



# PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

**CR-101 (June 2004)**  
(Implements RCW 34.05.310)  
Do NOT use for expedited rule making

**Agency:** Department of Social and Health Services, Economic Services Administration

**Subject of possible rule making:**

The department is planning to amend all necessary sections to implement annual adjustments to standards for the Washington Basic Food Program and Washington Combined Application Project (WASHCAP) for Federal Fiscal Year 2018, including WAC 388-412-0015 "General information about your food assistance allotments", WAC 388-450-0185 "What income deductions does the department allow when determining if I am eligible for food benefits and the amount of my monthly benefits?", WAC 388-450-0190 "How does the department figure my shelter cost income deduction for basic food?", WAC 388-450-0195 "Does the department use my utility costs when calculating my basic food or WASHCAP benefits?", WAC 388-478-0060 "What are the income limits and maximum benefit amounts for basic food?", and other related rules as may be required.

**Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject:**

RCW 74.04.005, RCW 74.04.050, RCW 74.04.055, RCW 74.04.057, RCW 74.04.500, RCW 74.04.510, RCW 74.08.090, RCW 74.08A.120

**Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish:**

These standards adjustments are required by federal regulations and approved department waivers. Under Federal regulations, these standards must be adjusted annually in order to determine a client's eligibility and benefit level for the Washington Basic Food Program or the WASHCAP.

**Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies:**

The United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) annually adjusts income and payment standards, the standard deduction, and maximum shelter deductions for the upcoming federal fiscal year. FNS also requires that the department adjust the SNAP utility allowance and WASHCAP standards on an annual basis. DSHS adopts the new FNS standards into administrative rule. The department adjusts WASHCAP standards as required under the department's approved waiver based on changes to the Consumer Price Index.

The department will update the current Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) for Basic Food, adjusting for inflation for the various utilities included in the SUA deduction and submitting proposed standards to FNS for approval. The standards approved by FNS will be adopted by the department for use in determining monthly benefits for Basic Food and WASHCAP.

**Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):**

- Negotiated rule making
- Pilot rule making
- Agency study
- Other (describe)

DSHS welcomes the public to take part in developing the rules. Anyone interested should contact the staff person identified below. At a later date, DSHS will file a proposal with the Office of the Code Reviser with a notice of proposed rule making. A copy of the proposal will be sent to everyone on the mailing list and to anyone who requests a copy.

**How interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication:**

(List names, addresses, telephone, fax numbers, and e-mail of persons to contact; describe meetings, other exchanges of information, etc.) Contact: Holly St. John, Policy Analyst

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**DATE**  
July 17, 2017

**NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)**  
Katherine Vasquez

**SIGNATURE**

**TITLE**  
DSHS Rules Coordinator

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STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

**DATE: July 18, 2017**

**TIME: 11:59 AM**

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