

**CHANGE NOTICE FOR MANUAL NO. 02-22,
2021 FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL CHANGES (FPL), COST OF
LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA) DISREGARD AND LOW
INCOME SUBSIDY (LIS) INCOME LIMITS**

DATE: FEBRUARY 3, 2022

Manual: Aged, Blind, and Disabled Medicaid

Change No: 02-22

To: County Directors of Social Services

I. BACKGROUND AND CONTENT OF CHANGE

Federal law requires poverty levels to be adjusted annually on the basis of the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This letter issues the 2022 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) income limit effective April 1, 2022.

When the COLA increase is greater than the Federal Poverty Level, some Medicaid beneficiaries may lose eligibility or move to deductible status. In this situation, the most recent COLA must be disregarded in determining continued eligibility. If the individual remains eligible when the Social Security Administration (SSA) COLA is disregarded, the disregard continues until the beneficiary loses Medicaid eligibility or becomes eligible without the disregard.

II. POLICY UPDATE

A. MA-2252, Non-MAGI Medicaid Income/Reserve Limits, has been updated with 2022 amounts.

B. 2022 Federal Poverty Income/Reserve Limits are programmed in NC FAST. The system will use appropriate income/reserve limits for all applications and recertifications, including retroactive application months.

C. COLA Disregard

1. Refer to policy MA-2250.IX.A.3. for additional instructions.
2. COLA disregard is programmed in NC FAST. The system will apply the disregard.

D. MA-2311.IV., LIS Income Limit Table 1 is updated.

E. DHB-5179, MAABD Eligibility Overview Chart is updated.

III. EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION

The 2022 FPL income limit increase is effective April 1, 2022.

If you have any questions regarding information in this change notice, please contact your [Medicaid Operational Support Team Representative](#).

DocuSigned by:

Dave Richard

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Dave Richard

Deputy Secretary, NC Medicaid