



Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor

Maureen M. Corcoran, Director

Medicaid Eligibility Procedure Letter (MEPL) No. 154

Effective Date: January 1, 2021

Issue Date: November 25, 2020

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: Maureen M. Corcoran, Director

Subject: 2021 Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)
Personal Needs Allowance (PNA)
State Minimum Wage
Home Equity Value
Social Security Benefits
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
Railroad Retirement Benefits
Railroad Disability Benefits
Railroad Survivors Benefits
Certain Veterans Administration (VA) Benefits
Military Retirement
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, Railroad Survivors Benefits, Certain

Veterans Administration (VA) Benefits, Military Retirement, 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, Railroad Disability Benefits, Railroad Survivors Benefits, Military Retirement, and Certain Veterans Administration (VA) Benefits will increase by 1.3% effective January 1, 2021. Additionally, State Minimum Wage will increase from \$8.70 per hour to \$8.80 per hour.

The tables in this MEPL have limits, standards, benefits, and/or payment amounts **for 2021 in bold**, along with the 2020 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		
	2020	2021
Hourly Amount	\$8.70	\$8.80

Home Equity Limit

HOME EQUITY LIMIT AMOUNTS		
	2020	2021
Maximum amount of equity an individual can have in a home	\$595,000	\$603,000

SSI

SSI PAYMENT AMOUNTS		
	2020	2021
Single individual living independently	\$783	\$794
Couple living independently	\$1,175	\$1,191

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

Medicare Premium

	2020	2021*
Medicare Part B Premium	\$144.60	\$148.50

* A Medicare beneficiary whose modified adjusted gross income is greater than \$88,000 (individual) or \$176,000 (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		
	2020	2021
Individual in own household	\$783	\$794
Couple living in own household	\$1,175	\$1,191

Medicaid Need Standard for Individual/Couple in Household of Another

MEDICAID NEED STANDARDS		
	2020	2021
Individual living in household of another	\$522	\$530
Couple living in household of another	\$784	\$794

Special Income Level (SIL)

SPECIAL INCOME LEVEL		
	2020	2021
Institutionalized/HCBS waiver (300% of current SSI benefit for an Individual living in his own household)	\$2,349	\$2,382

Assisted Living Maintenance Needs Allowance (ALMNA)

NEEDS ALLOWANCE		
	2020	2021
Individual	\$783	\$794

Special Individual Maintenance Needs Allowance (SIMNA)

NEEDS ALLOWANCE		
	2020	2021
Special individual maintenance needs allowance used to determine HCBS waiver patient liability	\$1,527	\$1,549

Spousal Impoverishment Standards

IMPOVERISHMENT STANDARDS		
	2020	2021
Minimum community spouse resource allowance	\$25,728	\$26,076
Maximum community spouse resource allowance	\$128,640	\$130,380
Minimum monthly maintenance needs allowance (MMMNA) Cap	\$3,216	\$3,259.50

Note: The minimum monthly maintenance needs allowance (MMMNA), excess shelter allowance and the family allowance will be revised effective July 1, 2021.

MBIWD Resource Eligibility Limit

MBIWD RESOURCE ELIGIBILITY LIMIT		
	2020	2021
Individual	\$12,382	\$12,555

MPAP Resource Limit

MPAP RESOURCE LIMIT		
	2020	2021
Individual	\$7,860	\$7,970
Couple	\$11,800	\$11,960

Student Child Earned Income Exclusion*

STUDENT EXCLUSION		
	2020	2021
Earned income exclusion (per month)	\$1,900	\$1,930
Earned income exclusion (per year)	\$7,670	\$7,770

*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 22. 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).

A Mass Change EDBC Batch 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, 2021.

A journal entry will be automatically entered when the Mass Change EDBC Batch was successful. A Notice of Action (NOA) will be generated advising of any changes.

An alert or report will be provided for program blocks that are excluded from the Mass Change EDBC Batch. The assigned worker will need to review these cases to determine if a manual EDBC is needed depending on the fallout reason, issue a manual NOA if there is an eligibility change, and document with a journal entry.

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

RESOURCES > Publications > ODM Guidance > Medicaid Policy > Medicaid Eligibility Procedure Letter (MEPL)

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