



## North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

### Division of Aging and Adult Services

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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor  
Albert A. Delia, Acting Secretary

Dennis W. Streets, Director  
919-855-3400

August 6, 2012

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: ADULT SERVICES PROGRAMS MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS  
SPECIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS

SUBJECT: CHANGES IN SPECIAL ASSISTANCE IN-HOME PROGRAM

Session Law 2012-142, enacted by the NC General Assembly and effective July 1, 2012, requires changes in the administration of the State/County Special Assistance In-Home Program (SA/IH) in the areas of payment allowances, county participation requirements, and the statewide cap on slots. The details of these changes are described below.

#### **Equalizing SA/IH Payments**

Session Law 1012-142 revises General Statute 108A-47.1, Special Assistance In-Home Payments, to equalize the SA/IH recipient payments with Special Assistance (SA) payments for individuals living in adult care facilities. Previously, SA/IH maximum payments were 75% of the amount an individual would financially be eligible for if he/she lived in an adult care facility. The SA/IH payment can now be up to 100% of the amount an individual would be financially eligible for if he/she lived in an adult care facility. The payment amount for the recipient and other important decisions are made through an assessment and service plan completed by the social work case manager in conjunction with the recipient and his/her family as appropriate. Payments can be adjusted based on identified financial needs. The maximum monthly Basic SA rate continues to be \$1,182 for SFY 2012-13. The Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) Administrative Letter 12-12 provides instructions for income maintenance caseworkers and adult services case managers regarding this change. The Administrative Letter will be posted on the DAAS website at:

<http://www.ncdhhs.gov/aging/admltrs/admltr2012.htm>

#### **Required County Participation in SA/IH Program**

Session Law 2012-142 requires participation in the SA/IH Program by all county departments of social services (DSS). The certified budget for SFY 2012-13 for the SA Program and the county allocations remain the same as SFY 2011-12.

- County DSSs with established slots that have filled some, but not all slots as of February 15, 2013, must maintain at least the same number of slots during SFY 2012-13 as the average number of slots filled during SFY 2011-12. The average number of slots for each participating county is found on the DAAS website at:

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[http://www.ncdhhs.gov/aging/adultsvcs/SA\\_IH\\_Average\\_County\\_Participation\\_2011-2012.pdf](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/aging/adultsvcs/SA_IH_Average_County_Participation_2011-2012.pdf)

- County DSSs with assigned slots that have not filled any of these slots as of February 15, 2013, must begin participating in the SA/IH Program effective February 15, 2013, by filling all the their assigned slots.
- County DSSs with no established slots must begin participating in the SA/IH Program effective February 15, 2013. DAAS will notify the counties individually regarding the number of slots to be allocated and filled as required by Session Law 2012-142.

DAAS will provide orientation and training for the DSSs that have not been participating in the SA/IH Program. This orientation and training will cover the Program's purpose and statutory requirements; the basics of administration of the Program, including the provision and funding of required case management services; the role of the income maintenance staff and adult services social worker case managers; the comprehensive social work assessment, the financial eligibility assessment, and other important information to implement the SA/IH Program. An Adult Programs Representative will contact you about scheduling an orientation and training session.

### **Statewide Cap on SA/IH Slots**

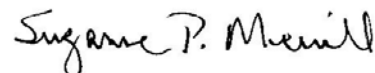
Session Law 2012-142 gives the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services the authority, as necessary, to waive the statewide cap of 15% on SA/IH slots effective February 15, 2013, while remaining within existing appropriations for the SA Program. We will keep you informed of any changes related to utilizing the waiver.

### **Other Issues Impacting the SA/IH Program**

A functional assessment and case management continue to be important components of the SA/IH Program. Most DSSs fund the case management function for this Program through Medicaid At-Risk Case Management Services (ARCM). The Medicaid budget rebase contained in Session Law 2012-142 provides state funds to cover the non-federal share for ARCM. As you know, county DSSs currently provide the entire match for ARCM. DAAS is working with the Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) to determine the procedural changes and the timeline necessary to implement this change. DMA must submit the change to CMS as a State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the State's Medicaid Plan. Once the SPA is approved this change can be implemented. We will keep you informed and involved as this effort moves forward.

If you have questions about the legislative changes in the SA/IH Program and/or the implications for your county, please contact Chris Urso, SA Program Manager at [Chris.Urso@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Chris.Urso@dhhs.nc.gov) or 919-855-3461 or me at [Suzanne.Merrill@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Suzanne.Merrill@dhhs.nc.gov) or 919-855-3460.

Sincerely,



Suzanne P. Merrill, Chief  
Adult Services Section

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