



John R. Kasich, Governor
John B. McCarthy, Director

Medicaid Eligibility Procedure Letter No. 106

Effective Date: January 1, 2016

OAC Rules: 5160:1-3-02.1, 5160:1-3-03.5, 5160:1-3-04.2, 5160:1-3-04.3, 5160:1-3-04.4, 5160:1-3-05.13, 5160:1-3-06.3, 5160:1-3-06.4, 5160:1-2-01.9, 5160:1-5-03

To: All Medicaid Eligibility Manual Holders

From: John B. McCarthy, Director

Subject: 2016 Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)
State Minimum Wage
Home Equity Value
Consumer Price Index (CPI)
Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Benefit
Railroad Retirement Benefit
Veterans Administration Benefit
Medicare Part B Premium Increase
Medicaid Need Standards
Special Income Level (SIL)
Assisted Living Maintenance Needs Allowance (ALMNA)
Special Individual Maintenance Needs Allowance (SIMNA)
Spousal Impoverishment Standards
MBIWD Resource Eligibility Limit
Medicare Premium Assistance Program (MPAP) Resource Limit
Student Child Earned Income Exclusion
Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) Increase

Reason for Change: ODM is required to make annual adjustments—based on the Social Security COLA and changes to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The federal government determined there will be no COLA adjustment in 2016. Therefore, there will be **no increase** in Social Security benefits payable in 2016, nor will there be an increase in SSI payments for 2016. The only change for 2016 is regarding Medicare Part B premiums. If an individual is entitled to benefits under section 202 or 223 of the Social Security Act (as an aged, blind, or disabled individual) for November and December 2015 (which are paid in December

2015 and January 2016, respectively) and the individual's Part B premiums for December 2015 and January 2016 are deducted from the respective month's Social Security benefits, then the individual's premium amount will remain at the 2015 level of \$104.90. Individuals not collecting Social Security benefits, individuals who will enroll in Part B for the first time in 2016, dual eligible beneficiaries who have their premiums paid by Medicaid, and beneficiaries who pay an additional income-related premium will pay the increased Part B premium for 2016.

ODM is required to increase the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) for ICF-IID residents in 2016, per Amended Substitute House Bill 64 of the 131th General Assembly.

The tables in this MEPL have limits, standards, benefits, and/or payment amounts **for 2016 in bold**, along with the 2015 numbers for reference.

Note: It is anticipated that in 2016, the federal poverty level (FPL) will increase. This will cause an increase in the QMB, SLMB, and QI-1 standards. Information regarding the necessary CDJFS activity for these changes will be provided in a future MEPL.

Personal Needs Allowance

Effective January 1, 2016, the PNA for an individual residing in an ICF-IID increases to \$50, plus up to an additional sixty-five dollars of gross earnings received as a result of employment, for a possible maximum PNA of \$115.

State Minimum Wage

The state minimum wage will not increase for 2016 and remain \$8.10 per hour.

Home Equity Limit

The home equity limit will not increase for 2016.

HOME EQUITY LIMIT AMOUNTS		
	2015	2016
Maximum amount of equity an individual can have in a home	\$552,000	\$552,000

Social Security and Railroad Retirement Benefits

Social Security benefits, Veteran Administration benefits, and railroad retirement benefits will not increase for 2016.

SSI

SSI PAYMENT AMOUNTS		
	2015	2016
Single individual living independently	\$733	\$733
Couple living independently	\$1,100	\$1,100

Note: The \$30 SSI maximum payment to institutionalized individuals will remain the same.

Medicare Premium

MEDICARE PART B PREMIUM			
	2015	2016	2016
Medicare Part B Premium	\$104.90	\$104.90	\$121.80*

* This increased Medicare premium applies to individuals not collecting Social Security benefits, individuals who will enroll in Part B for the first time in 2016, dual eligible beneficiaries who have their premiums paid by Medicaid, or Medicare beneficiaries whose modified adjusted gross income is greater than \$85,000 (individual) or \$170,000 (filing a joint tax return) and responsible for a larger portion of the cost of Part B coverage and must pay an income-related monthly adjustment amount.

Medicaid Need Standard for Individual/Couple in Own Household

MEDICAID NEED STANDARDS		
	2015	2016
Individual in own household	\$643	\$643
Couple living in own household	\$1,100	\$1,100

Medicaid Need Standard for Individual/Couple in Household of Another

MEDICAID NEED STANDARDS		
	2015	2016
Individual living in household of another	\$429	\$429
Couple living in household of another	\$734	\$734

Special Income Level

SPECIAL INCOME LEVEL		
	2015	2016
Institutionalized/HCBS waiver (300% of current SSI benefit for an individual living in his own household)	\$2,199	\$2,199

Assisted Living Maintenance Needs Allowance

NEEDS ALLOWANCE		
	2015	2016
Individual	\$733	\$733

Special Individual Maintenance Needs Allowance

NEEDS ALLOWANCE		
	2015	2016
Special individual maintenance needs allowance used to determine HCBS waiver patient liability	\$1,430	\$1,430

Spousal Impoverishment Standards

IMPOVERISHMENT STANDARDS		
	2015	2016
Minimum community spouse resource allowance	\$23,844	\$23,844
Maximum community spouse resource allowance	\$119,220	\$119,220
Maximum monthly maintenance needs allowance (Cap)	\$2,981	\$2,981

Note: The minimum monthly maintenance needs allowance, excess shelter allowance and the family allowance will be revised effective July 1, 2016.

MBIWD Resource Eligibility Limit

MBIWD RESOURCE ELIGIBILITY LIMIT		
	2015	2016
Individual	\$11,473	\$11,473

MPAP Resource Limit

MPAP RESOURCE LIMIT		
	2015	2016
Individual	\$7,280	\$7,280
Couple	\$10,930	\$10,930

Student Child Earned Income Exclusion

STUDENT EXCLUSION	2015	2016
Earned income exclusion (per month)	\$1,780	\$1,780
Earned income exclusion (per year)	\$7,180	\$7,180

The student child earned income exclusion applies consecutively to months in which there is earned income until the exclusion is exhausted or the individual becomes age 18. This exclusion applies only to a student child's own income and applies only to a student child who is not institutionalized or enrolled in a home and community-based services (HCBS) waiver.

Long Term Care Facility (LTCF) Individuals

Instructions for determining any change in the patient liability for individuals in institutions, individuals receiving HCBS, individuals receiving services under the program of all inclusive care for the elderly (PACE), or individuals receiving assisted living waiver services are found in rules 5160:1-3-04.3 and 5160:1-3-04.4.

After the mass change is run, ODM will issue report BON003-R002 as in past years; this report is a summary of all individuals by LTCF.

CRIS-E

CRIS-E performs a mass change beginning November 26, 2015 to update items listed in this MEPL effective January 1, 2016.

- CRIS-E will generate alerts to case workers regarding cases updated by the mass change.
- To the extent possible, the CDJFS should authorize pending individuals prior to the mass change. Otherwise the mass change action will bypass them.
- The CDJFS must provide notice to individuals bypassed during mass change, in accordance with OAC 5101:6-2-04.

A CRIS-E view flash bulletin (CLVB) will be issued with the information contained in this MEPL.

Table TWAG is updated to reflect the increased Medicare Part B premium; this new figure should be used for income calculations as described in rules 5160:1-3-04.1, 5160:1-3-04.3, and 5160:1-5-03.