



# Department of Medicaid

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

## Medicaid Eligibility Procedure Letter No. 121

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2017

**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:** 2017 Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)  
Personal Needs Allowance (PNA)  
State Minimum Wage  
Home Equity Value  
Consumer Price Index (CPI)  
Social Security Benefits  
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)  
Railroad Retirement Benefits  
Veterans Administration Benefits  
Medicare Part B Premium  
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

**Reason for Change:** Based on the Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and changes to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) is required to make adjustments to the following: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Railroad Retirement Benefits, Veterans Administration (VA) Benefits, Medicare Part B Premium, Home Equity Value Limit, Spousal Impoverishment Standards, Medicaid Need Standards, Special Income Level (SIL), Assisted Living Maintenance Needs Allowance (ALMNA), Special Maintenance Needs Allowance (SIMNA), Medicaid Buy-In for Workers

with Disabilities (MBIWD) Resource Eligibility Limit, Medicaid Premium Assistance Program (MPAP) Resource Limit, and the Student Child Earned Income Exclusion.

Social Security Benefits, SSI, Railroad Retirement Benefits, and Veterans Administration (VA) Benefits will increase by 0.3% effective January 1, 2017. Additionally, State Minimum Wage will increase from \$8.10 per hour to \$8.15 per hour.

The tables in this MEPL have limits, standards, benefits, and/or payment amounts **for 2017 in bold**, along with the 2016 numbers for reference.

### **Personal Needs Allowance**

For an individual residing in a Nursing Facility or ICF-IID, the PNA will remain at the current amount of \$50, plus up to an additional \$65 of gross earnings received as a result of employment, for a possible maximum PNA of \$115.

### **State Minimum Wage**

State Minimum Wage		
	2016	2017
Hourly Amount	\$8.10	<b>\$8.15</b>

### **Home Equity Limit**

HOME EQUITY LIMIT AMOUNTS		
	2016	2017
Maximum amount of equity an individual can have in a home	\$552,000	<b>\$560,000</b>

### **SSI**

SSI PAYMENT AMOUNTS		
	2016	2017
Single individual living independently	\$733	<b>\$735</b>
Couple living independently	\$1,100	<b>\$1,103</b>

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

### **Medicare Premium**

	2016	2016	2017	2017
Medicare Part B Premium	\$104.90	\$121.80	<b>\$109</b>	<b>\$134*</b>

\* The higher Medicare premium applies to individuals not collecting Social Security benefits, individuals who will enroll in Part B for the first time in 2017, or dual eligible beneficiaries who have their premiums paid by Medicaid. A Medicare beneficiary whose modified adjusted gross income is greater than \$85,000 (individual) or \$170,000 (filing a joint tax return) is 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		
	2016	2017
Individual in own household	\$733	<b>\$735</b>
Couple living in own household	\$1,100	<b>\$1,103</b>

### **Medicaid Need Standard for Individual/Couple in Household of Another**

MEDICAID NEED STANDARDS		
	2016	2017
Individual living in household of another	\$489	<b>\$490</b>
Couple living in household of another	\$734	<b>\$736</b>

### **Special Income Level**

SPECIAL INCOME LEVEL		
	2016	2017
Institutionalized/HCBS waiver (300% of current SSI benefit for an Individual living in his own household)	\$2,199	<b>\$2,205</b>

### **Assisted Living Maintenance Needs Allowance**

NEEDS ALLOWANCE		
	2016	2017
Individual	\$733	<b>\$735</b>

### **Special Individual Maintenance Needs Allowance**

NEEDS ALLOWANCE		
	2016	2017
Special individual maintenance needs allowance used to determine HCBS waiver patient liability	\$1,430	<b>\$1,434</b>

### **Spousal Impoverishment Standards**

IMPOVERISHMENT STANDARDS		
	2016	2017
Minimum community spouse resource allowance	\$23,844	<b>\$24,180</b>
Maximum community spouse resource allowance	\$119,220	<b>\$120,900</b>
Minimum monthly maintenance needs allowance (Cap)	\$2,981	<b>\$3,023</b>

Note: The minimum monthly maintenance needs allowance, excess shelter allowance and the family allowance will be revised effective July 1, 2017.

### **MBIWD Resource Eligibility Limit**

MBIWD RESOURCE ELIGIBILITY LIMIT		
	2016	2017
Individual	\$11,473	<b>\$11,645</b>

### **MPAP Resource Limit**

MPAP RESOURCE LIMIT		
	2016	2017
Individual	\$7,280	<b>\$7,390</b>
Couple	\$10,930	<b>\$11,090</b>

### **Student Child Earned Income Exclusion**

STUDENT EXCLUSION		
	2016	2017
Earned income exclusion (per month)	\$1,780	<b>\$1,790</b>
Earned income exclusion (per year)	\$7,180	<b>\$7,200</b>

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 home and community-based services (HCBS).

### **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.

### **Ohio Benefits**

The .3% COLA adjustment of income and Medicare Part B premium was updated in Ohio Benefits over the Thanksgiving weekend. All other updates will be made on December 11, 2016. All cases that are processed will need to be reviewed for accuracy. Cases that are processed between November 23, 2016, and December 11, 2016, that fail eligibility should be rerun after December 11, 2016, to ensure the updated January 2017 standards are used in the budget.

EDBC will not be run this year. Additionally, there will not be automated journal entries, alerts, or reports. The adjusted amounts will be effective on or after January 1, 2017 when EDDB is run at renewal or to process changes.

This information is also available on the Ohio Department of Medicaid website and may be accessed at:

**Resources > Publications > ODM Guidance > Medicaid Policy > Behavioral Health Eligibility & CHIP > Medicaid Eligibility Procedure Letter (MEPL)**

<http://medicaid.ohio.gov/RESOURCES/Publications/ODMGuidance.aspx#1535541-medicaid-policy>

### **Training Statement**

For further assistance or clarification regarding the processing of specific cases, please contact ODM Eligibility Technical Assistance at [Medicaid\\_Eligibility\\_TA@Medicaid.Ohio.gov](mailto:Medicaid_Eligibility_TA@Medicaid.Ohio.gov).