



Community Care Services Eligibility Bulletin 21-01

Date: January 15, 2021

To: Eligibility Services Supervisors and Staff
Program Managers
Regional Directors
Regional Attorneys
Hearings Officers

From: Access and Eligibility Services Program Policy
State Office 2115

Subject: Federal Benefits 2021 Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)

The information in this bulletin will be included in a future handbook revision. Until the handbook is updated, staff must use the information in this bulletin. If you have any questions regarding the policy information in this bulletin, follow regional procedures.

Active bulletins are posted on the following websites:

- Case Worker Community Care for Aged and Disabled Handbook (CCADH) at <https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/case-worker-community-care-aged-disabled-handbook>.

Federal Benefits 2021 Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)

Background

The Social Security Administration adjusts Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance (RSDI) benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits to reflect the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) effective January 1st of each year. The COLA increase for 2021 is 1.3 percent.

Policy Update

Community Care Services Eligibility (CCSE) Income Limits

Community Attendant Services (CAS), Family Care (FC), Emergency Response System (ERS), Day Activity and Health Services (DAHS), Assisted Living/Residential Care (AL/RC), Adult Foster Care (AFC), Special Services to Persons with Disabilities (SSPD) and Consumer Managed Personal Attendant Services (CMPAS)

The income limit is based on the special income limit set for institutional care which is equal to 300 percent of the SSI federal benefit rate. Effective January 1, 2021, the special income limits are as follows:

- Individual: \$2,382
- Couple: \$4,764

CCSE Resource Limits

The 2021 resource limits remain the same.

CAS

The 2021 resource limits are based on the SSI resource limits and will remain as follows:

- Individual: \$2,000
- Couple: \$3,000

FC, ERS, DAHS, AL/RC, AFC, SSPD, and CMPAS

The 2021 resource limits will remain as follows (CCADH 3210 Resource Limits):

- Individual: \$5,000
- Couple: \$6,000

Medicare Savings Program (MSP) Resource Limits

The MSP resource limits for *Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMB)*, *Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries (SLMB)*, and *Qualifying Individuals 1 (QI-1)* are adjusted annually. Effective January 1, 2021, the resource limits for QMB, SLMB, and QI-1 are as follows:

- Individual: \$7,970
- Couple: \$11,960

The resource limits for the Qualified Disabled and Working Individuals (QDWI) program are twice the countable resources allowed under the SSI program and will remain the same:

- Individual: \$4,000
- Couple: \$6,000

MSP Income Limits

The MSP income limits are adjusted annually based on the federal poverty level (FPL). The income limits for QMB, SLMB and QI-1 will remain the same until the new FPL amounts are published in early 2021.

Federal Benefit Increases

Social Security - RSDI and SSI beneficiaries receive a 1.3 percent COLA increase effective January 1, 2021.

Effective January 1, 2021, the maximum SSI payment amount is as follows:

- Individual: \$794
- Couple: \$1,191

Medicare Part B

The standard Medicare Part B premium will increase to \$148.50 for 2021.

Automation

Automation changes are not required.

Correspondence

Correspondence changes are not required.

Handbook

The CCAD Handbook updates are scheduled for the March 2021 revision.

The CCAD Appendix XI is available on the LOOP.

Training

Training is not required.

Effective Date

This policy was effective January 1, 2021.