

MEDICAID ALERT

January 4, 2010

Elimination of the Resources Test for all Non-SSI
Related Medicaid Consumers

Effective January 1, 2010, the resource test is being **eliminated** for all **non-SSI- Related** individuals at initial application and renewal. Chapter 58 of the Laws of 2009, Sections 58-59d dictates the elimination of this test for all Medicaid applicants and recipients **except** those who are 65 years of age or older, certified blind or certified disabled. The resource test is also being eliminated for Family Health Plus consumers.

Beginning with applications/renewals processed for eligibility effective dates of January 1, 2010 and later, single adults/childless couples, parents and caretakers of children under 21 will no longer have their resources considered when Medicaid/Family Health Plus eligibility is determined. Resource information/documentation will continue to be required from all members of "mixed households" (households with an applying SSI-related member), but the resources will only be applied to the budget(s) prepared for the SSI-Related consumer.

For SSI-Related individuals (aged 65 year old and older, certified disabled, certified blind), there continues to be a resource test. This includes individuals on the Medicaid Buy- In for Working People with Disabilities (MBI-WPD). In addition, eligibility for COBRA Continuation Coverage continues to require a resource test, regardless of the individual's category, because the SSI-Related budgeting methodology is used to determine COBRA Continuation Coverage eligibility.

A Medicaid consumer, who is entitled to more than two categories, such as SSI-related or ADC-related, will have their eligibility determined using the most advantageous category. For example a disabled individual who is the parent or care taker of a child under the age of 21 could be considered under either the ADC-related or SSI-related categories depending on which is more advantageous. The ADC-related determination would not include the individual's resources.

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