



Department of Human Resources
311 W. Saratoga St.
Baltimore, MD. 21201-3521

FIA ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Issuance Date: June 27, 1996

Effective Date: August 1, 1996

Control Number: FIA OPA #97-07

TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS
Charles E. Henry for
FROM: KEVIN MAHON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIA
RE: ELIMINATION OF THE SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES FOR AFDC
PREGNANT WOMEN

PROGRAM AFFECTED: AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN TO
PREGNANT WOMEN

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OPA/ DIVISION OF PROGRAM POLICY AND
REGULATION

SUMMARY

This transmittal replaces FIA OPA #97-05.

BACKGROUND

Under current policy a \$30 special needs allowance and a \$14 prenatal nutritional allowance is paid to AFDC-PW recipients. The special needs allowances were put in effect because the General Public Assistance to Pregnant Women (GPA-PW) payment exceeded the AFDC grant amount for one person.

NEW POLICY

The AFDC-PW grant will be reduced from \$209 to \$165, the one person AFDC benefit amount, effective August 1, 1996.

A warning letter was sent to customers on June 3, 1996, to notify them of the change effective July 1. A revised letter dated June 14, was sent to tell customers that the change will be effective August 1. Copies of the letters are attached. An adverse action letter will also be sent to AFDC-PW recipients to inform them of the reduction in benefits.

ACTION REQUIRED

AIMS

The program processing for the changes to AFDC-PW will be effective August 1, 1996, as a mass change.

CARES

If no action is taken on an AFDC-PW case between June 17 and August 1, the system will make the change effective August 1 with no further action by the local department. If circumstances require case action on an AFDC-PW AU or any food stamp AU or Medical Assistance AU associated with the AFDC-PW recipient during this period of time, refer to CARES Bulletin #96-56 which was faxed to all local departments on June 17.

INQUIRIES

Please direct inquiries to Kay Finegan at (410) 767-7939 or the DHR Help Desk at (410) 767-7002 or 1-800-347-1350.

Attachment

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



June 3, 1996

Dear Customer:

You are currently receiving General Public Assistance or AFDC for Pregnant Woman cash benefits because you are pregnant and have no other children living with you. Your benefit has been \$209 per month. Because of cutbacks in the State budget, your benefits will be less as of July 1, 1996.

If you are receiving General Public Assistance for Pregnant Women and have no other income, your benefit will be \$150. If you are at least six months pregnant, the benefit is \$165. Your Food Stamps stay the same or go up and you are still eligible for WIC. When your child is born, your benefit will go up to \$292.

As soon as your baby is born, it is very important to tell your case worker. Send or bring proof of the birth and proof that you have applied for a Social Security number for your baby. The hospital will provide this information upon your request.

Most importantly, keep all of your doctor visits. This is the best way to make sure you have a happy, healthy baby. Your Medical Assistance will pay for the visits.

Staff at your local department of social services are ready to assist you. You may call the local office with questions, or call the Department of Human Resources Hotline toll-free number 1-800-332-6347.

Sincerely,

Alvin C. Collins
Secretary



June 14, 1996

Dear AFDC-PW Customer:

Several weeks ago we sent you a notice explaining a reduction in your benefits. **Please disregard that notice.**

You are now receiving \$209 in cash benefits because you are pregnant and have no other children living with you. Because of cutbacks in the State budget, your benefits will be less as of August 1, 1996.

If you are at least six months pregnant and have no other income, the benefit will be \$165. Your Food Stamps will either stay the same or go up, and you are still eligible for WIC. When your child is born, your cash benefit will go up to \$292.

As soon as your baby is born, it is very important to tell your case worker. Send or bring proof of the birth and proof that you have applied for a Social Security number for your baby. The hospital will provide this information upon your request.

Most importantly, keep all of your doctor visits. This is the best way to make sure you have a healthy, happy baby. Your Medical Assistance will pay for the visits.

Staff at your local department of social services are ready to assist you. You may call the local office with questions, or call the Department of Human Resources Hotline toll-free number 1-800-332-6347.

Sincerely,

Alvin C. Collins
Secretary