

The Medical Marijuana Assistance Program (MMAP)

1. What is MMAP?

- a. With the passage of Act 16 of 2016, the Medical Marijuana Program Fund was created as a special fund in the State Treasury. The Office of Medical Marijuana (Office) was tasked with assisting patients by using an allotted percentage of this fund to establish:
 - i. A program to assist with the cost of providing medical marijuana to patients who demonstrate financial hardship or need.
 - ii. A program to assist patients and caregivers with the cost associated with the waiver or reduction of fees for identification card.
 - iii. A program to provide for the cost of background checks for caregivers. [35 P.S. Section 10231.902](#)
- b. The Office has been providing patient assistance since the program's inception in December of 2017, and with the passage of Act 44 of 2021 was able to expand the Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana Assistance Program in a significant manner.

2. How was the Office providing financial assistance to patients & caregivers prior to the expansion of MMAP?

- a. From the program's inception (as published in the January 2018 PA Bulletin):
 - i. Patients & caregivers who are registered in an existing Commonwealth financial hardship program are provided a 50% discount on their annual card fee paid for by the Office of Medical Marijuana.
 - ii. 65% of Federal background check fees for all caregivers are paid for by the Office of Medical Marijuana.

3. How will the MMAP work?

- a. To expedite assistance, we rolled out the expansion of MMAP in three phases:
 - i. Phase 1, effective March 1, 2022, eliminated annual card fees for eligible participants registered in an existing Commonwealth financial hardship program.
 - ii. Phase 2, effective March 1, 2022, subsidized 100% of all background check fees for any newly registered caregiver, bringing the total cost of all caregiver federal background checks down to \$0.
 - iii. Phase 3, launched in the form of a pilot program in November of 2022, distributes a \$50 benefit per month per recipient who is currently enrolled in PACE or PACENET. Expansion of Phase 3 is dependent on the funding that will be allocated to the program in the future.

4. Who is eligible to participate in the MMAP?

- a. MMAP eligibility for card fee and monthly assistance is determined by registration in an existing Commonwealth financial hardship program.
 - i. *The Department of Health may waive or reduce the fee for an identification card application or an identification card renewal application for an applicant who demonstrates financial hardship...the Department has determined that an applicant may demonstrate financial hardship by verifying, subject to the penalties of perjury, that the applicant is currently participating in one or more of the following programs:
 - Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
 - Medicaid
 - Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly (PACE)
 - PACE Needs Enhancement Tier (PACENET)
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - Women, Infants and Children (WIC)* PA Bulletin:[\[49 Pa.B. 3431\]](#) - 28 Pa. Code § 1191d.26(d)
- b. All newly registered Caregivers will have 100% of their background check paid for by the Office of Medical Marijuana.

5. Are there restrictions on the products I can buy with MMAP assistance?

- a. Your MMAP balance can be applied to any medical marijuana product from Pennsylvania dispensaries.
- b. Non-medical products such as devices and accessories cannot be purchased with MMAP funds.