



Date: February 20, 2018 **MEPD and Texas Works Bulletin 18-2**

To: Eligibility Services – Regional Directors
Program Managers
Eligibility Services Supervisors
Regional Attorneys
Hearings Officers

From: Regina Carter, Director
Policy Strategy, Analysis, and Development
State Office 2115

Subject: 1. **Mileage Rate Increase**
2. **2018 Federal Poverty Level**

This bulletin is sent to supervisors and other regional managers. Supervisors must share this information with all eligibility staff. Please ensure that copies are provided to staff that do not have access to e-mail. If you have any questions regarding the policy information in this bulletin, follow regional procedures. Active bulletins are posted on the following handbook websites:

- Medicaid for the Elderly and People with Disabilities (MEPD) Handbook:
<https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/medicaid-elderly-people-disabilities-handbook>
- Texas Works Handbook:
<https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/texas-works-handbook>

1. Mileage Rate Increase

Background

Households may claim deductions for transportation expenses related to self-employment for all Texas Works programs (TWH A-1323.4.5 Car and truck expenses) and medical costs for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (TWH A-1428.1 under the **Note**).

HHSC revises the mileage rate periodically based on the amount set by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts for state travel. The rate corresponds to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) standard mileage rate.

Policy Update

The mileage rate is increasing from 53.5 cents per mile to 54.5 cents per mile.

Automation

This change does not require automation changes to TIERS.

Effective Date

Apply the new mileage rate for all case actions completed on or after March 1, 2018.

Handbook

Texas Works Handbook updates are scheduled for April 2018.

Training

No training is required.

2. 2018 Federal Poverty Level

Background

The United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) updates the federal poverty level (FPL) annually. Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) uses the FPL to annually adjust amounts used for eligibility determinations for certain Medicaid programs and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Texas HHSC converts the FPL to a monthly income amount to be used to determine the applicable FPL for each program and the Standard Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) disregard amounts.

2018 Federal Poverty Limits

MEPD

Medicare Savings Programs (MSP)

Income Limits

- Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMB) – 100 percent FPL
 - Individual: \$1,012
 - Couple: \$1,372

The 2018 QMB deeming amount is \$360.

- Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries (SLMB) – 120 percent FPL

- Individual: \$1,214
- Couple: \$1,646

The 2018 SLMB deeming amount is \$432.

- Qualifying Individuals (QI-1) – 135 percent FPL
 - Individual: \$1,366
 - Couple: \$1,852

The 2018 QI-1 deeming amount is \$486.

- Qualified Disabled Working Individuals (QDWI) – 200 percent FPL
 - Individual: \$2,024
 - Couple: \$2,744

The QDWI deeming amount is \$720.

Resource Limits

The MSP resource limits are adjusted annually based on changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Effective January 1, 2018, the resource limits for Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMB), Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries (SLMB), and Qualifying Individuals - 1 (QI-1) changed.

The 2018 resource limits for QMB, SLMB, and QI-1 are as follows:

- Individual: \$7,560
- Couple: \$11,340

The resource limits for the Qualified Disabled and Working Individuals (QDWI) program are twice the countable resources allowed under the SSI program and will remain the same.

- Individual \$4,000
- Couple \$6,000

Medicaid Buy-in (MBI) Program

- The MBI income limit is 250 percent FPL for an individual. The 2018 amount is \$2,530.
- Use the new 2018 FPL amounts listed below when calculating MBI premium payments:

150% of FPL	\$1,518
185% of FPL	\$1,872
200% of FPL	\$2,024
250% of FPL	\$2,530

Medicaid Buy-In for Children (MBIC)

- The MBIC income limit is 150 percent FPL based on family size.
- The 2018 amounts are listed below:

Family Size	150% FPL
1	\$1,518.00
2	\$2,058.00
3	\$2,598.00
4	\$3,138.00
5	\$3,678.00
6	\$4,218.00
7	\$4,758.00
8	\$5,298.00

- The 2018 ineligible sibling exclusion amount is $(\$1,518 \times 2) + \$85 = \$3,121$.
- Use the new 2018 FPL amounts listed below when calculating MBIC premium payments:

Family Size	150% FPL	200% FPL	300% FPL
1	\$1,518.00	\$2,024.00	\$3,035.00
2	\$2,058.00	\$2,744.00	\$4,115.00
3	\$2,598.00	\$3,464.00	\$5,195.00
4	\$3,138.00	\$4,184.00	\$6,275.00
5	\$3,678.00	\$4,904.00	\$7,355.00
6	\$4,218.00	\$5,624.00	\$8,435.00
7	\$4,758.00	\$6,344.00	\$9,515.00
8	\$5,298.00	\$7,064.00	\$10,595.00

Texas Works Programs

2018 FPL Amounts by Type of Assistance (TP and TA)

Family Size	133% FPL (3-1-18) TP 44, 34, TA 76	144% FPL (3-1-18) TP 48, 33, TA 75	185% FPL (3-1-18) TP 07 and TP 37	198% FPL (3-1-18) TP 40, 42, 43, 36, 35, TA 74	200% FPL (3-1-18) TA 41	201% FPL (3-1-18) TA 84	202% FPL (3-1-18) TA 85	400% FPL (3-1-18) TA 77	413% FPL (3-1-18) TP 70
1	\$1,346	\$1,457	\$1,872	\$2,004	\$2,024	\$2,034	\$2,044	\$4,047	\$4,179
2	\$1,825	\$1,976	\$2,538	\$2,716	\$2,744	\$2,758	\$2,771	\$5,487	\$5,665
3	\$2,304	\$2,494	\$3,204	\$3,429	\$3,464	\$3,481	\$3,498	\$6,927	\$7,152
4	\$2,782	\$3,012	\$3,870	\$4,142	\$4,184	\$4,205	\$4,226	\$8,367	\$8,639
5	\$3,261	\$3,531	\$4,536	\$4,855	\$4,904	\$4,928	\$4,953	\$9,807	\$10,126
6	\$3,740	\$4,049	\$5,202	\$5,568	\$5,624	\$5,652	\$5,680	\$11,247	\$11,613
7	\$4,219	\$4,568	\$5,868	\$6,280	\$6,344	\$6,376	\$6,407	\$12,687	\$13,099
8	\$4,698	\$5,086	\$6,534	\$6,993	\$7,064	\$7,099	\$7,134	\$14,127	\$14,586
9	\$5,176	\$5,604	\$7,200	\$7,706	\$7,784	\$7,823	\$7,862	\$15,567	\$16,073
10	\$5,655	\$6,123	\$7,866	\$8,419	\$8,504	\$8,546	\$8,589	\$17,007	\$17,560
11	\$6,134	\$6,641	\$8,532	\$9,132	\$9,224	\$9,270	\$9,316	\$18,447	\$19,047
12	\$6,613	\$7,160	\$9,198	\$9,844	\$9,944	\$9,994	\$10,043	\$19,887	\$20,533
13	\$7,092	\$7,678	\$9,864	\$10,557	\$10,664	\$10,717	\$10,770	\$21,327	\$22,020
14	\$7,570	\$8,196	\$10,530	\$11,270	\$11,384	\$11,441	\$11,498	\$22,767	\$23,507
15	\$8,049	\$8,715	\$11,196	\$11,983	\$12,104	\$12,164	\$12,225	\$24,207	\$24,994
For each additional member	\$479	\$519	\$666	\$713	\$720	\$724	\$728	\$1,440	\$1,487

Standard MAGI Income Disregard

2018 Five Percentage Points of FPL	
Family Size	2018 Monthly Disregard Amount
1	\$50.60
2	\$68.60
3	\$86.60
4	\$104.60
5	\$122.60
6	\$140.60
7	\$158.60
8	\$176.60
9	\$194.60
10	\$212.60
11	\$230.60
12	\$248.60
13	\$266.60
14	\$284.60
15	\$302.60
Per each additional person	\$18.00

2018 IRS Monthly Income Thresholds

- The IRS monthly income thresholds are used to determine if an individual's income must be counted when calculating Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) financial eligibility, as explained in [A-1341](#). Income Limits and Eligibility Tests, for Medical Programs, Step 3.
- To determine whether an individual is required to file a federal income tax return, compare the specified income types to the IRS thresholds in the following table:

Type of Income	2018 Threshold	Apply Threshold Value in Form H1042, Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Worksheet: Medicaid and CHIP
Unearned Income	\$87.50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pages 5-7, Step 3, Line 6 • Pages 5-7, Step 3, Line 8
Earned Income	\$529.17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pages 5-7, Step 3, Line 7

Process Update

Processing Case Actions

When processing a case action on or after February 5, 2018, use the following chart to determine when the new FPL and IRS Monthly Income Threshold amounts will be used:

If providing coverage for...	use the...
March 2017 through February 2018	2017 income limits and threshold amounts
March 2018 through February 2019	updated, 2018 income limits and threshold amounts

If providing coverage for months in both time periods, the 2017 income limits and threshold amounts are used for months before March 2018 and the 2018 income limits and threshold amounts are used for March 2018 and later.

Processing Form H1146, Medicaid Report, for Transitional Medicaid Cases

When processing a Form H1146 for Transitional Medicaid (TP 07) EDGs, use the following chart to determine when the updated, 2018 income limits will be used:

If Form H1146 is due...	use the...
February 2018 or earlier	2017 income limits
March 2018 or later	updated, 2018 income limits

Automation

Updates to the Texas Integrated Eligibility System (TIERS) were implemented February 5, 2018.

For MEPD programs, TIERS:

- uses the 2018 FPL amounts for coverage effective March 1, 2018, and later; and
- re-budgets all active MSP and MBIC cases using the 2018 FPL amounts.

For Texas Works programs, TIERS:

- uses the 2018 FPL amounts for coverage effective March 1, 2018 and later; and
- uses the 2018 IRS Monthly Income Thresholds for coverage effective March 1, 2018 and later when calculating MAGI eligibility.

Effective Date

Changes to the FPL are for benefits effective March 1, 2018 or later.

Handbook

Texas Works Handbook updates are scheduled for April 2018.

MEPD Handbook updates are scheduled for June 2018.

Updates to Appendix XXXI, Budget Reference Chart, and Appendix L, Income/Resources Reference Chart are reflected on the LOOP.

Training

Training will be updated with the adjusted 2018 FPL amounts.