



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

DATE: August 31, 2020

PPL No. 20-021(R)

TO: Local Governmental Agency (LGA) Coordinators for the
County Based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (CMAA) Program

SUBJECT: **Countywide Averages (CWAs) for the First Quarter (Q1) of State
Fiscal Year (SFY) 2019-20**

The purpose of this Policy and Procedure Letter (PPL) is to notify LGAs of the SFY 2019-20 Q1 CWAs.

A LGA must submit an annual justification (AJ) to use the CWA Medi-Cal Discount Percentage (MDP) methodology. A LGA Coordinator or an authorized alternate must submit the AJ via courier or e-mail to the Department of Health Care Services' (DHCS). The AJ must specifically state the reason(s) why a claiming unit is unable to utilize the Actual Client Count methodology. A LGA must have submitted an AJ to its designated CMAA analyst prior to June 30, 2019, to obtain DHCS' approval to utilize the CWA MDP methodology for SFY 2019-20. Once DHCS approves a LGA's request to use the CWA, the respective LGA must use the CWA methodology for the entire SFY.

The statistical information used to develop the CWA is collected from two sources: the Department of Finance (DOF) and the Health and Human Services' (HHS) webpages referenced below. DHCS provides the CWA PPL quarterly as the data from DOF and HHS is finalized.

The DOF's population statistics are published annually, on a calendar year basis. They provide an estimate of the yearly population totals by county. DHCS' Medi-Cal beneficiary enrollment population totals are published on a continuous basis and provide monthly Medi-Cal beneficiary totals by county for the most recent 48 months of

¹ State of California, Department of Finance, E-1 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State with Annual Percent Change - January 1, 2019 and 2020
http://www.dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/Estimates/e-1/documents/E-1_2020_InternetVersion.xlsx

² State of California, California Health and Human Services, Medi-Cal Certified Eligible Counts, May 2020.
<https://data.chhs.ca.gov/dataset/county-medi-cal-certified-eligible-counts-by-county-and-dual-status-2013-through-2017/resource/9ade93e4-0676-4117-adbe-a53378d7fe84>

activity. To calculate the CWA, HHS's Medi-Cal beneficiary enrollment population totals are averaged for each county by quarter.

Subsequently, the county's quarterly averages are divided by the DOF's estimated population totals for every county. The resultant quarterly amounts are then converted to a percentage for each county, known as the quarterly CWA.

The accompanying document to this PPL, the "California DHCS Medi-Cal CWA for SFY 2019-20 Q1", includes the following data elements:

- The DOF estimated average population for calendar years 2019 and 2020,
- DHCS' average number of Medi-Cal eligible beneficiaries for SFY 2019-20, Q1: July 1, 2019 through August 31, 2019, and
- The number of Medi-Cal eligible beneficiaries shown as a percentage by county for Q1 of SFY 2019-20.

The California DHCS Medi-Cal CWA for SFY 2019-20 Q1 worksheet will be provided at request from CMAA unit staff via email.

A LGA must submit an AJ to its designated CMAA analyst prior to June 30, 2020, to obtain DHCS approval to utilize the CWA MDP methodology for SFY 2020-21. For further questions or assistance regarding this PPL, please contact DHCS at cmaa@dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Damitra Hawkins, Chief
County & Tribal Based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities Unit
Local Governmental Financing Division