

employment completed by the applicant in a designated high-growth STEM occupation.

(b) The Authority will consider applications for approval of Program participation in the date order they are received, subject to available funding.

(c) The Authority will determine the applicant's eligibility for the Program based upon the information submitted on the application and will provide notification to the applicant of their acceptance into the Program.

9A:10-5.5 Terms for loan redemption

(a) An applicant who is selected for participation in the Program shall enter into a written participation contract with the Authority. The contract shall specify the dates of required employment by the Program participant in a designated high-growth STEM occupation and shall require the Program participant to serve at least one year in a designated high-growth STEM occupation after the effective date of the contract.

(b) In order for a participant to qualify for an annual redemption payment:

1. The Program participant shall submit to the Authority certification, in the form approved by the Authority, of full-time employment in a designated high-growth STEM occupation for the full-year period; and

2. The employer of the Program participant shall certify, in the form approved by the Authority, that the Program participant met the employer's performance standards and shall pay the annual matching contribution to the Authority in an amount equal to or greater than the \$1,000 annual State-funded loan redemption benefit.

(c) If a participant becomes employed by a different employer while participating in the Program, that participant must:

1. Be employed in either the exact same occupation for which the participant was approved to participate in the Program, or in an occupation that is a designated high-growth STEM occupation at the time the participant begins the new occupation;

2. Provide the Authority with a certification, in the form approved by the Authority, signed by the previous full-time employer containing the termination date from that position; and

3. Prior to the annual redemption of loan indebtedness, provide a certification, in the form approved by the Authority, from the new employer:

i. Agreeing to make a payment to the Authority of at least a 100 percent match of the State-funded loan redemption benefit under the Program at the conclusion of each year of employment completed by the applicant in a designated high-growth STEM occupation, to be prorated to the actual amount of time worked for the new employer;

ii. Stating the start date for the designated high-growth STEM occupation at the new employer; and

iii. Verifying the participant's continued employment and satisfactory performance in a designated high growth STEM occupation.

(d) If there is a gap in full-time service between employment in designated high-growth STEM occupations, the participant's service obligation will be extended a commensurate amount of time to complete a full year of service. A gap of longer than six months will nullify the agreement, unless the Authority has suspended the participant's participation contract pursuant to N.J.A.C. 9A:10-5.6(b).

(e) Upon receipt of all required documentation from the participant, the Authority will combine the employer matching contribution and the State appropriated funds into a single payment made directly to the participant's lender(s) to redeem a portion of the participant's student loans.

9A:10-5.6 Termination or suspension of the participant's participation contract

(a) The Authority shall terminate the participant's participation contract if it determines:

1. On the basis of a sworn affidavit of a qualified physician, that the participant is totally and permanently disabled;

2. On the basis of a death certificate, or other evidence of death that is conclusive under State law, that the participant has died;

3. On the basis of substantiating documentation as may be deemed necessary by the Authority upon specific case review, that continued enforcement of the employment service obligation may result in extreme hardship for the participant;

4. That the participant is no longer employed in a designated high-growth STEM position;

5. That the participant has been convicted of a felony and/or a high misdemeanor, as defined at N.J.S.A. 2C:1-4.d, has committed an act of gross negligence in the performance of his or her employment service obligation, or that the participant has not met the employer's performance standards; or

6. The participant has not completed the tasks required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 9A:10-5.5(b) to receive the loan redemption within 60 days of written request for the required documents by the Authority.

(b) The Authority may suspend the participant's participation contract if the Authority determines, on the basis of substantiating documentation as may be deemed necessary by the Authority upon specific case review, that continued enforcement of the employment service obligation may result in extreme hardship for the participant. Extreme hardships include, but are not limited to, temporary disability, active duty military service, changing designated high-growth STEM position, or temporary suspension of the participant's professional license pending the outcome of an investigation.

1. The Authority may suspend the participant's participation contract for a period of up to two calendar years from the date the suspension commences. At the end of the first year of suspension, the participant must provide the Authority with substantiating documentation, as defined in this subsection, to renew the suspension for a second year.

2. The suspension, as stipulated at (b)1 above, may be extended beyond two years for exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Authority on the basis of substantiating documentation, as defined in this subsection.

(c) A participant may nullify the participation contract by notifying the Authority in writing.

(d) The Authority shall have final decision-making authority to terminate a participant's participation contract.

(e) Participants who nullify their participation agreement, or whose participation agreements are terminated by the Authority, are not eligible to reapply to participate in the Program.

9A:10-5.7 Appeals process

(a) When an applicant has received a notification of ineligibility for Program participation, the applicant may submit a written appeal to the Authority within 30 days of the date of the notification. The written appeal must include the following:

1. A copy of the notification of ineligibility received by the applicant from the Authority; and

2. The reason(s) why the applicant feels the applicant is eligible to participate in the Program along with any documentation that the applicant has obtained to support the appeal, if applicable.

(b) Within 30 days of the receipt of the appeal, the Authority shall provide the applicant with the Authority's final determination of the appeal. Final decisions of the Authority can be appealed to the Appellate Division of the Superior Court.

HUMAN SERVICES

(a)

DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Notice of Administrative Changes

Standard of Need

N.J.A.C. 10:84-1.6

Effective Date: May 9, 2022.

Take notice that, in accordance with P.L. 1997, c. 13, the Department of Human Services announces an updated standard of need for 2022. The standard of need is calculated based on the methodology described at N.J.A.C. 10:84-1.6.

Full text of the changed rule follows (additions indicated in boldface **thus**; deletions indicated in brackets [thus]):

SUBCHAPTER 1. EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF PROGRAM OPERATIONS

10:84-1.6 Standard of need

(a)-(c) (No change.)

(d) The standard of need is set forth in the table below. Each year, the Department of Human Services will provide, through a notice of administrative change published in the New Jersey Register, an updated standard of need.

Number in Family	Standard of Need	Monthly Standard
1		[\$1,942] \$2,502
2		[\$2,254] \$2,831
3		[\$3,004] \$3,485
4		[\$3,872] \$4,393
5		[\$4,184] \$4,722
6		[\$5,037] \$5,353
7		[\$5,349] \$5,681
8		[\$5,660] \$6,010
more than 8	add	[\$312] \$336 each person

(a)

**DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
Notice of Administrative Change
Work First New Jersey/General Assistance Rate in Residential Health Care Facilities
N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.17**

Effective Date: May 9, 2022.

Take notice that, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.17(a)1, the Department of Human Services announces that the rate to be paid for Work First New Jersey/General Assistance individuals in residential health care facilities has been increased to \$1,051.05 monthly. This change became effective January 1, 2022, and is the same in both the amount and effective date as the change in the rate for the same services paid to recipients under the Federal program of Supplemental Security Income.

Full text of the changed rule follows (additions indicated in boldface **thus**; deletions indicated in brackets [thus]):

SUBCHAPTER 3. FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY—INCOME, RESOURCES, BENEFITS

10:90-3.17 WFNJ/GA special payment provisions for other living arrangements

(a) When an individual is purchasing a room and board living arrangement, the following shall apply:

1. When an individual who is in need of extensive personal services on a regular and continuous basis is purchasing a room and board living arrangement in a residential health care facility (licensed by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for purposes other than the care or treatment of drug or alcohol abuse), the monthly assistance payment ([\$960.05] **\$1,051.05**), including a personal allowance, shall not exceed the rate approved by the New Jersey Department of the Treasury, less any countable income. When a rate increase is approved, a notice of administrative change to that effect will be published in the New Jersey Register. Information about the current rate may also be obtained by contacting the DFD. However, the cost of purchasing such living arrangement shall not exceed the minimum amount [which] **that** the establishment customarily charges to or for other guests not dependent on public assistance, for the same accommodations and/or services.

2.-3. (No change.)

(b)

**DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
Notice of Administrative Change
Social Services Programs—Personal Needs Allowance**

N.J.A.C. 10:123-3.4

Effective Date: May 9, 2022.

Take notice that the Division of Family Development is changing the rate of the personal needs allowance reserved by the owner or operator for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients and Work First New Jersey/General Assistance recipients living in residential health care facilities and for SSI recipients living in boarding homes. The amended rate is in the amount of at least \$126.00 per month provided that the rate of the total 2022 Federal Social Security cost-of-living increase is 5.9 percent. No owner or operator or agent thereof shall interfere with the recipient’s retention, use, or control of the personal needs allowance.

This notice is being given to inform the public that the Division of Family Development increased the rate of the personal needs allowance to \$126.00 effective January 1, 2022, for SSI recipients and Work First New Jersey/General Assistance recipients living in residential health care facilities and for SSI recipients living in boarding homes. This increase is based on the total 2022 Federal Social Security cost-of-living increase and is consistent with N.J.A.C. 10:123-3.4(a) and (c), which require the announcement of the personal needs allowance increase through public notice. Through this notice, N.J.A.C. 10:123-3.4(a) is changed to reflect this changed rate.

Full text of the changed rule follows (addition indicated in boldface **thus**; deletion indicated in brackets [thus]):

SUBCHAPTER 3. PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE

10:123-3.4 Amount

(a) The owner or operator of each residential health care facility or boarding home shall reserve to each Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipient residing therein, and the owner or operator of each residential health care facility shall reserve to each Work First New Jersey/General Assistance recipient residing therein, a personal needs allowance in the amount of at least [\$112.00] **\$126.00** per month, set according to (b) below, and noticed in the New Jersey Register and otherwise publicized, in accordance with (c) below. No owner or operator, or agency thereof, shall interfere with the recipient’s retention, use, or control of the personal needs allowance.

(b)-(c) (No change.)

CORRECTIONS

(c)

**THE COMMISSIONER
Substance Use Disorder Treatment Programs
Readoption with Amendments: N.J.A.C. 10A:24
Adopted Repeal and New Rule: N.J.A.C. 10A:24-1.2
Adopted Repeals: N.J.A.C. 10A:24-2.11 and 2.14**

Proposed: February 22, 2022, at 54 N.J.R. 328(a).

Adopted: May 3, 2022, by Victoria L. Kuhn, Acting Commissioner, Department of Corrections.

Filed: May 10, 2022, as R.2022 d.067, **without change**.

Authority: N.J.S.A. 30:1B-6 and 30:1B-10.

Effective Dates: May 10, 2022, Readoption;
June 6, 2022, Amendments, Repeals, and New Rule.

Expiration Date: May 10, 2029.