

## CATEGORICAL FACTORS

### BLINDNESS

- (4) When the A/R indicates on the application that s/he is in receipt of Social Security Disability benefits or other disability pension benefits based on his/her visual impairment.

**Verification Process:** Verification of legal blindness for the purpose of establishing eligibility for Medicaid is certification from the Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped (CBVH). If the A/R is unable to provide his/her certification, the local district submits form LDSS-2353, "Eye Examination Clearance - Blind Applicant for Medicaid" to the Commission to determine if the A/R is registered. If the A/R is unknown to the Commission, a report of an eye examination by an ophthalmologist or an optometrist is submitted on the appropriate form (i.e., LDSS-3377 Rev. 2/82, Mandatory Eye Examination Report, Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped) to the Commission for certification.

**Documentation:** Sufficient to establish an audit trail:

- (a) a copy of the certification of blindness from the Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped included in the case record; or
- (b) the date of certification, Commission Registration number and/or name of the official who signed the document.

**Disposition:** If the A/R meets the above requirements, s/he is considered SSI-related and his/her income and resources are compared to the medically needy income levels in **REFERENCE MEDICALLY NEEDY INCOME AND FEDERAL POVERTY LEVELS** and the resource levels also found in **REFERENCE MEDICAID RESOURCE LEVELS** to determine eligibility for Medicaid. Such persons are offered a choice between the SSI-related budgeting methodology and the ADC-related budgeting methodology, provided s/he meets the requirements for ADC.

The A/R is advised of the benefits available through the SSI program. If s/he is interested, s/he is referred to the local SSA District Office for a determination of his/her SSI eligibility. Application for SSI is **not** a condition of eligibility for Medicaid.