



JENNIFER KENT  
*Director*

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



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
*Governor*

September 14, 2017

To: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS Letter No: 17-33  
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS  
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS  
ALL COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Income Limits and Income Disregards for the Blind Federal Poverty Level Program for 2017 - Beginning April 1, 2017

The income limit for the Blind Federal Poverty Level Program (FPL-B) changes annually based on Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 14005.40 (c)(1). The statute requires that the Aged and Disabled Federal Poverty Level program and FPL-B effective income standard be the greater of the Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Program (SSI/SSP) payment levels, or 100 percent of the applicable FPL plus the standard income disregard or deduction for an individual (\$230) or a couple (\$310). The May 1, 2009, SSI/SSP payment rate used by Medi-Cal remains in effect until the current payment rate is increased to a level that exceeds the May 1, 2009, payment rate.

Beginning April 1, 2017, income limits for the FPL-B are as follows:

The income limit for a FPL-B individual will be \$1,235. This income limit is equal to \$1005 (100 percent of the FPL for an individual) plus the \$230 standard income disregard for an individual, which is a higher payment rate than the May 1, 2009, SSI/SSP blind individual payment rate of \$935.

The income limit for FPL-B couples will remain the same as the May 1, 2009, SSI/SSP rate for blind couples because it is higher than 100 percent FPL for two, plus the \$310 income disregard for couples. The FPL-B couple income standard has two different limits; one limit for a couple where both individuals are blind, and a separate limit for a couple where one individual is blind and the other individual is either aged or disabled.

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Continue to use the following income limits for couples where at least one of them meets the FPL-B guidelines:

- Both individuals that make up the couple are blind; \$1,751
- One individual that makes up the couple is blind, the other individual is aged or disabled; \$1,666

Please review all cases containing a blind individual back to April 1, 2017, and reevaluate eligibility based on the revised income limits.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Bonnie Tran at (916) 552-9675 or by email at [Bonnie.Tran@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Bonnie.Tran@dhcs.ca.gov).

**Original Signed By**

Sandra Williams, Chief  
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division