

STATE OF DELAWARE



**DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF MEDICAID & MEDICAL ASSISTANCE**

**PLANNING & POLICY
M E M O R A N D U M**

REPLY TO
ATTN. OF: Administrative Notice DMMA – A-07-2020

TO: All DMMA/DSS Staff

DATE: April 9, 2020

SUBJECT: Temporary Census Income and Medicaid Eligibility

BACKGROUND

The Census provides low-income individuals, many of whom are eligible for Medicaid with an opportunity for employment and valuable training in work skills. In past censuses, states were able to disregard or exclude temporary census income for all Medicaid and CHIP eligibility groups. However, the move to the use of modified adjusted gross income (MAGI)-based methodology no longer permits the use of income disregards. Delaware continues to disregard temporary census income from all non-MAGI eligibility groups and is expanding this group with three additional non-MAGI eligibility groups.

DISCUSSION

MAGI based methodologies are used to determine eligibility for Adults, Parents and Caretakers, Pregnant women and children. MAGI methodology is based on federal income tax rules for countable income. Temporary census income is taxable as employment income and it is counted in financial eligibility determinations for MAGI – based Medicaid eligibility groups and CHIP. Federal law prohibits the use of income disregards in MAGI-based methodologies, so states that previously excluded or disregarded temporary census income for eligibility in their Medicaid or CHIP programs may no longer exclude such income for these groups.

Non MAGI methodologies are used to determine eligibility for Individuals who seek Medicaid on the basis of being age 65 or older; having blindness or disability; who request Medicaid coverage for certain long-term services and supports; who are being evaluated for one of the Medicare Savings Programs (QMB, SLMB, and QI-1). For these non-MAGI groups, States can exclude temporary census income.

Delaware is adding the following eligibility groups to this exclusion:

- Individuals eligible for Cash exempt for institutionalization (Long-Term Care Nursing Home SSI individuals)
- Individuals in Institutions eligible under a Special income level (Long-Term Care Nursing Home)
- Ticket to Work Basic Group (Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities)

ACTION REQUIRED

DSS and DMMA Staff should exclude the temporary census income of individuals determined eligible under the non-MAGI eligibility groups listed above.

For MAGI groups, DSS and DMMA Staff should continue to use reasonable methods to:

- Include a prorated portion of a reasonably predictable increase in future income and/or family size.
- Account for a reasonably predictable decrease in future income and/or family size.

DIRECT INQUIRIES TO:

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April 9, 2020 _____

DATE

Glyne Williams _____

Glyne Williams, Chief
Planning & Policy
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