

Implementation Guide: Medicaid State Plan Eligibility Eligibility Groups – Mandatory Coverage Infants and Children under Age 19

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Infants and Children under Age 19

POLICY CITATIONS

Statute: 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(III), (IV), (VI) and (VII); 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(IV) and (IX);
1931(b) and (d)
Regulation: 42 CFR 435.118

BACKGROUND

Overview

This reviewable unit (RU) describes the consolidated Medicaid eligibility group for infants and children under age 19. It provides the criteria under which infants and children may be covered under this group, the income standard(s) used, and the basis for each income standard used.

Section 42 CFR 435.118 consolidates several statutory categories of infants and children under age 19, including both mandatory and optional categories for which age (under 19) and income are the primary factors of eligibility. This group is broken out into three different age ranges – infants under age one, children age one through age five, and children age six through age 18. The categories consolidated into this eligibility group are described in the following sections of the Social Security Act (the Act):

- 1931 (mandatory low-income families)
- 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(III) (qualified children)
- 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(IV), (VI) and (VII) (mandatory poverty level-related infants and children)
- 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(IX) (optional poverty level-related infants)
- 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(IV) (institutionalized children)

Income Eligibility

The state sets an income standard for eligibility under the group for infants and children under age 19 and may establish different income standards for each age range – infants under age one, children age one through age five, and children age six through age 18. The income standard(s) must be at least as high as the minimum and cannot exceed the maximum permitted for each age range. The minimum income standard for infants under age one is the higher of the federal poverty level 133% (FPL), or the Medicaid income standard (not exceeding 185% FPL) in effect in the state for infants on December 19, 1989. The minimum income standard for children age one through age 18 is 133% FPL.

The maximum income standard permitted for each age range within the group for infants and children under age 19 is based on the standard in effect prior to 2014 under either the Medicaid state plan or a Medicaid section 1115 demonstration. For infants under age one, the maximum income standard is the higher of 185% FPL or the highest effective income standard, converted to a Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI)-equivalent standard, in effect as of March 23, 2010 or December 31, 2013. For children age one to age five and children age 6 to age 18, the maximum income standard is the highest effective income standard, converted to a MAGI-equivalent standard, in effect as of March 23, 2010 or December 31, 2013. Prior to

implementation of this eligibility group on January 1, 2014, CMS worked with each state to convert their pre-2014 net income eligibility standards into MAGI-based eligibility standards. At the conclusion of this MAGI-conversion process, CMS reviewed and approved the state's determination of the maximum income standard.

To meet the Affordable Care Act's maintenance of effort requirements, which remain in effect until October 1, 2019, states must maintain an income standard for this group that is at least as high as the one in effect under their Medicaid state plans as of March 23, 2010, converted to a MAGI equivalent.

MAGI-based income methodologies are used to determine eligibility for the group for infants and children under age 19. A separate RU, **MAGI-Based Methodologies**, describes the methodologies used by the state. If the state wishes to make a change to its MAGI-based income methodologies, it must amend the **MAGI-Based Methodologies** RU.

INSTRUCTIONS

A. Characteristics

There are statements describing the characteristics of this eligibility group.

B. Financial Methodologies

There is a statement that MAGI-based methodologies are used in calculating household income for this eligibility group. A separate RU, **MAGI-Based Methodologies**, describes the MAGI-based methodologies used by the state.

If you wish to view the state's methodologies, select the *View approved version of MAGI-Based Methodologies* link.

- The **MAGI-Based Methodologies** RU will appear if there is an approved version in the MACPro system.
- If there is no approved version of the RU in MACPro, a screen will appear with the following message: "There is no approved version of this reviewable unit in MACPro available to display."
- Select the *Medicaid State Plan – Eligibility Groups - Mandatory Coverage Groups – Infants and Children under Age 19* link to return to the **Infants and Children under Age 19** RU.

C. Income Standards Used

This section is used to define the income standards used for the three age ranges of children included in this eligibility group.

- At **C.1.** enter the percentage of the FPL used as the income standard for infants under age one.
- At **C.2.** enter the percentage of the FPL used as the income standard for children age one through five.
- At **C.3.** enter the percentage of the FPL used as the income standard for children age six through eighteen.

Screen Validation: The percentages entered may not be less than 133% FPL or for infants under age one, the minimum standard entered at **D.1.**, if any.

D. Basis for the Income Standard for Infants under Age 1

1. Minimum Income Standard

In order to determine the basis for the minimum income standard for infants under age one:

- At **D.1.a.** indicate, *Yes* or *No*, that as of December 19, 1989, the state had an income standard higher than 133% FPL for determining the eligibility of infants under age one. If the state had not established such a standard by December 19, 1989, but had legislative authority in place by July 1, 1989 to establish a higher standard, the state should also select *Yes*.
 - If *Yes* is selected at **D.1.a.**, then at **D.1.b.**, enter the amount of the income standard that was used (or authorized to be established) for infants under age one.
Screen Validation: This percentage must be higher than 133% and equal to or below 185%.
 - If *No* is selected at **D.1.a.**, then a statement will be displayed at **D.1.c.** indicating that the minimum income standard for infants under age one is 133% FPL.

2. Maximum Income standard

- At **D.2.a.**, indicate that the state has submitted and received approval for its MAGI-converted income standard(s) and the determination of the maximum income standard to be used for infants under age one under this eligibility group. To do this, check the box next to the assurance.
- At **D.2.b.**, select one of the options listed (**i.** through **v.**) to indicate the basis for the maximum income standard for infants under age one. Only one choice may be selected.
 - If 185% FPL (option **D.2.b.v.**) is not selected as the maximum, enter at **D.2.c.** the percentage of the FPL that corresponds to the description of the maximum chosen.

E. Basis for the Income Standard for Children Age One through Age Five

1. Minimum Income Standard

There is a statement that the minimum income standard for children age one through age five is 133% FPL.

2. Maximum Income standard

- At **E.2.a.**, indicate that the state has submitted and received approval for its MAGI-converted income standard(s) and the determination of the maximum income standard to be used for children age one through age five under this eligibility group. To do this, check the box next to the assurance.
- At **E.2.b.**, select one of the options listed (**i.** through **iv.**) to indicate the basis for the maximum income standard for children age one through age five. Only one choice may be selected.

- At **E.2.b.**, select one of the options listed (**i.** through **v.**) to indicate the basis for the maximum income standard for children age one to age five. Only one choice may be selected.
 - If 133% FPL (option **E.2.b.v.**) is not selected as the maximum, enter at **E.2.c.** the percentage of the FPL that corresponds to the description of the maximum chosen.

F. Basis for the Income Standard for Children Age Six through Age Eighteen

1. Minimum Income Standard

There is a statement that the minimum income standard for children age six through eighteen is 133% FPL.

2. Maximum Income Standard

- At **F.2.a.**, indicate that the state has submitted and received approval for its MAGI-converted income standard(s) and the determination of the maximum income standard to be used for children age six through age eighteen under this eligibility group. To do this, check the box next to the assurance.
- At **F.2.b.**, select of the options listed (**i.** through **v.**) to indicate the basis for the maximum income standard for children ages six through age eighteen. Only one choice may be selected.
 - If 133% FPL (option **F.2.b.v.**) is not selected as the maximum, enter at **F.2.c.** the percentage of the FPL that corresponds to the description of the maximum chosen.

G. Additional Information

Except in limited circumstances, this field remains blank. Please consult with CMS before adding any additional information concerning this RU.

REVIEW CRITERIA

In section C. Income Standards Used, the amounts entered may not be higher than the amounts entered at D.2., E.2., and F.2. for the maximum income standard for each corresponding age range.

Due to maintenance of effort requirements in effect through October 1, 2019, the amounts entered in section C. Income Standards Used must equal or exceed the MAGI-converted income standard in effect as of March 23, 2010 for each age range of children.

In each section D through F (Basis for the Income Standard), the amount entered as the maximum standard must be the equivalent of the maximum income limit selected in that section.