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TO: **Income Maintenance Supervisors  
Income Maintenance Lead Workers  
Income Maintenance Workers  
Training Staff  
Child Care Coordinators  
W-2 Agencies  
Workforce Development Boards  
Job Center Leads and Managers**

FROM: Amy Mendel-Clemens  
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Bureau of Enrollment Management  
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BEM/DWS OPERATIONS MEMO					
No:	08-06				
DATE:	02/01/08				
FS	<input type="checkbox"/>	MA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	CC	<input type="checkbox"/>	W-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
FSET	<input type="checkbox"/>	EA	<input type="checkbox"/>	CF	<input type="checkbox"/>
JAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	JC	<input type="checkbox"/>	RAP	<input type="checkbox"/>
WIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	EP	<input type="checkbox"/>	★
PRIORITY: HIGH					

SUBJECT: **2008 Federal Poverty Level Changes**

**CROSS REFERENCE:** MEH Chapter 39, BC Plus 50.1

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** See specific dates below.

### **PURPOSE**

This memo provides local agencies with the 2008 Income Guidelines for the BadgerCare Plus (BC+) and Medicaid (MA) Programs. Below, are the updated tables, effective dates and cross references for these programs.

### **BACKGROUND**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has published its annual update of the Poverty Income Guidelines (a.k.a., Federal Poverty Level, or FPL) in the Federal Register. These FPL guidelines are available at the following website: <http://aspe.dhhs.gov/poverty/index.shtml>. Income limits and other amounts used in eligibility determinations for BadgerCare Plus and categories of Medicaid (MA) are based on the FPL. The increase in the Federal FPL will result in changes to the MA and BadgerCare Plus income limits as specified in this Operations Memo.

## **POLICY**

Income limits and other amounts based on the FPL will be effective on the dates provided below. The changes are in the new Medicaid Eligibility Handbook (MEH) and BadgerCare Plus Eligibility Handbook releases. When ongoing cases are updated in CARES with the new income limits, the first affected benefit month will be March 2008. As you become aware of cases that could have benefited from the higher limits in February, re-determine eligibility with the 2008 FPL limits listed below.

### **CARES**

CARES eligibility re-determinations will occur as part of the annual FPL mass change on the weekend of February 2, 2008 affecting the March benefit month. CARES tables TMEP, TBCS, TFPL, TMST and TBPI were updated February 1, 2008, immediately affecting eligibility for February forward. TBPI is a new table for BadgerCare Plus. Any applications run on or after February 1, 2008 and any ongoing cases run with February dates will have eligibility determined using the 2008 FPL limits.

### **BADGERCARE PLUS**

Individuals denied BC+ eligibility for February due to excess income must have their eligibility redetermined using the new FPL limits. A list of these cases will be sent to the local agencies for processing.

### **MEDICARE BUY-INS, MEDICAID PURCHASE PLAN (MAPP) & COLA DISREGARD**

#### ***Ongoing Cases***

For Medicare Buy-In categories and MAPP the new income limits based on the 2008 FPL guidelines are effective on January 1, 2008. However, DHHS publishes the new FPL income guidelines after January 1. To prevent cases from closing before the higher FPL limits are published by DHHS and updated in CARES, the COLA increases that appear with the January checks are disregarded.

In December 2007, the CARES COLA mass change stored the COLA increase on the (CWW) Unearned Income page as "CURRENT DISREGARD" field. For Medicare Buy-in and MAPP cases run between January 1, 2008 and January 31, 2008, CARES automatically subtracted the COLA increase from the member's income before comparing it to the eligibility income limits. In addition, CARES subtracted the "CURRENT DISREGARD" from the member's income before comparing it to the income limits for MAPP premiums.

Because the FPL limits were updated February 1, 2008 CARES will not subtract the COLA increase from total income when determining eligibility for eligibility determinations run in CARES for February 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008.

#### ***New Applications***

New applications processed between January 1, 2008 and January 31, 2008, for Medicare Buy-In categories and MAPP should have had the 2008 COLA amount entered in the "Current Disregard" on AFUI. If entered, CARES subtracted the "Current Disregard" from income when determining eligibility for benefits and MAPP premium. For applications processed between January 1, 2008 and January 31, 2008 that did not have the "CURRENT DISREGARD"

manually entered on AFUI and were denied for excess income, re-determine eligibility with the new 2008 FPL limits upon the member's request.

**SPOUSAL IMPOVERISHMENT AND COMMUNITY SPOUSE INCOME ALLOWANCE AND SPOUSAL IMPOVERISHMENT FAMILY MEMBER INCOME ALLOWANCE.**

Changes to the Spousal Impoverishment Community Spouse Income Allowance minimum allocation, Shelter Base Amount, and Spousal Impoverishment Family Member Income Allowance will be effective July 1, 2008. A separate Operations Memo will be issued in May 2008 with these changed amounts. This memo will also describe the mass change which will affect July benefits.

**NEW INCOME LIMITS**

The following tables show the new income limits for specific MA categories and BC+.

**QUALIFIED MEDICARE BENEFICIARY (QMB)**

Effective: 01/01/2008  
Cross Reference: MEH (Chapter 39.5)

Group Size	OLD Limit (100%)	NEW Limit (100%)
1	\$850.83	<b>\$866.67</b>
2	\$1,140.83	<b>\$1,166.67</b>

**QUALIFIED DISABLED & WORKING INDIVIDUAL (QDWI)**

Effective: 01/01/2008  
Cross Reference: MEH (Chapter 39.5)

Group Size	OLD Limit (200%)	NEW Limit (200%)
1	\$1,701.67	<b>\$1,733.33</b>
2	\$2,281.67	<b>\$2,333.33</b>

**SPECIFIED LOW-INCOME MEDICARE BENEFICIARY (SLMB)**

Effective: 01/01/2008  
Cross Reference: MEH (Chapter 39.5)

Group Size	OLD Limit (120%)	NEW Limit (120%)
1	\$1,021.00	<b>\$1,040.00</b>
2	\$1,369.00	<b>\$1,400.00</b>

**SPECIFIED LOW-INCOME MEDICARE BENEFICIARY PLUS (SLMB +)**

Effective: 01/01/2008  
Cross Reference: MEH (Chapter 39.5)

Group Size	OLD Limit (135%)	NEW Limit (135%)
1	\$1,148.63	<b>\$1,170.00</b>
2	\$1,540.13	<b>\$1,575.00</b>

**MAPP**

Effective: 01/01/2008  
 Cross Reference: MEH (Chapter 39.5)

Income limits for MAPP are based on 250% of the FPL for applicants and members. Individuals above 150% of FPL may need to pay a premium in order to participate in the MAPP program.

Group Size	OLD Limit (250%)	NEW Limit (250%)	OLD MAPP Cutoff Premium Payment (150%)	NEW MAPP Cutoff Premium Payment (150%)
1	\$2,127.08	<b>\$2,166.67</b>	\$1,276.25	<b>\$1,300.00</b>
2	\$2,852.08	<b>\$2,916.67</b>	\$1,711.25	<b>\$1,750.00</b>
3	\$3,577.08	<b>\$3,666.67</b>	\$2,146.25	<b>\$2,200.00</b>
4	\$4,302.08	<b>\$4,416.67</b>	\$2,581.25	<b>\$2,650.00</b>
5	\$5,027.08	<b>\$5,166.67</b>	\$3,016.25	<b>\$3,100.00</b>
6	\$5,752.08	<b>\$5,916.67</b>	\$3,451.25	<b>\$3,550.00</b>
7	\$6,477.08	<b>\$6,666.67</b>	\$3,886.25	<b>\$4,000.00</b>
8	\$7,202.08	<b>\$7,416.67</b>	\$4,321.25	<b>\$4,450.00</b>
9	\$7,927.08	<b>\$8,166.67</b>	\$4,756.25	<b>\$4,900.00</b>
10	\$8,652.08	<b>\$8,916.67</b>	\$5,191.25	<b>\$5,350.00</b>
For each additional person	+ \$725.00	<b>+ \$750.00</b>	+ \$435.00	<b>+ \$ 450.00</b>

**FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES (FPS) AND FPS PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY (PE)**

Effective: 02/01/2008  
 Cross Reference: BC+ (Chapter 51.1)

Group Size	NEW Limit FPW/FPW PE (200%)	Group Size	NEW Limit FPW/FPW PE (200%)
1	<b>\$1,733.33</b>	6	<b>\$4,733.33</b>
2	<b>\$2,333.33</b>	7	<b>\$5,333.33</b>
3	<b>\$2,933.33</b>	8	<b>\$5,933.33</b>
4	<b>\$3,533.33</b>	9	<b>\$6,533.33</b>
5	<b>\$4,133.33</b>	10	<b>\$7,133.33</b>
		each person over 10	<b>\$600.00</b>

**BADGERCARE PLUS**

Effective: 02/01/2008  
 Cross Reference: BC+ (Chapter 51.1)

Group Size	100%	150%	200%	300%
1	\$866.67	\$1,300.00	\$1,733.33	\$2,600.00
2	\$1,166.67	\$1,750.00	\$2,333.33	\$3,500.00
3	\$1,466.67	\$2,200.00	\$2,933.33	\$4,400.00
4	\$1,766.67	\$2,650.00	\$3,533.33	\$5,300.00
5	\$2,066.67	\$3,100.00	\$4,133.33	\$6,200.00
6	\$2,366.67	\$3,550.00	\$4,733.33	\$7,100.00
7	\$2,666.67	\$4,000.00	\$5,333.33	\$8,000.00
8	\$2,966.67	\$4,450.00	\$5,933.33	\$8,900.00
Each additional person add:	\$300.00	\$450.00	\$600.00	\$900.00

**SENIORCARE**

Effective: 02/01/2008  
 Cross Reference: MEH (Chapter 39.11)

**Level 1 at or below 160% of FPL**

Group Size	OLD at or below 160%	NEW at or below 160%
1	\$16,336 or lower	\$16,640 or lower
2	\$21,904 or lower	\$22,400 or lower

**Level 2a above 160% and at or below 200% FPL**

Group Size	OLD above 160% - and at or below 200% of FPL	NEW above 160% - and at or below 200% of FPL
1	\$16,337 to \$20,420	\$16,641 to \$20,800
2	\$21,905 to \$27,380	\$22,401 to \$28,000

**Level 2b Income above 200% -and at or below 240% of FPL**

<b>Group Size</b>	<b>OLD</b> above 200% - and at or below 240% of FPL	<b>NEW</b> above 200% - and at or below 240% of FPL
<b>1</b>	\$20,421 to \$24,504	<b>\$20,801 to \$24,960</b>
<b>2</b>	\$27,381 to \$32,856	<b>\$28,001 to \$33,600</b>

**Level 3 Annual income is above 240% of the FPL**

<b>Group Size</b>	<b>OLD</b> above 240% of the FPL	<b>New</b> above 240% of the FPL
<b>1</b>	\$24,505 or greater	<b>\$ 24,961 or greater</b>
<b>2</b>	\$32,857 or greater	<b>\$ 33,601 or greater</b>

**CONTACTS**

BEM CARES Information & Problem Resolution Center

★Program Categories – FS – Food Stamps, MA – Medicaid, SC – Senior Care, CTS – Caretaker Supplement, CC – Child Care, W-2 – Wisconsin Works, FSET – Food Stamp Employment and Training, CF – Children First, EA – Emergency Assistance, JAL – Job Access Loan, JC - Job Center Programs, RAP – Refugee Assistance Program, WtW – Welfare to Work, WIA – Workforce Investment Act, Other EP – Other Employment Programs.