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Continuous Eligibility for Children Under 19

Continuous Eligibility for Children (CEC) on Medi-Cal allows that income changes during the period from the last annual redetermination which would otherwise move a child under age 19 from a no-share-of-cost (SOC) category, or from no- SOC eligibility to SOC or ineligibility, are disregarded.

What is CEC?

The Continuous Eligibility for Children (CEC) Program establishes a 12-month period of eligibility for children under age 19 with a "No SOC" status regardless of any income changes.

Note: Deemed Eligible infants have 12 months of Continuous Eligibility, from birth up to their first birthday.

During the CEC guaranteed period, can any change in income, assets or other circumstances result in a change from no SOC to a SOC?

No. During the CEC guaranteed period any change in family income, assets, or other circumstances are disregarded for the child but not the adult family members. The CEC guaranteed period guarantees that the child will receive zero SOC Medi-Cal for the remainder of the 12 month period.

Is there an age limit for CEC?

Yes, the CEC period is for children under 19 years of age.

When does the 12-month CEC period begin?

The 12-month CEC period runs from the first month of initial ongoing eligibility, or the first month impacted by an annual redetermination, and ends 12 months later at the time of the next annual re-determination. A new CEC period begins after the month impacted by the annual redetermination and ends 12 months later, at the time of the next annual redetermination.

EXAMPLE: If the annual redetermination is for May 2014, then the CEC period runs from May, 2014, to the end of April, 2015 (12 months later). A new 12 month CEC period would begin in May, 2015, and continue until the end of April, 2016.

Does CEC apply to retroactive months?

Yes, a determination that a child under 19 years of age is eligible for zero SOC Medi-Cal during a month of retroactive aid will begin a 12 month CEC period.

EXAMPLE: A family applies for Medi-Cal in March, 2014, and requests retroactive coverage. They are approved for retroactive benefits for January, 2014. The child will have two concurrent CEC periods; the retro-CEC guaranteed period which will begin in January, 2014, and end on the last day of December, 2014, and the application CEC period will begin in March, 2014 and end in February, 2015, at the time of the annual redetermination. This means that if the child had a Share of Cost at the time of application, but the family happened to have a lower income during the month of retroactive eligibility, the child could have up to 12 months of free Medi-Cal during the retro-CEC period.

For more detailed information on CEC, please see All County Welfare Letter 14-05, 09-15 and 02-14

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/eligibility/Pages/ACWDLbyyear.aspx>