

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

January 2023 Social Security Administration (SSA) Cost of Living (COLA) Adjustment and Related Changes

Number
22-10

Page
1 of 2

Effective Date:

January 1, 2023

Background:

The annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for Social Security Administration (SSA) Title II benefits is 8.7 percent and is effective January 1, 2023. There are also annual updates to the Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/State Supplementary Payment (SSP) payment rate, the In-Kind Support and Maintenance levels (ISM) for computing Pickle eligibility, the 2023 Pickle Disregard computation chart, the Federal Benefit Rate, Medicare Premiums, Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA), and the SSI standard and parental allocation amounts.

Purpose:

To provide guidance for processing the 2023 SSA COLA and update the Medi-Cal Assistance Standards chart with 2023 values.

Policy:

There will be an 8.7 percent COLA increase to SSA Title II Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance payments effective January 1, 2023. This increase will not apply to Federal Poverty Level (FPL) programs (Aged and Disabled FPL, Blind FPL, and Medicare Savings Programs) until April 2023.

The California Healthcare Eligibility, Enrollment, and Retention System (CalHEERS) is not running a COLA update until later in 2023, so Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) cases will not be affected at this time. The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will notify affected MAGI beneficiaries when CalHEERS runs its COLA update next year. Beneficiaries may contact the county for a re-evaluation back to January 1, 2023, if they were impacted.

The suspension of negative actions due to the public health emergency applies to processing the COLA change. Do not apply negative actions including increases in Share of Cost until the end of the public health emergency.

Use the updated 2023 Maintenance Need Assistance Standards chart values for the following:

- SSI/SSP Payment cash grant levels for determining Pickle eligibility
- ISM for determining Pickle eligibility
- Pickle disregard computation chart
- Federal Benefit Rate
- SSI standard and parental allocation amounts
- Medicare Premiums
- SGA

Procedure:

Use the updated Maintenance Need Assistance Standards chart when evaluating the appropriate programs. Do not apply the COLA prematurely to FPL and MAGI based programs.

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

**January 2023 Social Security Administration (SSA) Cost of Living
(COLA) Adjustment and Related Changes**

Number

22-10

Page

2 of 2

Program Impacts:

Automation

The California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids Information Network (CalWIN) applied the COLA and completed a mass update of Medi-Cal cases over the weekend of December 03, 2022. Cases that exception out of the authorization must be reviewed and authorized. The exception list will be available on SharePoint.

Some Client Correspondence will be held online and must be reviewed for appropriateness prior to mailing. Program will send the list to Family Resource Centers via email.

References:

ACWDLs 22-29, 22-30, and 22-31.

Sunset Date:

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

Approval for Release:

Rick Wanne, Director
Self-Sufficiency Services