

*Medi-Cal Share of Cost Clinic:  
A Partnership of the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County and Fenwick & West LLP*

**Understanding Your Share of Cost**

**This handout will help you:**

- 1) Understand what a Share of Cost is.
- 2) Know how your Share of Cost affects you.
- 3) Know what some of your options are for dealing with your Share of Cost.

**1) UNDERSTANDING A SHARE OF COST**

- The reason that you have a Share of Cost is because your income is too high to be eligible for free Medi-Cal.
- In order to be eligible for free Medi-Cal, your income must be less than \$1235\* per month if you are single and \$1,664\* if you are married (\*these figures are effective April 1, 2017).
- For example, if you are single and have income of \$1,300 per month, then you will have a Share of Cost of \$680. Here is how the Share of Cost is calculated:

Example of Share of Cost Calculation:	
Monthly Income:	\$1,300
Subtract Income deduction:	\$20
Subtract Maintenance Need:	<u>\$600 (single person deduction)</u>
Share of Cost:	<b>\$680</b>

- While these income limits and deductions seem low and unfair, unfortunately Medi-Cal’s formula for determining Share of Cost is fixed.
- Therefore, you need to make sure Medi-Cal is using accurate income information and that you are receiving the proper deductions.
  - If you need more information about making sure your Share of Cost is calculated correctly, please see the handout titled “Is Your Share of Cost Calculated Correctly?”

**2) HOW DOES A SHARE OF COST AFFECT YOU?**

- If you are on Share of Cost Medi-Cal, you must meet your Share of Cost every month before Medi-Cal will pay bills on your behalf. This is like a “high deductible health insurance” plan.
- Meeting your Share of Cost means that you must incur, or pay yourself, medical bills up to the amount of your Share of Cost before Medi-Cal will pay anything.
  - You cannot have a share of cost and be enrolled in CareAdvantage CMC.

### 3) WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS?

If you are DISABLED:

1. Purchase a supplemental health insurance plan to reduce your “net countable income” to the level for free Medi-Cal,
2. Disenroll from CareAdvantage and purchase Medi-gap insurance to help pay some of the health care costs that Medicare does not cover,
3. Enroll in the Working Disabled Program.

If you are a SENIOR, aged 65 or older, and not disabled:

1. Purchase supplemental health insurance to reduce your “net countable income” to the level for free Medi-Cal,
2. Disenroll from CareAdvantage and purchase Medi-gap insurance to help pay some of the health care costs that Medicare does not cover.

If you have concerns or encounter difficulties while resolving your Share of Cost, please contact:

**The Health Consumer Center**  
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County  
The Natalie Lanam Justice Center  
Sobrato Center for Nonprofits - Redwood Shores  
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*Updated April 2017*