



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

**FIA ACTION TRANSMITTAL**

**Issuance Date: June 30, 1997**

**Effective Date: July 1, 1997**

**Control Number: FIA/OPA # 97-91**

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

**FROM: KEVIN MAHON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIA *Kevin Mahon*  
 JOSEPH MILLSTONE, DIRECTOR, DHMH/MCPA *JM***

**RE: COMMUNITY SPOUSE MINIMUM MAINTENANCE MONTHLY  
 NEEDS STANDARD AND THE SHELTER ALLOWANCE INCREASE**

**PROGRAMS AFFECTED: MEDICAL ASSISTANCE**

**ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF POLICY AND RESEARCH**

The Health Care Financing Administration has announced an increase in the community spouse minimum maintenance monthly needs standard (MMMNS) and the shelter allowance effective July 1, 1997. Deducting MMMNS from the income of the institutionalized person enables the spouse to be maintained in the community. The MMMNS applies only to a legal spouse, including a spouse from whom the institutionalized person was separated prior to the institutionalization.

The MMMNS increases to \$1,327 on July 1, 1997. The shelter allowance is 30 percent of the MMMNS. The long term care excess shelter standard increases to \$398.

CARES will do a mass modification on June 14, 1997. Use the new standards when calculating eligibility in AIMS jurisdictions effective July 1, 1997. Direct inquiries to Yolanda Parker at (410) 767-7259.

**cc: FIA Management Staff  
 Constituent Services  
 DHR Executive Staff  
 DHMH Executive Staff  
 Help Desk  
 CTF**