



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



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

July 15, 2015

To: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS Letter No: 15-24
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS
ALL COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Limits and Disregards for the Blind Federal Poverty Level Program for 2015 -
Beginning April 1, 2015

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

Beginning April 1, 2015, income limits for the FPL-B are as follows:

The income limit for a FPL-B individual will be \$1,211. This income limit is equal to \$981, which is 100 percent of the FPL plus 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 FPL-B 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.

All County Welfare Directors Letter No.: 15-24
Page 2
July 15, 2015

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

- Both individuals that make up the couple are blind; \$1,751
- One individual that makes up the couple is blind, the other individual is aged or disabled; \$1,666

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Tammy Kaylor at (916) 327-0406 or by email at Tammy.Kaylor@dhcs.ca.gov.

Original Signed By

Alice Mak, Acting Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division