



<b>Policy Memo</b>	
<b>KDHE-DHCF POLICY NO: PLMC 2020-04</b>	<b>From: Erin Kelley, Senior Manager</b>
<b>Date: February 18, 2020</b>	<b>KEESM/KFMAM Reference:</b>
<b>RE: Implementation of Federal Poverty Levels</b>	<b>Program(s): All Medical Programs</b>

This memo provides instructions for implementation of new federal poverty level standards. The new levels take effect April 1, 2020

## **1. FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL CHANGES**

The change provides new income standards for CHIP, Caretaker Medical, Medicaid Pregnant Women and Children, the Medicare Savings Programs and Working Healthy. It also impacts Presumptive Eligibility determinations for Pregnant Women, Children and Caretakers. The Kansas Medical Assistance Standards (KEESM Appendix Item F-8) has been updated with the new standards. The updated form is included with this memo.

### **A. Medical Assistance Updates**

The poverty level standards have been updated in the KEES system and are effective for any determinations for the benefit month of April 2020 or later. There will not be an exclusive automated KEES mass change to implement these changes. For ongoing cases, the new level will be considered the next time eligibility is redetermined. This is accomplished when EDBC is executed, accepted and saved for the specific benefit month. The new levels will be loaded into KEES with the February release on February 16, 2020. However, because the new levels are not effective until April 2020, the values and calculations won't be available for worker executed EDBC's until 02-18-20, when the month of April 2020 is available. However, the values are available for system executed EDBC's occurring on or after this date.

### **B. Special Processes**

Although no automatic updates were processed in the KEES system to implement the FPL change, other processes, such as the batch review process, will use the new FPL levels when executing a determination. This could result in an eligibility change for some individuals even though no other changes were reported.

**a. Reviews**

Reviews expiring 03-31-20 will run on or about 02-14-20. The outcome will be based on the new limits. It is not necessary to reprocess Super Passive or Passive reviews unless there is a change reported that requires a new EDBC. All pre-populated reviews will be processed using the new values, so special instructions are not necessary.

**b. New Applications**

New requests for coverage that fail eligibility due to excess income in a month prior to April will require a second determination for the month of April if the initial determination placed the applicant within 5% percentage points of the applicable poverty level. The results of both determinations shall be documented in the journal. Please note that an EDBC for April may be required even through the EDBC for March was high dated.

**C. Presumptive Eligibility**

The new income levels are also implemented for Presumptive Eligibility determinations. Income limits in the PE tool are adjusted beginning April 1, 2020. The new levels will be used for any determination on or after this date. The information is being shared with the PE Qualified Entities, but no additional action is necessary to implement the changes.

**D. Self Service Portal Eligibility Check**

The high-level eligibility check feature available to the public will also be updated with the new income levels. The updates to the CSSP will also be available to any screening executed on or after April 1, 2020. Consumers using the self-check feature prior to April 1 will be presented a result using the old values.

**2. FORMS AND FACT SHEETS**

**Forms:**

[ES-3104.5](#) Determination of Need (Medical Assistance)

[ES-3165](#) Working Healthy Premiums

[F-8](#) KS Medical Standard

**Brochures:**

KC-2110 Helpful Hints for Families and KC-2110S Spanish version

KC-2700 Medicare Savings Programs and KC-2700S Spanish version

**Fact Sheets:**

Medical Coverage for Children

Medical Coverage for Parents or Caregivers of Children

Medical Coverage for Pregnant Women

Overview of Programs for Elderly and Persons with Disabilities

### 3. QUESTIONS

For questions or concerns related to this document, please contact one of the KDHE Medical Policy Staff listed below.

Erin Kelley, Senior Manager- [Erin.Kelley@ks.gov](mailto:Erin.Kelley@ks.gov)

Kris Owensby-Smith, Elderly and Disabled Program Manager- [Kristopher.OwensbySmith@ks.gov](mailto:Kristopher.OwensbySmith@ks.gov)

Jessica Pearson, Elderly and Disabled Program Manager – [Jessica.Pearson@ks.gov](mailto:Jessica.Pearson@ks.gov)

Jerri Camargo, Family Medical Program Manager - [Jerri.Camargo@ks.gov](mailto:Jerri.Camargo@ks.gov)

Amanda Corneliusen, Family Medical Program Manager – [Amanda.Corneliusen@ks.gov](mailto:Amanda.Corneliusen@ks.gov)

Questions regarding any KEES issues are directed to the KEES Help Desk at [KEES.HelpDesk@ks.gov](mailto:KEES.HelpDesk@ks.gov)