

WORKERS WITH JOB SUCCESS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



MAWD WORKERS WITH JOB SUCCESS ACT 2021-69 OF JULY 1, 2021 (ACT 69)

Q: What is Workers with Job Success?

A: Workers with Job Success is a new Medical Assistance (MA) eligibility group established in Act 2021-69. Workers with Job Success gives individuals currently enrolled in Pennsylvania’s Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities (MAWD) program for the previous 12 months an opportunity to have an increase in income without the fear of losing their MAWD MA benefits or their MAWD and Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) coverage. Act 2021-69 was signed into law by Governor Tom Wolf on July 1, 2021, P.L. 374 (referred to as “Act 69”).

Q: How do I become eligible for Workers with Job Success?

A: To be eligible you must:

- Be at least age 16 and under age 65.
- Have received MAWD for the past 12 consecutive months.
- Be working and earning income.
- Have countable income (earned and unearned) that is over 250% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (FPIG) but is less than or equal to 600% of the FPIG.
- Must have countable assets of \$10,000 or less. Once you’re enrolled in Workers with Job Success, you can accumulate more than \$10,000 in assets and remain eligible in the Workers with Job Success or MAWD programs.

Q: Can I become eligible for Workers with Job Success if my countable assets increase above \$10,000, but my income is under 250% FPIG?

A: No. You must meet the criteria in the law (listed above) to become eligible for Workers with Job Success. Once you’re eligible for Workers with Job Success, there is no limit to the amount of assets you can have for Workers with Job Success and for the other MAWD eligibility groups as well.

Q: Is the monthly premium for Workers with Job Success higher than for the other MAWD eligibility groups?

A: Yes. In most instances, the monthly premium

for individuals in the Workers with Job Success category will be 7.5% of the individual’s countable monthly income after deductions (spousal income is not counted when determining the premium) as opposed to 5% in other MAWD categories. However, if the individual’s countable income is above 450% FPIG and their annual adjusted gross income reported on their federal 1040 tax form is at or more than \$75,000 compounded with Social Security cost-of-living adjustments since 2000 (\$125,944.84 2022 compound figure), they are responsible to pay a full cost monthly premium. This premium will be determined by the department.

Q: When is Workers with Job Success effective?

A: Act 69 designates that Workers with Job Success is effective December 28, 2021. However, because of federal requirements in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) that Medical Assistance cannot be closed and premiums cannot be increased during the COVID-19 federal public health emergency, no one will transition to Workers with Job Success until after the federal public health emergency has ended. MAWD recipients with excess income at the end of the public health emergency will not need to request authorization for Workers with Job Success. Once the health emergency has ended, if your County Assistance Office finds that your income exceeds MAWD income limits you may be asked to provide additional verification.

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Q: How does the public health emergency impact my eligibility for Workers with Job Success?

A: Due to federal requirements in the FFCRA, Medical Assistance cannot be closed and premiums cannot be increased during the COVID-19 federal public health emergency. As a result, no one will transition to Workers with Job Success until the federal public health emergency has ended. Ongoing Medical Assistance eligibility, including Workers with Job Success, will be reviewed at the end of the federal public health emergency.

Q: How does getting married impact my eligibility for Workers with Job Success?

A: Your spouse's income and assets are counted in your eligibility determination. You and your spouse's countable income must be at or less than 600% FPIG for a 2-person household and you and your spouse's countable assets must be \$10,000 or less. You must continue to meet the requirements for Workers with Job Success listed above. Once you're eligible for Workers with Job Success, you and your spouse's assets are excluded for you in the MAWD program. Your spouse's income is not counted when determining your monthly premium.

Q: If I am eligible for Workers with Job Success will I still be eligible for my waiver services?

A: Yes. Even if your income before deductions is more than the waiver income limit of 300% of the Federal Benefit Rate, as long as you meet the Workers with Job Success eligibility requirements and are determined Nursing Facility Clinically Eligible (NFCE) for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), you will continue to be eligible for waiver services.