DATE: May 29, 2025

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS   Letter No.: 25-11
             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: 2025/2026 FAMILY MEMBERS BASE ALLOCATION AMOUNT
             (Reference: ACWDL 24-07)

The purpose of this All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) is to provide counties with the updated family member base allocation (FMBA) amount per Section 1924(d) of the Social Security Act. The FMBA amount is used to determine the amount of income the institutionalized spouse, or the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) spouse may allocate to family members. MEDIL I 24-16 provides further guidance for the Spousal Impoverishment (SI) rules and the minimum Monthly Maintenance Needs Allowance (MMMNA).

Effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, the FMBA amount for a family member living with the spouse of an institutionalized spouse or the HCBS spouse is increased to $2644.

Note: The FMBA amount for fiscal year 2024-2025 was $2555.

Implementation Timeline

The Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS) shall make programming changes for the 2025/2026 FMBA amount during the next available SAWS release. Until the updated programming changes take place, County Eligibility Workers (CEWs) will need to manually evaluate each case and determine if the share of cost needs to be adjusted based on the updated 2025/2026 FMBA. If a CEW is currently working on the case and wants to apply the updated value effective July 1, 2025, a manual budget may be completed and the Eligibility Determination and Benefits Calculation (EDBC) overridden as appropriate.

If you have any questions regarding the information provided in this letter, please contact NonMAGIInbox@dhcs.ca.gov. County questions regarding policy guidance should be sent to MCED-Policy@dhcs.ca.gov.

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State of California
Gavin Newsom, Governor

California Health and Human Services Agency

Sincerely,

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