

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

Increase to the Reasonable Compatibility Threshold in the California Healthcare Eligibility, Enrollment and Retention System (CalHEERS)	Number	Page
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Effective Date

07/01/2022

Background:

To determine eligibility for Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Medi-Cal, California Healthcare Eligibility, Enrollment and Retention System (CalHEERS) electronically compares self-attested income with the Federal Data Services Hub (FDSH), to determine if the self-attested income reported by applicants and beneficiaries are reasonably compatible. CalHEERS makes individual determinations based on income tax and household compositions and identifies when income is at or below the MAGI Federal Poverty Level (FPL) or a reasonable compatibility threshold as electronically verified (e-verified).

Purpose:

To notify staff of the temporary increase to the MAGI and Medi-Cal Access Program (MCAP) income reasonable compatibility threshold from 10% to 20% from July 2022 through the end of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) unwinding period. This temporary increase will allow continued coverage for customers and reduce requests for a reasonable explanation or additional income verification from the customer.

Policy:

The reasonable compatibility threshold increased temporarily to 20% effective 7/1/2022 for MAGI and MCAP. Staff are to accept results when income is e-verified and must not request further income verification at application, change in circumstance or annual redetermination (RV) (when RV's are reinstated). Customers may report self-attested income via CalHEERS or by contacting the county.

Note: The federal poverty levels (FPL) remain unchanged.

Procedure:

When a referral from CalHEERS is received or when staff enter self-attested income in CalWIN and the CalHEERS Business Rules Engine (BRE) is run and the determination eligibility response (DER) is received:

- If the income was found to be reasonably compatible and is e-verified for any household member, accept the results.
- If the results are not reasonably compatible for any other household member, request a reasonable explanation or additional verification as noted in MPG 4.07 to determine eligibility to MAGI Medi-Cal.

Note: When the BRE is initiated after the implementation date, the 20% threshold will be applied back to the date of application, and any retroactive month/s if a request is received. Example: Application is received June 12, 2022, with a request for retroactive month of May 2022. The Human Services Specialist (HSS) processes the application on July 30, 2022, and self-attested income is e-verified within the new threshold. Since the CalHEERS BRE was initiated in July when the threshold increased, customer is also eligible for May 2022 and June 2022.

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Automation Impact:

No impact. With Release 22.6 implementation, CalHEERS allows the MAGI reasonable compatibility threshold by 20% for MAGI and MCAP.

References:

ACWDL 22-17

Sunset Date:

This policy will be reviewed for continuance on or by 12/31/2023.

Approval for Release:



Rick Wanne, Director
Self Sufficiency Services