



Michelle Baass | Director

DATE: February 9, 2026

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS Letter No.: 26-03  
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 STATEWIDE AVERAGE PRIVATE PAY RATE FOR NURSING FACILITY SERVICES

References: ACWDLs [90-01](#), [21-31](#), [22-25](#), [23-28](#), [25-14](#) and [25-18](#)

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) is to provide counties with the 2026 Statewide Average Private Pay Rate (APPR) for nursing facility services (NFS) of \$14,440.

### **Background**

Effective January 1, 2026, property limits will be reinstated for all Non-MAGI programs, except Pickle, Disabled Adult Child (DAC), and Disabled Widow/er (DW) programs. Beginning on this date, all property will be considered in the eligibility determination. The property limits for affected Non-MAGI Medi-Cal programs are \$130,000 for one person and \$65,000 for each additional person, as specified in ACWDL [25-14](#).

Transfers of exempt property, by their nature, are not made to establish eligibility for Medi-Cal; therefore, pursuant to section [50411](#) of ACWDL [90-01](#), no period of ineligibility for NFS can be imposed. ACWDL [25-18](#) provides guidance on asset transfers.

## **Guidance**

In accordance with ACWDL [90-01](#) and the provisions outlined in Sections [50408](#) and [50411](#) of Title 22, California Code of Regulations, counties are required to use the 2026 statewide APPR when evaluating disqualifying transfers of non-exempt property made for less than fair market value by institutionalized individuals.

The 2026 APPR shall only be applied under the following conditions:

- The application date or date of institutionalization occurs on or after January 1, 2026; and
- The disqualifying transfer occurred within the look-back period applicable to the case.

Counties shall not apply the 2026 APPR to cases with an application or institutionalization date prior to January 1, 2026. Furthermore, no period of ineligibility shall be calculated for any disqualifying transfers made between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2025, regardless of the application or institutionalization date.

Prior to imposing a period of ineligibility, counties must also evaluate whether an undue hardship exists, as required under Section [50096](#) of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations.

If you have any questions regarding the information provided in this letter, please contact the Non-MAGI unit at [NonMAGIInbox@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:NonMAGIInbox@dhcs.ca.gov). County questions regarding policy guidance should be sent to [MCED-Policy@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:MCED-Policy@dhcs.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

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