



Department of Human Resources  
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## FIA INFORMATION MEMO

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**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR INCOME MAINTENANCE  
INCOME MAINTENANCE SUPERVISORS**

**FROM: KEVIN MAHON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIA** 

**RE: FEDERAL DRUG AND ALCOHOL ADDICTION POLICY CHANGES  
AFFECTING SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME AND MEDICAL  
ASSISTANCE BENEFITS**

**PROGRAM AFFECTED: TRANSITIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL AND  
HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE**

**ORIGINATING OFFICE: OPA/ DIVISION OF PROGRAM POLICY AND  
REGULATION**

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) sent termination notices on June 28, 1996 to 2,238 Maryland citizens with a drug or alcohol related disability. The notices informed them that their Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medical Assistance benefits will terminate January 1, 1997.

- o When the individual's SSI benefits terminate, their Medical Assistance will also terminate.
- o An individual must file an appeal of termination by July 27, 1996, to obtain a redetermination. After this date, the individual will need to file a new SSI application.
- o If an individual appeals the termination and shows that drug and alcohol addiction (D&AA) is not a contributing factor to their disability, the individual will continue to receive SSI benefits.

The Department of Human Resources is assisting individuals affected by this policy change as follows:

- o The Disability Entitlement and Advocacy Program (DEAP) sent letters to 247 individuals that DEAP represented in the SSI application process:
  - encouraging them to appeal; and,
  - offering the individuals continued DEAP representation.
- o DEAP is also working with the Homeless Persons Representation Project, Inc. to ensure that there is no duplication of effort in assisting individuals affected by this policy change.
- o DEAP is advising the Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS) on ways to assist these individuals. DEAP may be reached at (410)332-8910 or (800)727-6454.
- o The DHR Disability Management Operations (DMO) unit is working with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to determine the impact and course of action needed to assist Non-SSI Medical Assistance customers affected by this DHHS policy change.

Any individuals terminated from SSI are eligible to apply for Transitional Emergency Medical and Housing Benefits (TEMHA) and Federal Medical Assistance (FMA). The Family Investment Administration (FIA) is coordinating with the Community Services Administration (CSA) to determine the effect this change will have on the TEMHA caseload. It is anticipated that both TEMHA and FMA requests for assistance will increase in January. No change in existing LDSS policy or procedures is required at this time.

cc: DHR Executive Staff  
FIA Management Staff  
Arnold Dixon  
Ned Wollman - DHMH  
Joseph LaAsmar - DEAP