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GOVERNOR

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
PO BOX 726
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Jennifer Velez
COMMISSIONER
Kenneth W. Ritchey
Assistant Commissioner
TEL. (609) 987-0800

September 26, 2007

Director
DDD Provider Agency

Maximizing Individual Consumer Funds

Dear Colleague,

As we begin a new fiscal year during the continuing tight economic climate, we all need to work together to maximize revenue for this Division. Revenue is needed to continue our current programming and to develop new services for individuals in NJ with developmental disabilities. In this vein, I would like to remind everyone that our NJ Administrative Code (10:46 D) requires that each individual apply for and maintain eligibility for all benefits for which they are eligible.

I would like to enlist everyone's assistance in ensuring that our individuals are receiving the maximum benefits possible both in monthly cash income and in federal Medicaid reimbursement. We need to ensure that each individual is receiving the maximum Federal benefit entitlement. Also, everyone receiving eligible waiver program services should be enrolled in the Medicaid DDD Community Care Waiver program. I am requesting that you review the circumstances for each individual participating in your agency's programming.

Financially, the 2007 maximum Supplemental Security Income (SSI) monthly benefit for an individual in a DDD licensed community residence is \$773.05. The 2007 maximum Supplemental Security Income payment for an unlicensed residence is \$654.25. Please review this information with your individuals to ensure that they are receiving this rate. Individuals receiving federal benefits other than SSI can receive a higher monthly income based upon the type of benefit. Wages can affect the amount of the SSI payment. Additionally to remain SSI eligible an individual can not accumulate more than \$2,000 in total combined resources. Resources include total cash, on hand and in various accounts, as well as any investment that can easily be converted to cash.


Medicaid DDD Community Care Waiver eligibility is based upon 3 factors; the individual's need for assistance with self care activities (determined by the Self Care Assessment tool), a total combined monthly income of less than \$1869 (2007), and total combined resources of less than \$2,000. As with SSI, resources include total cash, on hand and in various accounts, as well as any investment that can easily be easily converted to cash.

In order to maintain eligibility for SSI and the Medicaid DDD Community Care Waiver, we must be vigilant in identifying and monitoring the \$2,000 total combined resource limit. Your agency should not have resources for any individual in excess of \$800. If you have resources in excess of \$800 at the end of any month, you should remit the excess funds to DDD to be applied against the individual's cost of care and maintenance assessment. These checks should be made payable to Treasurer, State of NJ and be mailed to DDD Client Accounts, Attn: Sylvia Ballard PO Box 726, Trenton, NJ 08625.

If you have additional questions or would like further training on financial or Medicaid eligibility criteria, please contact the Supervisor of Regional Fiscal/Community Care Waiver Units. Colin Barrett supervises the Fiscal/CCW staff in Northern and Upper Central regions and can be reached at 732-968-4666. Debbie Roy supervises the Fiscal/CCW staff in Lower Central and Southern regions and can be reached at 856-770-5936.

Thank you for your assistance in this very crucial matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth W. Ritchey". The signature is written in a cursive style with some capital letters.

Kenneth W. Ritchey
Assistant Commissioner

KWR:su