



<b>Policy Memo</b>	
<b>KDHE-DHCF POLICY NO: 2023-03-01</b>	<b>From: Erin Kelley, Senior Manager</b>
<b>Date: 3/17/2023</b>	<b>Medical KEESM Reference(s): 2664.5,</b>
<b>RE: Working Healthy Program - Premium Restructure</b>	<b>Program(s): Working Healthy</b>

This memo sets forth instructions for the implementation of policy changes effective May 1, 2023, related to the Working Healthy Program’s premium structure for those eligible to receive this coverage. Additional information related to the implementation of these changes are available through training material released to eligibility staff and the KEES User Manual. The MKEESM policy manual will be updated with the next scheduled revision.

## **I. WORKING HEALTHY PROGRAM PREMIUM REQUIREMENT BACKGROUND**

Some individuals eligible for Working Healthy (WKH) must pay a monthly premium for coverage. Historically, the premium obligation has been determined on a sliding scale and is based on the amount of countable income and the size of the assistance plan.

The premium scale created with the implementation of the Working Healthy Program in 2002 required individuals whose countable income was at least 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (per household size) to pay a monthly premium.

The sliding scale for premiums previously included eight (8) income tiers ranging from 100% to 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) as follows:

<b>Income Tier</b>	<b>1 Person Household</b>	<b>2 or 3 Person Household</b>
1	\$55	\$74
2	\$69	\$93
3	\$83	\$112
4	\$97	\$130

5	\$110	\$149
6	\$124	\$168
7	\$135	\$186
8	\$152	\$205

## II. WORKING HEALTHY PROGRAM PREMIUM RESTRUCTURE

Effective May 1, 2023, Working Healthy premiums will be applied for each individual whose monthly countable income is at least 226% of the FPL for an individual or a household of two, or 179% of the FPL for a household of three. This update restructures the premium scale for Working Healthy by removing the first five (5) income tiers. Individuals whose countable income does not exceed 225% shall not be charged a premium. The F-8 Kansas Medical Assistance Standards has been updated for 05/01/2023 to reflect this change and will continue to be updated annually based on changes in the federal poverty guidelines.

The updated sliding scale for working healthy premiums is:

Income Tier	1 Person Household	2 or 3 Person Household
1	\$124	\$168
2	\$135	\$186
3	\$152	\$205

This policy implementation does not change the premium amount for the remaining three (3) premiums nor does this policy impact the 300% of FPL income limit for the Working Healthy program.

### A. IMPACT ON ACTIVE WORKING HEALTHY RECIPIENTS

This policy is effective for all active Working Healthy recipients receiving coverage on May 1, 2023. An automatic update will be processed in the KEES system to implement the premium structure change to align with the May 1, 2023 effective date. As this is a positive change, an ES-3165 Working Healthy and Premium Information form (or other formal agreement) is not required. However, notices must be sent to the consumers and authorized administrative roles advising of the change in their premium obligation per standard policy and process.

### B. IMPACT ON NEW WORKING HEALTHY COVERAGE REQUESTS

While this policy is effective May 1, 2023, applications (including prior medical requests) may be received between the publication of this memo and the implementation date of the policy. This means that some applications requesting Working Healthy coverage before

May 2023 may be responsible for a premium if their income is between 100% to 225% of the FPL through April 31, 2023.

Coverage for the months prior to May 2023 shall not be approved until the individual has agreed to pay the premium for each month where a premium is required per MKEESM 2664.5 (a) and 2664.5 (b).

### **C. PREMIUM DELINQUENCY PRIOR TO PREMIUM RESTRUCTURE**

This policy does not supersede existing policy pertaining to premium delinquency in that individual(s) who are two (2) full months behind in paying their WKH premium, coverage under the WKH program is terminated effective the last day of the next month, allowing for timely notice (see MKEESM 2664.5 (2) and eligibility under other programs (such as Medically Needy, HCBS, MSP, etc.) must be considered when WKH coverage is discontinued.

WKH recipients with accrued delinquent premiums in an actively owed status in the months prior to May 2023\* are still responsible for the payment of those premiums as the previous income tiers were in place at the time the premiums were accrued, and the individual(s) formally agreed to that premium. Individual(s) with delinquent premiums should be encouraged to speak with their Working Health Benefit Specialist to discuss repayment options to retain coverage with the WKH program.

\*Note: Delinquent premiums accrued during the scope of the COVID-19 PHE will be addressed in compliance with the state's unwinding policies and processes.

### **III. QUESTIONS**

For questions or concerns related to this document, please contact the KDHE Medical Policy Staff at [KDHE.MedicaidEligibilityPolicy@ks.gov](mailto:KDHE.MedicaidEligibilityPolicy@ks.gov).

Erin Kelley	Senior Manager
Amanda Corneliusen	Family Medical Program Manager
Jessica Pearson	Elderly & Disabled Program Manager
Sara Reese	Elderly & Disabled Program Manager

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