



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



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

October 21, 2020

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS Letter No.: 20 -19
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: 2021 Supplemental Security Income /State Supplementary Payment Cash Grant Levels for Determining Pickle Eligibility and Other Related Information

The purpose of this letter is to provide the Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/State Supplementary Payment (SSP) Cash Grant Levels for 2021 along with the In-Kind Support and Maintenance (ISM) values for computing Pickle eligibility, the 2021 resource limit for Medi-Cal and Pickle cases, and the 2020 Pickle Disregard Computation chart.

This letter provides the counties with the following enclosures:

- Enclosure 1: The Effective Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment Cash Grant Levels for Determining Pickle Eligibility from January 1,- December 31, 2021.
- Enclosure 2: The 2021 In-Kind Support and Maintenance Values for Computing Pickle Eligibility.
- Enclosure 3: The 2021 Resource Limit for Both Medi-Cal and Pickle Cases.
- Enclosure 4: The 2020 Pickle Disregard Computation Chart (2020 Pickle Multipliers).

SSI/SSP Payment Levels

The SSI/SSP payment levels effective January 1, 2021, are included in Enclosure 1. In some cases, the corresponding rate is the May 1, 2009 rate. Enclosure 1 replaces page 16-a in the Pickle Manual. Use the January 1, 2021 rates when determining eligibility for Disabled Adult Child, Disabled Window/Widower, 250 Percent Working Disabled, and the Aged and Disabled Federal Poverty Level programs.

2021 Resource Limits

The resource limit for Medi-Cal only and Pickle eligibility will remain the same (\$2,000 for one person and \$3,000 for two persons). Enclosure 3 replaces page 15-12 in the Pickle Manual.

2021 Federal Benefits Rate

Individual: \$794.00
Couple: \$1,191.00

Standard/Parent Allocation Amounts

The SSI standard and parent allocation amounts are based on the federal benefit rate (FBR), which is based on the annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). In 2021, there was a Social Security COLA of 1.3 percent for 2021; the standard allocation amount is \$397, which is calculated by subtracting the FBR for an eligible individual from the FBR for an eligible couple.

The 2021 parent allocation amounts when there is earned income, unearned income, or a combination of income are:

- If one ineligible parent lives with a child, the parent allocation is \$794 (for an individual)
- If both ineligible parents live with a child, the parent allocation is \$1,191 (for a couple)

The link below provides more information on the SSI FBR:

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

2020 Pickle Disregard Computation Chart

All County Welfare Directors Letter No.: 20-19
Page 3
October 21, 2020

Effective January 1, 2021, use the enclosed chart (Enclosure 4) 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 2020. The chart is titled with the year 2020 because the COLA disregard relates to individuals who were terminated from SSI/SSP in 2020.

Below is an example of how to determine the Pickle disregard for an applicant/beneficiary:

2021 gross Title II benefit amount:	\$1,497.50
2020 disregard multiplier:	<u>x 0.0128</u>
Raw Disregard Amount:	\$19.16
Disregard rounded down to the nearest whole dollar:	\$19.00
2021 gross Title II benefit amount:	\$1,497.50
Subtract disregard:	<u>-\$19.00</u>
Total:	\$1,478.50
Total countable Title II income:	\$1,478.50

If you have any questions, or if we can provide further information, please contact Janis Kimball, by phone at (916) 345-8060 or by email at Janis.Kimball@dhcs.ca.gov.

Original Signed By

Linda Nguyen, Branch Chief
Policy Development Branch
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division

SSI/SSP**PAYMENT STANDARDS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2021**

(Rates used may be May 1, 2009 rates)

INDIVIDUAL

	Independent Living Arrangement	Reduced Needs	Non-Medical Out-of-Home Care (NMOHC)	
AGED or DISABLED	Residing in Own Household	Household of Another With In-Kind Room & Board	Household of Relative With In-Kind Room & Board	Licensed Facility or Household of Relative Without In-Kind Room & Board
SSI	\$794.00	\$529.34	\$529.34	\$794.00
SSP	\$160.72	\$164.24	\$418.23	\$423.37
Total	\$954.72	\$693.58	\$947.57	\$1,217.37

	Independent Living Arrangement	Reduced Needs	Non-Medical Out-of-Home Care (NMOHC)	
AGED or DISABLED without cooking facilities (RMA) ¹	Residing in Own Household	Household of Another With In-Kind Room & Board	Household of Relative With In-Kind Room & Board	Licensed Facility or Household of Relative Without In-Kind Room & Board
SSI	\$794.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
SSP	\$247.04	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	\$1,041.04	N/A	N/A	N/A

INDIVIDUAL (cont'd)

	Independent Living Arrangement	Reduced Needs	Non-Medical Out-of-Home Care (NMOHC)	
BLIND	Residing in Own Household	Household of Another With In-Kind Room & Board	Household of Relative With In-Kind Room & Board	Licensed Facility or Household of Relative Without In-Kind Room & Board
SSI	\$794.00	\$529.34	\$529.34	\$794.00
SSP	\$217.23	\$220.76	\$418.23	\$423.37
Total	\$1,011.23	\$750.10	\$947.57	\$1,217.37

	Independent Living Arrangement	Reduced Needs	Non-Medical Out-of-Home Care (NMOHC)	
DISABLED MINOR	Residing in Own Household	Household of Another With In-Kind Room & Board	Household of Relative With In-Kind Room & Board	Licensed Facility or Household of Relative Without In-Kind Room & Board
SSI	\$794.00	\$529.34	\$529.34	\$794.00
SSP	\$65.15	\$68.67	\$418.23	\$423.37
Total	\$859.15	\$598.01	\$947.57	\$1,217.37

COUPLE

	Independent Living Arrangement	Reduced Needs	Non-Medical Out-of-Home Care (NMOHC)	
AGED or DISABLED (Per Couple)	Residing in Own Household	Household of Another With In-Kind Room & Board	Household of Relative With In-Kind Room & Board	Licensed Facility or Household of Relative Without In-Kind Room & Board
SSI	\$1,191.00	N/A	\$794.00	\$1,191.00
SSP	\$407.14	N/A	\$1,074.52	\$1,243.74
Total	\$1,598.14	\$1,233.30*	\$1,868.52	\$2,434.74

	Independent Living Arrangement	Reduced Needs	Non-Medical Out-of-Home Care (NMOHC)	
AGED or DISABLED Without Cooking Facilities (RMA)	Residing in Own Household	Household of Another With In-Kind Room & Board	Household of Relative With In-Kind Room & Board	Licensed Facility or Household of Relative Without In-Kind Room & Board
SSI	\$1,191.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
SSP	\$579.77	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	\$1,770.77	N/A	N/A	N/A

COUPLE (cont'd)

	Independent Living Arrangement	Reduced Needs	Non-Medical Out-of-Home Care (NMOHC)	
BLIND (Per Couple)	Residing in Own Household	Household of Another With In-Kind Room & Board	Household of Relative With In-Kind Room & Board	Licensed Facility or Household of Relative Without In-Kind Room & Board
SSI	N/A	N/A	\$794.00	\$1,191.00
SSP	N/A	N/A	\$1,074.52	\$1,243.74
Total	\$1,751.00*	\$1,460.00*	\$1,868.52	\$2,434.74

	Independent Living Arrangement	Reduced Needs	Non-Medical Out-of-Home Care (NMOHC)	
BLIND/AGED or DISABLED (Per Couple)	Residing in Own Household	Household of Another With In-Kind Room & Board	Household of Relative With In-Kind Room & Board	Licensed Facility or Household of Relative Without In-Kind Room & Board
SSI	\$1,191.00	N/A	\$794.00	\$1,191.00
SSP	\$500.65	N/A	\$1,074.52	\$1,243.74
Total	\$1,691.65	\$1,374.00*	\$1,868.52	\$2,434.74

NON-MEDICAL OUT-OF-HOME CARE COSTS

Room and Board	Care and Supervision	Personal and Incidental Needs	Title XIX Medical Facility
\$525.37	Minimum \$447.00	Minimum \$138.00	Individual \$51.00
N/A	Maximum \$554.00	Maximum \$245.00	Couple \$102.00

FEDERAL BENEFIT RATE (FBR)

Aged, Blind, Disabled	FBR
INDIVIDUAL	\$794.00
COUPLE	\$1,191.00

¹ Restaurant Meals Allowance – RMA amounts are included in the total

* Denotes May 1, 2009 rate used

PICKLE HANDBOOK

2021 ISM VALUES FOR COMPUTING PICKLE ELIGIBILITY

<http://policy.ssa.gov/poms.nsf/lnx/0500835901>

	<u>Individual</u>	<u>Couple</u>
VTR (not rebuttable)*	\$264.66	\$397.00
PMV (rebuttable)**	\$284.66	\$417.00

The VTR is the payment level to use in situations 1, 2, and 3 below. The PMV is the unearned income amount to add in other situations. The following chart provides the method to use for determining Pickle eligibility for individuals and couples in various living arrangements.

<u>HOUSEHOLD SITUATION</u> (LIVING ARRANGEMENT)	<u>PRINCIPLE</u>
1. Living in household of another throughout a month and receiving both food and shelter from someone in the household.	Reduce the applicable payment level by one-third the Federal Benefit Rate (FBR). Use the VTR.
2. Living in household of another who is providing both food and shelter and also receiving ISM from a third party.	Reduce the FBR payment level by one-third (VTR). Exclude third party ISM.
3. Living with a responsible relative (deemor) who lives in the household of another and the householder is not a responsible relative but is supplying both food and shelter.	Add VTR from the householder to deemed income from the responsible relative and add to other unearned income.
4. Living in own household (ownership or rental liability) and receiving ISM from someone outside the household.	Add PMV to other unearned income.
5. Living in non-institutional care* situation or group home and receiving ISM from someone outside the household.	Add PMV to other unearned income.
6. Living with a responsible relative (deemor) who lives in the household of another and the householder is not a responsible relative but is supplying food or shelter.	Add PMV from the householder to deemed income from the responsible relative and add to other unearned income.

<p>7. Living in household of another and sharing partial or total household expenses.</p>	<p>If pro rata share is contributed, we use the SSI/SSP payment level for a person in an “independent living arrangement.” If pro rata share is not contributed, add PMV.</p>
<p>8. One member of an eligible couple lives in the household of another and receives both food and shelter from the householder while the second member lives in his/her home or a non-medical institution.</p>	<p>One-sixth of the FBR for a couple for the person living in the household of another. (VTR—not rebuttable).</p> <p>One-sixth of the FBR for a couple for the person living in his/her own household (VTR—not rebuttable).</p>
<p>9. If the non-institutionalized spouse lives in any other situation.</p>	<p>One-sixth of the FBR for a couple plus \$10.</p>
<p>10. Paying less than Current Market Rental Value (CMRV) for shelter (See page 1-2).</p>	<p>Add PMV unless criteria for earned/unearned income is met (see ISM).</p>

- * VTR – Value of One-Third Reduction
- ** PMV – Presumed Maximum Value

PICKLE HANDBOOK

RESOURCE ELIGIBILITY

2021 Resource Limit
\$2,000—Individual
\$3,000—Couple

Pickle persons must be within the resource limit at 12:01 a.m. on the **FIRST DAY OF THE MONTH** for which eligibility is being determined. If a person is not eligible on the first, he/she is not eligible for the **ENTIRE MONTH**.

Using information from the Single Streamlined Application (SSApp), SAWS 2 Plus, MC 604 IPS, or MC 210B, complete the Pickle Resource Worksheet (DHS 7037) to determine resource eligibility. Instructions for completion of the DHS 7037 are attached to the form.

Refer to the following for determining resource eligibility.

- Resource Charts
- Life estate and remainder interest tables.

Clarification**1. Possible Pickle Person Living With a Spouse**

If both members of the couple are eligible, apply the resource limit for two persons and consider the resources of **BOTH** spouses (whether owned separately or jointly).

2. Possible Pickle Child

Allow the parents all of the resource exclusions for which they would be eligible if they were the applicants. Consider only the resources of the parent and his/her spouse. This includes, but is not limited to home, household goods, personal effects, automobile, etc. After the exclusions are applied, the remaining countable resources are deemed to the possible Pickle child. Where there is more than one possible Pickle child, the resources are deemed among those children:

Example

There are two possible Pickle children and \$500 in parental resources must be deemed to them. Deem \$250 to each child.

3. If applicant is ineligible as a possible Pickle person due to excess resources:

(Continued next page.)

**2020
Pickle Multipliers**

Date of Last SSI	Cost of Living Amount	Multiplier
1/20 through 12/20	1.013	0.0128
1/19 through 12/19	1.016	0.0284
1/18 through 12/18	1.028	0.0548
1/17 through 12/17	1.020	0.0734
1/16 through 12/16	1.003	0.0761
1/15 through 12/15	1.000	0.0761
1/14 through 12/14	1.017	0.0916
1/13 through 12/13	1.015	0.1050
1/12 through 12/12	1.017	0.1200
1/11 through 12/11	1.036	0.1506
1/10 through 12/10	1.000	0.1506
1/09 through 12/09	1.000	0.1506
1/08 through 12/08	1.058	0.1971
1/07 through 12/07	1.023	0.2152
1/06 through 12/06	1.033	0.2402
1/05 through 12/05	1.041	0.2702
1/04 through 12/04	1.027	0.2894
1/03 through 12/03	1.021	0.3040
1/02 through 12/02	1.014	0.3136
1/01 through 12/01	1.026	0.3310
1/00 through 12/00	1.035	0.3536
1/99 through 12/99	1.024	0.3688
1/98 through 12/98	1.013	0.3769
1/97 through 12/97	1.021	0.3897
1/96 through 12/96	1.029	0.4069
1/95 through 12/95	1.026	0.4219
1/94 through 12/94	1.028	0.4376
1/93 through 12/93	1.026	0.4519
1/92 through 12/92	1.030	0.4679
1/91 through 12/91	1.037	0.4868
1/90 through 12/90	1.054	0.5131
1/89 through 12/89	1.047	0.5350
1/88 through 12/88	1.040	0.5529

**2020
Pickle Multipliers**

Date of Last SSI	Cost of Living Amount	Multiplier
1/87 through 12/87	1.042	0.5709
1/86 through 12/86	1.013	0.5764
1/85 through 12/85	1.031	0.5891
1/84 through 12/84	1.035	0.6030
7/82 through 12/83	1.035	0.6165
7/81 through 06/82	1.074	0.6429
7/80 through 06/81	1.112	0.6789
7/79 through 06/80	1.143	0.7190
7/78 through 06/79	1.099	0.7443
7/77 through 06/78	1.065	0.7599
4/77 through 6/77	1.059	0.7733