



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.

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