

From: Washington College Grant (WSAC)

Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 8:42 AM

Subject: Data Hierarchy for calculating Median Family Income and Family Size

Good morning, colleagues!

We have received several questions related to how WSAC is calculating MFI and household size.

For income purposes, we are using the following data hierarchy:

- FTI when present and appears complete and the tax filing status and marital status appear in alignment
- FTI + manual fields in instances of married filing joint taxes but now separated – using manual fields where updated (recognizing colleges have to resolve instances where there appears to be conflicting information related to these but those will come through in an updated ISIR to WSAC)
- FTI + manual fields in instances of PJ updates to some fields – but where some are left blank in manual entry but FTI fields exist
- FTI + manual fields when data has been updated in non-FTI fields but not all fields have been updated – for example this is often seen with IRA/Pension distributions on FTI and the rollover data are being manually entered and often corrected

For household size calculations:

WSAC is following the data hierarchy as provided in the 2024-25 FAFSA Pell Eligibility and SAI Guide. For instances where the guidance is lacking related to family size, please see the May 16, 2024 guidance provided with the household assumptions that WSAC is using. You can visit the program guidance section of our website for this information at https://wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2024-25_OfficialGuidance_FamilySizeAssumptions.pdf.

For example, family size data hierarchy:

- Updated Family Size
- Assumed Family Size
- Exemptions (if the tax return was filed married filing joint but they are separated then exemptions - 1 (if the other values are blank)
- Chart provided in the link above

NOTE: The information contained in Appendix C in the FAFSA Pell Eligibility and SAI Guide does not include the use of the data field labeled “dependents.”

We have been working with many different colleges and sectors as questions arise. We continue to welcome colleges to reach out to us at wcg@wsac.wa.gov if they have questions and/or their calculations are different than those showing in CSAW for the MFI and household size calculated by WSAC.

Take care,



Washington Student Achievement Council

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