

CHANGE NOTICE FOR MANUAL NO. 07-25, CHANGES RELATED TO 2026 COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA)

DATE: DECEMBER 8, 2025

Manual: Family and Children's Medicaid
Change No: 07-25
To: County Directors of Social Services

I. SOCIAL SECURITY COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA)

The Social Security Act provides for an automatic increase when there is an increase in inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Based on the increase in the CPI from the third quarter of 2024 through the third quarter of 2025, there will be a 2.8 percent increase in COLA for 2026.

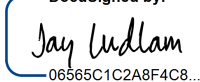
II. POLICY UPDATE

- A. MA-3315 IV.C., Medicaid Deductible policy has been updated with 2026 Medicare Part A and Part B premium, deductible and co-insurance amounts.**
- B. MA-3322.V.B.2., Community Spouse Resource Protection policy has updated with 2026 Community Spouse Resource Allowance (CSRA) amounts.**
- C. MA-3570, Social Security and Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) policy is updated with 2026 COLA related information.**

III. EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION

This policy is effective January 1, 2026. NC FAST will send a communication with additional information, instructions, and reports.

If you have any questions regarding information in this letter, please contact your Operational Support Team Representative.

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Jay Ludlam
Deputy Secretary, NC Medicaid