



Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

FIA ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Control Number:
02-26

Effective Date: January 1, 2002

Issuance Date: November 17, 2001

**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND ELIGIBILITY STAFF**

**FROM: CHARLES E. HENRY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIA
JOSEPH DAVIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OOE, DHMH**

RE: LUMP SUM SHORTENED PERIOD OF INELIGIBILITY

PROGRAM AFFECTED: TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF POLICY, RESEARCH AND SYSTEMS

SUMMARY:

This is one of several action transmittals for Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) that is being issued as the result of the adoption of new Family Investment Program (FIP) Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR 07.03.03.01 - .26). Prior FIP regulations were repealed and new FIP regulations were adopted in November 2001.

When a TCA customer receives a lump sum, the amount is divided by the TCA grant amount to determine the number of months the family is ineligible for TCA benefits. Before the adoption of the new TCA regulations, local departments were limited in the reasons considered to determine when the lump sum became unavailable to the assistance unit. This action transmittal provides local departments with more flexibility in determining whether a lump sum is unavailable to the TCA family and the period of ineligibility can be shortened.

ACTION REQUIRED:

In keeping with the Administration's goals of employment and independence, use the following reasons (new reasons are in bold type) when considering whether the lump sum is unavailable to the assistance unit:

- Theft of money;

- ❑ Disaster defined as fire, flood, tornado, or civil disorder;
- ❑ Eviction or foreclosure;
- ❑ Theft or breakdown of an essential appliance;
- ❑ Breakdown of essential household furnishings, equipment or structure necessitating repair or replacement;
- ❑ Lack of heating or utilities or insufficient fuel supply;
- ❑ Assistance unit incurs and pays medical expenses;
- ❑ **Assistance unit uses the lump sum to:**
 - **Repair a vehicle,**
 - **Purchase first vehicle, or**
 - **Pay vehicle insurance; and**
- ❑ **Reasons as defined by the local department.**

The period of ineligibility for TCA can be shortened when the family uses the lump sum for any of the reasons listed above. The amount used is deducted from the total lump sum payment **before** dividing the lump sum by the TCA grant for the assistance unit size and determining the number of months the unit is ineligible.

ACTION DUE:

January 1, 2002.

NARRATE ALL CASE ACTIVITY CAREFULLY:

Local departments must ensure that narration of case activity is clear, concise, and complete according to the action taken by the case manager. Good narration also supports local department decisions in the event of a fair hearing or selection of the case for Quality Control review.

RIGHT TO APPEAL

As a reminder, local departments shall advise households of their right to appeal a local department decision and the procedures for requesting a fair hearing. Local departments must also advise households of any legal services that might be available to represent them during a fair hearing. To find out the number of their local Legal Aid office, customers may call Legal Aid's toll-free number, 1.800.999.8904.

INQUIRIES

Please direct policy questions to Edna McAbier, Bureau of Policy and Training, at 410.767.8805 or email emcabier@dhr.state.md.us.

c: FIA Management Staff
Constituent Services

Help Desk
CTF