



Medicaid Eligibility Procedure Letter No. 131

Effective Date: March 1, 2018

OAC Rule: 5160:1-3-02.1

To: All Medicaid Eligibility Manual Holders

From: Barbara R. Sears, Director

Subject: Medicaid: 2018 Federal Poverty Level Income Guidelines for Low-Income Medicare Premium Assistance Programs (MPAP)

Reason for Change: On January 18, 2018, the United States Department of Health and Human Services updated the federal poverty level (FPL) income guidelines.

Per Section 1905(p)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act, any yearly COLA increase is disregarded for QMB, SLMB, QI-1, and QDWI until the annual FPL guidelines take effect.

New Policy: Federal poverty level income guidelines for the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB), Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB), Qualified Individuals-1 (QI-1), and Qualified Disabled and Working Individuals (QDWI) Medicaid programs will change effective March 1, 2018.

The FPL increase affects the following Medicaid FPL income guidelines. The FPL guidelines will be updated in Ohio Benefits. The increased amounts for 2018 are in **bold** print (below).

Program	Single	Couple
Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) 100% FPL	\$1,012 \$1005 (2017)	\$1,372 \$1,354 (2017)
Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB) 120% FPL	\$1,214 \$1,206 (2017)	\$1,646 \$1,624 (2017)
Qualified Individuals-1 (QI-1) 135% FPL	\$1,366 \$1,357 (2017)	\$1,852 \$1,827 (2017)
Qualified Disabled and Working Individuals (QDWI) 200% FPL	\$2,024 \$2,010 (2017)	\$2,744 \$2,707 (2017)

Action Required: The tables in Ohio Benefits will be updated with the 2018 FPL Income Guidelines effective March 1, 2018.

Ohio Benefits: A mass change will run after adverse action in January but prior to, or on, the last day of adverse action for February, so that benefits can be impacted as of March 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.

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; 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, review the EDBC results for appropriate determinations, 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.

Medicaid Eligibility Procedure Letter No. 124 is obsolete upon the effective date of this MEPL.

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

Resources > Publications > ODM Guidance > Medicaid Policy > Medicaid Eligibility Procedural Letter (MEPL)

<http://medicaid.ohio.gov/RESOURCES/Publications/ODMGuidance.aspx#161542-medicaid-policy>