

MassHealth Updates

Massachusetts Health Care Training Forum
April 2018



Agenda

- 2018 MassHealth Income Standards and Federal Poverty Guidelines
- Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Account Update
- MassHealth Renewal Update
- Enrollment Events Update
- One Care Updates

2018 MassHealth Income Standards and Federal Poverty Guidelines

2018 MassHealth Income Standards and Federal Poverty Guidelines

- Effective 3/1/2018 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) standards increased
- The 2018 FPL chart has been posted: <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/02/14/fpl-deskguide.pdf>
- MassHealth eligibility systems were updated with the new 2018 FPL figures. The systems are now using the new FPL amounts for any new eligibility determinations.

2018 MassHealth Income Standards and Federal Poverty Guidelines

Family Size	MassHealth Income Standards		100% Federal Poverty Level		5% Federal Poverty Level		120% Federal Poverty Level		133% Federal Poverty Level		135% Federal Poverty Level	
	Monthly	Yearly	Monthly	Yearly	Monthly	Yearly	Monthly	Yearly	Monthly	Yearly	Monthly	Yearly
1	\$522	\$6,264	\$1,012	\$12,144	\$51	\$612	\$1,214	\$14,568	\$1,346	\$16,152	\$1,366	\$16,392
2	\$650	\$7,800	\$1,372	\$16,464	\$69	\$828	\$1,646	\$19,752	\$1,825	\$21,900	\$1,852	\$22,224
3	\$775	\$9,300	\$1,732	\$20,784	\$87	\$1,044			\$2,304	\$27,648		
4	\$891	\$10,692	\$2,092	\$25,104	\$105	\$1,260			\$2,782	\$33,384		
5	\$1,016	\$12,192	\$2,452	\$29,424	\$123	\$1,476			\$3,261	\$39,132		
6	\$1,141	\$13,692	\$2,812	\$33,744	\$141	\$1,692			\$3,740	\$44,880		
7	\$1,266	\$15,192	\$3,172	\$38,064	\$159	\$1,908			\$4,219	\$50,628		
8	\$1,383	\$16,596	\$3,532	\$42,384	\$177	\$2,124			\$4,698	\$56,376		
For each additional person add	\$133	\$1,596	\$360	\$4,320	\$18	\$216			\$479	\$5,748		

DG-FPL (Rev. 03/18)

Institutional Income Standard \$72.80

DG-FPL (Rev. 03/18)

2018 MassHealth Income Standards and Federal Poverty Guidelines (cont.)

- An automatic eligibility re-determination occurred on 3/1/2018 for households with members who were active on MA21, PACES or currently eligible for a Buy-In program.
- The systematic re-determination(s) established household members' current eligibility using the 2018 FPL standards.
- **Note:** For Health Connector Qualified Health Plan (QHP) eligibility determinations, the 2017 FPL amounts are still in effect.

ACA - Tips to Verify Identity When Creating an Online Account

Tips to Verify Identity When Creating an Online Account

- When an individual is applying for or updating an application for health care, they can use unexpired passports for identity purposes and/or for immigration purposes. When Assisters are helping these individuals, it's important to indicate if the unexpired passport is being used only for identification purposes.
- **Identification Purposes:** If the individual is using the unexpired passport for identification purposes only-i.e., expedited manual identity proofing via the Assister Line, mailing or faxing as proof of identity to the Health Connector-the words "**FOR ID ONLY**" should be clearly printed across the copy of the document. Unexpired passports that are clearly marked "FOR ID ONLY" will be used use for identification purposes only and will not be entered into the online system or MA21 as an immigration document.
- **Immigration Document:** If the unexpired foreign passport is mailed or faxed with an application, a renewal, or in response to an RFI and that passport does not have "FOR ID ONLY" printed on the document, it will be used as an Immigration document and entered into the online system to determine eligibility for benefits.

Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Account Update

Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Account Update

- The Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) account provision was signed into law in December 2014.
- Recognizing the special financial burdens faced by families raising children with disabilities, ABLE accounts are designed to enable people with disabilities and their families to save for and pay for disability-related expenses for people who became disabled before age 26.
- The new law authorizes any state to offer its residents the option of setting up an ABLE account, and Massachusetts has chosen to participate in the program.
 - Contributions can be made to an ABLE account on an **annual basis**
 - Currently up to a maximum of \$14,000 and distributions are tax-free if used to pay for qualified disability expenses.
 - It's called The Attainable Savings Plan in Massachusetts. It's sponsored by MEFA and administered by Fidelity Investments. More info is available on Mass.gov and MEFA.org.

MassHealth Renewal Update

MassHealth Renewal Update

- On April 3, 2018, MassHealth sent out approximately 4,100 annual renewal packets to members that are due to renew their benefits.
 - This included:
 - Members living in the community age 65+ or turning age 65
 - Long Term Care members
 - Members in chronic hospitals
 - Members in Intermediate Care Facility (ICF)

MassHealth Renewal Updates (cont.)


- Renewals were sent as part of the decommissioning of MassHealth's PACES eligibility computer system.
- The decommissioning of the PACES eligibility computer system **does not impact** the PACE program.
- The Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) program is administered by MassHealth and Medicare to provide a wide range of medical, social, recreational, and wellness services to eligible participants. The goal of PACE program is to allow participants to live safely in their homes instead of in nursing homes.
- All renewal applications will be processed in MassHealth's MA-21 eligibility system.

MassHealth Renewal Updates (cont.)


- Members were sent:
 - A renewal cover letter and the SACA Renewal (SACA-2-ERV).
 - The SACA-2-ERV is the same as the SACA-2 application except that it is **orange** to differentiate that it is being used as a renewal.
 - If a member misplaces the SACA-2-ERV the regular SACA-2 can be completed instead (please write “RENEWAL” on the form).
- When should members return the renewal form by?
 - The due date for completing the renewal form has been extended **May 31, 2018.**

MassHealth Renewal Updates (cont.)

- Sample of the notice



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services



MASSACHUSETTS
HEALTH
CONNECTOR
the right place for the right plan

[HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD NAME]	Date: 04/03/2018
[STREET ADDRESS]	Notice ID: [NOTICE ID]
[CITY], [STATE] [ZIPCODE]	Member ID: [XXXXXXXXXX]

Dear [HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD NAME],

IMPORTANT! You need to act now to find out if you can still get health care through MassHealth, Children’s Medical Security Plan (CMSP), or Health Safety Net (HSN).

You need to fill out a renewal application for health benefits so you can decide if you and members of your household still qualify for MassHealth, CMSP, or HSN. We must get your application by **05/18/2018**, or health coverage for you and members of your household will end. If you are getting premium assistance, the benefits will also end. If MassHealth is paying your Medicare premiums, we will stop paying these premiums.

Enclosed is the *Renewal Application for Health Coverage for Seniors and People Needing Long-Term-Care Services*. You are receiving this renewal application because of one of the following reasons:

- MassHealth records show that you or a member of your household is aged 65 or older.
- MassHealth records show that you or a member of your household will soon be aged 65, and different MassHealth rules apply.
- MassHealth records show that you or a member of your household needs long-term-care services at home or in a medical facility.

We will use the information you provide on this renewal application to complete the annual renewal for all members of your household.

What do I need to do?

- You need to fill out the enclosed renewal application to find out if you can keep getting MassHealth, CMSP, or HSN for you and members of your household.
- Send it to us using the directions below.
- You may get another letter from us to let you know if you still qualify for health coverage.

MassHealth Renewal Updates (cont.)

■ Sample SACA Renewal (SACA-2-ERV)

Renewal Application for Health Coverage for Seniors and People Needing Long-Term-Care Services



HOW TO APPLY

Please identify which program each household member is applying for on page 1 of the application. You can submit your application in any of the following ways.



Mail or fax your filled-out, signed application to
 MassHealth Enrollment Center
 Central Processing Unit
 P.O. Box 290794
 Charlestown, MA 02129-0214
 Fax: 617-887-8799



Hand deliver your filled-out, signed application to
 MassHealth Enrollment Center
 Central Processing Unit
 The Schrafft Center
 529 Main Street, Suite 1M
 Charlestown, MA 02129-0214

MASHEALTH and the HEALTH SAFETY NET | Who Can Use This Application

This is your application for health coverage if you live in Massachusetts and are

- an individual 65 years of age or older and living at home and
 - not the parent of a child under 19 years of age who lives with you; or
 - not an adult relative living with and taking care of a child younger than 19 years of age when neither parent is living in the home; or
- an individual of any age and need long-term-care services in a medical institution or nursing facility;
- an individual who is eligible under certain programs to get long-term-care services to live at home; or
- a member of a married couple living with your spouse and
 - both you and your spouse are applying for health coverage;
 - there are no children under 19 years of age living with you; and
 - one spouse is 65 years of age or older and the other spouse is under 65 years of age. (Please see Step 8 of the application.)
- You are the parent of a child under 19 years of age who lives with you; or
- You are an adult relative living with and taking care of a child younger than 19 years of age when neither parent is living in the home;
- You are disabled and are either working 40 or more hours a month or have currently working and have worked at least 40 hours in the six months immediately before the month of your application; or
- You are in an institution, such as a nursing home, chronic hospital, or other medical institution (You may have to pay a monthly payment, called a patient-paid amount, to the long-term-care facility. For more information, see page 14 in the Senior Guide.); or
- in an acute hospital waiting for placement in a long-term-care facility; or
- living in your home and applying for or getting long-term-care services under a Home- and Community-Based Services Waiver.

If you meet any of the following exceptions, you should complete the Application for Health and Dental Coverage and Help Paying Costs (ACA-3). To obtain a copy of this application, call us at 1-800-841-2900 (TTY: 1-800-497-4648 for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech disabled).

If someone is helping you fill out this application, you may need to fill out a separate form that gives that person permission to act on your behalf. See Authorized Representative Designation Form at the end of this application.

MassHealth Renewal Updates (cont.)

- Where Should the Renewal Application be Sent?
 - The completed SACA Renewals should be returned to MassHealth’s Central Processing Unit in one of the following four ways:

Mail	Fax	Hand Deliver	In Person
MassHealth Enrollment Center Central Processing Unit P.O. Box 290794 Charlestown, MA 02129	617-887-8799	MassHealth Enrollment Center Central Processing Unit: The Schrafft Center 529 Main Street, Suite 1M Charlestown, MA 02129	At a local MEC. To find the closest MEC call MassHealth Customer Service or go to or visit www.mass.gov/masshealth and click on Contact MassHealth for a list of MEC addresses.

MassHealth Renewal Updates (cont.)

- **What are some tips for helping members complete the renewal form?**
 - Ensure that the member answers **all** appropriate questions on the SACA-2-ERV, even if the answer to a question is “*no*”.
 - Ensure that the member or an authorized representative signs and dates the SACA-2-ERV.
 - Sending proof of income, assets, and health insurance will help with processing of the renewal application and may result in less requests for proof being sent later.
 - Members in institutions (such as nursing homes, chronic hospitals, or other medical institutions), in acute hospitals waiting for placement in a long-term care facility, and living at home but applying for/getting long-term-care services under a **Home- and Community-Based Services Waiver must also complete the Long-Term-Care Supplement.**
 - Additional instructions and tips for filling out the renewal application can be found on the first two pages of the SACA-2-ERV.

MassHealth Renewal Updates (cont.)

- MassHealth will not terminate benefits for members that have returned a completed SACA-2-ERV by May 31, 2018.
 - Members will be kept open in their current benefit until their renewal application is processed.
- Members will be sent a notice once their renewal application is processed to let them know what benefits they are eligible for or if any additional proofs are required.
- For additional questions, please contact MassHealth Customer Service at 1-800-841-2900 (TTY: 1-800-497-4648 for people who are deaf, heard of hearing, or speech disabled).

Enrollment Events Update

2018 Enrollment Events Update

Date	Location	Time
May 8	Fitchburg Senior Center	10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
May 12	Somerville Holiday Inn	10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
May 15	Brockton Public Library	1 p.m. – 8 p.m.

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/masshealth-enrollment-events>

Let's Do This Together.

Get help with your MassHealth coverage...from start to finish.



Come to a MassHealth event to talk to us one-on-one about everything MassHealth, including coverage, eligibility, and health plan enrollment. MassHealth staff will be available to help you with new health plan options, changing your primary care provider (PCP), or other questions you have about MassHealth.

Dates and Locations

March 20, 2018: 2:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Castle of Knights
1599 Memorial Drive, Chicopee, MA 01020

March 27, 2018: 2:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Crowne Plaza Hotel
1 West Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201

May 8, 2018: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Fitchburg Senior Center
14 Wallace Ave, Fitchburg, MA 01420

May 12, 2018: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Somerville Holiday Inn
30 Washington Street, Somerville, MA 02146

May 15, 2018: 1 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Brockton Public Library
304 Main Street, Brockton, MA 02301

Help us help you by bringing the following:

- Any letter you received from MassHealth (if available)
- A list of doctors, specialists, behavioral health providers, or hospitals that you go to most often
- Any identification, like a driver's license or passport (if available)

Things you may want to consider before attending an event:

- Find out about your health plan choices by visiting us at MassHealthChoices.com.
- Find out if the doctors or facilities you go to most often are available in the health plans offered where you live.

American Sign Language interpreters will be available at all events.

One Care Updates

One Care Updates

One Care Passive Enrollment:

- MassHealth is planning another round of passive enrollment for an effective enrollment date of July 1, 2018
- As previously, this round will include two groups of MassHealth members:
 - members who are currently eligible for One Care, and
 - members who will gain Medicare eligibility as of July 1, 2018 (“new dually eligible”)
- Members being included in passive enrollment will receive one notice 60 days in advance of the passive enrollment date, and another notice 30 days in advance
- Members may choose to enroll in One Care for an earlier effective enrollment date, may choose to enroll in a different One Care plan if available in their area, or may choose to opt-out.

One Care

MassHealth+Medicare
Bringing your care together

VISIT US ONLINE

www.mass.gov/one-care

EMAIL US

OneCare@state.ma.us

One Care Ombudsman (OCO)

Phone: 1- 855-781-9898

Email: help@onecareombuds.org

Website: <https://onecareombuds.org/>

Questions?