



April 30, 2026

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS Letter No.: 26-09
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: 2026/2027 FAMILY MEMBERS BASE ALLOCATION AMOUNT (Reference: ACWDL [25-11](#))

Purpose

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 guidelines on applying Spousal Impoverishment (SI) rules and the minimum Monthly Maintenance Needs Allowance (MMMNA) when determining Medi-Cal eligibility using SI screening tools.

Effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, the FMBA amount for a family member living with the spouse of an institutionalized spouse or the HCBS spouse is increased to \$2,705.

Note: The FMBA amount for fiscal year 2025-2026 was \$2,644.

Implementation Timeline

The Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS) must implement programming changes for the 2026/2027 FMBA amount in the next available SAWS release. Until these programming changes are made, County Eligibility Workers (CEWs) must manually evaluate each case and determine if the share of cost needs adjustment based on the updated 2026/2027 FMBA. If a CEW is currently working on the case and wants to apply

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the updated value effective July 1, 2026, they may complete a manual budget and override the Eligibility Determination and Benefits Calculation (EDBC) as necessary.

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

Sincerely,

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