

State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act
State: Massachusetts
Section 2 Coverage and Eligibility

Citation(s)

**1902 (e) (13) of
the Act****2.1 Application, Determination of Eligibility and Furnishing Medicaid**

- ☒ (e) Express Lane Option. The Medicaid State agency elects the option to rely on the finding from an Express Lane agency when determining whether a child satisfies one or more components of Medicaid eligibility. The Medicaid State agency agrees to meet all of the Federal statutory and regulatory requirements for this option. This authority may not apply to eligibility determinations made before February 4, 2009, or after September 30, 2013.

(1) The Express Lane Option is applied to:

- ☐ Initial determinations ☒ Redeterminations

☐ Both

(2) A child is defined as younger than age:

- ☒ 19 ☐ 20 ☐ 21

(3) The following public agencies are approved by the Medicaid State agency as Express Lane agencies:

The Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance in the administration of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

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- (4) The following component/components of Medicaid eligibility are determined under the Express Lane option. Also, specify any differences in budget unit, deeming, income exclusions, income disregards, or other methodology between Medicaid eligibility determinations for such children and the determination under the Express lane option.

The MassHealth agency will identify children eligible for both Medicaid and SNAP through a data match. The SNAP eligibility decision will verify residency and serve as a proxy for income. Medicaid benefits will be renewed based on the child's eligibility for SNAP. Parents and legal caretaker relatives who are part of the same family group as these children will be included in this process and will also have their coverage renewed if they are eligible for SNAP, pursuant to Section 1115 Demonstration authority.

This process will be used for renewals only. All members eligible for this process have completed an initial application and have been approved for both Medicaid and for SNAP eligibility.

The MassHealth agency reviews eligibility at least every 12 months. Eligibility may be reviewed as a result of a members reported changes in circumstances; by external matching with other agencies; and when matching is not available, through a written update of the member's circumstances on a prescribed form.

SNAP households have a certification period that does not exceed 12 months except that the certification period may be up to 24 months if all adult household members are elderly or disabled. If this is the case, the Department of Transitional Assistance must still have at least one contact with the household every 12 months. Recertification requires that the household submit a new application, be interviewed, and provide requested verification in accordance with timeliness standards.

The following summarizes differences in methodology between Medicaid and SNAP:

Budget Unit:

For Medicaid- a family, including children and their legal parents or children and their legal caretaker relatives, who live together.

For SNAP- a group of individuals living together who purchase food and prepare meals together.

Gross Income Limit:

For Medicaid- 150% of the federal poverty level (FPL) for all children, except infants. Infants are eligible up to 200% FPL but will be included in the Express Lane process only to 150% FPL.

For SNAP- 200% FPL for households with children. If income is above this level and the household contains an elderly or disabled member, the net income must not exceed 100% FPL.

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Income Disregards:For Medicaid-

- Gross income is used in determining eligibility.

For SNAP-

- Income disregards are used to determine benefit level, not eligibility, for all SNAP households included in this process except for those with an elderly or disabled member and gross household income above 200% FPL.
- For households with an elderly or disabled member and gross income above 200% FPL, a 100% net income threshold must be met by using the following disregards:
 - Standard disregard determined according to household size;
 - Earned income deduction equal to 20% of gross monthly earned income;
 - Excess medical deduction for unreimbursed medical expenses in excess of \$35 a month for households with elderly or disabled members;
 - Amount of actual dependent care expenses;
 - Legally obligated child support payments;
 - Homeless shelter/utility deduction of \$143 per month;
 - Shelter expenses and utility costs in excess of 50% of the households income after all other deductions are allowed.

Income Exclusions:For Medicaid-

- Income received by a TAFDC, EAEDC, or SSI recipient;
- Sheltered workshop earnings;
- The portion of federal veterans' benefits identified as aid and attendance benefits, unreimbursed medical expenses, housebound benefits, enhanced benefits, or veterans' benefits that are based on need and provided by municipalities to resident veterans;
- Income-in-kind;
- Roomer and boarder income derived from persons residing in the applicant's or member's principal place of residence;
- Any other income that is excluded by federal laws other than the Social Security Act; and
- Income received by independent foster care adolescents.

For SNAP-

- In-kind income and cash contributions;
- Vendor payments (money payment not payable directly to the household);
- Infrequent irregular incomes not in excess of \$30 per recipient per quarter;

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- Educational loans, grants, and scholarships;
- Other loans including loans from private individuals and commercial institutions;
- Reimbursements for past or future expenses that do not exceed actual expenses and do not represent a gain or benefit to the household;
- Monies received and used for the care and maintenance of a third party beneficiary who is not a household member;
- Earnings of elementary or secondary school students;
- Nonrecurring lump sum payments;
- Cost of producing self-employment income;
- Income excluded by law;
- Income of nonhousehold members;
- Payments made to SNAP/ET participants for education and/or training-related expenses;
- Income of SSI recipients and PASS Funds;
- Legally obligated child support payments.

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(5) Check off and describe the option used to satisfy the Screen and Enroll requirement before a child may be enrolled under title XXI.

☒ (a) Screening threshold established by the Medicaid agency as:

☒ (i) percentage of the Federal poverty level which exceeds the highest Medicaid income threshold applicable to a child by a minimum of 30 percentage points: 180% FPL ; or

☐ (ii) percentage of the FPL (describes how this reflects the value of any differences between income methodologies of Medicaid and the Express Lane agency:):or

☐ (b) Temporary enrollment pending screen and enroll:

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☐ (c) State's regular screen and enroll process for CHIP.

☐ (6) Check off if the State elects the option for automatic enrollment without a Medicaid application, based on data obtained from other sources and with the child's or family's affirmative consent to the child's Medicaid enrollments.

☐ (7) Check off if the State elects the option to rely on a finding from an Express Lane agency that includes gross income or adjusted gross income shown by State income tax records or returns.