
 - Gross earnings from jobs (cash, wages, salaries, commissions/tips)
 - Unemployment
 - Pensions and annuities
 - Rents and royalties received
 - **Self-employment income** (allow for deductions for depreciation and capital losses to determine profit)
 - **Alimony** received*
- ☞ **Social Security** income
- ☞ **Foreign-earned income**
- ☞ **Tax-exempt interest**

Note: a lump-sum payment is included only in the month during which it is received. (exception – lottery/gambling winnings)

*Only for divorce decrees prior to January 1, 2019

Blue Handout

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Lottery/Gambling Winnings *(new effective 7/1/24)*

- ☞ If **\$80,000 or greater and received in a single payout**, winnings are counted over a period of up to 120 months .
 - \$80,000 - \$90,000 are counted as income over 2 months with equal amounts counted in each month
 - **For every additional \$10,000 one month is added**, total amount divided equally over the number of months
 - **Max period of time is 120 months** (applies to winnings of \$1.26M and above)
 - **Extended time applies only to person receiving the winnings.** For other household members, only counts in first month received.
- ☞ If **received as installments, winnings treated as other types of reoccurring income.**
- ☞ If **less than \$80K, winnings are counted in the month received.**

Medicaid Eligibility Manual section M0440.100 1i.

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What is Not Counted?

- ☞ Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments
- ☞ Temporary Assistance to Needy Family (TANF) payments
- ☞ Assets or resources (not considered for eligibility)
- ☞ Child Support received
- ☞ Alimony received*
- ☞ Certain Veterans Administration benefits
- ☞ Workers compensation
- ☞ Educational grants, loans, scholarship or fellowship income
- ☞ Gifts and inheritances
- ☞ Certain Native American and Alaska Native payments
- ☞ Income of a dependent**
- ☞ Social Security income of a dependent (except in limited circumstances)

*Only for divorce decrees filed after January 1, 2019

**Unless the dependent has a filing requirement (annual earned income over \$13,850 or unearned income over \$1,250).

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Subtractions from Income

The following things should be **subtracted** from income:

- ☞ **Alimony** paid out*
- ☞ **Student loan interest** paid
- ☞ Any **pre-tax deductions from pay**
 - Flex spending accounts (FSAs) for medical or child care expenses,
 - Health savings account (HSA) contributions, and
 - Retirement account (401K/403B) contributions.

*Only for judgments prior to January 1, 2019

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Converting Income to a Monthly Figure

Apply conversion factors based on pay frequency to calculate monthly income figures.

- ☞ If income is **weekly**, **multiply** the average weekly income **by 4.3**
- ☞ If income is **bi-weekly** (every two weeks), **multiply** the average bi-weekly income **by 2.15**
- ☞ If income is **twice monthly** (on 1st and 15th), **multiply** the average semi-monthly income **by 2**
- ☞ If income is **monthly**, **use the figure reported**
- ☞ If income is irregular, use average income over a 3-month period

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Step 3: Compare to Program Income Guidelines

Once you have determined the **household size** and **income** for each household member, compare it to the income charts to see which of the following insurance programs the person is likely eligible for:

- ☉ Medicaid Expansion for Adults (MedEx) ≤138% FPL*
- ☉ FAMIS Plus or MPW ≤148% FPL*
- ☉ FAMIS or FAMIS MOMS between 149-205% FPL*
- ☉ Plan First between 139-205% FPL*

* 5% FPL standard disregard included in these figures

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2024 Income Guidelines

Household Size	Medicaid Expansion for Adults (MedEx)		FAMIS Plus & Medicaid for Pregnant Women		FAMIS, FAMIS MOMS, FAMIS Prenatal, & Plan First	
	up to 138% FPL*		up to 148% FPL*		up to 205% FPL*	
	Monthly	Yearly	Monthly	Yearly	Monthly	Yearly
1	\$1,732	\$20,783	\$1,858	\$22,289	\$2,573	\$30,873
2	\$2,351	\$28,208	\$2,521	\$30,252	\$3,492	\$41,902
3	\$2,970	\$35,632	\$3,185	\$38,214	\$4,411	\$52,931
4	\$3,588	\$43,056	\$3,848	\$46,176	\$5,330	\$63,960
5	\$4,207	\$50,481	\$4,512	\$54,139	\$6,250	\$74,989
6	\$4,826	\$57,905	\$5,176	\$62,101	\$7,169	\$86,018
7	\$5,445	\$65,330	\$5,839	\$70,064	\$8,088	\$97,047
8	\$6,063	\$72,754	\$6,503	\$78,026	\$9,007	\$108,076
Additional person add	\$619	\$7,425	\$664	\$7,963	\$920	\$11,029

*These figures include the 5% FPL Standard Disregard and are effective as of January 17, 2024.

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LIFC Monthly Income Guidelines

Effective July 1, 2024

Household Size	Group I	Group II	Group III
1	\$370	\$465	\$666
2	\$553	\$660	\$891
3	\$700	\$828	\$1,093
4	\$847	\$990	\$1,286
5	\$999	\$1,164	\$1,519
6	\$1,127	\$1,315	\$1,693
7	\$1,271	\$1,475	\$1,888
8	\$1,423	\$1,633	\$2,088
Additional person add	\$151	\$168	\$197

*These figures include the 5% FPL Standard Disregard

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