TO:       DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
         DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT
         FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND ELIGIBILITY STAFF
         DIVISION OF ELIGIBILITY WAIVER SERVICES
         HEALTH OFFICERS, LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS
         LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT ELIGIBILITY STAFF

FROM:      KEVIN M. MCGUIRE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIA
          JILL SPECTOR, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DHMH/OES

RE:        ACCELERATED CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY (ACE) - LDSS AND
          LHD PROCEDURES FOR PRIORITIZING AND ACCELERATING THE
          MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY PROCESS FOR PREGNANT WOMEN
          APPLYING TO MEDICAID

PROGRAM AFFECTED:  MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

ORIGINATING OFFICE:  OFFICE OF ELIGIBILITY SERVICES

BACKGROUND

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and the Department of Human
Resources (DHR) have developed new procedures for prioritizing Medicaid applications
for pregnant women. The procedures will be implemented to assist the State in meeting
the Governor’s initiative to decrease infant mortality in Maryland.

When pregnant women apply for Medicaid at either a Local Health Department (LHD) or
a Local Department of Social Services (LDSS), their applications will be screened and
the eligibility process will be accelerated. This will enable pregnant women to be
enrolled quickly and to access prenatal care as soon as possible.

DHMH has written new procedures for Accelerated Certification of Eligibility (ACE) for
both the LHDs and LDSS. The revised manual is attached.

INQUIRIES:

Please direct Medical Assistance policy questions the DHMH Division of Eligibility Policy
or MCHP policy questions to the MCHP Division, both at 410-767-1463 or 1-800-492-
5231 (select option 2 and request extension 1463), and CARES questions to Debbie
Simon at 410-238-1363.

cc:        DHMH Executive Staff     DHR Executive Staff
          FIA Management Staff      DHR Management Staff
          Constituent Services      DHR Help Desk