



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
**Department of Health Care Services**



DATE:

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS Letter No.: -  
ALL COUNTY WELFARE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS  
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS  
ALL COUNTY HEALTH EXECUTIVES  
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY MEDS LIAISONS

SUBJECT: 2020 FEDERAL POVERTY LEVELS

The enclosed charts provide the 2020 poverty level ceilings for Medi-Cal, Medi-Cal Access Program (MCAP), MCAP-Linked Infants, and County Children's Health Initiative Program (C-CHIP). C-CHIP is available in San Francisco, Santa Clara and San Mateo counties only. These ceilings are derived from the annual Federal Poverty Level (FPL) figures updated periodically in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In this All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL), the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is providing 2020 monthly FPL values (enclosure 1) as well as 2020 annual FPL values (enclosure 2), and Program Descriptions by FPL (enclosure 3).

Counties must review all denials and discontinuances for the following groups back to the date specified for each group and re-evaluate eligibility based on the revised FPL figures (see attached enclosures).

- For applicants and recipients of the Medicare Savings Programs (MSP), Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB), Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary and Qualified Individual who do not receive Title II Retirement Survivors and Disability Insurance (RSDI) income, counties must apply the new FPL figures retroactively to January 1, 2020.
- For MSP applicants or recipients who are receiving Title II RSDI income, the effective date for the new FPLs is March 1, 2020.
- For individuals who are eligible for the Aged, Blind and Disabled (ABD) FPL programs, the effective date of the revised FPL figures is April 1, 2020.

- For applicants and beneficiaries whose Medi-Cal is determined based upon Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) methodologies, the new FPLs are effective January 1, 2020.

When determining eligibility for retroactive coverage for months in 2019, use the FPL and related charts referenced in [ACWDL 19-06](#).

Upon request from the beneficiary, counties shall retroactively change eligibility for the following circumstances:

- Optional Targeted Low-Income Children's Program (OTLICP) eligible children
  - OTLICP children who are redetermined eligible for free, non-premium OTLICP using the 2020 FPL may be eligible for premium reimbursements. Please refer to [ACWDL 14-43](#) for guidance on OTLICP premium reimbursements for premiums paid during any months retroactively redetermined eligible for non-premium OTLICP.
- Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC) individuals
  - APTC eligible individuals who are redetermined eligible for Medi-Cal using the 2020 FPLs may be eligible for retroactive Medi-Cal. The county shall only retroactively change eligibility for APTC individuals that did not enroll in a Qualified Health Plan (QHP), did not pay a premium, or who have Medi-Cal covered medical or dental expenses that were not by their QHP during the retroactive period.
  - APTC eligible individuals, described above, may be eligible for retroactive Medi-Cal out-of-pocket expense reimbursements (Conlan). Please see Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter [\(MEDIL\) 1 07-02](#) for additional information about the Conlan process.

Note: The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has decided that there will be no reimbursement for premiums paid to Covered California QHPs. The notice sent by DHCS will state that no premium Covered California QHP premium reimbursements will be available. Please see [ACWDL 16-08](#) for more information on the CMS guidance.

- Individuals with a Share-of-Cost (SOC)

- Individuals who are redetermined eligible to zero SOC or lower SOC Medi-Cal, when using the 2020 FPLs, who had out of pocket expenses for covered medical or dental services may be eligible for retroactive Medi-Cal out-of-pocket expense reimbursements (Conlan). Please see [MEDIL I 07-02](#) for additional information about the Conlan process.

**Please note:** DHCS is coordinating implementation of the 2020 FPLs in the California Healthcare Eligibility Enrollment and Retention System (CalHEERS), DHCS anticipates the CalHEERS system will be updated with the annual 2020 FPL amounts in March of 2020.

DHCS will send a notice to the beneficiaries potentially impacted by the change to inform them of the FPL increase to allow them an opportunity to request a re-evaluation from the county.

If you have other questions on the annual FPL process, please contact Luba Villarreal at (916) 345-8158 or by email at [luba.villarreal@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:luba.villarreal@dhcs.ca.gov).

Sandra Williams, Chief  
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division

Enclosures