

**Aging and People with Disabilities**

Trevor Waskin

Authorized signature
**Number:** APD-IM-15-103

**Issue date:** 12/14/2015

**Topic:** Medical Benefits

**Subject:** 2016 Cost of Living Adjustments

**Applies to (check all that apply):**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees                             | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging             | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services                                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aging and People with Disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Developmental                         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Self Sufficiency Programs          | Disabilities Services(ODDS)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD Program Managers                    | <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children's Intensive                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children's                               | In Home Services   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Residential Services                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU)            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Welfare Programs                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other ( <i>please specify</i> ): OHA |

**Message:**

The Social Security Administration will not implement a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) in 2016; consequently, the following standards which normally change each January will remain the same:

- The Pickle multipliers (OAR 461-135-0780)
- The maximum allowable home equity amount (OAR 461-145-0220)
- OSIPM income and payment standards, including the adjusted income standards and the adjusted number in household standards for shelter, food, and other (OAR 461-155-0250)
- The OSIPM room and board standards (OAR 461-155-0270)
- The OSIPM and QMB shelter-in-kind standards (OAR 461-155-0300)
- The minimum and maximum community spouse resource allowances (OAR 461-160-0580)
- The maximum community spouse monthly maintenance needs allowance (OAR 461-160-0620)
- PIF – The PIF is the individual's remaining funds after R&B and liability are deducted. Since the R&B standard and SSA income will not change, the amount of PIF an individual can retain should remain unchanged unless there are other income sources subject to annual changes

## Medicare Savings Programs

The resource limits for the QMB-BAS, QMB-SMB, and QMB-SMF will be eliminated effective January 1. See [APD-PT-15-043](#) for more information.

The Medicare Savings Program (MSP) income standards are based upon the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The annual FPL increase is generally announced in January or February each year and normally implemented in March. Because the Social Security Administration is not implementing a COLA in 2016, there will be no need for protected eligibility or inflated standards. Information on how changes to the FPL standards may affect ongoing MSP recipients will be provided once the 2016 FPL numbers are announced.

## Medicare Part B Premium

The Medicare Part B premium will increase to \$121.80 for most of our clients; however, CBI clients who became Medicare-eligible prior to 2016 should see no increase. All individuals who begin receiving Medicare in 2016 will be charged the higher rate.

## Client Pay-In

Although there is no SSA COLA for 2016, Homecare Workers (HCW) are scheduled to receive a pay increase. Because the increase in HCW wages will impact the overall cost of care for the individual, any case in which pay-in is based upon the total cost of care will need to be reviewed. Case coding for these individuals should include the EMI case descriptor. Cost of care cases that do not currently include EMI coding should be updated to include it. Staff may identify EMI cases by using the Oregon ACCESS reports.

As these cases are reviewed, any changes in the pay-in amount should be made effective February 1, 2016, and advance notice should be sent using the SDS 0540P. Staff are not required to modify the pay-in for the month of January.

*If you have any questions about this information, contact:*

<b>Contact(s):</b>	Michael Avery (503)-945-6410	michael.g.avery@state.or.us	
	Trevor Baker (503) 884-0710	trevor.d.baker@state.or.us	
	Katherine Bodi (503) 945-6455	katherine.m.bodi@state.or.us	
	Bill Brautigam (503) 945-5204	bill.h.brautigam@state.or.us	
	Lauren Mitchell (503) 945-6479	lauren.e.mitchell@state.or.us	
	Jeff Stell (503) 373-1425	jeff.stell@state.or.us	
	Heather Williams (541) 548-2206 x 340	heather.d.williams@state.or.us	
<b>Phone:</b>		<b>Fax:</b>	