

Policy Clarifications-Other

PO17371850

Submitted: Agency: CAOs

Subject: Income Limits for Medical Assistance for Children in Foster Care

Question: Should MAGI income calculations and limits be used when determining eligibility for certain foster care categories? Is the system using these calculations and limits?

Response By: Division of Health Services

Date:

Yes, MAGI income calculations and limits should be used when determining eligibility for foster care categories PC/PCN 33, PC/PCN 35, and PC/PCN 37. In October 2013, new MAGI income calculations and limits were introduced as part of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) changes. The Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for qualified individuals increased, as shown below:

- Children under age 1 and pregnant women: 185% FPL to 215% FPL
- Children ages 1-5: 133% FPL to 157% FPL
- Children ages 6-18: 100% FPL to 133% FPL

See MAEH Chapter 312, Appendices B, D, and C for applicable MAGI income limits.

The increased FPLs were not updated in eCIS for the above foster care categories as they should have been during the ACA update. As a result, individuals whose income falls between the old and new FPL percentages are incorrectly being denied Medical Assistance (MA) and referred to CHIP, at which point they are not eligible because their income is under MA income limits. A system change request has been submitted to correct this issue. Until this issue is resolved in eCIS, a system override must be performed to ensure the individual is authorized in the correct foster care category.