



Date: January 29, 2021

DMS Operations Memo 21-02

To: Income Maintenance Supervisors  
Income Maintenance Lead Workers  
Income Maintenance Staff

**Affected Programs:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BadgerCare Plus | <input type="checkbox"/> Caretaker Supplement              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FoodShare                  | <input type="checkbox"/> FoodShare Employment and Training |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medicaid        |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SeniorCare      |  |

From: Jonelle Brom, Director  
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Department of Health Services

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Division of Medicaid Services  
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**2021 Federal Poverty Level Changes for ForwardHealth Programs**

**CROSS REFERENCE**

- BadgerCare Plus Eligibility Handbook, [Section 48.1 BadgerCare Plus Premium Tables](#) and [Section 50.1 Federal Poverty Level Table](#)
- Medicaid Eligibility Handbook, [Section 39.5 Federal Poverty Level Table](#), and [Section 39.11 SeniorCare Income Limits and Participation Levels](#)

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

Refer to the specific effective dates listed with the individual tables below.

**PURPOSE**

This operations memo provides income maintenance (IM) agencies with information about how to implement the 2021 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) income guidelines for the BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid and SeniorCare programs as well as the updated tables, effective dates, and cross references for these programs.

## **BACKGROUND**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services published its annual update of the Poverty Income Guidelines, also called the Federal Poverty Level Guidelines, on January 15, 2021. These guidelines are available at the following website: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>.

Income limits and other amounts used in eligibility determinations for BadgerCare Plus, certain categories of Medicaid, and SeniorCare are based on the FPL. The increase in the FPL will result in changes to the BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid, and SeniorCare income limits as specified in this memo. However, the increase in the FPL will not result in changes to BadgerCare Plus premium amounts, other than increasing the five-percent premium caps for children.

This year's increase in FPL will not change the five-percent copay limit for BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid for the Elderly Blind or Disabled (EBD Medicaid), and SSI Medicaid members.

## **POLICY**

Income limits and other amounts based on the FPL will be effective on the date provided with each individual table. The BadgerCare Plus Eligibility Handbook and Medicaid Eligibility Handbook will be updated in future handbook releases to reflect these changes.

The annual FPL mass change will automatically redetermine eligibility using the new FPL income guidelines. The mass change will occur during the weekend of February 6, 2021. The eligibility redetermination will affect the March 2021 benefit month. Any cases that could not be automatically updated during the mass change will generate a worker alert.

The new FPL income guidelines will be used for applications or person adds when eligibility is determined in CARES on or after February 1, 2021. For ongoing cases, the new FPL limits will also be used when eligibility is determined retroactively for the months of February and March of 2021.

When ongoing cases are updated in CARES with the new income limits, the earliest affected benefit month will be March 2021. Workers who become aware of cases that could have benefited from the higher limits in February or March should redetermine eligibility with the 2021 FPL limits listed in the tables below.

## ***BADGERCARE PLUS AND PREMIUMS***

The updated BadgerCare Plus income limits (based on the 2021 FPL guidelines) are effective on February 1, 2021. Some BadgerCare Plus cases failing eligibility for February 2021 will become eligible due to the increase in the income limits. DHS will send IM agencies reports listing the cases who need to have their eligibility run online and new benefits confirmed.

Premiums are currently suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of the updated income limits, when premiums resume, a portion of the BadgerCare Plus families who previously paid premiums for children will no longer owe premiums or will owe lower premiums.

The 2021 five percent premium caps for BadgerCare Plus children premiums for newly eligible individuals will be effective February 1, 2021. Again, premiums are currently suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic, but when premiums resume, the 2021 five percent premium caps will be in effect.

Some BadgerCare Plus childless adults with income over 50% of the FPL are subject to a monthly premium, but this premium is suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic. When premiums resume, the new FPL income guidelines will be used to calculate this 50% threshold.

***MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAMS, MEDICAID PURCHASE PLAN, AND MEDICALLY NEEDY INCOME LIMIT***

For Medicare Savings Programs categories and Medicaid Purchase Plan (MAPP), the new income limits based on the 2021 FPL guidelines are effective February 1, 2021. The medically needy income limit for Supplemental Security Income (SSI)-Related Medicaid is also effective February 1, 2021.

A few Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries may become eligible as Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMB) due to the increase in the income limits. DHS will send IM agencies a report listing the people who need to have their eligibility run online and new benefits confirmed.

A few Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary Plus (SLMB+) members may become eligible as Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries due to the increase in the income limits. Individuals who are open under the Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary assistance group will have their eligibility redetermined using the new FPLs automatically as part of the annual FPL mass change. DHS will send IM agencies a report listing these people who need to have their eligibility run online and new benefits confirmed.

A few individuals who applied in January and were denied SLMB+ benefits may become eligible as a Specified Low-Income Beneficiary due to the increased income limits. DHS will send IM agencies a report listing these people who need to have their eligibility run online and new benefits confirmed.

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***SPOUSAL IMPOVERISHMENT 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 are effective July 1, 2021. A separate operations memo will be issued in late spring 2021 with information about the changed amounts and the mass change that will affect July benefits.

***NEW INCOME LIMITS***

The following tables show the new income limits for BadgerCare Plus and specific categories of Medicaid.

***QUALIFIED MEDICARE BENEFICIARY***

- **Effective Date:** February 1, 2021
- **Cross Reference:** [Medicaid Eligibility Handbook, Section 39.5 Federal Poverty Level Table](#)

Group Size	2020 Limit (100%)	2021 Limit (100%)
1	\$1,063.33	<b>\$1,073.33</b>
2	\$1,436.67	<b>\$1,451.67</b>

***QUALIFIED DISABLED AND WORKING INDIVIDUAL***

- **Effective Date:** February 1, 2021
- **Cross Reference:** [Medicaid Eligibility Handbook, Section 39.5 Federal Poverty Level Table](#)

Group Size	2020 Limit (200%)	2021 Limit (200%)
1	\$2,126.66	<b>\$2,146.66</b>
2	\$2,873.34	<b>\$2,903.34</b>

***SPECIFIED LOW-INCOME MEDICARE BENEFICIARY***

- **Effective Date:** February 1, 2021
- **Cross Reference:** [Medicaid Eligibility Handbook, Section 39.5 Federal Poverty Level Table](#)

Group Size	2020 Limit (120%)	2021 Limit (120%)
1	\$1,276.00	<b>\$1,288.00</b>
2	\$1,724.00	<b>\$1,742.00</b>

***SPECIFIED LOW-INCOME MEDICARE BENEFICIARY PLUS***

- **Effective Date:** February 1, 2021
- **Cross Reference:** [Medicaid Eligibility Handbook, Section 39.5 Federal Poverty Level Table](#)

Group Size	2020 Limit (135%)	2021 Limit (135%)
1	\$1,435.50	<b>\$1,449.00</b>
2	\$1,939.50	<b>\$1,959.75</b>

**MEDICAID PURCHASE PLAN**

- **Effective Date:** February 1, 2021
- **Cross Reference:** [Medicaid Eligibility Handbook, Section 39.5 Federal Poverty Level Table](#)

Income limits for MAPP are based on 250 percent of the FPL for applicants and members. Individuals above 100 percent of the FPL may need to pay a premium in order to participate in the MAPP program. Premiums are currently suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic.

<b>Group Size</b>	<b>2020 Limit (250%)</b>	<b>2021 Limit (250%)</b>	<b>2020 MAPP Premium Payment Threshold (150%)</b>	<b>2021 MAPP Premium Payment Threshold (100%)</b>
1	\$2,658.33	<b>\$2,683.33</b>	\$1,595.00	<b>\$1,073.33</b>
2	\$3,591.68	<b>\$3,629.18</b>	\$2,155.01	<b>\$1,451.67</b>
3	\$4,525.00	<b>\$4,575.00</b>	\$2,715.00	<b>\$1,830.00</b>
4	\$5,458.33	<b>\$5,520.83</b>	\$3,275.00	<b>\$2,208.33</b>
5	\$6,391.68	<b>\$6,466.68</b>	\$3,835.01	<b>\$2,586.67</b>
6	\$7,325.00	<b>\$7,412.50</b>	\$4,395.00	<b>\$2,965.00</b>
7	\$8,258.33	<b>\$8,358.33</b>	\$4,955.00	<b>\$3,343.33</b>
8	\$9,191.68	<b>\$9,304.18</b>	\$5,515.01	<b>\$3,721.67</b>
9	\$10,125.00	<b>\$10,250.00</b>	\$6,075.00	<b>\$4,100.00</b>
10	\$11,058.33	<b>\$11,195.83</b>	\$6,635.00	<b>\$4,478.33</b>
For each additional person	+ \$933.33	<b>\$945.83</b>	+ \$560.00	<b>\$378.33</b>

**MEDICALLY NEEDY INCOME LIMIT FOR SSI-RELATED MEDICAID**

- **Effective Date:** February 1, 2021
- **Cross Reference:** [Medicaid Eligibility Handbook, Section 39.4.1 Elderly, Blind, or Disabled Assets and Income Table](#)

<b>Group Size</b>	<b>2020 Limit (100%)</b>	<b>2021 Limit (100%)</b>
1	\$1,063.33	<b>\$1,073.33</b>
2	\$1,436.67	<b>\$1,451.67</b>

**FAMILY PLANNING ONLY SERVICES AND FAMILY PLANNING ONLY SERVICES  
PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY**

- **Effective Date:** February 1, 2021
- **Cross Reference:** [BadgerCare Plus Eligibility Handbook, Section 50.1 Federal Poverty Level Table](#)

<b>Group Size</b>	<b>2020 Limit</b> Family Planning Only Services (FPOS) and FPOS Presumptive Eligibility (306%)	<b>2021 Limit</b> Family Planning Only Services (FPOS) and FPOS Presumptive Eligibility (306%)
1	\$3,253.79	<b>\$3,284.39</b>

**BADGERCARE PLUS INCOME LIMITS**

- **Effective Date:** February 1, 2021
- **Cross Reference:** BadgerCare Plus Eligibility Handbook, [Section 7.1 Health Insurance Conditions of Eligibility](#), [Section 16.1.2 Income Under MAGI Rules](#), [Section 19.1 BadgerCare Plus Premiums](#), and [Section 25.8.1 Backdated Eligibility](#)

<b>Group Size</b>	<b>2021 Limit</b> Adults (100%)	<b>2021 Limit</b> Children Over Age 5 (156%)	<b>2021 Limit</b> Children Ages 1 to 5 (191%)	<b>2021 Children's</b> Premium Payment Threshold (201%)	<b>2021 Limit for</b> Pregnant Women and Children (306%)
1	<b>\$1,073.33</b>	<b>\$1,674.39</b>	<b>\$2,050.06</b>	<b>\$2,157.39</b>	<b>\$3,284.39</b>
2	<b>\$1,451.67</b>	<b>\$2,264.61</b>	<b>\$2,772.69</b>	<b>\$2,917.86</b>	<b>\$4,442.11</b>
3	<b>\$1,830.00</b>	<b>\$2,854.80</b>	<b>\$3,495.30</b>	<b>\$3,678.30</b>	<b>\$5,599.80</b>
4	<b>\$2,208.33</b>	<b>\$3,444.99</b>	<b>\$4,217.91</b>	<b>\$4,438.74</b>	<b>\$6,757.49</b>
5	<b>\$2,586.67</b>	<b>\$4,035.21</b>	<b>\$4,940.54</b>	<b>\$5,199.21</b>	<b>\$7,915.21</b>
6	<b>\$2,965.00</b>	<b>\$4,625.40</b>	<b>\$5,663.15</b>	<b>\$5,959.65</b>	<b>\$9,072.90</b>
7	<b>\$3,343.33</b>	<b>\$5,215.59</b>	<b>\$6,385.76</b>	<b>\$6,720.09</b>	<b>\$10,230.59</b>
8	<b>\$3,721.67</b>	<b>\$5,805.81</b>	<b>\$7,108.39</b>	<b>\$7,480.56</b>	<b>\$11,388.31</b>
9	<b>\$4,100.00</b>	<b>\$6,396.00</b>	<b>\$7,831.00</b>	<b>\$8,241.00</b>	<b>\$12,546.00</b>
10	<b>\$4,478.33</b>	<b>\$6,986.19</b>	<b>\$8,553.61</b>	<b>\$9,001.44</b>	<b>\$13,703.69</b>
For each additional person	<b>\$378.33</b>	<b>\$590.19</b>	<b>\$722.61</b>	<b>\$760.44</b>	<b>\$1,157.69</b>

**SENIORCARE**

- **Effective Date:** February 1, 2021
- **Cross Reference:** [Medicaid Eligibility Handbook, Section 39.11 SeniorCare Income Limits and Participation Levels](#)

**Level 1 Annual Income No Greater Than 160 Percent of the Federal Poverty Level**

Group Size	2020 (160%)	2021 (160%)
1	\$20,416	<b>\$20,608</b>
2	\$27,584	<b>\$27,872</b>

**Level 2a Annual Income Above 160 Percent But No Greater Than 200 Percent of the Federal Poverty Level**

Group Size	2020 160%–200%	2021 160%–200%
1	\$20,417 to \$25,520	<b>\$20,609 to \$25,760</b>
2	\$27,585 to \$34,480	<b>\$27,873 to \$34,840</b>

**Level 2b Annual Income Above 200 Percent But No Greater Than 240 Percent of the Federal Poverty Level**

Group Size	2020 200%–240%	2021 200%–240%
1	\$25,521 to \$30,624	<b>\$25,761 to \$30,912</b>
2	\$34,481 to \$41,376	<b>\$34,841 to \$41,808</b>

**Level 3 Annual Income Above 240 Percent of the Federal Poverty Level**

Group Size	2020 > 240%	2021 > 240%
1	\$30,625 or greater	<b>\$30,913 or greater</b>
2	\$41,377 or greater	<b>\$41,809 or greater</b>

**BADGERCARE PLUS PREMIUMS****Ongoing Cases**

The increase in the premium caps for children is effective March 1, 2021; however, premiums are currently suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If a new individual is being added to the case and confirmation in CARES is not possible due to temporary rules that prevent confirmation of negative actions, a manual certification is needed for newly added individuals.

## New Applications

The increase in the premium caps for children newly eligible for BadgerCare Plus will be effective February 1, 2021, for those confirmed on or after February 1, 2021. However, premiums are currently suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Five Percent Premium Caps for Children

- **Effective Date:** February 1, 2021
- **Cross Reference:** [BadgerCare Plus Eligibility Handbook, Section 48.1.3 Five Percent Premium Caps for Children](#)

**Note:** Premiums for families with incomes below 300 percent are rounded down to the nearest dollar.

Group Size	201– 211%	211– 221%	221– 231%	231– 241%	241– 251%	251– 261%	261– 271%	271– 281%	281– 291%	291– 301%	301%– 306%
1	\$107	\$113	\$118	\$123	\$129	\$134	\$140	\$145	\$150	\$156	\$161
2	\$145	\$153	\$160	\$167	\$174	\$182	\$189	\$196	\$203	\$211	\$218
3	\$183	\$193	\$202	\$211	\$220	\$229	\$238	\$247	\$257	\$266	\$275
4	\$221	\$232	\$244	\$255	\$266	\$277	\$288	\$299	\$310	\$321	\$332
5	\$259	\$272	\$285	\$298	\$311	\$324	\$337	\$350	\$363	\$376	\$389
6	\$297	\$312	\$327	\$342	\$357	\$372	\$386	\$401	\$416	\$431	\$446
7	\$336	\$352	\$369	\$386	\$402	\$419	\$436	\$453	\$469	\$486	\$503
8	\$374	\$392	\$411	\$429	\$448	\$467	\$485	\$504	\$522	\$541	\$560
9	\$412	\$432	\$453	\$473	\$494	\$514	\$535	\$555	\$576	\$596	\$617
10	\$450	\$472	\$494	\$517	\$539	\$562	\$584	\$606	\$629	\$651	\$673
11	\$488	\$512	\$536	\$560	\$585	\$609	\$633	\$658	\$682	\$706	\$730
12	\$526	\$552	\$578	\$604	\$630	\$656	\$683	\$709	\$735	\$761	\$787
13	\$564	\$592	\$620	\$648	\$676	\$704	\$732	\$760	\$788	\$816	\$844
14	\$602	\$632	\$662	\$692	\$721	\$751	\$781	\$811	\$841	\$871	\$901



### Income Range for Which Childless Adults are Subject to Monthly Premium

- **Effective Date:** February 1, 2021
- **Cross Reference:** [BadgerCare Plus Eligibility Handbook, Section 44.2 Premiums for Childless Adults](#)

The increase in the income range for which childless adults are subject to a monthly premium is effective February 1, 2021. However, premiums are currently suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Group Size	2020 Limit (More than 50% to 100%)	2021 Limit (More than 50% to 100%)
1	> \$531.67to \$1,063.33	> <b>\$536.67to \$1,073.33</b>
2	> \$718.34 to \$1,436.67	> <b>\$725.84 to \$1,451.67</b>

### CONTACTS

BEOT CARES Information and Problem Resolution Center: [DHSCAREScallcenter@wi.gov](mailto:DHSCAREScallcenter@wi.gov)

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