

# Policy Clarifications – Medicaid – All PMA-18817-319

**Submitted:** 01/2018

**Agency:** CAOs

**Subject:** 2018 Federal Poverty Income Guidelines

**Question:** What are the new Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (FPIGs) for 2018 and when were they effective?

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**Response By:** Division of Health Services

**Date:** 02/01/2018

The 2018 FPIGs are effective January 13, 2018. [Attached is the new chart](#) with the updated FPIGs. Handbook updates will be issued shortly. These limits were published in the Federal Register on January 18, 2018 (FR Doc. 2018-00814).

**NOTE:** Federal Regulations require that a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) be disregarded for SSI-related MA budgets (including Long-Term Care) until the month following the month that the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (FPIGs) are published.

Example: The FPIGs are usually published in January. The disregard month for the affected budgets would be February, and the effective date for updated COLA and FPIGs would be March 1. During the disregard month, (e.g. February) the affected budgets will display the COLA increase as a Type 18 deduction. The Type 18 deduction will be removed by a batch process when the disregard month is over (e.g. March 1.)

The County Assistance Office (CAO) will complete an eligibility review in March using the updated income and FPIGs for these budgets.

The affected categories are:

- Healthy Horizons: PH 80, PH 00, and PG 00
- MAWD: PW 80, PI 80, PW 66 and PI 66
- SSI-related MNO: TA 80, TJ 80, TA 66 and TJ 66
- Buy-In budgets: TA 65, TA 67, TJ 65 and TJ 67
- All LTC Buy-In budgets with Program Status Code (PSC) 80 and PSC 66 (not PSC 00)
- All Waiver budgets with PSC 80 and PSC 66 (not PSC 00)

[Attachment](#)