STATE OF WISCONSIN
Department of Health Services
Division of Medicaid Services

201 E. Washington Ave.
PO Box 309
Madison WI 53707-0309

Telephone: 608-266-8922
Fax: 608-266-1096

Date: November 20, 2026

DMS Operations Memo 26-35

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

Affected Programs:

- ☐ BadgerCare Plus
- ☐ Caretaker Supplement
- ☐ FoodShare
- ☐ FoodShare Employment and Training
- ☒ Medicaid
- ☐ SeniorCare

From: Jonelle Brom, Bureau Director
Bureau of Eligibility Operations and Training
Division of Medicaid Services

Autumn Arnold, Bureau Director
Bureau of Eligibility and Enrollment Policy
Division of Medicaid Services

2027 Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for Medicaid

CROSS-REFERENCE

- Medicaid Eligibility Handbook, Section 39.4 Elderly, Blind, or Disabled Assets and Income Tables

EFFECTIVE DATE

January 1, 2027

PURPOSE

This memo announces the 2027 Social Security cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) and the resulting increases to some Medicaid financial eligibility standards, effective January 1, 2027.

BACKGROUND

The Social Security Administration will implement a 3.6% COLA increase to Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (commonly referred to as Social Security) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits in 2027. The COLA increase does not apply to state SSI supplement (SSP) or SSI Exceptional Expense (SSI-E) payment amounts.

The federal COLA increase will result in changes to some Medicaid financial eligibility standards, effective January 1, 2027. Medicaid eligibility redeterminations for January 2027 will occur as part of an annual mass change.

POLICY

NEW PROGRAM AMOUNTS FOR 2027

MEDICARE PART B PREMIUMS

The 2027 Medicare Part B premium will be $209.40 for most Medicare recipients. For more information, see 2027 Medicare Parts A & B Premiums and Deductibles.

SOCIAL SECURITY REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE FEES

The 2027 Social Security representative payee fee amount for members without an SSA-determined drug or alcohol abuse condition will be the lesser of 10% of the monthly SSA benefit amount or $59 per month. The fee amount for members with an SSA-determined drug or alcohol abuse condition will be the lesser of 10% of the monthly SSA benefit amount or $110 per month.

MEDICAID INCOME LIMITS

Category	Group size 1	Group size 2
SSI-Related Medicaid Categorically Needy	$1,121.16	$1,689.26
Tuberculosis-Related Medicaid	$2,215	$3,281
Institutional Medicaid Categorically Needy	$3,087	N/A
Waiver Medicaid Group B	$3,087	N/A
Katie Beckett Medicaid	$3,087	N/A

SSI-Related Medicaid Medically Needy, Medicaid Purchase Plan (MAPP), and Medicare Savings Program (MSP) income limits are based on the federal poverty level (FPL) and are updated effective February 1, after the new FPL guidelines are published.

For Social Security recipients enrolled in these programs, the COLA increase to the Social Security payment amount will be disregarded until the increased income limits are in effect (see Medicaid Eligibility Handbook, Section 15.3.35 Temporary COLA Disregard for Social Security Recipients).

MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAM (MSP) ASSET LIMITS

Program	Group size 1	Group size 2
Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB) Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary Plus (SLMB+)	$10,320	$15,470

There are no changes to Qualified Disabled and Working Individual (QDWI) asset limits. For current limits, see Medicaid Eligibility Handbook, Section 39.4.1 Elderly, Blind, or Disabled Assets and Income Table.

PARENTAL INCOME DEEMING AMOUNTS

Item	Amount
Maximum Deduction Per Ineligible Child	$515
Parental Living Allowance – 1 Parent	$1,029
Parental Living Allowance – 2 Parents	$1,544

For more information on these amounts, see Medicaid Eligibility Handbook, Section 15.1.2 Special Financial Rules for Disabled Children for SSI-Related Medicaid.

LONG-TERM CARE ALLOWANCES

Item	Amount
Institutions Home Maintenance Allowance Maximum	$1,226.75
Community Waivers Basic Needs Allowance	$1,227
Community Waivers Personal Maintenance Allowance Maximum	$3,087

For more information on these amounts, see Medicaid Eligibility Handbook, Section 15.7.1 Maintaining Home or Apartment and Section 28.6.3.1 Personal Maintenance Allowance.

LONG-TERM CARE COMMUNITY SPOUSE INCOME ALLOCATION AND ASSET SHARE MAXIMUMS

Item	Amount
Community Spouse Income Allocation Maximum	$4,218.00
Community Spouse Asset Share (CSAS) Maximum	$168,720

For more information on these amounts, see Medicaid Eligibility Handbook, Section 18.6.2 Community Spouse Income Allocation and Section 18.4.3 Calculate the Community Spouse Asset Share.

The long-term care Community Spouse Lower Income Allocation Limit, Shelter Base Amount, and Dependent Family Member Income Allowance Standard are based on the FPL and are updated effective July 1. For current amounts, see Medicaid Eligibility Handbook, Section 39.4.4 LTC Spousal Impoverishment Post-Eligibility Allowances and Community Spouse Asset Share.

LONG-TERM CARE HOME EQUITY LIMIT

Item	Amount
Long-Term Care Home Equity Limit	$780,000

For more information on these amounts, see Medicaid Eligibility Handbook, Section 16.8.1.4 Long-Term Care Home Equity Limit.

SPECIAL STATUS 503 COLA DISREGARD

Month SSI Was Last Received	Multipliers for 2027 Social Security
Jan 2026 - Dec 2026	0.034749
Jan 2025 - Dec 2026	0.061040
Jan 2024 - Dec 2024	0.083941
Jan 2023 - Dec 2023	0.112346
Jan 2022 - Dec 2022	0.183391
Jan 2021 - Dec 2021	0.228887
Jan 2020 - Dec 2020	0.238783
Jan 2019 - Dec 2019	0.250770
Jan 2018 - Dec 2018	0.271177
Jan 2017 - Dec 2017	0.285468
Jan 2016 - Dec 2016	0.287605
Jan 2015 - Dec 2015	0.287605
Jan 2014 - Dec 2014	0.299514
Jan 2013 - Dec 2013	0.309866
Jan 2012 - Dec 2012	0.321402
Jan 2011 - Dec 2011	0.344982
Jan 2010 - Dec 2010	0.344982
Jan 2009 - Dec 2009	0.344982
Jan 2008 - Dec 2008	0.380891
Jan 2007 - Dec 2007	0.394810
Jan 2006 - Dec 2006	0.414143
Jan 2005 - Dec 2005	0.437217
Jan 2004 - Dec 2004	0.452013
Jan 2003 - Dec 2003	0.463284
Jan 2002 - Dec 2002	0.470694

Month SSI Was Last Received	Multipliers for 2027 Social Security
Jan 2001 - Dec 2001	0.484108
Jan 2000 - Dec 2000	0.501553
Jan 1999 - Dec 1999	0.513236
Jan 1998 - Dec 1998	0.519482
Jan 1997 - Dec 1997	0.529366
Jan 1996 - Dec 1996	0.542629
Jan 1995 - Dec 1995	0.554220
Jan 1994 - Dec 1994	0.566362
Jan 1993 - Dec 1993	0.577350
Jan 1992 - Dec 1992	0.589661
Jan 1991 - Dec 1991	0.604301
Jan 1990 - Dec 1990	0.624574
Jan 1989 - Dec 1989	0.641427
Jan 1988 - Dec 1988	0.655219
Jan 1987 - Dec 1987	0.669116
Jan 1986 - Dec 1986	0.673362
Jan 1985 - Dec 1985	0.683183
Jan 1984 - Dec 1984	0.693897
Jul 1983 - Dec 1983	0.704248
Jul 1982 - Jun 1983	0.724626
Jul 1981 - Jun 1982	0.752361
Jul 1980 - Jun 1981	0.783343
Jul 1979 - Jun 1980	0.802860
Jul 1978 - Jun 1979	0.814892
Apr 1977 - Jun 1978	0.825205

For more information on these amounts, see Medicaid Eligibility Handbook, Section 25.3 503 Group.

CONTACTS

DHS CARES Problem Resolution Team

DHS/DMS/BEEP/EB
DHS/DMS/BEOT/JN