

DATE: December 23, 2025

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS Letter No : 25-29
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: 2026 SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME/STATE SUPPLEMENTARY
PAYMENT CASH GRANT LEVELS FOR DETERMINING PICKLE
ELIGIBILITY AND OTHER RELATED INFORMATION

Purpose:

The purpose of this All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) is to provide the Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/State Supplementary Payment (SSP) Cash Grant Levels for 2026, along with the In-Kind Support and Maintenance Values (ISM) for computing Pickle eligibility, the 2026 resource limit for Medi-Cal and Pickle cases, and the 2025 Pickle Disregard Computation chart.

This letter provides the counties with the following enclosures:

- Enclosure 1: The Effective Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/State Supplementary Payment (SSP) Cash Grant Levels for Determining Pickle Eligibility from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026.
- Enclosure 2: The 2026 In-Kind Support and Maintenance Values for Computing Pickle Eligibility.
- Enclosure 3: The 2025 Pickle Disregard Computation Chart (2025 Pickle Multipliers).

SSI/SSP Payment Levels

The SSI/SSP payment levels, effective January 1, 2026, are included in Enclosure 1. In the past, in some cases, the corresponding rate was the May 1, 2009 rate. However, all rates have now exceeded the May 2009 rate. Enclosure 1 replaces page 16-a in the Pickle Manual. Use the January 1, 2026 rates when determining eligibility for Disabled Adult Child, Disabled Widow/Widower, 250 Percent Working Disabled, and the Aged, Blind, and Disabled Federal Poverty Level programs.

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2026 Federal Benefits Rate

Individual: \$994
Couple: \$1,491

Standard/Parent Allocation Amounts

The SSI standard and parent allocation amounts are based on the federal benefit rate (FBR), which is in turn, based on the annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). The Social Security COLA is 2.8 percent for 2026; the standard allocation amount is \$497, which is calculated by subtracting the FBR for an eligible individual from the FBR for an eligible couple.

Where there is earned income, unearned income, or a combination of income, the 2026 parent allocation amounts are:

- \$994 where there is one ineligible parent who lives with the child.
- \$1,491 where both ineligible parents live with a child.

The link below provides more information on the SSI FBR:

<https://www.ssa.gov/oact/cola/SSI.html>

2025 Pickle Disregard Computation Chart

Effective January 1, 2026, use the enclosed chart (Enclosure 3) when computing a Title II disregard amount for Pickle eligibles and applicants. The COLA disregard relates to individuals who were terminated from SSI/SSP in December 2025, and thus, the chart is titled with the year 2025. The chart is titled with the year 2025 because the COLA disregard relates to individuals who were terminated from SSI/SSP in 2025.

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Below is an example of how to determine the Pickle disregard for an applicant/Med-Cal member:

2026 gross Title II benefit amount:	\$1,800.00
2025 disregard multiplier:	<u>x 0.0272</u>
Raw Disregard Amount:	\$ 48.96
Disregard rounded down to the nearest whole dollar:	\$ 48.00

2026 gross Title II benefit amount:	\$1,800.00
Subtract disregard:	<u>-\$ 48.00</u>
Total:	\$1,752

Total countable Title II income:	\$1,752
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If you have any questions regarding the information provided in this letter, please contact the Non-MAGI unit at NonMAGIInbox@dhcs.ca.gov. County questions regarding policy guidance should be sent to MCED-Policy@dhcs.ca.gov.

Original Signed By

Theresa Hasbrouck
Branch Chief
Policy Development Branch
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division

Enclosures