

TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR MANUAL RELEASES

STATE OF MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
BENEFICIARY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION OF ELIGIBILITY SERVICES
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MANUAL: Medical Assistance

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2005

RELEASE NO: MR-121

**APPLICABILITY: Pickle Eligibility
Social Security COLA and SSI Income
Standards for Determination of Net
Countable Income
Spousal Impoverishment**

ISSUED: December 2004

<u>Item</u>	<u>Remove Pages</u>	<u>Insert Pages</u>
<u>Chapter 3 Coverage Groups</u> Social Security Cost-of-Living Adjustments SSI Income Standards	Tables I and II 300-25 — 300-26	Tables I and II 300-25 — 300-26
Policy Alert 03-1 (SSI Payment Rate)	Appendix A (pp. 1-2)	Appendix A (pp. 1-2)
<u>Schedule MA-8</u> (spousal impoverishment standards)	old schedule MA-8 (after MA-7)	new schedule MA-8 (after Schedule MA-7)

COMMENTS

Manual Release MR-121 contains the revised SSI Income Standards used in determining Pickle eligibility (Chapter 3 Table II), the new SSI Payment Rate (Policy Alert 03-1, Appendix A), and the new Social Security COLAs (cost-of-living adjustments) used in the determination of net countable income (Chapter 3, Table 1). It also contains the new Spousal Impoverishment standards, effective January 1, 2005.

Table I.

Social Security Cost of Living Adjustments, 1977-2004

Date of Increase	Increase	COLA Factor
July, 1977	5.9%	1.059
July, 1978	6.5%	1.065
July, 1979	9.9%	1.099
July, 1980	14.3%	1.143
July, 1981	11.2%	1.112
July, 1982	7.4%	1.074
Jan., 1984	3.5%	1.035
Jan., 1985	3.5%	1.035
Jan., 1986	3.1%	1.031
Jan., 1987	1.3%	1.013
Jan., 1988	4.2%	1.042
Jan., 1989	4.0%	1.040
Jan., 1990	4.7%	1.047
Jan., 1991	5.4%	1.054
Jan., 1992	3.7%	1.037
Jan., 1993	3.0%	1.030
Jan., 1994	2.6%	1.026
Jan., 1995	2.8%	1.028
Jan., 1996	2.6%	1.026
Jan., 1997	2.9%	1.029
Jan., 1998	2.1%	1.021
Jan., 1999	1.3%	1.013
Jan., 2000	2.4%	1.024
Jan., 2001	3.5%	1.035
Jan., 2002	2.6%	1.026
Jan., 2003	1.4%	1.014
Jan., 2004	2.1%	1.021
Jan., 2005	2.7%	1.027

Note: July, 1977 through July, 1981, round product up nearest 10 to obtain actual benefit paid. Effective July, 1982, round product down to nearest \$1.00 to obtain actual benefit paid.

Table II.

SSI Income Standards¹

Unit Size	Living Arrangement	Effect. Jan. 2000	Effect. Jan. 2001	Effect. Jan. 2002	Effect. Jan. 2003	Effect. Jan. 2004	Effect. Jan. 2005
A-Individual	Living Independently	\$532.00	\$551.00	\$565.00	\$572.00	\$584.00	\$599.00
B-Individual	*In the household another	359.34	364.34	369.34	374.34	382.21	388.42
C-Individual	+Child living with parent	532.00	551.00	565.00	572.00	584.00	599.00
D-Individual	Living in Long Term Care	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
E-Couple	Living Independently	89.00	816.00	834.00	849.00	866.00	889.00
F-Couple	*In the household of another	532.00	551.00	565.00	572.00	584.00	599.00
G-Couple	Living in Long Term Care	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00

*Living and receiving both food and shelter in the household of another.

+A child living with parents or stepparents whose income and resources are countable to the child.

¹ Includes \$20 Disregard

APPENDIX A

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Table 1

QMB INCOME STANDARDS

Effective 4/1/04	Individual	Couple
Annual	\$9,310.00	\$12,490.00
Monthly	\$ 776.00	\$ 1,041.00

Table 2

SSI PAYMENT RATE

Effective 1/1/05	Individual	Couple
Monthly	\$579.00	\$869.00

APPENDIX A
MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Table 3
SLMB INCOME STANDARDS

Effective 4/1/04	Individual	Couple
Monthly	\$777 - \$930	\$1042 - \$1,248

Table 4
SLMB II INCOME STANDARDS

Effective 4/1/04	Individual	Couple
Monthly	\$931 - \$1,047	\$1,249- \$1,405

Schedule MA-8

Spousal Impoverishment Standards

	Resources	Effective
Maximum Spousal Share	\$95,100	1/1/05
Minimum Spousal Share	\$19,020	1/1/05

	Income	Effective
Basic Maintenance and Shelter Allowance	\$1,562	7/1/04
Excess Shelter Standard	\$ 469	7/1/04
Maximum Maintenance and Shelter Allowance (Sum of Basic Maintenance and Shelter Allowance and Excess Shelter Allowance)	\$2,378	1/1/05
Utility Standards:		
Heat included in rent	\$ 158	1/1/04
Heat paid separately from housing	\$ 262	1/1/04