

Classic Medicaid Information

	Oldest Document	Total Cases
Spend Down Program	12/27	106
Daily Spenddown Emergent Cases	N/A	0
Alien Emergency Medical Program	12/23	62

Annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)

- On January 1, 2023, the annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) will increase the following benefits by **8.7%**:
 - Social Security benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Railroad Retirement Benefits (RRB)
 - Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits
- Categorically Needy (CN) and Medically Needy (MN) Income standards are increasing for Classic Medicaid in January 2023.
- SSA COLA income is counted for DSHS programs. The one exception: SSA COLA is not counted for MSP until April 1st of that same year.

Medicare Savings Programs

- Effective January 1, 2023, Medicare Savings Programs (MSP) will no longer have an asset/resource test.
- For applications submitted in December, the asset test will still apply for the month of December but will not apply in January.
- There will still be an asset test for general Classic Medicaid.

Max Basic Food benefit amounts

- Approved for January 2023.
- All Basic Food households except for those with a \$0 issuance.
- Since Washington's state of emergency related to the pandemic ended 10/31/2022, you may be wondering how that impacts emergency allotments. We have good news!
- CSD provided a declaration supporting continuation of benefits due to COVID-19 for our clients. USDA Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) approved this declaration, allowing us to continue to *request emergency supplements on a monthly basis*.

Social Security Number Requirements

- Starting October 1, 2022, COVID-19 rules related to social security number (SSN) requirements and automatic good cause extensions are ending.
- Most cash, food and medical programs require an SSN for applicants and recipients of assistance.
- Clients must apply for a SSN and show proof that they are following through with the application process. They must report the SSN to DSHS once they receive it.
- If clients aren't eligible for a regular work SSN, DSHS will assist with non- work SSN process.

Afghan and Ukrainian Immigrants – SSN

- The following immigration codes on I-94s indicate the immigrant is eligible for a regular, work SSN. No need to get a DSHS referral letter:
 - Afghan parolees whose unexpired Form I-94, Arrival/Departure Record contains a class of admission of “OAR”
 - Ukrainian parolees whose unexpired Form I-94 contains a class of admission of “UHP”
 - Ukrainian parolees whose unexpired Form I-94 contains a class of admission of “DT” issued between Feb. 24, 2022, and Sept. 30, 2023, and indicates Ukraine as the country of citizenship on the document

ABD/HEN Policies reverting to pre-COVID rules

- Effective Nov. 1, 2022, all COVID-19 pandemic flexibilities related to the ABD and HEN Referral programs are discontinued.
- Clients will be required to submit medical evidence at application and review.
- If a program recipient does not participate in their case plan or the SSI application process, they will receive a request to provide good cause for not participating.
- If good cause cannot be established, their benefits will be terminated.

ABAWDs

- ABAWD (Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents)
 - Washington State has a statewide waiver in place until January 31, 2023.
 - Currently clients who are considered ABAWDs do not have to meet ABAWD work requirements to continue receiving food benefits.
- It is anticipated that when the waiver expires, counties like King, Snohomish, and Pierce will become non-exempt areas.
- ABAWDs in non-exempt counties will receive notices when the waiver changes.
- Who are ABAWDs?
 - Ages 18 through 49, no minor children in the food household, no exemptions from work requirements

New EBT Card Security Features

- Block out of state transactions
- Block internet transactions
- Security Access Code (different than EBT pin)
- Set up security features on ebtEDGE website or mobile app
- EBT card skimming is on the rise. Please encourage clients to set up security features that will protect their EBT accounts. DSHS can't replace benefits that are stolen due to fraud.

Questions?

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