

## Screening for Medicaid Eligibility under the COLA Passalong

Use the screening guide below to determine if an individual qualifies for COLA passalong status (under the Pickle Amendment). If the individual is unable to answer the questions or is unsure of any answers, check other resources to determine his or her passalong status. Refer to [MA-2110, Passalong](#).

\*This screening guide is to be used to identify individuals eligible for COLA passalong only. For widow(er)s and adult disabled children, also evaluate under other passalong groups. Refer to [MA-2110, Passalong](#).

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**Step One:** Ask the applicant the following questions (and check other sources as needed) to determine if he or she qualifies for passalong.

**Question 1:** Are you now receiving a Social Security check?

\_\_\_\_\_ If **no, STOP**. The individual is not eligible.

\_\_\_\_\_ If **yes**, continue to question 2.

**Question 2:** After April 1977, has there ever been a month in which you were eligible for, and received, both a Social Security check and an SSI or SA **check** (or did you get SSI only and then were found retroactively eligible for Social Security for that month)?

\_\_\_\_\_ If **no, STOP**. The individual is not eligible for **COLA passalong**.  
**Evaluate under other passalong.**

\_\_\_\_\_ If **yes**, continue to question 3.

**Question 3:** What is the last month in which you were eligible for and received both Social Security and SSI or Social Security and SA \_\_\_\_\_?

**Step Two:** Look up the month and year in which the person last received both Social Security and SSI. Refer to the Pickle Chart in [MA-2110, Passalong](#). Find the percentage that applies to the year SSI or SA stopped. Multiply the current amount of the person's (and/or spouse's) Social Security benefits by the applicable percentage. Use this amount after multiplying as the countable SSA income.

Current Social Security benefit amount	_____
Percentage from table for applicable month	X _____ %
Countable Social Security income	= _____
Other Countable income	+ _____
Total Countable income	= _____

**Step Three:** Compare the total countable income to the **current SSI or SA** income limit. If less than the **current SSI or SA** income limit, the person is COLA passalong eligible, from the standpoint of income, for Medicaid benefits. (The person must still satisfy separate Medicaid resource and non-financial requirements.)