



Department of Human Resources
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FIA ACTION TRANSMITTAL

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

FROM: KEVIN MAHON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIA

**RE: MEDICAL ASSISTANCE EXTENSIONS, WORK REQUIREMENT
EXEMPTIONS, AND STEPPARENT CLARIFICATIONS**

**PROGRAMS AFFECTED: TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE (TCA) AND FOOD
STAMPS (FS)**

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Medical Assistance Extensions were provided for up to twelve months when earned income was overscale or the primary wage earner returned to work. If an absent parent returned to the home and was employed, the case was closed due to no deprivation and the medical assistance extension was not given. A caretaker was exempt from the work requirements indefinitely when providing care for a child under age three. Questions have been raised in these areas concerning the new policies.

POLICY CLARIFICATIONS:

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE EXTENSIONS:

Question: Is an assistance unit eligible for an MA Extension if the absent parent is now with the assistance unit?

When an absent parent moves into the household, you no longer close the case due to no deprivation. The absent parent must be added to the unit. If the absent parent has earnings that cause the case to close, all family members including the absent parent are entitled to a medical assistance extension. The TCA assistance unit is eligible to receive Medical Assistance extensions for 12 months without quarterly reporting or a six month redetermination.

STEP-PARENT POLICY CLARIFICATION:

Question: When a stepparent moves into the household, has earnings and there are no children in common, is the assistance unit entitled to a medical assistance extension? How should the stepparent's income be calculated?

If a stepparent moves into the household and the stepparent and the customer do not have any children in common, but the stepparent has earnings which make the household over scale for TCA, the household would not be entitled to an extension. If the stepparent's income is greater than 50 percent of the official poverty level, the income is entered as unearned income and the household members are not entitled to an extension.

Question: When the stepparent is the caretaker relative, how is the income calculated and is he considered part of the assistance unit?

If the stepparent is the caretaker relative for the children and the natural parent is not in the household, the stepparent is treated like any other caretaker relative. The fifty percent of poverty guideline is not applied. The stepparent may be in the unit if needy.

WORK REQUIREMENT EXEMPTIONS:

Question: What age does a child have to be in order for the parent/caretaker to be exempted from the TCA work requirements? How many times can the parent/caretaker receive this exemption? How would the parent of a child specific benefit (CSB) child be looked at for this exemption?

A parent or caretaker is exempt from the TCA work requirements if caring for a child under age one. A customer may only be exempt for a maximum of twelve months in a lifetime. If the customer has another child, she will not be able to be exempted again.

The parent of a CSB child would be subject to the same maximum of twelve months in a lifetime provision. When the CSB child is born, that maximum may already have been used.

ACTION REQUIRED: All Local Departments

PROCEDURES FOR MA EXTENSIONS :

AIMS:

Add the absent parent and the earnings. Code this income as P30 for public assistance and F40 for food stamps. The TCA AU should be closed with a code of 229 (Member/Recipient in home started work or has higher earnings).

AMF:

Complete an AMF 1 or a Services 1 form to take the same case actions on AMF that were taken on AIMS (ie. open, close, suspend).

Create a P6900T (one time only) bucket to indicate that the customer is entitled to a medical assistance extension. The P6900T will close automatically in twelve months on AMF. The appropriate closing code should be entered on AIMS. **Note:** The OTO and close dates should match on AMF and AIMS. Complete an 8000 listing all eligible household members using MA category 02, scope 6, and certify for an additional 12 months.

CARES:

Add the absent parent to the assistance unit. After case has been activated, add the absent parent's earnings. Code the earnings as EI on the ERN2 screen. The TCA AU should close effective the end of the adverse action period with a code of 301 (total income above limits).

ACTION DUE DATE: February 1, 1997.

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cc: FIA Management Staff
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