

CHANGE NOTICE FOR MANUAL NO. 02-15, FPL INCOME LIMIT CHANGES

DATE: APRIL 1, 2015

Manual: Aged, Blind, and Disabled Medicaid

Change No: 02-15

To: County Directors of Social Services

Effective: April 1, 2015

I. CONTENT OF CHANGE

This change notice issues the new Federal Poverty Level (FPL) income limits and provides implementation instructions for pending applications, new applications and ongoing cases.

II. EFFECTIVE DATE OF NEW INCOME LIMITS

A. Income limits for MAABD-N, MQB-Q, MQB-B, MQB-E, MWD and HCWD are revised effective April 1, 2015 to reflect the increase in the FPL.

B. The income limits were updated in NCFAST effective April 1, 2015.

C. Use the new income limits to determine eligibility beginning April 1, 2015. Use the 2014 income limits to determine eligibility for months prior to April 1, 2015.

D. The exclusion of the RSDI Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) for MAABD-N, MQB-Q, MQB-B, MQB-E, MWD and HCWD ends with the implementation of the new FPL income limits. Effective April 1, 2015, begin counting the full RSDI amount, including the 2015 COLA. Continue to disregard the COLA for January, February and March 2015.

E. The various income charts found on the DMA website have also been updated with the new income limits.

III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATIONS

A. MAABD-PLA Applications Pending on April 1, 2015.

To determine eligibility for the months prior to April 2015, use the income limits and countable income in effect for those months.

For months April 2015 and later, use the income limits effective April 1, 2015 and the countable income effective for those months.

1. If the budget unit's countable income is within the MAABD-N limit for months in the certification period prior to April 2015 and for months April 2015 and later, approve the application effective the first month of eligibility through the end of the certification period. Enter the April 1, 2015, income limits and countable income.
2. If the budget unit's countable income exceeded the MAABD-N limit for months in the certification period prior to April 2015, but is within the MAABD-N income limit effective April 1, 2015 and the budget unit is otherwise eligible:

- (a) Recalculate the medically needy deductible for the number of months in the certification period prior to April 1, 2015.

When the deductible is met, authorize the case as medically needy from the date the deductible is met through March 31, 2015.

- (b) Authorize the case effective April 1, 2015 with an N classification.

The certification period will be 12 months beginning with the month of application.

NOTE: For MAABD-N, if resources exceed the MAABD resource limit at the first moment of the month, the applicant is ineligible for MAABD-N for the entire month. The case must be evaluated as medically needy. Refer to MA-2230, Financial Resources.

3. If the budget unit's countable income exceeded the MAABD-N limit for months in the certification period prior to April 2015, and exceeds the increased MAABD-N limit effective April 1, 2015, evaluate the case for medically needy.
 - (a) Use the April 1, 2015 income limits for any months in the certification period that includes April 1, 2015 or later, regardless of the begin date.
 - (b) If it is established that the deductible can be met or projected expenses are within \$300.00 of meeting the deductible, pend the application.
 - (c) If it is determined that the deductible cannot be met, deny the application.

B. MAABD-LTC/PACE Pending on April 1, 2015.

If countable income is above the MAABD-N income limit prior to April 1, 2015 but is within the limit effective April 1, 2015, and all other MAABD-N criteria are met, classify the case as N effective April 1, 2015.

For all months prior to April 1, 2015, classify the case as medically needy if all other factors are met.

C. MQB Applications Pending on April 1, 2015.

1. If the applicant is eligible for MQB prior to April 1, 2015 and is also eligible for MQB after April 1, 2015 with a different classification code, approve the application effective April 1, 2015 with the new classification code, provided all other eligibility factors are met.
 - (a) Enter the income limit effective April 1, 2015.
 - (b) The certification from date must equal the first day of the month of application.
 - (c) Authorize months prior to April 1, 2015. This may mean that an MQB-E case is now MQB-B or an MQB-B case is now MQB-E.

2. If the applicant is eligible for MQB prior to April 1, 2015 and is eligible for MAABD effective April 1, 2015:
 - (a) Approve the MQB as open/shut for the months prior to April 1, 2015.

Complete a manual DMA-5004, Buy-In Clerical Action, for the open/shut case.
 - (b) Enter a new administrative MAABD application and approve as MAABD effective April 1, 2015.
 - (1) Enter the income limit effective April 1, 2015.
 - (2) The certification from date must equal the first day of the month of application.

Authorization for Q classification always begins the month following the month of disposition.

3. If the applicant's countable income prior to April 1, 2015 exceeds the income limit for MQB-Q, B, E but falls within the income limit effective April 1, 2015, approve the application with the appropriate classification code and a Medicaid effective date of April 1, 2015.

The certification from date must equal the first day of the month of application.

D. Applications Dated April 1, 2015 or Later

1. Apply the new income limits to establish eligibility for the ongoing certification period.
2. Use the old income limits to establish eligibility for the retro months prior to April 1, 2015.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR ONGOING MAABD AND MQB CASES

For April 1, 2015 or later, countable monthly income must be compared to the new income limits.

V. INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE MANUAL

- A. Remove: MA-2180 Health Coverage for Workers With Disabilities-pages 4, 10-12, 14-15.
Insert: [MA-2180](#) Health Coverage for Workers With Disabilities-pages 4, 10-12, 14-15.**
- B. Remove: MA-2260, FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY REGULATIONS,PLA pages 27-29.
Insert: MA-2260, FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY REGULATION, PLA, pages 27-29.**
- C. Remove: MA-2311, LIS Processing and Case Maintenance, pages 10.
Insert: MA-2311, LIS Processing and Case Maintenance, pages 10.**
- D. Remove: DMA-5179, MAABD Eligibility Overview Chart.
Insert: DMA-5179, MAABD Eligibility Overview Chart, revised 04/01/2015.**

If you have any questions, please contact the Operational Support Team at;
ost.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov.

Robin Gary Cummings, M.D.
Deputy Secretary for Health Services
Director, Division of Medical Assistance

(This material was researched and written by Eva D. Fulcher, Policy Consultant, Medicaid Eligibility Unit.)