



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH SERVICES

CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN
Governor

WILLIAM WALDMAN
Commissioner

MEDICAID COMMUNICATION NO: 97-21

DATE: December 15, 1997

TO: County Welfare Agency Directors
Institutional Services Section Area Supervisors

SUBJECT: New Jersey Care...Special Medicaid Programs Cases Becoming Ineligible as a Result of Social Security Benefit Increase

This is to advise of a special continuation of eligibility for aged, blind, and disabled individuals currently eligible for New Jersey Care...Special Medicaid Programs who would otherwise lose eligibility for Medicaid as a result of the January 1, 1998 cost-of-living adjustment to Title II benefits. The continuation of eligibility for these cases will alleviate the problems of cases becoming temporarily ineligible for the period between the Social Security cost-of-living increase and the issuance of the new federal poverty guidelines.

The county welfare agencies (CWAs) are directed to continue New Jersey Care eligibility for any aged, blind, or disabled New Jersey Care recipient who would otherwise lose eligibility solely as a result of the January 1 increase in Social Security benefits. This special continuation of eligibility shall terminate when the Division provides the CWAs with the new income standards based on the federal poverty guidelines for 1998. Those figures are expected to be available in late February or early March.

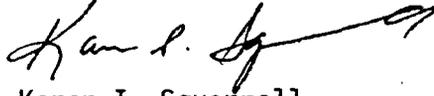
Any such case that would become ineligible for reasons other than the Social Security cost-of-living adjustment shall be terminated in accordance with existing practice.

CWAs must maintain a log of all cases that are continued as a result of this communication. This log must be reviewed upon the promulgation of the new income standards and ongoing income eligibility determined for each case.

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Questions regarding this Communication should be referred to the field staff assigned to your county.

Sincerely,



Karen I. Squarrell
Acting Director

KIS:Jm

c Karen Highsmith, Director
Division of Family Development

Michelle Guhl, Deputy Commissioner
Division of Youth and Family Services