



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
UNIFORM POLICY MANUAL

Janel Simpson, Deputy Commissioner

January 1, 2017
Effective Date

POLICY TRANSMITTAL NO.: UP-17-01

- SUBJECT:**
1. Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) Increase in SSI (Supplemental Security Income), OASDI (Social Security) and Railroad Retirement Benefits (RRB).
 2. Increase in the Unearned Income Disregards used in the State Supplement and related Medicaid programs.
 3. Increase in the Excess Home Equity Limits.
 4. Increase in the Threshold Figure for Severely Impaired Individuals.
 5. Other January 2017 Increases.

Cost of Living Adjustments

The Social Security Administration announced a .3% cost-of-living increase effective January 1, 2017 for all OASDI and Railroad Retirement beneficiaries. The SSI benefit amount for individuals living independently increased to \$735.00 or \$755.00 for an individual receiving a combination of SSI/SSA benefits. A couple living independently now receives an SSI benefit amount of \$1,103.00 or \$1,123.00 if they receive a combination of SSI/SSA benefits.

The increased SSI benefit amount of those living in the home of another is \$490.00 for an individual and \$736.00 for a couple. The increased SSI/SSA combination benefit amount of those living in the home of another is \$510.00 for an individual and \$756.00 for a couple.

Unearned Income Disregards

This transmits revised procedures increasing the unearned income disregards used in the State Supplement and related Medicaid programs. The increases are being made pursuant to Public Act 05-243 and are effective January 1, 2017. The increased unearned income disregard for those living in the community is \$339.00, for those living in a licensed boarding home the disregard is \$246.70 and for those living and sharing with a non-relative the disregard is \$406.90.

Excess Home Equity Limits

Under section 6014 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA), Medicaid will not pay for long-term care services for individuals whose home equity exceeds the home equity limit. These limits increase yearly consistent with increases in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U). Effective January 1, 2017 the excess home equity limit is \$840,000.00.

Threshold Figure for Severely Impaired Individuals

The Social Security Administration has established the latest yearly gross earnings limit for individuals eligible for Medicaid under 1619(b) or 1905(q) status, as described at UPM 2540.76 and UPM 2540.77 respectively. Effective January 1, 2017, the yearly gross earnings limit is \$66,308.00.

Other January 2017 Increases

1. The Community Spouse Protected Amount (CSPA) for institutionalized applicants applying for Medicaid as a MCCA spouse increased due to a change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to a minimum of \$24,180.00 and a maximum of \$120,900.00.
2. The maximum Minimum Monthly Needs Allowance (MMNA) for institutionalized individuals with a spouse living in the community increased due to a change in the CPI to \$3,022.50.
3. The special Categorically Needy Income Limit (CNIL) for institutionalized applicants and recipients increased to \$2,205.00 per month for an assistance unit of one and \$4,410.00 per month for an assistance unit of two. The special CNIL for Connecticut Home Care (CHC) applicants and recipients increased to \$2,205.00.
4. The asset limit for an individual in the state-funded portion of the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders increased to \$36,270.00 for a single individual and to \$48,360.00 for a married individual due to the increase in the CSPA.

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