



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



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

March 14, 2012

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS Letter No.: 12-11
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: LIMITS AND DISREGARDS FOR THE BLIND FEDERAL POVERTY
LEVEL PROGRAM FOR 2011 - BEGINNING APRIL 1, 2012

Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 14005.40 (1) requires that the Aged & Disabled Federal Poverty Level (A&D FPL) and the Blind Poverty Level (FPL-B) program's effective income standard be the greater of the Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) rates, or 100 Percent FPL plus the standard deduction for an individual (\$230) or a couple (\$310).

Beginning April 1, 2012, income limits for the FPL-B are as follows:

The income limit for a Blind FPL individual will be \$1161. This income limit is equal to \$931 (100 percent of the FPL) and the \$230 standard disregard for an individual, which is a higher payment rate than the May 1, 2009, SSI/SSP blind individual payment rate of \$935. The May 1, 2009, SSI/SSP payment rate used by Medi-Cal programs remains in effect until the current payment rate is increased to a level that exceeds the May 1, 2009, payment rate.

The May 1, 2009, SSI/SSP rate for blind couples is higher than 100 percent FPL for two, plus the \$310 disregard for couples. Therefore, blind couples will use the higher SSI/SSP payment standard. The Blind FPL couple income standard has two different limits, one limit for a couple where both individuals are blind, and a separate limit for a couple where one individual is blind and the other individual is either aged or disabled.

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These two income standards are reflected in the May 1, 2009, SSI/SSP payment rate schedule as indicated below.

- Both individuals of a couple are blind \$1751
- One individual of a couple is blind, the other individual is aged or disabled \$1666

If you have questions regarding our response, please call Harold Higgins at (916) 327-0412 or by e-mail at harold.higgins@dhcs.ca.gov.

Original signed by Robert Sugawara

Robert Sugawara, Acting Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division