



CCSE Bulletin 26-01

Date: January 8, 2026

To: Eligibility Services Supervisors and Staff
Program Managers
Regional Directors

From: Community Care Services State Office

Subject: Federal Benefits 2026 Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)

If you have any questions regarding the policy information in this bulletin, follow regional procedures.

Active bulletins are posted on the following websites:

- Community Care Services Eligibility Handbook (CCSEH) at <https://www.hhs.texas.gov/handbooks/community-care-services-eligibilityhandbook>

Federal Benefits 2026 Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)

Background

The Social Security Administration adjusts Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (RSDI) benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits to reflect the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) effective January 1st of each year. The COLA increase for 2026 is 2.8 percent.

Policy Updates

Community Care Services Eligibility (CCSE) Income Limits

Community Attendant Services (CAS), Family Care (FC), Emergency Response Services (ERS), Day Activity and Health Services (DAHS), Residential Care (RC), Adult Foster Care (AFC), Special Services to Persons with Disabilities (SSPD) and Consumer Managed Personal Attendant Services (CMPAS)

The income limit is based on the special income limit set for institutional care which is equal to 300 percent of the SSI federal benefit rate. Effective January 1, 2026, the special income limit is as follows:

- Individual: \$2,982
- Couple: \$5,964

CCSE Resource Limits

CAS

The 2026 resource limits are based on the SSI resource limits and will remain as follows:

- Individual: \$2,000
- Couple: \$3,000

FC, ERS, DAHS, RC, AFC, and SSPD

The 2026 resource limits will remain as follows (CCSEH 3210 Resource Limits):

- Individual: \$5,000
- Couple: \$6,000

Medicare Savings Program (MSP) Resource Limits

The resource limits for Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMB), Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries (SLMB), and Qualifying Individuals 1 (QI-1) are adjusted annually. Effective January 1, 2026, the resource limits for QMB, SLMB, and QI-1 are as follows:

- Individual: \$9,950
- Couple: \$14,910

The resource limits for the Qualified Disabled and Working Individual (QDWI) program are twice the countable resources allowed under the SSI program and will remain the same:

- Individual: \$4,000
- Couple: \$6,000

MSP Income Limits

The MSP income limits are adjusted annually based on the federal poverty level (FPL). The income limits for QMB, SLMB, and QI-1 will remain the same until the new FPL amounts are published in early 2026.

Federal Benefit Increases

Social Security – RSDI and SSI beneficiaries receive a 2.8 percent COLA increase effective January 1, 2026.

Effective January 1, 2026, the maximum SSI payment amount is as follows:

- Individual: \$994
- Couple: \$1,491

Medicare Part B

The standard Medicare Part B premium increased to \$202.90 for 2026.

Automation

Automation changes are not required.

Correspondence

Correspondence changes are not required.

Handbook

The CCSEH is currently scheduled to be updated in the March 2026 revision.

The CCSE Appendix XI is scheduled to be updated in March 2026 revision.

Training

Training is not required.

Effective Date

This policy is effective January 1, 2026.

