

# Policy Clarification

## Medical Assistance – All – PMA-20842-350

## Long-Term Care – All – PMN-20842-450

Submitted: 4/13/2022

Agency: CAOs

Subject: Treatment of Cash Incentives Received from a Medicare Advantage Plan (MAP) for Medical Assistance (MA) Benefits

Question: Is a cash incentive received from a MAP considered countable income or a countable resource when determining eligibility for MA?

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Response By: Division of Health Services

Date: April 11, 2022

MAPs, also known as Medicare Part C, are health plan options approved by Medicare and run by private companies. MAPs may provide incentive-based income to encourage individuals enrolled in their plan to use medical services that can benefit them the most. Use of beneficial preventative medical services may decrease the overall cost to a MAP by maintaining the health of the individual.

Incentive-based income received from a MAP is not counted when determining eligibility for any MA Program.

Incentive-based income received from a MAP may be considered a countable resource depending on which MA program the client is applying for or receiving.

- **Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) MA:** There is no resource test for MAGI MA so income received from a MAP is not used to determine resource eligibility.
- **Supplemental Security Income-related MA (including Long-Term Care/Home and Community-Based Services):** Income received from a MAP is not considered a resource in the month received or the month after it is received. Any unspent income received from the MAP is counted as a resource two months after it has been received.

**Example:** John is receiving MA benefits in the Healthy Horizons category PH 80. He received \$45 from his CIGNA MAP on August 15. This benefit is not considered a resource in August or September. If any money remains it is considered a countable resource beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Reminder:** Resources are excluded for individuals under age 21 or for individuals whose child under 21 lives in the household, as explained in [MAEH 340.1](#).