

**GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM**

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**DIVISION:** Office of Medicaid Management

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**GIS 05 MA/039**

**TO:** Local Commissioners, Medicaid Directors

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

**SUBJECT:** Required Tracking of Medicaid-only Recipients Residing in Adult Homes, Enriched Housing Programs and Schools for the Mentally Retarded

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediately

**CONTACT PERSON:** Local District Liaison  
Upstate (518) 474-8887 NYC (212) 417-4500

Effective January 1, 2006, residents of Department of Health certified Adult Care facilities and Enriched Housing Programs, and Schools for the Mentally Retarded who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), will receive an increase in their monthly SSI payment, which includes an increase in the personal needs allowance portion of their benefit. This new SSI benefit level is defined as "Enhanced Residential Care" and was authorized by Chapter 58 of the Laws of 2005.

This change will affect residents of these programs who are in receipt of Medicaid-only by increasing the Standard of Need used to determine Medicaid eligibility. The Department is working with operators of Adult Homes and Enriched Housing Programs to identify active recipients who will be affected by this increase. Operators have been instructed to inform the Department of all active Medicaid recipients as of August 31, 2005. For identified individuals, a new Shelter Type code in MBL is planned so that cases can be budgeted correctly during Mass Rebudgeting in November. Districts will receive further information regarding the re-budgeting of these existing cases at a later date.

Medicaid-only eligible residents of Schools for the Mentally Retarded will also be entitled to the higher income standard allowed under "Enhanced Residential Care". Although MBL has not previously supported the proper budgeting for these residents, the new Shelter code that will be used for Adult Homes and Enriched Housing Programs will also be applicable to Schools for the Mentally Retarded.

At this time, however, it is important that districts track individuals who enter Adult Homes and Enriched Housing Programs on or after September 1, 2005, and are receiving or begin to receive Medicaid. While it is appropriate for districts to continue using the current Congregate Care Level 2 rate for these cases until the new rate becomes effective in January 2006, such cases will not be budgeted correctly during Mass Rebudgeting and will require local district action. Local districts are further advised to identify any Medicaid-only recipients residing in OMRDD licensed Schools for the Mentally Retarded to insure that once the new Congregate Care Level 3 rate is supported by MBL, a budget can be stored utilizing the proper Standard of Need. Further information will be forthcoming.

Any questions about this GIS should be directed to your Local District liaison.