

# CHANGE NOTICE FOR MANUAL NO. 02-14, FPL INCOME LIMIT CHANGES

**DATE: MARCH 31, 2014**

**Manual:** Family and Children's Medicaid  
**Change No:** 02-14  
**To:** County Directors of Social Services  
**Effective:** April 1, 2014

## **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 THE NEW INCOME LIMITS**

- A. Income limits for MPW, MIC, NCHC and Transitional Medicaid are revised effective April 1, 2014, to reflect the increase in the federal poverty level.**
- B. The income limits were updated in EIS effective February 27, 2014. You may enter the new income limits in EIS on or after February 28, 2014.**
- C. Use the new income limits to determine eligibility beginning April 1, 2014. Use the 2013 income limits to determine eligibility for months prior to April 2014.**
- D. The exclusion of the RSDI Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) for MAF ends with the implementation of the new FPL income limits. Effective April 1, 2014, begin counting the full RSDI amount, including the 2014 COLA. Continue to disregard the COLA for January, February and March 2014.**
- 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. MPW Applications Pending On or Taken On or After April 1, 2014.**

Determine eligibility for months prior to April 2014 using the income limits in effect prior to April 1, 2014.

1. If income does not exceed the income limits and all other eligibility requirements are met, approve the application.

Authorize from the first month of eligibility through the end of the post-partum period. Refer to MA-3310, MPW Budgeting.

2. If ineligible for months prior to April 2014 due to excess income, determine eligibility effective April 1, 2014 using the new income limits.

- (a) If eligible using the new income limits and all other eligibility factors are met, approve the application and authorize effective April 1, 2014.

Authorize through the end of the 60 day post-partum period. Refer to MA-3310, MPW Budgeting.

- (b) Evaluate months prior to April 2014 for all other Medicaid aid program/categories.

- (c) If ineligible effective April 1, 2014 using the new income limits, evaluate for medically needy coverage.

#### **B. MIC and NCHC (MIC-J, K, S, or A) Applications Pending on April 1, 2014.**

1. Prior to evaluating for NCHC, always evaluate eligibility for all other aid/program category (including MAF-M).
2. When a child is potentially eligible for MAF-M and NCHC, authorize for MAF-M if medical expenses to meet the deductible have been incurred as of the date of application.
3. Determine eligibility for months prior to April 2014 using the income limits in effect prior to April 1, 2014.

- (a) If eligible prior to April 2014, approve the application using the income limits in effect prior to April 1, 2014, provided all other eligibility requirements are met.

The 12-month certification/authorization begins with the first month of eligibility.

- (b) If ineligible using the income limits in effect prior to April 1, 2014, determine eligibility beginning April 2014 using the income limit that is effective April 1, 2014.

- (1) If eligible, authorize the case effective April 1, 2014 through the end of the 12-month period.

- (a) The certification period is April 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015. Refer to MA-3425, Certification and Authorization.
- (b) Enter the new income limits in EIS if the Medicaid effective date is April 1, 2014 or later.
- (c) For the months prior to April 1, 2014, evaluate the case for medically needy coverage.

(2) If ineligible evaluate the case for MAF-M.

### **C. MIC and NCHC (MIC-J, K, S, or A) Applications Taken On or After April 1, 2014.**

#### 1. Retroactive Eligibility

For the months in the retroactive period prior to April 1, 2014 use the income limits in effect prior to April 1, 2014 when determining retroactive eligibility for MIC.

There is no retroactive coverage for NCHC.

#### 2. Ongoing eligibility

Use the income limits that are effective April 1, 2014 when determining ongoing eligibility for MIC and NCHC.

#### 3. If eligible for MIC/NCHC, authorize beginning the first month of eligibility through the end of the 12-month period. Refer to MA-3425, Certification and Authorization.

### **D. MAF Applications Pending On or Taken On or After April 1, 2014.**

#### 1. For MAF applications, evaluate eligibility effective April 1, 2014 using the new income limits.

(a) For individuals ages 0 through 18, evaluate for MIC and/or NCHC.

- (1) If eligible, authorize the case effective April 1, through the end of the 12-month period, provided all other eligibility factors are met.
- (2) The certification period would be April 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015. Refer to MA-3425, Certification and Authorization.

(b) For pregnant women, evaluate for MPW.

- (1) If eligible, authorize the case effective April 1, provided all other eligibility factors are met.

- (2) Certify the case through the end of the 60-day post-partum period. See MA-3240, Pregnant Woman Coverage.
  - (3) For the months prior to April 1, 2014, continue to process the MAF application using the income limits in effect prior to April 1, 2014.
- (c) For women age 19 through 55 and men age 19 through 60, evaluate for FPW.
- (1) If eligible, authorize the case effective April 1, through the end of the 12-month period, provided all other eligibility factors are met.
  - (2) The 12-month certification period begins with the month of application. Refer to MA-3425, Certification and Authorization.
  - (3) For the months prior to April 1, 2014, continue to process the MAF application using the income limits in effect prior to April 1, 2014.

#### **IV. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR ONGOING CASES**

##### **A. MAF Cases**

1. Apply these changes at the next re-enrollment. If the case is ineligible for MAF or has a deductible, evaluate for eligibility under any other aid/program category.
2. Remember to consider continuous eligibility for children ages 0 through 18.

##### **B. MIC**

1. Apply these changes at the next re-enrollment. If the Medicaid effective date is prior to April 1, 2014, use the income limits in effect prior to April 1, 2014.
2. Refer to MA-3305, MAF, MIC, HSF Budgeting, for instructions regarding changes that affect MIC.

##### **C. NCHC**

1. Apply these changes at the next re-enrollment. If the NCHC effective date is prior to April 1, 2014, use the income limits in effect prior to April 1, 2014.
2. Refer to MA-3255, NC Health Choice, for instructions regarding changes that affect NCHC.

#### **V. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR TRANSITIONAL MEDICAID**

Use the new 185% poverty limit for Transitional Medicaid for months beginning April 1, 2014.

## **VI. MAINTENANCE OF THE MANUAL**

- A. Remove; MA-3255, NC Health Choice, pages 1-53.  
Insert: [MA-3255](#), NC Health Choice, pages 1-51.**
- B. Remove: MA-3305, MAF, MIC, HSF Budgeting, pages 27-30.  
Insert: [MA-3305](#), MAF, MIC, HSF Budgeting, pages 27-32.**
- C. Remove: MA-3310, MPW Budgeting, pages 1-4.  
Insert: [MA-3310](#), MPW Budgeting, pages 1-4.**

If you have any questions, please contact a Medicaid Program Representative.

Sandra Terrell, MS, RN  
Acting Director

(This material was researched and written by Vanessa Broadhurst, Policy Consultant, Medicaid Eligibility Unit.)