



Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

FIA ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Control Number: #00-55

Effective Date: Upon Receipt

Issuance Date: June 22, 2000

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

FROM:  ROBERT J. EVERHARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIA

JOSEPH E. DAVIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OOE, DHMH 

**RE: END OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN LIEU OF TEMPORARY CASH
ASSISTANCE OPTION**

**PROGRAM AFFECTED: TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE AND MEDICAL
ASSISTANCE**

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF POLICY, RESEARCH AND SYSTEMS

SUMMARY

The waiver allowing Medical Assistance in lieu of Temporary Cash Assistance ended December 31, 1999.

In September 1996 the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene received a 13-quarter waiver from the Health Care Financing Administration to allow individuals who are under-employed or just starting a job to elect to receive Medical Assistance in lieu of cash assistance. The waiver allowed such cases, at the end of 3 months, to be treated the same as a case ineligible for cash assistance due to employment thereby becoming eligible for one year of transitional MA.

On July 1, 1999 changes to the law in House Bill 914 increased the earned income disregard to 35% and made working TCA recipients exempt from the 60-month lifetime eligibility limit. The MA in lieu of TCA waiver allowed working TCA recipients not to have their eligibility period counted against the 60-month lifetime limit. With the passing of House Bill 914 the 60-month lifetime limit was no longer an issue for working recipients, so DHR did not ask DHMH to request a waiver extension. Therefore, MA in lieu of TCA is no longer an option. Families with a working adult member may continue to receive TCA (and MA) without advancing the time-limited eligibility counter. When their earnings increase and they become ineligible for TCA, they will be eligible for one year's transitional MA.

REQUIRED ACTION

Immediately upon receipt of this Action Transmittal please discontinue the use of the MA in lieu of TCA option. Families with a working adult member may continue to receive TCA and automatic Medical Assistance without advancing the time limit eligibility counter.

INQUIRIES

Please direct policy questions to Cynthia Davis at (410) 767-7495.

cc: FIA Management Staff
Constituent Services
Child Care Administration
OIM Help Desk