MEDICAID COMMUNICATION NO. 21-06    DATE: November 19, 2021

TO:                  NJ FamilyCare Eligibility Determining Agencies
SUBJECT:            Post-Eligibility Treatment of Income – 2021 Adjusted Utility Allowance
                    N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.7

In determining the amount that may be deducted from the income of an institutionalized Medicaid-eligible individual for the maintenance of a community spouse, consideration is given to the excess shelter expenses of the community spouse. When calculating the amount of the shelter expenses, the standard utility allowance is utilized when the community spouse directly incurs utility charges.

As you are aware, these utility allowances are the same as those applicable in determining eligibility under the authority of the Division of Family Development’s (DFD) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). DFD has announced that the standard utility allowance will increase from $548.00 to $583 per month, effective October 1, 2021.

County Welfare Agencies (CWA) and Institutional Services Section (ISS) offices shall continue to apply these standards in the post-eligibility treatment of income beginning with the month of October 2021 for all new cases and cases subject to redetermination.

If you have any questions regarding this Medicaid Communication, please refer them to the Division’s Office of Eligibility field service staff member for your agency at 609-588-2556.
JLJ:mt

c: Sarah Adelman, Acting Commissioner
   Department of Human Services

   Elisa Neira, Deputy Commissioner
   Department of Human Services

   Natasha Johnson, Assistant Commissioner
   Division of Family Development

   Valerie Mielke, Assistant Commissioner
   Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services

   Jonathan Seifried, Assistant Commissioner
   Division of Developmental Disabilities

   Peri Nearon, Director
   Division of Disability Services

   Louise Rush, Director
   Division of Aging Services

   Christine Norbut Beyer, Commissioner
   Department of Children and Families

   Judith M. Persichilli, RN, BSN, MA, Commissioner
   Department of Health

   Joshua Lichtblau, Director, Medicaid Fraud Division
   Office of the State Comptroller