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WGIUPD

GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

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DIVISION: Office of Medicaid Management

PAGE 1

GIS 01 MA/011

TO: Local Commissioners, Medicaid Directors

FROM: Betty Rice, Director
Division of Consumer and Local District Relations

SUBJECT: Revision of Family Member Allowance

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2001

CONTACT PERSON: Bureau of Local District Support:
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This is to inform social services districts of the revised family member allowance based on the actual, rather than the estimated, federal poverty level effective January 1, 2001. The family member allowance is utilized in spousal impoverishment budgeting. This General Information System (GIS) message revises the family member allowance that was contained in GIS 00 MA/030.

Effective January 1, 2001, the annual federal poverty level for a family of two increases to \$11,610. This figure multiplied by 150 percent and then divided by 12 equals \$1,452 (rounded up to the nearest dollar). Social services districts, therefore, must use \$1,452, instead of \$1,445, in the family member allowance formula. To calculate the family member allowance:

1. Subtract the otherwise available income of the family member from \$1,452. The remainder is entered on line 19a on page 5 of the Institutionalized Spouse Budget worksheet.
2. Divide the remainder (amount entered on line 19a of the worksheet) by 3, and round up to the nearest dollar. This is the family member allowance (the amount entered on line 20 of the worksheet).

If a family member has no otherwise available income, the family member allowance is \$484.

All spousal impoverishment cases involving a family member entitled to the family member allowance, which are active on or after January 1, 2001, must be rebudgeted using the new family member allowance. In addition, the increased family member allowance must be used effective January 1, 2001 in determining any requested contribution of income from a community spouse or from a spouse living apart from an SSI-related applicant/recipient.

Any questions should be directed to your Bureau of Local District Support representative.