



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

FIA ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Issuance Date: May 31, 1997

Effective Date: July 1, 1997

Control Number: FIA/OPA # 97-87

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

FROM: KEVIN MAHON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIA

**RE: GENERAL PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR PREGNANT WOMEN
PROGRAM ELIMINATION**

PROGRAMS AFFECTED: TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE, FOOD STAMP

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF POLICY AND RESEARCH

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

General Public Assistance for Pregnant Women (GPA-PW) pays benefits to needy pregnant women who are ineligible for any other State or federal category of direct cash assistance payments. Pregnant women who have no other children can receive \$125 a month GPA-PW from the time pregnancy is medically verified through the fifth month of pregnancy.

New Policy:

The GPA-PW program will end on June 30, 1997. Effective July 1, 1997, current GPA-PW customers and new applicants will be included in the Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) component of the Family Investment Program (FIP). This consolidation provides a consistent and simplified program which benefits both customers and case managers.

DHR has revised the TCA regulations to include all pregnant women who meet TCA eligibility requirements, regardless of the trimester of their pregnancy. Customers will be subject to TCA income-calculations and disregards, which are different from those under GPA-PW. TCA benefits and FS grants may fluctuate based on the household circumstances. Income and asset calculations for the TCA program have not changed. Deduct countable income from the \$167 payment standard for one person to determine the TCA payment. DHR will notify recipients of GPA-PW of the program changes by mass mailing in June (draft letter attached).

ACTION REQUIRED:

AIMS:

All cases currently active GPA-PW must be manually transferred from category 14 to 02 by the local department(s) prior to June 20, 1997 (a report has been provided to the local departments to identify these cases). AIMS will be modified on June 27, 1997 to block the use of category 14 and to block payments from this category type. If any cases remain active in category 14 after June 27, 1997, no payment will be issued. Effective June 30, 1997 the only action that can be taken is ACHG (to transfer the case to category 02) and ACLO (to close the case).

- For all applications on or after July 1, 1997, the case manager must pend the case as an AFDC-PW using category 02 on the APND and AMF forms.
- If eligibility is met for any applications pending from June 1997, change the category to 02 before completing the approval (AAPB). You can approve a maximum benefit of \$125 for June as category 14, and a maximum benefit of \$167 for July as 02.

CARES:

~~Mass modification~~ will run on June 30, 1997 to eliminate the use of GA-P. The Division of Program and Systems Support sent a memo to local departments on June 6, 1997 transmitting a list of GPA-PW cases to be reviewed and rescreened for TCA eligibility.

- For all applications on or after July 1, 1997, customers are to be screened as an AF-P on the INCH screen. CARES has been modified so that GA-P cannot be selected from the INCH screen after June 30, 1997.
- For GA-P applications pending prior to July 1, 1997:
 - Finalize June 1997 (and prior months, if any) with a maximum benefit of \$125
 - Deny all on-going months with code '555'
 - Pend an AF-P AU for July 1997 (using original application date & then denying all prior months with code '555')
 - During finalization, shorten the certification end date on the CAFI screen to the correct certification end date.

ACTION DUE DATE:

This policy change is effective July 1, 1997.

ACTIONS REQUIRED OF: All Local Departments of Social Services

Direct inquiries to Yolanda Parker at (410) 767-7259.

cc: FIA Management Staff
Constituent Services
DHR Executive Staff

CTF
Help Desk



June 9, 1997

Dear Customer:

On July 1, 1997, your cash benefit will increase because the General Public Assistance for Pregnant Women Program's grant will be replaced by the new Family Investment Program's Temporary Cash Assistance grant. If you currently receive \$125 a month from the old program, you will receive \$167 from the new one. Your Food Stamp benefits may decrease slightly as a result of your cash assistance increase.

The major goal of the Family Investment Program is to help your family become independent as soon as possible through employment. You will be exempt from the employment and education requirement until your child reaches age one. However, once your child turns one, you will have to comply with work requirements so that you can become independent of welfare. Getting child support and identifying other resources to help you become independent are also important parts of the Family Investment Program. Your case manager will ask you to see a child support worker. Your full cooperation with the local Child Support Enforcement Agency is an important part of moving your family from welfare to independence.

At your first scheduled redetermination of eligibility after your child is one year old, please be prepared to discuss your plans for finding a job. Your case manager will assist by asking you questions about your education, work history and child care possibilities.

Please remember that it is important to keep all scheduled appointments. Always notify the Department of Social Services of any changes in your circumstances. Failing to report an address change could cause you to miss appointments and lose income. The Department of Human Resources has a hotline set up to answer your questions. Call 1-800-742-7301 for more information.

Sincerely,

Alvin C. Collins
Secretary