

Administrative Letter No. 09-03 - Change in the Federal Poverty Level for SA In-Home Cases (Obsolete 03/01/2010, Change Notice 02-10)

Division of Aging and Adult Services - Adult Services Section

Date: February 16, 2009

Subject: Change in the Federal Poverty Level for SA In-Home Cases

Distribution: County Directors
Special Assistance Supervisors
Adult Services Supervisors

Effective Date: March 1, 2009

Effective April 1, 2009, the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) will increase from \$867 to \$903 per month for an individual. The purpose of this letter is to advise how this change will affect SA In-Home (SA/IH) cases.

The SA/IH income limit, equal to the FPL, will increase to \$903 effective April 1, 2009. The individual FPL is also the Domiciliary Rate that is entered into EIS for authorized SA/IH cases.

The new FPL of \$903 per month will not affect payments or eligibility for current SA/IH recipients whose total countable income is below \$903.

The COLA disregard for SA/IH applicant/recipients also ends effective April 1, 2009. This will affect eligibility of current SA/IH recipients, and new SA/IH applicants whose total countable income (TCMI) is above \$903. Please see **DAAS Administrative Letter 09-04, End of the 2009 Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment Disregard for Special Assistance In-Home Cases**, for further instructions for these cases.

The maximum SA/IH payment is calculated by subtracting the individual's TCMI from the SA Adult Care Home (ACH) Basic Maintenance Amount, and then multiplying the remainder by .75. The SA/ACH Basic Maintenance Amount is \$1,253 (\$1,207 + \$46 Personal Needs Allowance). The actual payment, not to exceed the maximum allowable payment, is determined by the Adult Services case manager based on the comprehensive assessment and service plan.

I. SA/IH Cases Active on February 27, 2009

The following automated changes will be made in EIS to all SA/IH cases (ambulation capacity code 'H') that are active in EIS on February 27, 2009.

The Domiciliary Rate will change from \$867 to \$903.

B. A Case Profile will be created for each updated case, with the message:
MASS CHANGE DUE TO SA IN-HOME RATE CHANGE.

C. A report will be created in NCXPTR identifying the SA/IH cases that were updated during the mass change. The report is entitled 'DHREJA SA DEMO IN-HOME RATE CHAN'. This report will be available March 2, 2009. The report is sorted by county, district number and in alphabetical order by Casehead Payee. The report will include:

1. Casehead Payee Name

2. Case ID Number
3. Old Domiciliary Rate
 4. New Domiciliary Rate
 5. District Number

D. There will be a report in NCXPTR identifying the SAA and SAD cases that were not updated in the mass change due to a pending DSS-8125. The report is entitled 'DHREJA SA IN-HOME ERROR RPT'. This report will be available March 2, 2009. The report is sorted by county and district number, and is in alphabetical order by Casehead Payee Name. Items on the report include:

Casehead Payee Name
Case ID Number
Old Domiciliary Rate
District Number
Error Message: 8125 Pending

II. SA/IH Applications Pending on April 1, 2009

Determine eligibility for SA/IH payments using the new income limit of \$903 effective April 1, 2009 and later. For months prior to April 2009, determine eligibility using the income limit of \$867.

If eligible, approve the SA/IH application with a Payment Effective Date of 04/2009 (or later if eligibility begins in a later month).

1. The TCMI cannot be greater than \$903.
2. The Domiciliary Rate must be \$903.
 - a. The SA/IH Maintenance Amount cannot be greater than \$1,166. The Maintenance Amount must equal the TCMI + the SA/IH payment amount.
 - b. The maximum SA/IH Maintenance Amount is determined by calculating the payment for a recipient with the highest allowable income. The maximum allowable payment for an individual with \$903 TCMI is \$263.00, and is calculated as follows:

$\$1,253 - \$903 = \$350 \times 0.75$ (75% of the maximum ACH Basic payment for this income amount) = \$262.50 rounded to the nearest dollar = \$263.00).

- c. The maximum SA/IH Maintenance Amount is $\$903.00 + \$263.00 = \$1,166.00$.

If the applicant is eligible for an SA/IH payment for months prior to April 1, 2009, authorize payments for those months in the "Retro" fields on the DSS-8125.

III. Redeterminations and Changes in Situation

For regular reviews and for changes in situation, determine eligibility for SA/IH payments using the new income limit of \$903 for April 1, 2009 and later. For months prior to April 2009, determine eligibility using the income limit of \$867.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact your Adult Programs Representative.