

**County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHS)**  
**Medi-Cal Program Guide Special Notice**

**2020 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Increases**

**Number**  
**MC 20-01**

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**Effective Date:**

March 10, 2020

**Background:**

Each year, the FPLs are adjusted to allow for changes to the cost of living. Effective on the dates specified below, the FPLs have increased for 2020.

**Purpose:**

To provide staff with the 2020 FPL values and procedures.

**Policy:**

Review all denials and discontinuances for the following groups back to the date specified for each group and re-evaluate eligibility based on the revised FPLs.

- For applicants/beneficiaries of the Medicare Savings Programs (MSP): Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB), Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB) and Qualified Individual (QI-1) who **do not receive Title II Retirement Survivors and Disability Insurance (RSDI)** income, apply the new FPLs retroactively to **January 1, 2020**
- For applicants/beneficiaries who are parent/caretaker relatives, children, pregnant individuals and Non-Medicare recipients who are ages 19-65 and whose eligibility is determined based upon Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) methodologies, apply the FPLs retroactively to **January 1, 2020**.
- For MSP applicants/beneficiaries **who are receiving Title II RSDI income**, apply the new FPLs retroactively to **March 1, 2020**
- For individuals who are eligible to the Aged, Blind and Disabled (ABD) FPL and 250% Working Disabled Program (WDP), apply the new FPL effective **April 1, 2020**

**Procedure:**

- Use the increased 2020 FPL amounts when determining eligibility for the appropriate programs.
- Process exception case lists. FRCs will be notified when these lists are placed on the SharePoint website under Medi-Cal Reports.
- Process NOAs held in the print queue.

Upon request from the beneficiary, staff will update eligibility retroactively for:

- Optional Targeted Low-Income Children's Program (OTLICP) eligible children in premium aid codes. If children are redetermined eligible for free, non-premium OTLICP using the 2020 FPLs, submit a Premium Refund/Waiver Request on behalf of the beneficiary.
- Advanced Premium Tax Credit (APTC) eligible individuals who did not enroll in a plan or pay a premium.
- APTC eligible individuals who did enroll in a plan and pay a premium but have Medi-Cal covered expenses that were not covered by their plan during the retroactive period.
- Medi-Cal recipients with a Share of Cost (SOC) who would have a lower or zero SOC when using the 2020 FPL amounts.

Note: When determining retroactive eligibility for months in 2019, use the FPLs and related charts for 2019.

**Program Impact/s:**

CalWIN

The FPL tables were updated in CalWIN during the weekend of March 6, 2020

The following case types will be included in the FPL COLA run:

- Non-MAGI
- Mixed (MAGI and Non-MAGI)
- APTC and Non- MAGI

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The following case types will be excluded from the FPL COLA run:

- MAGI only
- Mixed (MAGI and APTC)
- Pre-ACA (no evaluation for MAGI completed)

An Exception List will be sent to FRCs for action on the cases that did not automatically authorize along with instructions on how to process these cases.

**References:**


ACWDL 20-03

County Policy

**Sunset Date:**

This policy will be reviewed for continuance on or by 03/31/2021

**Approval for Release:**

 , 3-10-20

Rick Wanne, Director  
Eligibility Operations