



Larry Hogan | Governor Boyd K. Rutherford | Lt. Governor Rona E. Kramer | Secretary

MEMORANDUM # 21-1
March 22, 2021

TO: Area Agency on Aging Directors
Maryland Access Point Staff

FROM: Rona E. Kramer, Secretary

SUBJECT: Update on Eligibility Requirements for Select Income-Based Federal and State Programs

The Maryland Department of Aging periodically informs the Aging Network about changes in eligibility criteria for various income-based Federal and State programs that can benefit older adults and adults with disabilities. This memorandum is to alert you about eligibility criteria changes. The attached chart outlines income criteria for “individual” and “couple” households. For larger households, eligibility criteria may be obtained from the individual programs. Dates for eligibility level changes vary by program, and are noted on the chart. Occasionally, new programs are implemented or date changes for existing programs may not align with the periodic updates. Maryland Department of Agency (MDoA) tracks such changes and will endeavor to keep you informed through this memorandum, which is released twice a year in January and July.

To find the latest memorandum and chart, start on the home page of the MDoA’s website, www.aging.maryland.gov. Go to “For Professionals” in the left column, and click on “Eligibility Criteria for Federal & State Programs.”

301 West Preston Street • Suite 1007 • Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2374
Local: 410-767-1100 • Toll Free: 1-800-243-3425 • TTY users call via Maryland Relay
Fax: 410-333-7943 • www.aging.maryland.gov

Eligibility Requirements for Select Income-Based Federal and State

Programs

Table of Contents

Federal Poverty Guidelines	Page	1
 Home and Community Services		
Accessible Homes for Seniors	Page	1
Attendant Care Program	Page	2
Congregate Housing Services	Page	3
Community First Choice (CFC)	Page	4
Community Options Waiver	Page	4
Community Personal Assistance	Page	5
Supplemental Food Assistance Program	Page	6
Section 811 Project Rental Assistance	Page	6
Senior Assisted Living	Page	7
Senior Care	Page	7
 Medical Assistance Programs		
Employed Individuals with Disabilities	Page	8
Medical Assistance (Medicaid for ABD Aged, Blind or Disabled)	Page	8
Medical Assistance (Medicaid Spousal Impoverishment)	Page	8
Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Programs (QMB)	Page	9
Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiaries (SLMB)	Page	10
Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiaries (SLMB II/Q1)	Page	10
 Prescription Assistance Programs		
Extra Help	Page	11
State of Maryland Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program (SPDAP)	Page	11
 Utilities Assistance Program		
Electrical Universal Service (EUSP)	Page	12
Maryland Energy Assistance (MEAP)	Page	12
Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)	Page	13
 Other		
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	Page	14
Section 811 Project Rental Assistance	Page	15

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SELECTED FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAMS

January 01, 2021 – December 31, 2021

Federal/State	Annual Income Test <u>Individuals</u>	Annual Income Test <u>Couples</u>	Annual Asset Test <u>Individuals</u>	Annual Asset Test <u>Couple/ Household of Two</u>	Notes
Federal Poverty Guidelines	\$12,880/year	\$17,420/year			<p>Change effective: January 1, 2021</p> <p>Source: https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines</p>

Home and Community Services

Federal/State	Annual Income Test <u>Individuals</u>	Annual Income Test <u>Couples</u>	Annual Asset Test <u>Individuals</u>	Annual Asset Test <u>Couple/ Household of Two</u>	Notes
Accessible Homes for Seniors	<p style="text-align: center;">Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery & Prince George’s Counties \$61,150 /year</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Maximum All other counties \$54,950/year</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery & Prince George’s Counties \$69,850 /year</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Maximum All other counties \$62,800/year</p>	No Asset Test	No Asset Test	<p>Accessible Homes for Seniors provides zero-interest loans and grants for home modifications for home rehabilitation work that supports aging in place for individuals age 55 or older. Loan payments are deferred for 30 years or until the sale or transfer of ownership of the home. If the senior resides in the home of a relative, eligibility is based on the owner’s income and is reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Seniors that own a home with a disabled relative or child may qualify for rehabilitation work on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Effective: January 1, 2021</p> <p>Source: http://dhcd.maryland.gov/Residents/Pages/ahsp/default.aspx</p>

Home and Community Services

Federal/State	Monthly (or Annual) Income Test <u>Individuals</u>	Monthly (or Annual) Income Test <u>Couples</u>	Annual Asset Test <u>Individuals</u>	Annual Asset Test <u>Couple/ Household of Two</u>	Notes
Attendant Care Program	<\$119,999/year	<\$119,999 /year	No Asset Test	No Asset Test	<p>The Attendant Care Program provides financial reimbursement to individuals with long-term or severe physical disabilities who require attendant services such as in-home assistance with personal care, household chores, and transportation.</p> <p><u>Eligibility Criteria:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maryland resident 2. Between the ages of 18 and 64 3. Certified by physician to have a severe chronic physical disability 4. Not receive duplicative attendant care services <p style="text-align: center;">----- AND -----</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. You must be employed; or 6. Actively seeking employment; or 7. Enrolled in an institution of postsecondary or higher education; or 8. A nursing facility resident who would be able to reside in the community with aides; or 9. At risk of nursing facility placement if you do not receive attendant care services. <p>Source: Please click the link below and find an ACP self-report application located on the bottom of the page.</p> <p>Effective: January 1, 2021</p> <p>Source: http://mdod.maryland.gov/acp/Pages/Attendant-Care-Home.aspx</p>

Congregate Housing Services Program (CHSP) Subsidy	\$3,002/month \$37,454/year	\$3,925/month \$48,978/year	\$27,375	\$35,587	<p>The Congregate Housing Services Program is to provide support services and State subsidies to eligible residents of low and moderate income senior housing who, due to advanced age or chronic health conditions, need daily help with activities such as meals, housekeeping, and personal services.</p> <p>Effective: July 01, 2020</p> <p>Contact: Maryland Department of Aging 410-767-1100</p> <p>Source: https://aging.maryland.gov/Pages/congregate-housing.aspx</p> <p><u>LIHEAP IM-2020-02 State Median Income Estimates for Optional Use in FY 2020 and Mandatory Use in FY 2021</u></p>
--	--------------------------------	--------------------------------	----------	----------	--

Home and Community Services					
Federal/State	Monthly (or Annual) Income Test <u>Individuals</u>	Monthly (or Annual) Income Test <u>Couples</u>	Annual Asset Test <u>Individuals</u>	Annual Asset Test <u>Couple/ Household of Two</u>	Notes
Community First Choice (CFC)-	(See Note)	(See Note)	(See Note)	(See Note)	<p>Community First Choice (CFC) option provides community-based services and supports to enable older adults and people with disabilities to live in their own homes. CFC does not provide assistance in nursing facilities or assisted living facilities.</p> <p>Effective: January 1, 2021</p> <p>Source: Maryland COMAR Sec. 10.09.84.04 https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/longtermcare/Pages/Community-First-Choice.aspx</p>
Community Options Waiver	(See Note)	(See Note)	(See Note)	(See Note)	<p>Community Options Waiver option provides community services and supports to enable older adults and people with disabilities to live in their own homes. Each program has different requirements based on financial eligibility and level of need.</p> <p>Effective: January 1, 2021</p> <p>Source: https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/longtermcare/Resource%20Guide/03.%20Program%20Fact%20Sheets/Fact%20Sheet%20-%20CO%20Waiver%20March%202018.pdf</p>

Home and Community Services

Home and Community Services					
Federal/State	Monthly (or Annual) Income Test <u>Individuals</u>	Monthly (or Annual) Income Test <u>Couples</u>	Annual Asset Test <u>Individuals</u>	Annual Asset Test <u>Couple/ Household of Two</u>	Notes
Community Personal Assistance Service (CPAS)	(See Note)	(See Note)	(See Note)	(See Note)	<p>Community Personal Assistance Services provided in-home personal assistance services to older adults and individuals with disabilities.</p> <p>Effective: January 1, 2021</p> <p>Source: https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/longtermcare/SiteAssets/SitePages/Community%20First%20Choice/CPAS%20Fact%20Sheet%2010.14.15.pdf https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/longtermcare/Pages/Community-First-Choice.aspx</p>

Home and Community Services

Federal/State	Monthly (or Annual) Income Test Individuals	Monthly (or Annual) Income Test Couples	Annual Asset Test Individuals	Annual Asset Test Couple/ Household of Two	Notes
Supplemental Food Assistance Program (SNAP) (For Elderly/Disabled as separate household)	\$1,383/month \$1,861/year	\$1,868/month \$2,515/year	\$2,250	\$3,500	<p>The Food Supplemental Program helps low-income households buy the food they need for good health.</p> <p>**If they are categorically eligible then there is no asset requirement.</p> <p>Note: financial eligibility varies based on the household size.</p> <p>Effective: March 01, 2021</p> <p>Source: https://dhs.maryland.gov/food-supplement-program/</p>
Section 811 Project Rental Assistance	See Attachment 1	See Attachment 1			<p>The Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Program is a program for individuals with disabilities. It will assist with rent payment while the individual lives in participating units. The tenant pays 30% of their income for rent and utilities, and the program pays the rest of the rent directly to the landlord.</p> <p>Effective: January 1, 2021</p> <p>Source: http://mdod.maryland.gov/housing/Pages/section811.aspx</p>

Home and Community Services

Federal/State	Monthly (or Annual) Income Test Individuals	Monthly (or Annual) Income Test Couples	Annual Asset Test Individuals	Annual Asset Test Couple/ Household of Two	Notes
Senior Assisted Living Subsidy Program	\$3,002/month \$37,454/year	\$3,925/month \$48,978/year	\$19,000	\$25,000	<p>The Senior Assisted Living Subsidy Program provides subsidies on behalf of eligible senior residents of assisted living facilities which are licensed by the Maryland Department of Health.</p> <p>Effective: July 01, 2020</p> <p>Maryland Department of Aging 410-767-1100</p> <p>https://aging.maryland.gov/Pages/Senior-Assisted-Living-Subsidy-Program.aspx</p> <p>LIHEAP IM-2020-02 State Median Income Estimates for Optional Use in FY 2020 and Mandatory Use in FY 2021</p>
Senior Care Program	\$3,002/month \$37,454/year	\$3,925/month \$48,978/year	\$11,000	\$14,000	<p>The Senior Care Program provides in-home services and other support services to persons 65 and older.</p> <p>Effective: July 01, 2020</p> <p>Contact: Dakota Burgess Maryland Department of Aging dakota.burgess@maryland.gov 410-767-1100</p> <p>https://aging.maryland.gov/Pages/senior-care.aspx</p> <p>LIHEAP IM-2020-02 State Median Income Estimates for Optional Use in FY 2020 and Mandatory Use in FY 2021.</p>

Medical Assistance Programs					
Federal/State	Monthly (or Annual) Income Test Individuals	Monthly (or Annual) Income Test Couples	Annual Asset Test Individuals	Annual Asset Test Couple/ Household of Two	Notes
Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) Program	\$3,192	\$4,311	Less than \$10,000 in countable resources	Less than \$15,000 in countable resources	<p>The Employed Individuals with Disabilities extends Medical Assistance health benefits to working Marylanders with disabilities. This program lets individuals return to work and keep health benefits. Individuals in EID must be between ages 18-64.</p> <p>This is the most up to date information. Updated information will be provided as it becomes available.</p> <p>Effective: January 1, 2020</p> <p>Source: https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/eid/Pages/Home.aspx#Resource_Limit</p>
Medical Assistance (Medicaid) For ABD (Aged, Blind or Disabled)	\$350/month	\$392/month	\$2,500	\$3,000	<p>Medical Assistance (also called Medicaid) is a program that pays the medical bills of people who have low income and cannot afford medical care.</p> <p>Note: financial eligibility varies based on the household size.</p> <p>Effective: January 1, 2020</p> <p>This is the most up to date information. Updated information will be provided as it becomes available.</p> <p>Source: https://www.peoples-law.org/medical-assistance-aged-blind-and-disabled-ma-abd</p>

Medical Assistance (Medicaid) – Spousal Impoverishment Protection Standards	Minimum Monthly Maintenance Needs Allowance \$2,155	Maximum Monthly Maintenance Needs Allowance \$3,259.50	Minimum Resource Standard \$26,076	Maximum Resource Standard \$130,380	<p>Under the Medicaid spousal impoverishment provisions, a certain amount of the couple's combined resources is protected for the spouse living in the community.</p> <p><u>This is the most up to date information. Updated information will be provided as it becomes available.</u></p> <p>Effective: January 1, 2021</p> <p>Source: https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/eligibility/downloads/ssi-and-spousal-impoverishment-standards.pdf </p>
--	--	---	---	--	---

Medicare Savings Programs

Federal/State	Monthly (or Annual) Income Test Individuals	Monthly (or Annual) Income Test Couples	Annual Asset Test Individuals	Annual Asset Test Couple/ Household of Two	Notes
Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program (QMB)	\$1,084/month	\$1,457/month	\$7,860	\$11,860	<p>QMB pays Medicare Part A and B premiums, co-payments, and deductibles. *\$20 = Amount of the Monthly SSI Income Disregard</p> <p>Effective: January 1, 2021 NOTE: This is the most current update available.</p> <p>Source: https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/eligibility/medicaid-enrollees/index.html</p>
Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB)	\$1,456/month	\$1,960/month	\$7,860	\$11,800	<p>Similar to QMB but pays only the Medicare Part B premium. *\$20 = Amount of the Monthly SSI Income Disregard</p> <p>Effective: January 1, 2021 NOTE: This is the most current update available.</p> <p>Source: https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/eligibility/medicaid-enrollees/index.html</p>
Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB) II/QI-1	\$1,456/month	\$1960/month	\$7,860	\$11,800	<p>Similar to QMB but pays only the Medicare Part B premium. *\$20 = Amount of the Monthly SSI Income Disregard</p> <p>Effective: January 1, 2021 NOTE: This is the most current update available.</p> <p>Source: https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/eligibility/medicaid-enrollees/index.html</p>

Utilities Assistance Program

Federal/State	Monthly (or Annual) Income Test <u>Individuals</u>	Monthly (or Annual) Income Test <u>Couples</u>	Annual Asset Test <u>Individuals</u>	Annual Asset Test <u>Couple/ Household of Two</u>	Notes
Electrical Universal Service Program (EUSP)	\$1,861/month \$22,332/year	\$2,515/month \$30,180/year	No Asset Test	No Asset Test	<p>The Electric Universal Service Program (EUSP) assists eligible low-income electric customers with their electric bills. Eligible electric customers may receive help in three ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Help to pay current electric bills 2. Help to pay past due electric bills 3. Help with energy efficiency measures to reduce future electric bills. <p>Note: Financial eligibility varies based on the household size.</p> <p>Effective: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021</p> <p>Source: http://dhr.maryland.gov/office-of-home-energy-programs/how-do-you-apply/</p>
Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP)	\$1,861/month \$22,332/year	\$2,515/month \$30,180/year	No Asset Test	No Asset Test	<p>The Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) provides assistance with home heating bills. Limited assistance is available to replace broken or inefficient furnaces.</p> <p>Note: Financial eligibility varies based on the household size.</p> <p>Effective: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021</p> <p>Source: http://dhr.maryland.gov/office-of-home-energy-programs/how-do-you-apply/</p>

Utilities Assistance Program

Federal/State	Monthly (or Annual) Income Test <u>Individuals</u>	Monthly (or Annual) Income Test <u>Couples</u>	Annual Asset Test <u>Individuals</u>	Annual Asset Test <u>Couple/ Household of Two</u>	Notes
Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)	\$2,146.66/month \$25,760/year	\$2,903.33/month \$34,840/year	No Asset Test	No Asset Test	<p>The Weatherization Assistance Program helps eligible low income households with the installation of energy conservation materials in their dwelling units.</p> <p>Effective: : July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021</p> <p>Note: financial eligibility varies based on the household size.</p> <p>Source: http://dhcd.maryland.gov/Residents/Pages/wap/default.aspx</p>

Other					
Federal/State	Monthly SSI Federal Benefit Rate (FBR) <u>Individual</u>	Monthly SSI Federal Benefit Rate (FBR) <u>Couple</u>	Annual Asset Test <u>Individual</u>	Annual Asset Test <u>Couple</u>	Notes
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	\$794	\$1,191	\$2,000	\$3,000	<p>Supplemental Security Income pays benefits to disabled adults and children who have limited income and resources.</p> <p>Effective: January 1, 2021</p> <p>Source: SSI Federal Payment Amount For 2021 https://www.ssa.gov/oact/cola/SSI.html Understanding SSI https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-eligibility-ussi.htm</p>



FY 2020 INCOME LIMITS DOCUMENTATION SYSTEM

FY 2020 Income Limits Summary

Statewide Income Limits For Maryland
Effective date April 2020 – April 2021

FY 2020 Very Low-Income (50%) Limit (VLIL)

Median Family Income	1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person	7 Person	8 Person
104,500	36,600	41,800	47,050	52,250	56,450	60,600	64,800	68,950

FY 2020 Extremely Low-Income Limit (ELIL)

1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person	7 Person	8 Person
21,950	25,100	28,200	31,350	33,850	36,350	38,850	41,400

FY 2020 Low-Income (80%) Limit (LIL)

1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person	7 Person	8 Person
54,950	62,800	70,650	78,500	84,800	91,050	97,350	103,600