



Department of Human Assistance

Suspension of Requirement to Apply for Unconditionally Available Income during Continuous Coverage Unwinding

TYPE	ALERT
PROGRAM(S)	MA
EFFECTIVE DATE	08/01/2023
ISSUE DATE	09/06/2023
REVISED DATE	02/26/2024

Table of Contents

Purpose.....	2
Suspension of Requirement to Apply for Unconditionally Available Income.....	2
Overview Of Temporary Policy.....	2
Best Practices for Staff.....	2
Contacts.....	3

Department of Human Assistance

Suspension of Requirement to Apply for Unconditionally Available Income During Continuous Coverage Unwinding

Purpose

The purpose of this alert is to inform staff of a temporary Unconditional Available Income waiver to assist in case processing during the Continuous Coverage Unwinding Period.

In order to protect beneficiaries from inappropriate terminations and reduce staff burden during the Continuous Coverage Unwinding Period, the Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) requested and received temporary approval to suspend the requirement to apply for unconditionally available income.

This temporary flexibility is effective as of August 1, 2023 and will remain in effect until December 31, 2024.

NOTE: This waiver applies to both new applicants and current beneficiaries.

Suspension of Requirement to Apply for Unconditionally Available Income

Overview Of Temporary Policy

Per [42 CFR § 435.608](#) as a condition of eligibility, Medi-Cal applicants and members are required take all necessary steps to obtain any benefits to which they are entitled, unless they can show good cause for not doing so. This policy is referenced as 'unconditionally available income' and is detailed in [Non-Compliance with Medi-Cal Eligibility Requirements: UIB/SDI, Medicare, VA, TPL, OHC, SSN, Medical Support](#) program document.

Since Medi-Cal eligibility is granted before other benefit requirements are met, staff must follow up with the Medi-Cal applicant or beneficiary for verification that the income has been applied for. If this requirement is not met, the beneficiary may risk termination of their eligibility. This waiver authority allows counties to suspend, as a condition of Medi-Cal eligibility, the requirement of the Medi-Cal applicant or beneficiary to apply for certain other benefits, such as unemployment, disability, or Veteran's benefits to which they are entitled to.

This waiver will assist in temporarily reducing the workload for Human Services Specialist who otherwise must follow up with applicants or beneficiaries to confirm they have applied for other benefits, thereby simplifying the eligibility determination, and minimizing procedural terminations for individuals who are eligible if not for the requirement to apply for other benefits.

Best Practices for Staff

As a best practice, staff should still inform applicants and beneficiaries if there is

Department of Human Assistance

Suspension of Requirement to Apply for Unconditionally Available Income During Continuous Coverage Unwinding

potential eligibility for unconditionally available income and provide contact information for the agencies but will not be required to request verification or follow up that these benefits have been applied for and eligibility cannot be terminated for individuals who refuse to apply for these benefits.

Note: This waiver applies only to the unconditionally available income benefits that are available if applied for such as UIB, SDI, VA, and does not change other eligibility requirements, such as SSN and Medicare listed in the program document in [Non-Compliance with Medi-Cal Eligibility Requirements: UIB/SDI, Medicare, VA, TPL, OHC, SSN, Medical Support](#).

Contacts

Supervisors with questions should be directed to the DHA-Medi-Cal@saccounty.gov mailbox.