



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



GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

April 6, 2021

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS Letter No.: 21-06  
ALL COUNTY WELFARE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS  
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS  
ALL COUNTY MEDS LIAISONS

SUBJECT: New Limits for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled Federal Poverty Level  
Program for 2021 – Beginning April 1, 2021  
(Reference: ACWDL [21-01](#))

The purpose of this All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) is to provide updated income limits for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled Federal Poverty Level (ABD FPL) program that are effective April 1, 2021.

The ABD FPL effective income limit shall be the greater of:

- The [Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment \(SSI/SSP\)](#)<sup>1</sup> rate, or
- 138 percent of the applicable FPL.

The income limit for an ABD FPL individual will be \$1,482. This income limit is equal to 138 percent of the FPL for an individual.

The income limit for an ABD FPL couple, including when one or both individuals are blind, will be \$2,004. This income limit is equal to 138 percent of the FPL for two adults.

The FPLs have surpassed the May 1, 2009 SSI/SSP rates for couples with one or two blind individuals, therefore, the FPL for two adults will be used for couples, unless the FPLs drop below the SSI/SSP payment rates, as the greater of the two rates are to be used to determine the ABD FPL income limit for these individuals.

As a reminder, due to the changes made to the ABD FPL program effective December 1, 2020, the new income limit for the program is at or below 138 percent of the FPL. The

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<sup>1</sup> ACWDL No. 20-19, 2021 Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment Cash Grant Levels for Determining Pickle Eligibility and Other Related Information

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standard income deductions of \$230 per individual and \$310 per couple, are no longer applicable for this program. All other applicable deductions remain. Please see ACWDL [20-24](#) for complete information on the ABD FPL program expansion. Additionally, the Medicare Part B premium disregard is now applied to individuals in this program who are eligible for Medicare Part B. Additional information regarding the Medicare Part B premium disregard may be found in ACWDL [20-18](#).

Counties shall reevaluate eligibility based on the revised income limits for all cases and applications containing ABD individuals back to April 1, 2021 that were unable to have eligibility reevaluated through the Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS) batch runs.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Daniela Gutierrez at (916) 345-8501 or by email at [Daniela.Gutierrez@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Daniela.Gutierrez@dhcs.ca.gov).

**Original Signed By**

Theresa Hasbrouck, Acting Chief  
Policy Development Branch  
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