

Implementation Guide: Medicaid State Plan Eligibility Mandatory Eligibility Groups

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Mandatory Eligibility Groups

POLICY CITATION

Statute: 1902(a)(10)(i), 1902(e)(4), 1902(f), 1905(a), 1925, 1931, 1939(a)(5)(E), 1634(b), 1634(c)

Regulation: 42 CFR 435 Subpart B

BACKGROUND

To participate in Medicaid, federal law requires states to cover certain groups of individuals. Examples of these mandatory eligibility groups are Infants and Children under Age 19, Pregnant Women, and Individuals Receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The **Mandatory Eligibility Groups** reviewable unit (RU) lists all eligibility groups that must be covered under the state plan. For the 50 states and the District of Columbia, the groups displayed will differ based on the financial methodologies used to determine eligibility on the basis of being 65 years old or older, or having blindness or a disability. This financial methodology (*1634 State*, *SSI Criteria State*, or *209(b) State*) is described in the **Eligibility Determinations of Individuals Age 65 or Older or Who Have Blindness or a Disability** RU.

The Adult Group is a mandatory eligibility group described in section 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(VIII) of the Social Security Act. However, in 2012 the Supreme Court ruled in *National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) v. Sebelius* that states are neither required to adopt nor to continue coverage under this group. The **Mandatory Eligibility Groups** RU gives states the option to cover the Adult Group in their state plans.

The **Mandatory Eligibility Groups** RU has three purposes:

1. To list in one place all mandatory groups covered by the state,
2. To indicate whether the state covers the Adult Group, and
3. To indicate that the state is amending the RU for a specific eligibility group, and including the RU in the current submission package.

REVIEWABLE UNIT DEPENDENCIES

Many RUs in MACPro are dependent upon other RUs. Each time a primary RU is changed, there could be an effect on other, secondary RUs which are dependent on the primary. For example, in the **Mandatory Eligibility Groups** RU, there is a question as to whether the state covers the Adult Group. If *Yes* is selected, and if a box is checked to include the Adult Group in the submission package, then the **Adult Group** RU will be included by the system in the package and the user can navigate to it to complete it. If *No* is selected, the **Adult Group** RU will not be included in the package. In this example, the **Mandatory Eligibility Groups** RU is the *Primary RU* and the **Adult Group** RU is the *Secondary RU*. The **Adult Group** RU is considered to be dependent on selections made in the **Mandatory Eligibility Groups** RU.

Whenever a change in a primary RU may affect a secondary RU, you either need to revise the secondary RU (if it is already in the package) or add the secondary RU to the package so that it can be updated in the same submission package as the primary RU.

The following table explains the dependent relationships for the **Mandatory Eligibility Groups** RU:

Primary RU	Secondary RU	Nature of Dependency	Actions Needed
Eligibility Determinations of Individuals Age 65 or Older or Who Have Blindness or a Disability	Mandatory Eligibility Groups	Unless the Eligibility Determinations of Individuals Age 65 or Older or Who Have Blindness or a Disability RU (primary) has either been approved in MACPro or is included, completed and validated in the submission package, the Mandatory Eligibility Groups RU (secondary) cannot be displayed.	If the secondary RU will not display because the primary RU is neither approved in MACPro nor included in the package, you need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add the primary RU to the package, complete it and validate it. • Alternatively, remove the secondary RU from the package.

Primary RU	Secondary RU	Nature of Dependency	Actions Needed
Eligibility Determinations of Individuals Age 65 or Older or Who Have Blindness or a Disability	Mandatory Eligibility Groups	The selection of <i>209(b) State</i> , or <i>SSI Criteria State</i> or <i>1634 State</i> as the basis for the eligibility determination in section B of the Eligibility Determinations of Individuals Age 65 or Older or Who Have Blindness or a Disability RU (primary) affects which eligibility groups are listed for selection in the Mandatory Eligibility Groups RU (secondary).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must complete, save and validate the primary RU before you can complete the secondary RU. • Once the primary RU is approved in MACPro, it does not have to be included again in a submission package unless the basis changes, in which case the secondary RU also has to be included again.
Eligibility Determinations of Individuals Age 65 or Older or Who Have Blindness or a Disability	Mandatory Eligibility Groups	The selection of <i>209(b) State</i> , or <i>SSI Criteria</i> or <i>1634 State</i> as the basis for the eligibility determination in section A of the Eligibility Determinations of Individuals Age 65 or Older or Who Have Blindness or a Disability RU (primary) affects which eligibility groups are listed as covered in the Mandatory Eligibility Groups RU (secondary).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must complete, save and validate the primary RU, including the basis for the eligibility determination for the aged, blind and disabled, before you can complete the secondary RU. • Once the primary RU is approved in MACPro, it does not have to be included again in a submission package unless the basis changes, in which case the secondary RU also has to be included again.
Mandatory Eligibility Groups	Adult Group	In section B of the Mandatory Eligibility Groups RU (primary), <i>Yes</i> must be selected to <i>The state elects the Adult Group, described at 42 CFR 435.119</i> and the <i>Adult Group</i> must be selected in the <i>Include RU in Package</i> column in order for the Adult Group RU (secondary) to be included in the submission package for completion or modification.	<p>In order to complete or modify the secondary RU, you must include the primary RU in the package, indicate that you cover the Adult Group, and check that you want to include the RU in the package.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once the primary RU has been saved, you will be able to navigate to the secondary RU.

Primary RU	Secondary RU	Nature of Dependency	Actions Needed
Mandatory Eligibility Groups	Reasonable Classifications of Individuals under Age 21	Unless the Mandatory Eligibility Groups RU (primary) has either been approved in MACPro or is included, completed and validated in the submission package, the Reasonable Classifications of Individuals under Age 21 RU (secondary) cannot be displayed.	If the secondary RU will not display because the primary RU is neither approved in MACPro nor included in the package, you need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add the primary RU to the package, complete it and validate it. • Alternatively, remove the secondary RU from the package.
Mandatory Eligibility Groups	Reasonable Classifications of Individuals under Age 21	In section B of the Mandatory Eligibility Groups RU (primary), if <i>Yes</i> has been selected to <i>The state elects the Adult Group, described at 42 CFR 435.119</i> and the state did not cover a reasonable classification of children prior to 1/1/2014 (<i>No</i> is selected at C.1. in the secondary RU - Reasonable Classifications of Individuals under Age 21), the secondary RU cannot be completed and validated. The submission package cannot be submitted as long as it includes the secondary RU.	If you receive a warning message on the secondary RU that you cannot complete this RU because you cover the Adult Group and you did not cover the Reasonable Classifications of Individuals under Age 21 eligibility group before 1/1/2014: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure that you were correct to check <i>No</i> at C.1. in the secondary RU, that the state did not cover this group before 1/1/2014. • If this is correct and the state covers the Adult Group, you cannot cover the Reasonable Classifications of Individuals under Age 21 group in the state plan. • In this case, you need to remove the secondary RU from the package.

Primary RU	Secondary RU	Nature of Dependency	Actions Needed
Mandatory Eligibility Groups	Reasonable Classifications of Individuals under Age 21	In section B of the Mandatory Eligibility Groups RU (primary), if <i>No</i> has been selected to <i>The state elects the Adult Group, described at 42 CFR 435.119</i> and the state did not cover a reasonable classification of children prior to 1/1/2014 (<i>No</i> is selected at C.1. in the secondary RU - Reasonable Classifications of Individuals under Age 21), specific options are displayed for completion. Also, in section D of the secondary RU, the income standard will automatically display as <i>The AFDC payment standard as of 7/16/1996</i> . Section E will not display.	If you do not cover the Adult Group and you did not cover the Reasonable Classifications of Individuals under Age 21 eligibility group before 1/1/2014, select the appropriate options in the secondary RU.
Mandatory Eligibility Groups	Independent Foster Care Adolescents	Unless the Mandatory Eligibility Groups RU (primary) has either been approved in MACPro or is included, completed and validated in the submission package, the Independent Foster Care Adolescents RU (secondary) cannot be displayed.	If the secondary RU will not display because the primary RU is neither approved in MACPro nor included in the package, you need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add the primary RU to the package, complete it and validate it. • Alternatively, remove the secondary RU from the package.

Primary RU	Secondary RU	Nature of Dependency	Actions Needed
Mandatory Eligibility Groups	Independent Foster Care Adolescents	In section B of the Mandatory Eligibility Groups RU (primary), if <i>Yes</i> has been selected to <i>The state elects the Adult Group, described at 42 CFR 435.119</i> <u>and</u> in section D of the Independent Foster Care Adolescents RU (secondary), <i>Yes</i> has been selected to <i>The income standard...is based on a % of the FPL</i> , <u>and</u> if the age selected in section C of the secondary RU is either <i>Under age 21</i> or <i>Under age 20</i> , the income standard entered in section D of the secondary RU must be greater than 133% FPL.	If you cover the Adult Group, and you are covering individuals under age 20 or 21 in the secondary RU with a % of FPL as your income standard, when you validate the secondary RU, the system will identify a standard entered that does not meet the 133% FPL requirement and give you an error message. If you receive this message: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You need to change the standard entered (if it was entered in error); or • Speak with your CMS Regional Office if you actually cover this classification with an income standard at or below 133% FPL for the age group and classification elected.
Mandatory Eligibility Groups	Independent Foster Care Adolescents	In section B of the Mandatory Eligibility Groups RU (primary), if <i>No</i> has been selected to <i>The state elects the Adult Group, described at 42 CFR 435.119</i> , <u>and</u> in section C of the Independent Foster Care Adolescents RU (secondary), if the age selected is either <i>Under age 21</i> or <i>Under age 20</i> , the income standard options in section D of the secondary RU include: <i>A % FPL, The current standard used for Parents and Other Caretaker Relatives</i> and <i>Other dollar amount</i> .	When you do not cover the Adult Group, and you are covering children under age 20 or 21 in the secondary RU, select the income standard option that is correct for the state.

Primary RU	Secondary RU	Nature of Dependency	Actions Needed
Mandatory Eligibility Groups	Independent Foster Care Adolescents	In section B of the Mandatory Eligibility Groups RU (primary), if <i>Yes</i> has been selected to <i>The state elects the Adult Group, described at 42 CFR 435.119</i> and in section C of the Independent Foster Care Adolescents RU (secondary), if the age selected is either <i>Under age 21</i> or <i>Under age 20</i> , the minimum income standard in section E of the secondary RU will display as <i>an FPL % greater than 133%</i> .	No further action is needed.
Mandatory Eligibility Groups	Individuals above 133% FPL under Age 65	Unless the Mandatory Eligibility Groups RU (primary) has either been approved in MACPro or is included, completed and validated in the submission package, the Individuals above 133% FPL under Age 65 RU (secondary) cannot be displayed.	If the secondary RU will not display because the primary RU is neither approved in MACPro nor included in the package, you need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add the primary RU to the package, complete it and validate it. • Alternatively, remove the secondary RU from the package.
Mandatory Eligibility Groups	Individuals above 133% FPL under Age 65	In section B of the Mandatory Eligibility Groups RU (primary), if <i>No</i> has been selected to <i>The state elects the Adult Group, described at 42 CFR 435.119</i> , <i>Yes</i> may not be selected at C.1. in the Individuals above 133% FPL under Age 65 RU (secondary), or the secondary RU will not pass validation.	If you do not cover the Adult Group in the primary RU, you cannot elect to cover all populations in the secondary RU and must select <i>No</i> at C.1. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instead, you must indicate which populations you cover at C.2.

INSTRUCTIONS

Understanding the Tables

The **Mandatory Eligibility Groups** RU includes two tables: the first table describes the eligibility groups for *Families and Adults* and the second table describes the eligibility groups specific to *Aged, Blind and Disabled* individuals. An optional third table will display if the state elects to cover the Adult Group.

Each table includes the following five columns:

- **Eligibility Group Name** – this column lists all of the mandatory eligibility groups (except the Adult Group). The groups are divided into two subsections: *Families and Adults* and *Aged, Blind and Disabled*. A short description of the eligibility group can be accessed by hovering over the ? icon to the right of the eligibility group name.
- **Covered in State Plan** – this column indicates whether or not each specific eligibility group is covered under the state plan. Because this is the **Mandatory Eligibility Groups** RU, all check boxes are preselected (except for the Adult Group); all mandatory eligibility groups included in the list are covered under the state plan.
- **Include RU in Package** – this column indicates whether or not a specific eligibility group RU is included with this submission package.
- **Included in Another Submission Package** – the circle in this column indicates whether or not the corresponding eligibility group RU is included in another submission package that is currently being processed in MACPro.
 - If the circle is clear, the RU is not currently included in another package.
 - If the circle is dark, the RU has been included in another package that has not yet been adjudicated.
- **Source Type** – this column indicates the source of the data that will initially populate the RUs selected for inclusion in the submission package.
 - **Approved** means there is an existing approved RU in MACPro and its data will display when updating this RU in the current submission package.
 - **Converted** means there is no approved version in MACPro, but converted MMDL data exists and this data will display when updating this RU in the current submission package.
 - **New** means the RU has not been approved in MACPro and no converted data is available. All fields will be blank and all required data must be entered for completion.

Selecting Eligibility Groups

A. *Mandatory Eligibility Groups*

- You do not have the option to select coverage for mandatory eligibility groups because mandatory eligibility groups are covered in the state plan, with the exception of the Adult Group.
 - To include an eligibility group RU in the submission package, check the box in the **Include RU in Package** column that corresponds to the group.
 - Once this box is checked and the **Mandatory Eligibility Groups** RU is saved, the RU for the eligibility group will be available for completion.

- Once an eligibility group is selected for inclusion in the submission package, the ***Included in Another Submission Package*** column will indicate whether or not that RU is also included in another submission package currently being processed.
 - If the circle is dark, the RU has been included in another package, and you should coordinate the processing of this submission package with the other submission package.
- If you included any eligibility groups in the submission package after you have saved this RU, navigate back to the **Submission Summary Form** RU to enter their proposed effective dates.

B. Adult Group

- Indicate, ***Yes*** or ***No***, if the state elects to include the Adult Group in its state plan.
- If you select ***Yes***, you may include this eligibility group in the submission package. To do so, check the box in the ***Include RU in Package*** column.
- Once this box is checked and the **Mandatory Eligibility Groups** RU is saved, the **Adult Group** RU will be available for completion.
- Once the eligibility group is selected for inclusion in the submission package, the ***Included in Another Submission Package*** column will indicate whether or not it is also included in another submission package currently being processed.
 - If the circle is dark, the RU has been included in another package and you should coordinate the processing of this submission package with the other submission package.

De-selecting Eligibility Groups

- After you have completed the **Mandatory Eligibility Groups** RU and CMS has approved it, if you no longer cover the Adult Group in the state plan, uncheck the box next to the group in the ***Covered in State Plan*** column.
 - If you had also included the **Adult Group** RU in the current submission package, the box in the ***Include RU in Package*** column will automatically uncheck.
 - After you save the **Mandatory Eligibility Groups** RU, you will see a confirmation message that lists the Adult Group under the heading, ***Groups Previously Covered***.
 - The system will automatically create and include a ***Terminated*** version of the **Adult Group** RU in the submission package. This ***Terminated*** RU must be submitted for CMS approval.
 - Select the ***Confirm*** button to confirm the de-selection and the system will automatically return you to the **Mandatory Eligibility Groups** RU.
 - Select the ***Revert Changes*** button to return to the **Mandatory Eligibility Groups** RU to make any corrections needed.
- If you select the Adult Group in the ***Covered in State Plan*** column for the first time in this submission package, save the RU, and then de-select the Adult Group in the ***Covered in State Plan*** column and save the RU again, you will see a confirmation message that lists the Adult Group under the heading, ***Groups Not Previously Covered***.
 - Select the ***Confirm*** button to confirm the de-selection and the system will automatically return you to the **Mandatory Eligibility Groups** RU.

- Select the ***Revert Changes*** button to return to the **Mandatory Eligibility Groups** RU to make any corrections needed.
- If you select an eligibility group in the ***Include RU in Package*** column, save the RU, and then de-select the eligibility group in the ***Include RU in Package*** column and save the RU again, you will see a confirmation message that lists this eligibility group under the heading, ***Removed Reviewable Units***.
 - Select the ***Confirm*** button to confirm the de-selection and the system will automatically return you to the **Mandatory Eligibility Groups** RU.
 - Select the ***Revert Changes*** button to return to the **Mandatory Eligibility Groups** RU to make any corrections needed.

Additional Information (Optional)

Except in limited circumstances, this field remains blank. Please consult with CMS before adding any additional information concerning this RU.

REVIEW CRITERIA

Make sure that the state has made the same choice regarding the Adult Group that it did in MMDL (unless it is intentionally changing its decision to cover the Adult Group).