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

FROM: KEVIN MAHON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIA
JOSEPH MILLSTONE, DIRECTOR, DHMH/MCPA

RE: COMMUNITY SPOUSE MINIMUM MAINTENANCE MONTHLY
NEEDS STANDARD AND THE SHELTER ALLOWANCE INCREASE

PROGRAMS AFFECTED: MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF POLICY AND RESEARCH

The Health Care Financing Administration has announced an increase in the community spouse
minimum maintenance monthly needs standard (MMMNS) and the shelter allowance effective
July 1, 1997. Deducting MMMNS from the income of the institutionalized person enables the
spouse to be maintained in the community. The MMMNS applies only to a legal spouse,
including a spouse from whom the institutionalized person was separated prior to the
institutionalization.

The MMMNS increases to $1,327 on July 1, 1997. The shelter allowance is 30 percent of the
MMMNS. The long term care excess shelter standard increases to $398.

CARES will do a mass modification on June 14, 1997. Use the new standards when calculating
eligibility in AIMS jurisdictions effective July 1, 1997. Direct inquiries to Yolanda Parker at (410)
767-7259.

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