



Legal Assistance for Seniors



LOCAL HELP FOR PEOPLE WITH MEDICARE

We at Legal Assistance for Seniors & HICAP are excited to share that two important changes to Medi-Cal for older adults and people with disabilities will take place, effective December 1, 2020.

First, California is increasing its Medi-Cal income eligibility limit to 138% of the federal poverty level. This means that the income eligibility limit will increase to \$1,468 for one person and \$1,983 for a couple, and will increase each year in April. The current limit is \$1,294 for one person and \$1,747 for a couple. People who are currently receiving Medi-Cal with a share of cost may now be eligible for free Medi-Cal. The CA Dept of Health Care Services is notifying people who may be eligible.

Second, California will stop flipping Medi-Cal recipients between free and share of cost Medi-Cal based on who is paying the Medicare Part B premium. This will correct a long-standing problem which has caused significant disruptions, including disenrollment from managed care and unaffordable health care costs during the months when a recipient is on share of cost Medi-Cal. Moving forward the Part B premium will be deducted regardless of whether the recipient is currently paying it or the state is paying it as a benefit of free Medi-Cal. Once a person is eligible for Medi-Cal, the person will continue to be eligible for free Medi-Cal based on the premium deduction. More information can be found at:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/eligibility/letters/Documents/20-18.pdf?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=48d60a89-c995-429f-9784-6f587ea776fd>

It may take the counties some time to redetermine eligibility based on these rules. All changes should be retroactive to December 1, 2020 if the person is found eligible.

Produced by Legal Assistance for Seniors and the
Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program (HICAP).

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*Special thanks to Justice in Aging for providing us with a more detailed version of this update.

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