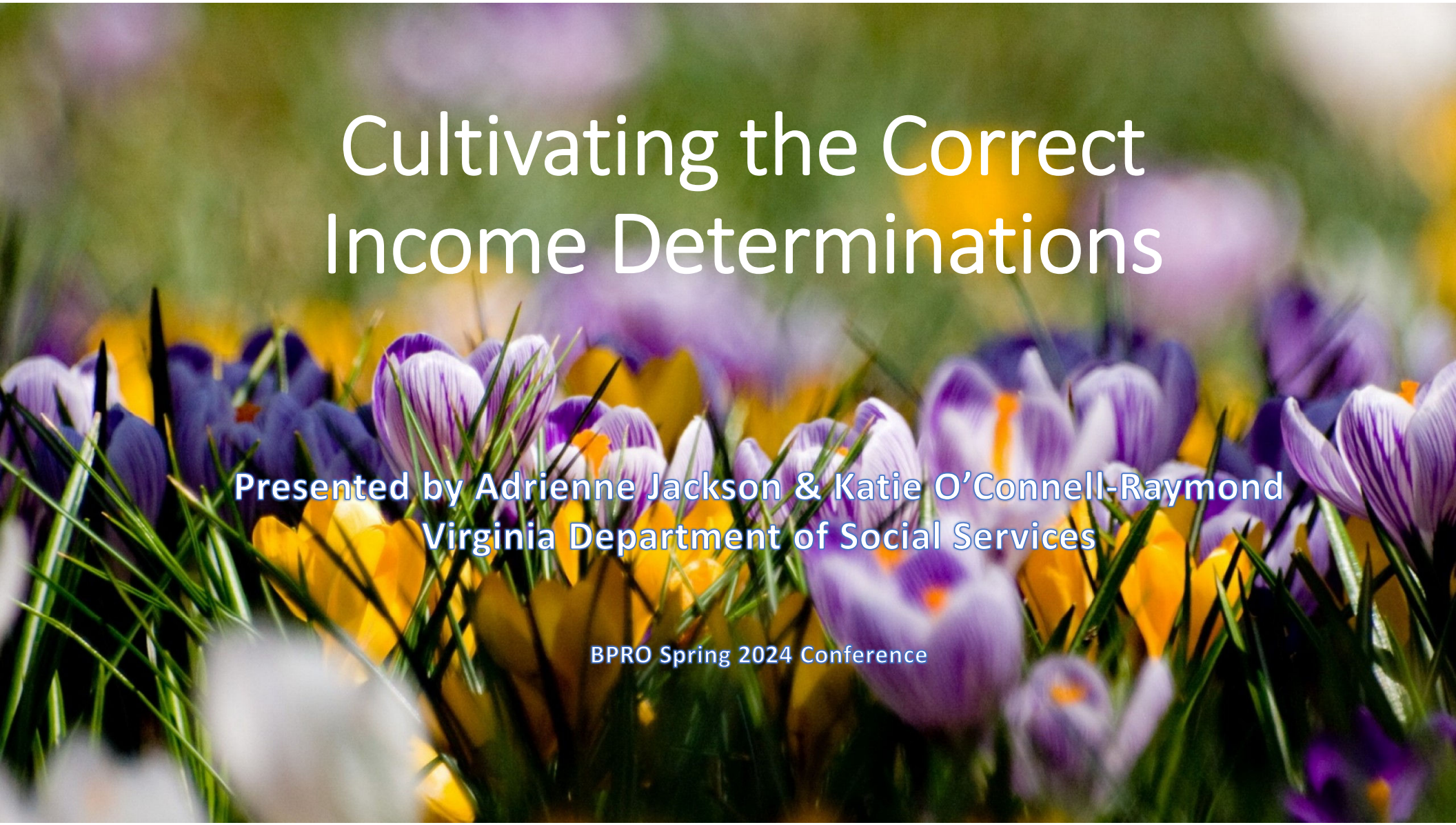


# Cultivating the Correct Income Determinations

Presented by Adrienne Jackson & Katie O'Connell-Raymond
Virginia Department of Social Services

BPRO Spring 2024 Conference

# MAGI

2

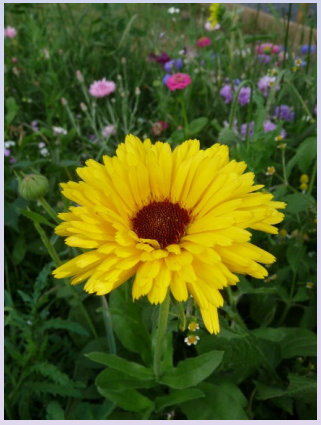
Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) is a methodology for how income is counted and how household composition and family size are determined and is based on **federal tax rules** for determining adjusted gross income (with some modification), and has **no resource test.**

*(Exception: MAGI Adults requesting coverage of Long-Term Care services are subject to certain asset/resource requirements)*

# The Basics

3

***** The agency must utilize online systems that are available to the agency without requiring verifications from the individual or family. If no data sources exist to verify the attestation, and the attestation is below the medical assistance income level, documentation of income is required*****



- **Attested Income**- is the income stated on the application or is the information received from the client.( ie paystubs, employer statement)
  - If you do not have the attested income you must request it from the client. Send VCL
- **The Hub** is a data center that links the following federal systems: • Social Security Administration • Internal Revenue Service (IRS) • Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE).
- **Electronic Verification/Sources** -Systems in VACMS used to complete automated comparison and reasonable compatibility-TALX, SOLQ, VEC
- **Auto Comparison**- number to number and not source to source- Ex. Income is under the limit. Do not review EV up front

- Use **SNAP records, SOLQ/SVES** to process MA.
  - Must be used if it is dated within the previous 12 months

# Basics continued



## Reasonable Compatibility

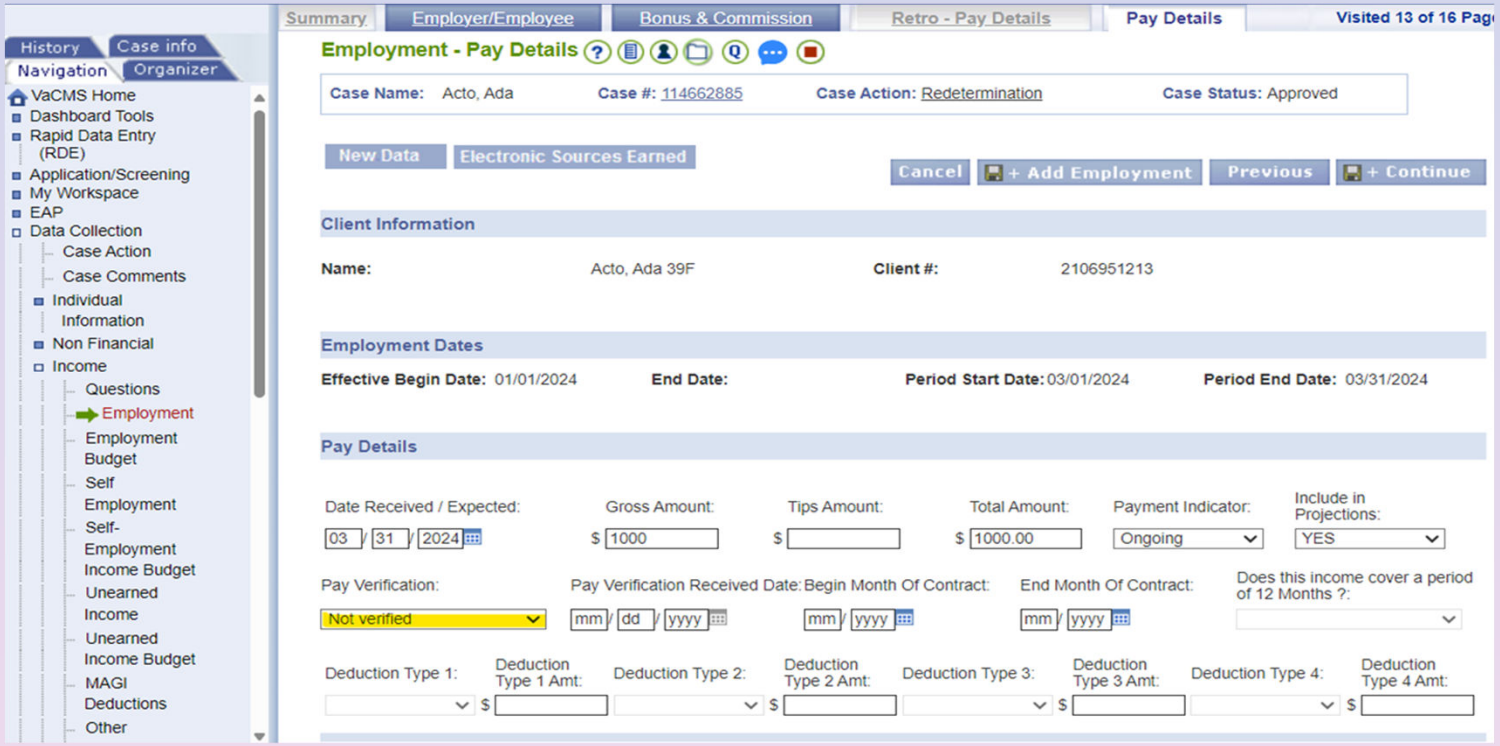
- Attested income is within 20 % of income obtained from electronic source or
- Both the attested and the electronic sources is under the income limit.
- If reasonable compatibility does not exist or income data was not available through available electronic sources and the attestation is below the medical assistance income level, additional verification of income is required
- The applicant's income reported on the application is compared through a match with income verification available from electronic income sources. The eligibility/enrollment system will compare the reported income with the income from the data match and determine if reasonable compatibility exists. If reasonable compatibility exists, the income will be labeled verified, and no further verification of the income is necessary

# Attested on the application/renewal

5

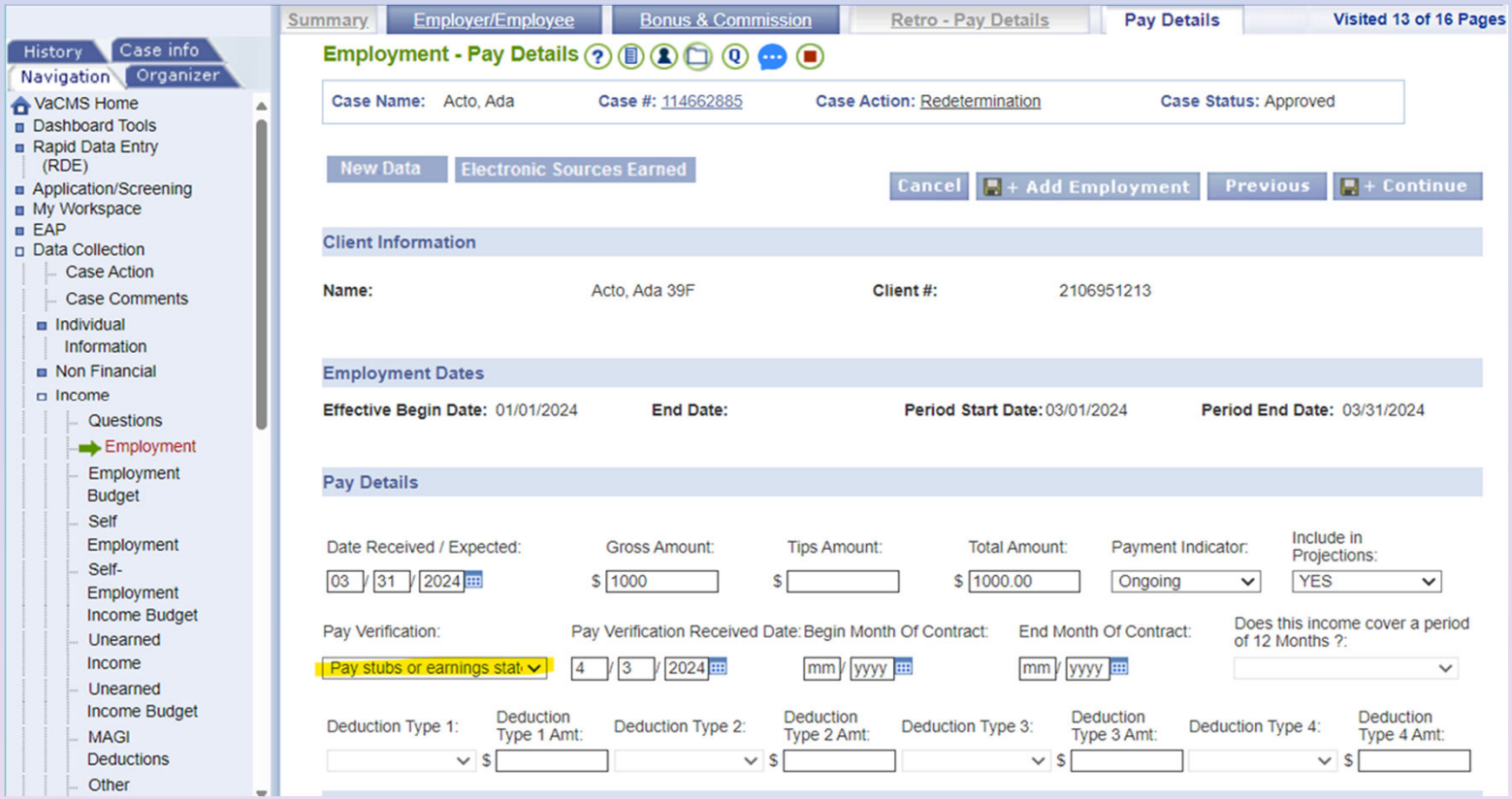
Enter in VaCMS as "not verified“.

****Use your effective begin dates***



# Attested income that is verifiable entered into VaCMS-client provides paystubs.

6



# Reasonable Compatibility Rules:

7

- **Under/Under**: When the attested income is under a limit and the electronic sources are under the same income limit = Approved
- **Under/Over and within 20%:** When the attested income is under a limit and the electronic income is over that same income limit but within 20% of the attested income = Approved
- **Under/Over and not within 20%:** When the attested income is under a limit and the electronic income is over that same income limit and is not within 20% of the attested = Pending
- **Income Over:** When the attested income is over all applicable income limits = Denied

- **Green means go!–** the income results will be approved and may be authorized
- **Red means stop!** – the results will pend unless the income has been verified with an approved verification source for MA within Data Collection; if the customer's attestation is over limits deny or evaluate for a spenddown, if applicable

# Auto Comparison and Reasonable compatibility



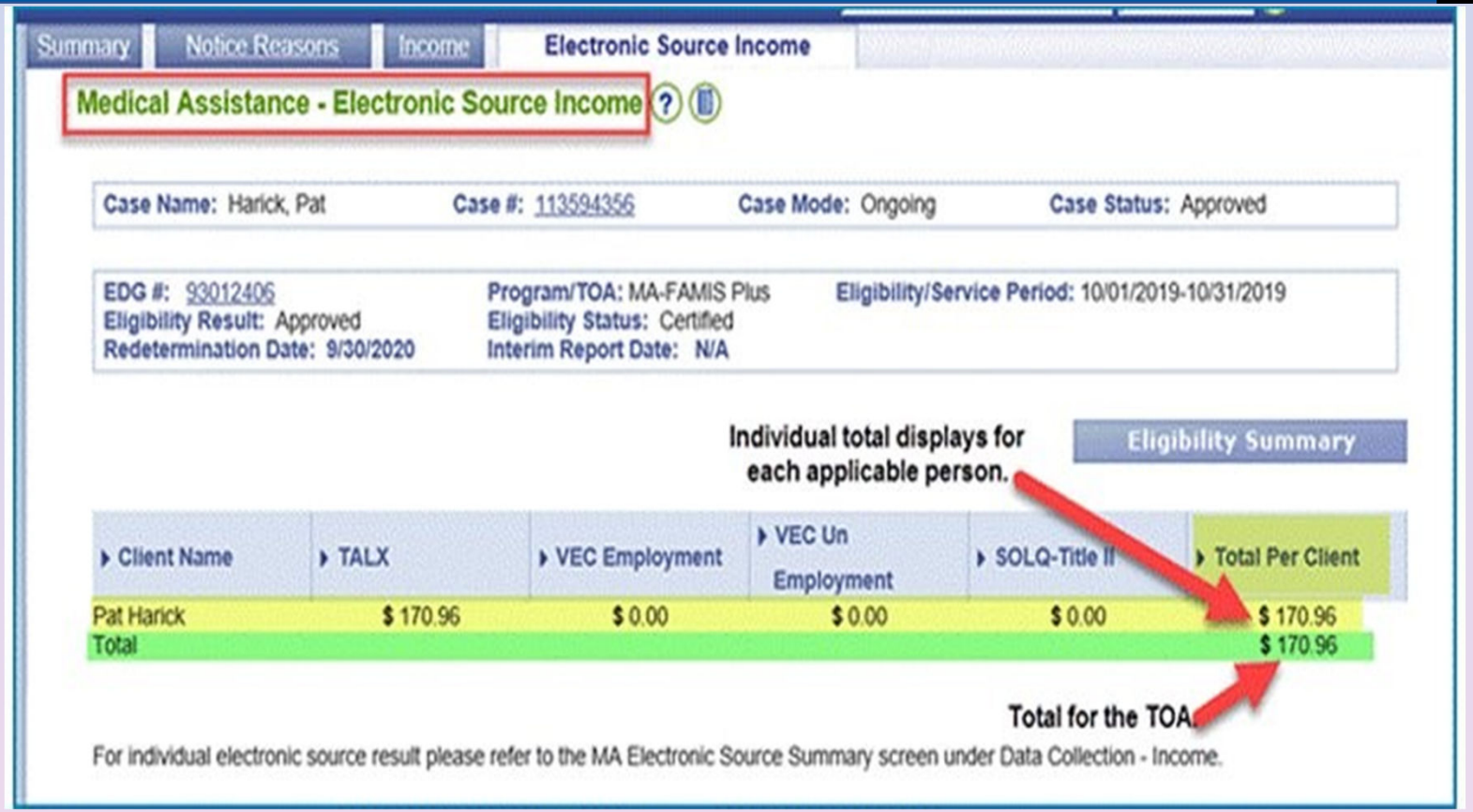
| Examples | Income Limit | Attested Income | Electronic Sources | Case Action |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Under/Under | $1616- 133 % FPL | 1500 | 1580 | Approved |
| Under/Over and within 20% | $1616- 133 % FPL | 1590 | 1700 | Approved |
| Under/Over not within 20% | $1616- 133 % FPL | 1590 | 1920 | Pending |
| Over | $1616- 133 % FPL | 1900 | | Denied |

**How to calculate the 20 percent**
20% of 1590 (attested)= 318
1590+318=1908
so the EV can only be max income of 1908 to be within 20%

# How to read EDG Summary Screens- Attested income vs Electronic Sources

# EDG Summary-Electronic Sources results - TALX, VEC, SOLQ





# Electronic Source Summary Display results



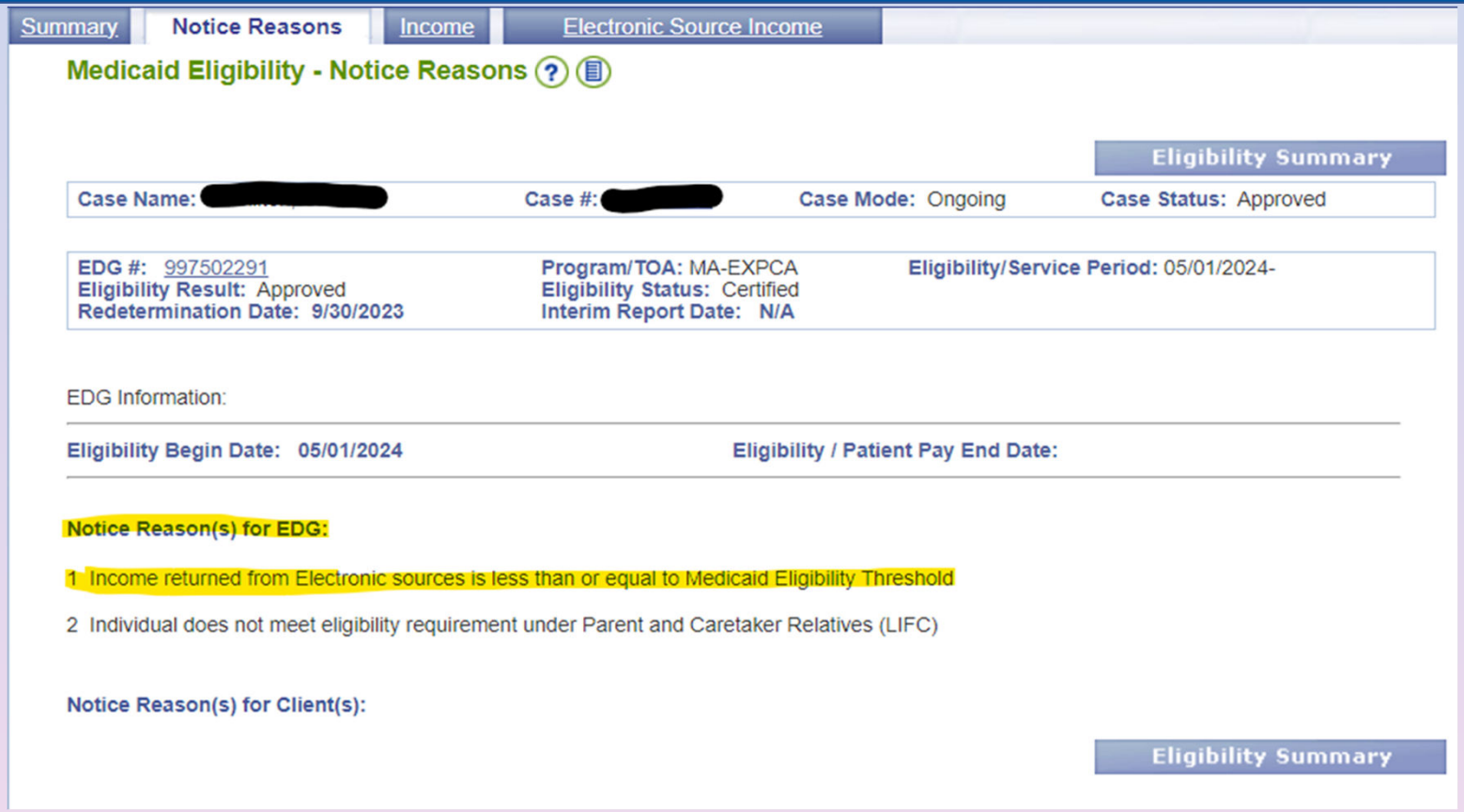
Display Results on the Electronic Sources Summary Screen

| | TALX | VEC - Employment | VEC Unemployment | SOLQ Title II | SOLQ Title XV |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **NC** | No call made | No call made | No call made | No call made | No call made |
| **NK** | Client not known to TALX | Client not known to VEC | Client not known to VEC | Client not known to SOLQ | Client not known to SOLQ |
| **ER** | Technical problem with TALX | Technical problem with VEC | Technical problem with VEC | Technical problem with SOLQ | Technical problem with SOLQ |

- All EV Sources except SOLQ Title XIV will show dollar amounts received from EV
- **TALX will display $0.00 when income has been terminated for 60 days or more**
- ER code: LDSS will need to retry at a later time

# Notice Reasons





Summary | Notice Reasons | Income | Electronic Source Income

**Medicaid Eligibility - Notice Reasons**

Eligibility Summary

**Case Name:** [redacted] **Case #:** [redacted] **Case Mode:** Ongoing **Case Status:** Approved

**EDG #:** 997502291
**Eligibility Result:** Approved
**Redetermination Date:** 9/30/2023
**Program/TOA:** MA-EXPCA
**Eligibility Status:** Certified
**Interim Report Date:** N/A
**Eligibility/Service Period:** 05/01/2024-

EDG Information:

**Eligibility Begin Date:** 05/01/2024 **Eligibility / Patient Pay End Date:**

**Notice Reason(s) for EDG:**

1 Income returned from Electronic sources is less than or equal to Medicaid Eligibility Threshold

2 Individual does not meet eligibility requirement under Parent and Caretaker Relatives (LIFC)

**Notice Reason(s) for Client(s):**

Eligibility Summary

# Attested income at Application



1. Review application for attestation of income
2. Enter attestation into VACMS with Verification source as “Not Verified”
3. Run EDG
4. Review results in Notice Reasons- Document
    1. IF the attestation and the EV pass auto comparison and are compatible- APPROVE and AUTHORIZE
    2. IF the attestation and the EV do not meet auto comparison & compatible criteria - PENDING
        1. Worker -Check EVs and all available information for verified income (VEC, Work number SOLQ SNAP Case)
            1. If you have Verified income enter into VACMS and run EDG –Eligibility Determination of Approved or Denied
            2. If you do not have available income verification through EVs/Case Record then send a checklist and document why you are sending the checklist.

# Documentation



If the customer does not make any marks on the renewal form other than their signature and the amount from the previous year is populated, then that is considered -**NO CHANGE**

- Enter attestation into VACMS with Verification source as "**Not Verified"**
  - If no changes were reported, use the income that is populated on the renewal, update effective begin dates and verification source as "Not Verified"
- Run EDG
- Review results in Notice Reasons – **Document**
  - IF the attestation and the EV is compatible- APPROVE and AUTHORIZE
  - IF the attestation and the EV do not meet compatible criteria – PENDING
    - Check EVs and available information for verified income (VEC, Work number, SNAP)
      - If you have Verified income enter into VACMS and run EDG-Authorize –Approve or Deny
    - If you do not have available income verification through EVs or the case record, then send a checklist and document the reason that you are sending the checklist.

# Documentation



Include in your documentation:

- Documentation of reasonable compatibility-
- Documentation of electronic verification of income

Notes by the eligibility worker that the verifications were viewed are not sufficient

**Examples**

- The attested income of 1500 and the ES income of 1550 are both under the limit. Client is approved
- Automated comparison not successful as electronic income was not compatible with attested income; no other sources available and EV could not be used – VCL sent 11/05/19 to verify earned income from McBurger Land.
- Automated comparison not used to verify attested income due to MSP covered group; SOLQ in EV viewed and not questionable so SOLQ income of $995.00 monthly used to verify income.

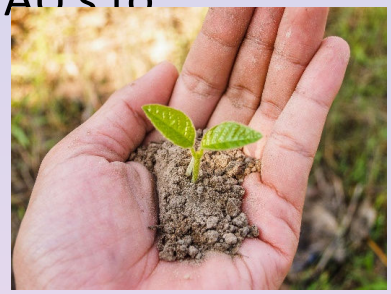
# Non-MAGI



The rules for determining income eligibility for non-MAGI covered groups is different than MAGI. Verification is required.

VaCMS may calculate eligibility differently than you expected. The reason may be that the way they are counting income and resources is based on the assistant unit (AU). It is important to know the rules regarding AU's to ensure correct eligibility determinations.

- How old is the applicant?
- Are they married?
- Are they requesting LTSS?
- Are they a child under 21? (Adoption Assistance, Foster Care, DJJ)

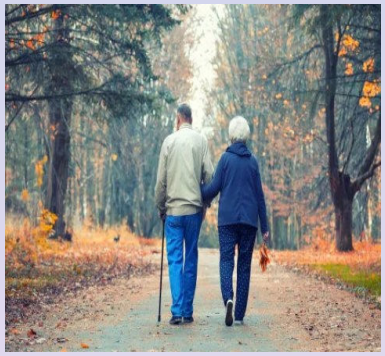


Visit M05 for more information on the Assistance unit rules and calculations.

# Non-MAGI: Aged, Blind or Disabled



## Married & Living Together (M0530.200)



**RESOURCES**

- **Always** determine **resources** as an AU of 2, including both spouses' countable resources

*Note: The resources of an SSI spouse must be counted in the non-SSI spouse's AU.*

**INCOME – (WHEN BOTH ARE ABD APPLYING FOR MEDICAID)**

- The AU is a household of 2.

**INCOME - (IF THERE IS AN NABD SPOUSE)**

*A NABD spouse is one who isn't applying for Medicaid or doesn't meet the definition of ABD*

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY

- If the NABD spouse has deemable income, the AU is 2
- If the NABD spouse has no deemable income, the AU is 1

# Questions?