

ADOPTION SECTION

HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF AGING SERVICES

**OFFICE OF STATE HEALTH INSURANCE FOR THE AGED AND DISABLED AND
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT**

Notice of Administrative Changes

**Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled Eligibility Manual: Income
Standards**

Senior Gold Prescription Program Manual: Income Standards

Lifeline Credit Program/Tenants Lifeline Assistance Program Manual: Income Standards

Hearing Aid Assistance to the Aged and Disabled: Income Standards

N.J.A.C. 10:167-6.2, 10:167B-6.2, 10:167D-4.2, and 10:167E-5.2

Take notice that the Department of Human Services is changing the Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD) Eligibility Manual at N.J.A.C. 10:167-6.2 to reflect an increase of the maximum annual income limits for PAAD eligibility by 1.7 percent. This change will be operative on January 1, 2015.

N.J.S.A. 30:4D-21 establishes that PAAD annual income eligibility limits are to “increase by the amount of the maximum Social Security benefit cost-of-living increase for [each] year for single and married persons, respectively.” On October 22, 2014, the Social Security Administration (SSA) announced that the cost-of-living adjustment for 2015 would increase by 1.7 percent. See www.socialsecurity.gov/cola and <http://www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/pressrel.htm>. N.J.A.C. 10:167-6.2(m) authorizes the Department

to announce changes to PAAD income eligibility limits due to SSA cost-of-living adjustments through publication of notice in the New Jersey Register. Therefore, the Department is changing existing N.J.A.C. 10:167-6.2(a) and (b) to increase the maximum income that a person can have to be eligible for PAAD to less than \$26,575 for single persons and less than \$32,582 of combined income for married couples.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-29.16, 48:2-29.32, and 30:4D-38, persons who are eligible for PAAD are also eligible for Lifeline Credit, Tenants Lifeline Assistance, and Hearing Aid Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (HAAAD). N.J.A.C. 10:167D-4.2(j) and 10:167E-5.2(i) authorize the Department to announce changes in income eligibility limits for these programs, due to SSA cost-of-living adjustments, through publication of notice in the New Jersey Register.

Take further notice, therefore, that the Department is changing the annual income eligibility standards at N.J.A.C. 10:167D-4.2 for Lifeline Credit Program/Tenants Lifeline Assistance Program Manual and at N.J.A.C. 10:167E-5.2 for HAAAD to correspond to the PAAD maximum annual income eligibility limits described above by reflecting an increase of 1.7 percent. This change will be operative on January 1, 2015.

N.J.S.A. 30:4D-45 establishes that, for persons to be eligible for the Senior Gold Prescription Discount Program (Senior Gold), annual income limits shall not be “more than \$10,000 above the applicable PAAD income eligibility limits for single and married persons.” N.J.A.C. 10:167B-6.2(m) authorizes the Department to announce changes in Senior Gold eligibility limits through publication of notice in the New Jersey Register.

Take further notice, therefore, that the Department is changing the Senior Gold income limits for the Senior Gold Prescription Program Manual at N.J.A.C. 10:167B-6.2 to reflect an increase of the maximum annual income limits for Senior Gold eligibility, established at

N.J.A.C. 10:167B-6.2, by 1.7 percent. Therefore, to be eligible for Senior Gold, persons can have annual income between \$26,575 and \$36,575, for single persons, and a combined income between \$32,582 and \$42,582, for married persons. This change will be operative on January 1, 2015.

This notice of administrative changes is published in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:167-6.2(m), 10:167B-6.2(m) 10:167D-4.2(j), and 10:167E-5.2(i).

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

CHAPTER 167

PHARMACEUTICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE AGED AND DISABLED ELIGIBILITY MANUAL

10:167-6.2 Income standards

(a) Any single permanent resident of New Jersey who is 65 years of age or over or who is under 65 and over 18 years of age and is receiving Social Security Title II disability benefits must have an annual income of less than \$[26,130]**26,575** to be eligible for PAAD.

(b) Any married permanent resident of New Jersey who is 65 years of age or over or who is under 65 and over 18 years of age and is receiving Social Security Title II disability benefits must have a combined (applicant and spouse) annual income of less than \$[32,037]**32,582** to be eligible for PAAD.

1.-2. (No change.)

(c)-(n) (No change.)

CHAPTER 167B

SENIOR GOLD PRESCRIPTION PROGRAM MANUAL

10:167B-6.2 Income standards

(a) Any single permanent resident of New Jersey who is 65 years of age or over or who is under 65 and over 18 years of age and is receiving Social Security Title II disability benefits must have a total annual income between \$[26,130]**26,575** and \$[36,130]**36,575** in [2014] **2015** to be eligible for Senior Gold benefits. These income limits will increase January 1 of each year in accordance with the Social Security cost of living adjustment. This amount shall not be more than \$10,000 above the applicable PAAD income eligibility limits for single persons. Recipients of other State-funded prescription discount benefits are not eligible for the Senior Gold Prescription Discount Program.

(b) Any married permanent resident of New Jersey who is 65 years of age or who is under 65 and over 18 years of age and is receiving Social Security Title II disability benefits must have a total annual income between \$[32,037]**32,582** and \$[42,037]**42,582** in [2014] **2015** to be eligible for Senior Gold benefits. The income limits will increase January 1 of each year in accordance with the Social Security cost of living adjustment. This amount shall not be more than \$10,000 above the applicable PAAD income eligibility limits for married couples. Recipients of other State-funded prescription discount benefits are not eligible for the Senior Gold Prescription Discount Program.

1.-2. (No change.)

(c)-(m) (No change.)

CHAPTER 167D

LIFELINE CREDIT PROGRAM/TENANTS LIFELINE

ASSISTANCE PROGRAM MANUAL

10:167D-4.2 Income standards

(a) Any single permanent resident of New Jersey who is 65 years of age or who is under 65 and over 18 years of age and is receiving Social Security Title II disability benefits must have an annual income of less than \$[26,130]**26,575** to be eligible for Lifeline.

(b) Any married permanent resident of New Jersey who is 65 years of age or who is under 65 and over 18 years of age and is receiving Social Security Title II disability benefits must have a combined (applicant and spouse) annual income of less than \$[32,037]**32,582** to be eligible for Lifeline.

1.-2. (No change.)

(c)-(j) (No change.)

CHAPTER 167E

HEARING AID ASSISTANCE TO THE AGED AND DISABLED

10:167E-5.2 Income standards

(a) Any single permanent resident of New Jersey who is 65 years of age or over or who is under 65 and over 18 years of age and is receiving Social Security Title II disability benefits must have an annual income of less than \$[26,130]**26,575** to be eligible for HAAAD.

(b) Any married permanent resident of New Jersey who is under 65 and over 18 years of age and is receiving Social Security Title II disability benefits must have a combined (applicant and spouse) annual income of less than \$[32,037]**32,582** to be eligible for HAAAD.

1.-2. (No change.)

(c)-(i) (No change.)