

Modified Adjusted Gross Income under the Affordable Care Act

July 2013

Under the Affordable Care Act, eligibility for Medicaid and subsidized health insurance through the Exchanges will be calculated using a household's Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI). The Affordable Care Act definition of MAGI under the Internal Revenue Code¹ and federal Medicaid regulations² is shown below. For most individuals who will apply for health coverage under the Affordable Care Act, MAGI will be equal to Adjusted Gross Income.

Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) =

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)

Line 4 on a
 Form 1040EZ

Line 21 on a
 Form 1040A

Line 37 on a
 Form 1040

Include:

- Wages, salaries, tips, etc.
- Taxable interest
- Taxable amount of pension, annuity or IRA distributions and Social Security benefits
- Business income, farm income, capital gain, other gains (or loss)
- Unemployment compensation
- Ordinary dividends
- Alimony received
- Rental real estate, royalties, partnerships, S corporations, trusts, etc.
- Taxable refunds, credits, or offsets of state and local income taxes
- Other income

Deduct:

- Certain self-employed expenses³
- Student loan interest deduction
- Tuition and fees
- Educator expenses
- IRA deduction
- Moving expenses
- Penalty on early withdrawal of savings
- Health savings account deduction
- Alimony paid
- Domestic production activities deduction
- Certain business expenses of reservists, performing artists, and fee-basis government officials

Note: Pre-tax contributions, such as those for child care, commuting, employer-sponsored health insurance, flexible spending accounts and retirement plans such as 401(k) and 403(b), are not included in AGI but are not listed above because they are already subtracted out of W-2 wages and salaries.



Add back certain income

- Non-taxable Social Security benefits (Line 20a minus 20b on a Form 1040)
- Tax-exempt interest (Line on 8b on a Form 1040)
- Foreign earned income & housing expenses for Americans living abroad (calculated on a Form 2555)



For Medicaid eligibility

Exclude from income

- Scholarships, awards, or fellowship grants used for education purposes and not for living expenses
- Certain American Indian and Alaska Native income derived from distributions, payments, ownership interests, real property usage rights, and student financial assistance
- An amount received as a lump sum is counted as income only in the month received

¹ Internal Revenue Code Section 36B(d)(2)(B)

² Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS-2349-F, March 2012

³ Deductible part of self-employment tax; SEP, SIMPLE, and qualified plans; health insurance deduction