

UPDATE 3: Memo CV-04

Temporary Changes to Washington Apple Health – Unemployment income

This update clarifies information provided in the series of memos regarding changes for counting certain types of unemployment compensation that have occurred in response to the public health emergency surrounding the outbreak of COVID-19.

Lost Wage Assistance

This update addresses the additional unemployment compensation (UC) made available through the Disaster Relief Fund to states to offset lost wages due to the COVID-19 pandemic. States can apply weekly for the Lost Wage Supplemental Payment Assistance (LWSPA) program known in Washington as Lost Wage Assistance (LWA). The eligibility of these payments lasted through the week of September 5, 2020.

In Washington, if you lost wages or experienced unemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, you are eligible for \$300 dollars in additional unemployment compensation. This income is not counted towards Apple Health eligibility and should not be reported on applications for MAGI-based Apple Health through Washington Healthplanfinder. For more information on LWA see: <https://esd.wa.gov/unemployment/lwa>

Temporary Changes to Counting Unemployment Compensation for Classic Apple Health

Washington received 1135 waiver authority to disregard all unemployment compensation for Classic Apple Health. As a result, regular state issued UC in addition to the expanded UC described in the CARES Act including the Pandemic Unemployment Compensation and Pandemic Unemployment Insurance are not countable income for most classic Apple Health groups.

Due to federal regulatory requirements, we cannot extend the disregard of the UC described here to those who are otherwise made eligible for Classic Apple Health by using a less restrictive methodology (special income disregards, cost of living allowance, or the amount of a childhood or widow(er) disability benefit).

It is important to note, however, that most individuals who were eligible or became eligible for Apple Health on March 18, 2020 or after will continue to receive coverage through the end of the public health emergency¹.

If you have any questions about this additional guidance, please contact Maggie Clay at Margaret.Clay@hca.wa.gov.

¹As defined by the Families First Corona Response Act and interpreted by the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services