

HOUSEHOLD-SIZE CALCULATION

This is how you should calculate your household size for purposes of an [Affidavit for Support](#) for USCIS and understanding the HHS Poverty Guidelines.

WHO COUNTS AS PART OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD?

You count someone as part of your household size if that person is:

My relative or roommate lives with me, does their income count toward my household income?

- If someone lives with you but does not meet the definition of a household member as described above, do not count that person’s income as part of your household income. You should count the specific amount of any financial contribution that you receive from them only if that money was used to support your household. You include that amount in your total household income.

Example 2: You share an apartment with a roommate who is not paid for their services. You receive \$1,000 in child support, and you include that as your household income because the roommate is not financially supporting you. Therefore, you do not include the roommate’s income as part of your household income.

I receive child support, but not the full amount as listed in the court order. Do I include the full amount of the child support as additional income or financial support or only what I actually receive?

- Annotate the actual amount of child support received. If there is a difference between what is stated in a court order or documentation, provide an explanation. Examples of documents may include bank statements, copies of checks, court documents, or other documentation indicating the actual income or financial assistance you are receiving.

How marital separation affects eligibility

- If you file a request for a reduced fee as a spouse, you must provide documentation to establish that your spouse does not live with you and provides no income assistance. Acceptable documents may include a copy of the court order that formalized your legal separation, a formal notarized property settlement agreement, financial support agreement, or separate mortgage, lease, or utility bills that show you and your spouse live apart.

How an Affidavit of Support affects eligibility

If someone filed a Form I-134, Declaration of Financial Support, or Form I-864, Affidavit of Support under Section 213A of the Act, for you, that person may still be responsible for supporting you. However, we will consider that person's income or assets in deciding whether you are eligible for a reduced fee only if that person is currently a member of your household.

CALCULATING INCOME FOR HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Financial Assistance Considered Income In Fee Waiver Request

To establish the total income, a request must include any additional financial assistance (not otherwise included in a tax return or W-2) including any Social Security income (as reflected on the SSA-1099) to the adjusted gross income in the tax return.

The table below includes some types of additional financial assistance that USCIS considers household income for a fee waiver request. The requestor must provide documentation of each type of additional financial assistance that applies.

Additional Financial Assistance

- Parental support Child support Pensions Royalties Unemployment benefits Alimony Bank

DOCUMENTING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

Assets	Liabilities
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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Re al est ate ;	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cas h;	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ch eck ing an d sav ing s acc ou nts ; an d	

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sto cks , bo nds , an d an nui tie s (ex cep t for pe nsi on pla ns, Ind ivi du al Ret ire me nt Acc ou nts (IR As) , an d oth er reti re me nt	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Re nt;
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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mo rtg ag es;	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lea se;	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Av era ge mo nth ly cos t of foo d;	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Util itie s;	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chi ld car e an d eld er car e;	

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Me dic al ex pe nse s;	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tui tio n cos ts;	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co m mu tin g cos ts; an d	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mo nth ly pa ym ent s of law ful de bts .	

In general, if a requestor provides proof of inability to pay the fee based on financial hardship, the request for fee waiver may be approved on this basis and no further information is required.

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