

1 of 2 DOCUMENTS

LEXIS NEXIS (R) IOWA ANNOTATED STATUTES

*** THIS DOCUMENT IS CURRENT THROUGH THE 2006 EDITION (2006 LEGISLATION) ***
*** ANNOTATIONS CURRENT THROUGH JUNE 1, 2007 ***

TITLE VI. HUMAN SERVICES
SUBTITLE 6. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
CHAPTER 239B. FAMILY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Go to the Iowa Code Archive Directory*Iowa Code § 239B.2 (2006)*

239B.2 Conditions of eligibility.

Within available funding, the department shall make assistance available to eligible families under the family investment program. At a minimum, a family shall meet all of the following conditions of eligibility:

1. *Application.* An application for the program is made to the department. The application shall be in writing or reduced to writing in the manner and upon the form prescribed by the department. The application shall be made by the specified relative with whom the child resides or will reside, and shall contain the information required on the application form. One application may be made for several children of the same family if the children reside or will reside with the same specified relative.

2. *Income and resources.* The family meets income and resource guidelines established by the department to attain or retain financial eligibility. In determining a family's income and resources, the department shall consider the income and resources of the child, the child's parent, the child's stepparent living with the child, or any other specified relative with whom the child resides or will reside available to the family unless specifically exempted as provided in section 239B.7 or by rule or unless otherwise provided by federal law. A family's failure to meet the income or resource guidelines shall result in denial of the family's eligibility for the program.

3. *Unemployment.* A determination of eligibility for a family with an unemployed parent shall not include consideration of either parent's number of hours of employment. Both parents must enter into and participate in a family investment agreement and participate in JOBS program activities unless good cause not to participate is established in accordance with rules.

Any of the following reasons for refusing employment or training are not good cause:

a. Unsuitable or unpleasant work or training, if the parent is able to perform the work or training without unusual danger to the parent's health.

b. The amount of wages or compensation, unless the wages for employment are below the amount customary for the same work in the community.

4. *Written statement -- family investment agreement.*

a. The department may require an applicant family to commit to the initial actions the applicant family will take to achieve self-sufficiency as contained in a signed, written statement. An applicant family which fails to commit to the actions as contained in the written statement shall be denied eligibility for the family investment program. If the applicant family becomes a participant family, the family's written statement may be replaced by, incorporated within, or become the family investment agreement for that family.

b. Unless exempt as provided in section 239B.8, a participant family which is eligible for the program shall continue to comply with the provisions of a written statement which contains actions committed to by the family under paragraph "a" or shall enter into a family investment agreement with the department. A participant family must comply

with the provisions of the written statement or the conditions in the agreement in order to retain eligibility. A participant family which does not comply shall be deemed to have chosen a limited benefit plan.

5. *Provision of information.* The family provides requested information to the department. The department shall adopt rules specifying the conditions under which an applicant or participant family is denied eligibility for family investment program assistance for failure to provide requested information.

6. *Cooperation with child support requirements.* The department shall provide for prompt notification of the department's child support recovery unit if assistance is provided to a child whose parent is absent from the home. An applicant or participant shall cooperate with the child support recovery unit and the department as provided in 42 U.S.C. § 608(a)(2) unless the applicant or participant qualifies for good cause or other exception as determined by the department in accordance with the best interest of the child, parent, or specified relative, and with standards prescribed by rule. The authorized good cause or other exceptions shall include participation in a family investment agreement safety plan option to address or prevent family or domestic violence and other consideration given to the presence of family or domestic violence. If a specified relative with whom a child is residing fails to comply with these cooperation requirements, a sanction shall be imposed as defined by rule in accordance with state and federal law.

7. *Periodic reviews.* As a condition of eligibility, the department may require periodic reports from a participant concerning the participant's income, resources, family composition, and other circumstances. If the participant's circumstances change, the participant's assistance may be continued, renewed, suspended, changed in amount, or entirely withdrawn, as determined in accordance with rule.

8. *Out-of-state assistance.* Assistance shall be paid to a participant residing temporarily out-of-state if the participant retains residency in this state and remains otherwise eligible for assistance. The department shall periodically re-determine the eligibility of a participant who is temporarily residing out-of-state.

HISTORY: 97 Acts, ch 41, § 3, 34; 98 Acts, ch 1218, § 50; 99 Acts, ch 100, § 1; 2000 Acts, ch 1088, § 2

2 of 2 DOCUMENTS

LEXIS NEXIS (R) IOWA ANNOTATED STATUTES

*** THIS DOCUMENT IS CURRENT THROUGH THE 2006 EDITION (2006 LEGISLATION) ***
*** ANNOTATIONS CURRENT THROUGH JUNE 1, 2007 ***

TITLE VI. HUMAN SERVICES
SUBTITLE 6. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
CHAPTER 239B. FAMILY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Go to the Iowa Code Archive Directory

Iowa Code § 239B.7 (2006)

Legislative Alert: LEXSEE 2007 Ia. SF 254 -- See sections 3, 4 and 6.

239B.7 Income and resource exemptions, deductions, and disregards.

In determining a family's income and resources for purposes of the family's initial and continuing eligibility for assistance and for determining grant amounts, the provisions of this section shall apply to the family and individual family members.

1. *Work expense deduction.* If an individual's earned income is considered by the department, the individual shall be allowed a work expense deduction equal to twenty percent of the earned income. The work expense deduction is intended to include all work-related expenses other than child care. These expenses shall include but are not limited to all of the following: taxes, transportation, meals, uniforms, and other work-related expenses. However, the work expense deduction shall not be allowed for an individual who is subject to a sanction for failure to comply with family investment program requirements.

2. *Work-and-earn incentive.* If an individual's earned income is considered by the department, the individual shall be allowed a work-and-earn incentive. The incentive shall be equal to fifty percent of the amount of earned income remaining after all other deductions are applied. The department shall disregard the incentive amount when considering the earned income available to the individual. The incentive shall not have a time limit. The work-and-earn incentive shall not be withdrawn as a penalty for failure to comply with family investment program requirements.

3. Reserved.

4. Reserved.

5. *Income consideration.* If an individual has timely reported an absence of income to the department, consideration of the individual's income shall cease beginning in the first month the income is absent. However, this provision shall not apply to an individual who has quit employment without good cause as defined in rules.

6. *Interest income.* Interest income shall be disregarded.

7. *Individual development account deposits.* The department shall disregard as income any moneys an individual deposits in an individual development account established pursuant to chapter 541A.

8. *Motor vehicle disregard.* The department shall disregard the value of one motor vehicle. The countable equity value of any additional motor vehicle shall apply to the resource limitation established in subsection 9.

9. *Resource limitation.*

a. The resource limitation for an applicant family for the family investment program shall be two thousand dollars.

b. The resource limitation for a participant family shall be five thousand dollars.

Iowa Code § 239B.7

c. The department shall disregard not more than ten thousand dollars of a self-employed individual's tools of the trade or capital assets in considering the individual's resources.

10. *Individual development account earnings and balance.* The department shall disregard any earnings and the balance of an individual development account established pursuant to chapter 541A in considering an individual's resources.

HISTORY: 97 Acts, ch 41, § 8, 34--36; 99 Acts, ch 192, § 33, 34; 2004 Acts, ch 1043, § 1, 12

1 of 1 DOCUMENT

IOWA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

*** THIS DOCUMENT IS CURRENT THROUGH THE JULY 18, 2007 SUPPLEMENT ***

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT[441]
TITLE IV: FAMILY INVESTMENT PROGRAM
CHAPTER 41: GRANTING ASSISTANCE
DIVISION II: FAMILY INVESTMENT PROGRAM--TREATMENT GROUP

441 IAC 41.26(239B) (2007)

441--41.26(239B) Resources.

41.26(1) Limitation. An applicant or recipient may have the following resources and be eligible for the family investment program. Any resource not specifically exempted shall be counted toward resource limitations.

a. A homestead without regard to its value. A mobile home or similar shelter shall be considered as a homestead when it is occupied by the recipient. Temporary absence from the homestead with a defined purpose for the absence and with intent to return when the purpose of the absence has been accomplished shall not be considered to have altered the exempt status of the homestead. Except as described at 41.26(1) "n" or "o" and 41.26(6) "d," the net market value of any other real property shall be considered with personal property.

b. Household goods and personal effects without regard to their value. Personal effects are personal or intimate tangible belongings of an individual, especially those that are worn or carried on the person, which are maintained in one's home, and include clothing, books, grooming aids, jewelry, hobby equipment, and similar items.

c. Life insurance which has no cash surrender value. The owner of the life insurance policy is the individual paying the premium on the policy with the right to change the policy as the individual sees fit.

d. Motor vehicles.

(1) One motor vehicle without regard to its value.

(2) An equity not to exceed a value of \$ 4115 in one motor vehicle for each adult and working teenage child whose resources must be considered as described in 41.26(2). The disregard shall be allowed when the working teenager is temporarily absent from work. The equity value in excess of \$ 4115 of any vehicle shall be counted toward the resource limit in 41.26(1)"e." When a motor vehicle is modified with special equipment for the handicapped, the special equipment shall not increase the value of the motor vehicle.

The department shall annually increase the motor vehicle equity value to be disregarded by the latest increase in the consumer price index for used vehicles during the previous state fiscal year.

e. A reserve of other property, real or personal, not to exceed \$ 2000 for applicant assistance units and \$ 5000 for recipient assistance units. EXCEPTION: Applicant assistance units with at least one member who was a recipient in Iowa in the month prior to the month of application are subject to the \$ 5000 limit. The exception includes those persons who did not receive an assistance grant due to the limitations described at rules 441 - 45.26(239B) and 45.27(239B) and persons whose grants were suspended as in 41.27(9) "f" in the month prior to the month of application.

Resources of the applicant or the recipient shall be determined in accordance with subrule 41.26(2).

f. Money which is counted as income in a month, during that same month; and that part of lump sum income defined in 41.27(9)"c"(2) reserved for the current or future month's income.

g. Payments which are exempted for consideration as income and resources under subrule 41.27(6).

441 IAC 41.26(239B)

h. An equity not to exceed \$ 1,500 in one funeral contract or burial trust for each member of the eligible group. Any amount in excess of \$ 1,500 shall be counted toward resource limitations unless it is established that the funeral contract or burial trust is irrevocable.

i. One burial plot for each member of the eligible group. A burial plot is defined as a conventional gravesite, crypt, mausoleum, urn, or other repository which is customarily and traditionally used for the remains of a deceased person.

j. Settlements for payment of medical expenses.

k. Life estates.

l. Earned income credit payments in the month of receipt and the following month, regardless of whether these payments are received with the regular paychecks or as a lump sum with the federal income tax refund.

m. The balance in an individual development account (IDA), including interest earned on the IDA.

n. An equity not to exceed \$ 10,000 for tools of the trade or capital assets of self-employed households.

When the value of any resource is exempted in part, that portion of the value which exceeds the exemption shall be considered in computing whether the eligible group's property is within the reserve defined in paragraph "e."

o. Nonhomestead property that produces income consistent with the property's fair market value.

41.26(2) Persons considered.

a. Resources of persons in the eligible group shall be considered in establishing property limitations.

b. Resources of the parent who is living in the home with the eligible child(ren) but whose needs are excluded from the eligible group shall be considered in the same manner as if the parent were included in the eligible group.

c. Resources of the stepparent living in the home shall not be considered when determining eligibility of the eligible group, with one exception: The resources of a stepparent included in the eligible group shall be considered in the same manner as a parent.

d. The resources of supplemental security income recipients shall not be counted in establishing property limitations.

e. The resources of a nonparental relative who elects to be included in the eligible group shall be considered in the same manner as a parent.

f. and g. Rescinded IAB 10/4/00, effective 12/1/00.

41.26(3) Homestead defined. The homestead consists of the house, used as a home, and may contain one or more contiguous lots or tracts of land, including buildings and appurtenances. When within a city plat, it shall not exceed 1/2-acre in area. When outside a city plat it shall not contain, in the aggregate, more than 40 acres. When property used as a home exceeds these limitations, the equity value of the excess property shall be determined in accordance with subrule 41.26(5).

41.26(4) Liquidation. When proceeds from the sale of resources or conversion of a resource to cash, together with other nonexempted resources, exceed the property limitations, the recipient is ineligible to receive assistance until the amount in excess of the resource limitation has been expended unless immediately used to purchase a homestead, or reduce the mortgage on a homestead.

a. Property settlements. Property settlements which are part of a legal action in a dissolution of marriage or palimony suit are considered as resources upon receipt.

b. Property sold under installment contract. Property sold under an installment contract or held as security in exchange for a price consistent with its fair market value is exempt as a resource. If the price is not consistent with the contract's fair market value, the resource value of the installment contract is the gross price for which it can be sold or discounted on the open market, less any legal debts, claims, or liens against the installment contract.

Payments from property sold under an installment contract are exempt as income as specified in paragraphs 41.27(1)"f" and 41.27(7)"ah." The portion of any payment received representing principal is considered a resource upon receipt. The interest portion of the payment is considered a resource the month following the month of receipt.

441 IAC 41.26(239B)

41.26(5) Net market value defined. Net market value is the gross price for which property or an item can currently be sold on the open market, less any legal debts, claims, or liens against the property or item.

41.26(6) Availability.

a. A resource must be available in order for it to be counted toward resource limitations. A resource is considered available under the following circumstances:

(1) The applicant/recipient owns the property in part or in full and has control over it; that is, it can be occupied, rented, leased, sold, or otherwise used or disposed of at the individual's discretion.

(2) The applicant/recipient has a legal interest in a liquidated sum and has the legal ability to make the sum available for support and maintenance.

b. Rescinded IAB 6/30/99, effective 9/1/99.

c. When property is owned by more than one person, unless otherwise established, it is assumed that all individuals hold equal shares in the property.

d. When the applicant or recipient owns nonhomestead property, the property shall be considered exempt for so long as the property is publicly advertised for sale at an asking price that is consistent with its fair market value.

41.26(7) Damage judgments and insurance settlements.

a. Payment resulting from damage to or destruction of an exempt resource shall be considered a resource to the applicant/recipient the month following the month the payment was received. When the applicant/recipient signs a legal binding commitment no later than the month after the month the payment was received, the funds shall be considered exempt for the duration of the commitment providing the terms of the commitment are met within eight months from the date of commitment.

b. Payment resulting from damage to or destruction of a nonexempt resource shall be considered a resource in the month following the month in which payment was received.

41.26(8) Trusts. The department shall determine whether assets from a trust or conservatorship, except one established solely for the payment of medical expenses, are available by examining the language of the trust agreement or order establishing a conservatorship.

a. Funds clearly conserved and available for care, support, or maintenance shall be considered toward resource or income limitations.

b. When the local office questions whether the funds in a trust or conservatorship are available, the local office shall refer the trust or conservatorship to central office. When assets in the trust or conservatorship are not clearly available, central office staff may contact the trustee or conservator and request that the funds in the trust or conservatorship be made available for current support and maintenance. When the trustee or conservator chooses not to make the funds available, the department may petition the court to have the funds released either partially or in their entirety or as periodic income payments. Funds in a trust or conservatorship that are not clearly available shall be considered unavailable until the trustee, conservator or court actually makes the funds available. Payments received from the trust or conservatorship for basic or special needs are considered income.

41.26(9) Aliens sponsored by individuals. Rescinded IAB 10/4/00, effective 12/1/00.

41.26(10) Not considered a resource. Inventories and supplies, exclusive of capital assets, that are required for self-employment shall not be considered a resource. Inventory is defined as all unsold items, whether raised or purchased, that are held for sale or use and shall include, but not be limited to, merchandise, grain held in storage and livestock raised for sale. Supplies are items necessary for the operation of the enterprise, such as lumber, paint and seed. Capital assets are those assets which, if sold at a later date, could be used to claim capital gains or losses for federal income tax purposes. When self-employment is temporarily interrupted due to circumstances beyond the control of the household, such as illness, and inventory or supplies retained by the household shall not be considered a resource.

AUTHORITY: This rule is intended to implement *Iowa Code section 239B.5*.