

## OTHER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

### FINANCIAL MAINTENANCE

**Description:** Financial maintenance refers to the manner in which the A/R meets basic needs and non-medical expenses. The local district evaluates the completeness and consistency of the A/R's statements regarding financial circumstances.

**Policy:** In evaluating the assets of the A/R, the picture of financial management which s/he presents at the time of application or recertification is carefully considered. S/he has the responsibility to report to the local district all information that is required for the determination of eligibility. The local district has the responsibility to evaluate this information for completeness and consistency in the eligibility determination process.

**References:** SSL Sect. 366-a.4  
Dept. Reg. 360-2.2  
360-2.3(c)

**Interpretation:** When the local district is presented with a set of facts by the A/R during the course of the application/recertification process, the local district has the responsibility of evaluating these facts against the program income/resource levels and against each other. Although the A/R may appear to be eligible on the basis of the comparison of his/her available assets against the applicable income/resource level, the financial maintenance picture may be unreasonable.

For example: The A/R declares information regarding income and resources which appears to make him/her eligible for Medicaid. However, s/he also declares a high shelter expense and the difference between the A/R's income and shelter expense is so small that it is unlikely s/he can live on it (income is \$550, shelter expense is \$540). In this instance, the A/R is asked to explain and document the way in which food, clothing and incidental expenses are met. It is possible that these expenses have been met from accumulated resources or the generosity of friends or relatives. If so, the A/R is asked to document this, as long as providing documentation is not expected to result in cessation of the informal support. ***A statement from the A/R may be sufficient.***

The local social services district obtains an explanation of assets declared in prior case records, but no longer declared by the A/R. If the assets (income and resources) were used for maintenance,

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the A/R should document this. If the A/R cannot document how the assets (income and resources) were spent, the possibility of a transfer of assets for the purpose of qualifying for Medicaid is considered (see pages 353 through 363).

**Disposition:**

The information that is provided by an A/R concerning his/her living circumstances is used to assist in determining his/her assets (income and resources). An A/R can be denied or closed for failure to explain how s/he meets expenses.

If the local social services district believes that the A/R has undisclosed income/resources, the case is referred for further investigation.