3. Household Composition

- Determining Household Composition
  - Whose Income to Count?
  - Live-in Aides
  - Minors
  - Temporarily Absent Family Members
  - Permanently Absent Family Members
  - Adult Students
  - Persons with Disabilities
Determining Household Composition

• Count all household members to determining the total number of household members, and include their income in determining total family income

• Except:
  - foster children,
  - live-in aides,
  - children of live-in aides,
  - unborn children, and
  - children being pursued for legal custody or adoption who are not currently living with the household.
Determining Household Composition (cont)

Note: if a parent who lives in the HOME unit has a child who is subject to a shared-custody agreement, the child may be counted as a household member if living there at least 50 percent of the time.
Whose Income to Count

- Always count in household income:
  - Annual income from employment and other income (including assets) from
    - adult head or co-head of household
    - spouse, and other adults
  - If head or co-head of household or spouse:
    - all income from an emancipated minor (under 18 but legally able to sign lease)
    - all income of a full-time student 18 years or older
Whose Income to Count (cont)

- Do not include income of foster children or foster adults or from a live in aide.

- Income from the following groups of people requires special consideration:
  - Minors (age 17 and under)
  - Temporarily absent family members
  - Permanently absent family members
  - Adult students living away from home
Live-in Aides

- Exclude income from a paid live-in aide:
  - Regardless of the income source, and
  - Whether paid by a social service agency or the family

Note: a related family member generally does not count as a family member except under unusual circumstances
Minors

• Do NOT count Earned Income of minors (age 17 and under)

• Do count Unearned Income attributable to a minor:

Examples:
- child support
- TANF payments,
- Other benefits paid on behalf of a minor.

• If a child will turn 18 during the next 12 months, a prorated portion of income *may* need to be included as household income.
Temporarily Absent Family Members

• Include income of a temporarily absent family member—regardless of the amount the absent member contributes to the household

Example 1:

A construction worker employed at a temporary job on the other side of the state earns $600 per week. He keeps $200 per week for expenses and sends $400 per week home to his family. The entire amount ($600 per week) is counted in the family's income.
Temporarily Absent Family Members (cont)

Example 2:

- Susan Smith is on active military duty.
- Her permanent residence is her parent’s assisted unit where her husband and children live.
- She currently is not exposed to hostile fire.
- Therefore, because her spouse and children are in the assisted unit, her military pay must be included in annual income.

(If her dependents and spouse were not in the unit, she would not be considered a family member and her income would be excluded from annual income.)
Permanently Absent Family Members

- If a family member is permanently absent from the household, the head of household can either:
  - count that person as a member of the household (and include their income as household income), or
  - specify that the person is no longer a member of the household.

Example: a spouse who is in a nursing home
Adult Students

• Count the first $480 of adult student income if an adult student living away from home is counted as a member of a household when determining the household size

Note: the $480 limit does not apply to a student who is the head of household or a spouse. Count their full income.
• Count income of household members who are full time students 18 years of age or older but away at school the same way as income for other full-time students

• Count income for minors who are household members but away at school the same as the income for other minors

Note: After February 1, 2006, changes to Section 8 and Sec. 42 tax credit rules now count all student financial aid (public or private, except student loans), above the amount of tuition, as income unless the student is 24 or older with dependent children, in which case no financial aid is counted
Persons With Disabilities (Self-Sufficiency Initiative)

- After move-in, exclude from annual income for a limited time period certain pay increases for disabled family members living in HOME-assisted housing or receiving TBRA payments
  - 100% of the increase is excluded for 12 cumulative months
    - From initial employment date or
    - From first employment income increase
  - 50% of the increase is excluded for the next 12 cumulative months

Exclusion has a 48-month lifetime limitation