



Department of Medicaid

John R. Kasich, Governor
Barbara R. Sears, Director

Medicaid Eligibility Procedure Letter No. 129

Effective Date: January 1, 2018

OAC Rules: 5160:1-2-01.9, 5160:1-3-02.1, 5160:1-3-03.5, 5160:1-3-05.13, 5160:1-5-03, 5160:1-6-03.1, 5160:1-6-04, 5160:1-6-07, 5160:1-6-07.1

To: All Medicaid Eligibility Manual Holders

From: Barbara R. Sears, Director

Subject: 2018 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
Railroad Disability 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, Railroad Disability Benefits, Veterans Administration (VA) Benefits, Medicare Part B Premium, Home Equity Value Limit, Spousal Impoverishment Standards, Medicaid Needs Standards, Special Income Level (SIL), Assisted Living Maintenance Needs Allowance (ALMNA), Special Individual 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 2% effective January 1, 2018. Additionally, State Minimum Wage will increase from \$8.15 per hour to \$8.30 per hour.

The tables in this MEPL have limits, standards, benefits, and/or payment amounts **for 2018 in bold**, along with the 2017 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		
	2017	2018
Hourly Amount	\$8.15	\$8.30

Home Equity Limit

HOME EQUITY LIMIT AMOUNTS		
	2017	2018
Maximum amount of equity an individual can have in a home	\$560,000	\$572,000

SSI

SSI PAYMENT AMOUNTS		
	2017	2018
Single individual living independently	\$735	\$750
Couple living independently	\$1,103	\$1,125

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

Medicare Premium

	2017	2017	2018	2018
Medicare Part B Premium	\$109	\$134	\$130	\$134*

* The higher Medicare premium applies to individuals not collecting Social Security benefits, individuals who will enroll in Part B for the first time in 2018, 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		
	2017	2018
Individual in own household	\$735	\$750
Couple living in own household	\$1,103	\$1,125

Medicaid Need Standard for Individual/Couple in Household of Another

MEDICAID NEED STANDARDS		
	2017	2018
Individual living in household of another	\$490	\$500
Couple living in household of another	\$736	\$750

Special Income Level

SPECIAL INCOME LEVEL		
	2017	2018
Institutionalized/HCBS waiver (300% of current SSI benefit for an Individual living in his own household)	\$2,205	\$2,250

Assisted Living Maintenance Needs Allowance

NEEDS ALLOWANCE		
	2017	2018
Individual	\$735	\$750

Special Individual Maintenance Needs Allowance

NEEDS ALLOWANCE		
	2017	2018
Special individual maintenance needs allowance used to determine HCBS waiver patient liability	\$1,434	\$1,463

Spousal Impoverishment Standards

IMPOVERISHMENT STANDARDS		
	2017	2018
Minimum community spouse resource allowance	\$24,180	\$24,720
Maximum community spouse resource allowance	\$120,900	\$123,600
Minimum monthly maintenance needs allowance (Cap)	\$3,023	\$3,090

Note: The minimum monthly maintenance needs allowance, excess shelter allowance and the family allowance will be revised effective July 1, 2018.

MBIWD Resource Eligibility Limit

MBIWD RESOURCE ELIGIBILITY LIMIT		
	2017	2018
Individual	\$11,645	\$11,901

MPAP Resource Limit

MPAP RESOURCE LIMIT		
	2017	2018
Individual	\$7,390	\$7,560
Couple	\$11,090	\$11,340

Student Child Earned Income Exclusion

STUDENT EXCLUSION		
	2017	2018
Earned income exclusion (per month)	\$1,790	\$1,820
Earned income exclusion (per year)	\$7,200	\$7,350

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 5160:1-6-07 and 5160:1-6-07.1.

Ohio Benefits

A mass change will run after adverse action in November but prior to, or on, the last day of adverse action for December, so that benefits can be impacted as of January 1, 2018. A benefit change notice of action (NOA) will be generated to any individual in an affected program block or their authorized representative. If there are no changes to the program block as a result of the mass change, a NOA will not be generated. A journal entry will be automatically entered when the mass change run was successful. If the mass change results in a discontinuance, the EDBC results will not be accepted and save, but a PTR alert will be generated to the assigned worker.

Mass change will not be run on program blocks that have:

- A status of "Denied", "Discontinued", "Ineligible", or "Pending";
- An EDBC Override as the last accepted result;

- One or more individuals with a pending eligibility status;
- Missing date of birth for any active program person;
- Missing relationship status between case persons;
- No active person in a program block for the benefit month;
- No assigned worker;
- A last EDBC source of "Conversion"; or
- Any active program person with a verification status of pending.

If a program block meets any of the above criteria, mass change will not be run and a report will be provided. The assigned worker will need to check the cases listed on this report, run EDBC, ensure that a NOA is issued, and document with a journal entry. There are certain scenarios where an alert may be generated to the assigned worker on a case that was bypassed by mass change. If an alert is received, the worker will need to review the case, run EDBC, ensure that a NOA is issued, and document with a journal entry.

An Ohio Benefits Project Website Announcement will be issued with the information contained in this MEPL.

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>