



Mike DeWine, Governor  
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor

Maureen M. Corcoran, Director

**Medicaid Eligibility Procedure Letter (MEPL) No. 159**

**Effective Date:** October 1, 2021

**Issue Date:** August 11, 2021

**OAC Rules:** 5160:1-6-07 and 5160:1-6-07.1

**To:** All Medicaid Eligibility Manual Holders

**From:** Maureen M. Corcoran, Director

**Subject:** 2021 Standard Utility Allowance Increase

**Reason for Change:** The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Office of Family Assistance, with approval from the federal Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), is increasing the Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to \$580 effective October 1, 2021.

For Medicaid purposes, the SUA is used in the determination of the monthly income allowance (MIA) for the community spouse in long-term care (LTC) budgeting. Changes to the MIA amount may affect the patient liability for the LTC individual.

**Action Required:** A mass change will be run on all LTC cases that contain a community spouse prior to the last day of adverse action for September, making any adjustments in the patient liability amount effective October 1, 2021. A notice of action (NOA) will be generated advising of any changes. 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 following the successful mass change.

An alert or report will be provided if the LTC program block that contains a community spouse is excluded from the mass change batch. The assigned worker will need to run manual Eligibility Determination Budget Calculation (EDBC) on these cases, issue NOAs, and document with a journal entry.

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

**Resources for Providers > Policies & Guidelines > Medicaid Eligibility Procedure Letters (MEPLs)**

<https://medicaid.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/medicaid/resources-for-providers/policies-guidelines/medicaid-eligibility-procedure-letters/medicaid-eligibility-procedure-letters>