

DSS-4357EL

WGIUPD

GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

12/04/01

DIVISION: Office of Medicaid Management

PAGE 1

GIS 01 MA/038

TO: Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Directors

FROM: Betty Rice, Director

Division of Consumer and Local District Relations

SUBJECT: Spousal Impoverishment: Increases in the Federal Maximum Community Spouse Resource Allowance (CSRA), Family Member Allowance, and Community Spouse Minimum Monthly Maintenance Needs Allowance (MMMNA)

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2002

CONTACT PERSON: Bureau of Local District Support:
Upstate (518)474-8216 NYC (212)268-6855

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), formerly the Health Care Financing Administration, has informed the Department that due to an increase in the consumer price index, the federal maximum Community Spouse Resource Allowance (CSRA) increases to \$89,280 effective January 1, 2002. The State's minimum CSRA will remain set at \$74,820. Therefore, in determining the community spouse resource allowance on and after January 1, 2002, the community spouse is permitted to retain resources in an amount equal to the greater of the following amounts:

1. \$74,820 (the State minimum Community Spouse Resource Allowance); or
2. the amount of the spousal share up to \$89,280 (the new federal maximum).

"Spousal share" is the amount equal to one-half of the total value of the countable resources of the couple as of the date of the first continuous period of institutionalization of the institutionalized spouse on or after September 30, 1989.

Effective January 1, 2002, the estimated annual poverty level for a family of two increases from \$11,560 to \$11,990. This figure multiplied by 150 percent, and then divided by 12 equals \$1,498.75. Therefore, social services districts must use \$1,499 (\$1,498.75 rounded up) 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 \$1,499 (the remainder is entered on line 19a of 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 is entered on line 20 of the worksheet).

