



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF MEDICAID
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April 23, 2024

Chair Michael J. Rodrigues
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State House, Room 212
Boston, MA 02133

Chair Aaron Michlewitz
House Committee on Ways and Means
State House, Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairs Rodrigues and Michlewitz:

Line item 4000-0601 in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget requires the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to report to the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means on:

the implementation of the Medicare Savings Program expanded program eligibility for seniors pursuant to section 25A of said chapter 118E; provided further, that said report shall include, but not be limited to: (i) the number of members who are seniors whose household incomes, as determined by the executive office, exceed 135 per cent of the federal poverty level that are enrolled in Medicare Savings Programs during each month of the fiscal year; (ii) total enrollment in the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary program, Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary Program and Qualifying Individual Program; (iii) total annual spending on Medicare premiums and cost-sharing for such members; (iv) total annual transfers from the prescription advantage program in item 9110-1455 and Health Safety Net Trust Fund to fund the Medicare Savings Program expansion

This report covers the time period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

As of June 30, 2023, total enrollment (both previous and newly eligible members) in the QMB program was 129,650, total enrollment in the SLMB program was 5,026, and total enrollment in the QI program was 3,637. Note that these enrollment counts are for individuals with MSP only and that due to system limitations we cannot report those who have both MSP and full MassHealth at this time but will work towards it in future years.

Below is the estimated number of seniors and disabled individuals enrolled in the MSPs with income over 133% of the federal poverty level (FPL) during each month of the fiscal year. Note that the MassHealth system divides members as below or above 133% FPL so we have provided the breakdown at 133% FPL, rather than at 130% FPL. The total MassHealth spend for these MSP only members with income over 133% FPL between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023 was \$42 million gross. The total MassHealth spend for MSP only members with income over 130% FPL in SFY22 was \$23.8 million gross (we were able to do the breakdown at 130% FPL last year as all members in SLMB and QI were above that prior income limit for QMB).

Month	Estimated enrollment of senior and disabled members enrolled in MSPs with income over 133% FPL
July	14,893
August	14,942
September	14,983
October	14,962
November	14,958
December	14,944
January	12,993
February	12,995
March	14,784
April	15,879
May	16,691
June	17,045

When the MSP eligibility changes took effect on January 1, 2020 (upper income limit expanded to 165% FPL) and January 1, 2023 (upper income limit expanded to 225% FPL), some individuals became newly eligible for MassHealth coverage of Medicare Part A and B cost sharing, which also qualified them for automatic eligibility for the federal Part D low income subsidy (LIS), which reduces out of pocket costs for Medicare drug benefits. As a result of the coverage expansion, there has been a reduction in demand on the Health Safety Net (HSN) because assistance previously covered by the HSN for Medicare cost sharing is covered by MassHealth and by the Part D LIS for the new MSP members. For state fiscal year 2023, the transfer from the Prescription Advantage program in line item 9110-1455 to the General Fund was \$0, and the transfer from the Health Safety Net Trust Fund to the General Fund was \$7,575,000.

I hope you find this report useful and informative. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sarah Nordberg at Sarah.Nordberg@mass.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Levine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Levine, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth

cc: Kathleen E. Walsh, Secretary