

# Pooled Trust Readiness Checklist

---

## Client needs Medicaid

- Uninsured
- Has Medicare Part D, but needs MSP to get Extra Help to subsidize extremely high prescription drug costs
- Has Medicare, but cannot afford Medigap policy for coinsurance and deductibles. But remember that Medicaid is lousy supplemental coverage – it only works if your provider takes both Medicare & Medicaid. **It is usually cheaper to just pay the 20% coinsurance than to enroll in a pooled trust.** Also consider Medicare Advantage plans with lower out-of-pocket costs.
- Needs long-term home care services

## Otherwise Medicaid eligible

- Below resource limit
- Qualified citizenship / immigration status
- Spousal issues (does spouse need Medicaid? which spouse will establish pooled trust?)

## Client cannot afford to pay the spend-down

- Some clients have low living expenses relative to their income, especially after they are no longer private-paying for home care
- One option is to contribute less than full surplus to pooled trust; this will reduce but not eliminate the spend-down. If client can afford to, he/she *should* contribute some income towards the cost of his/her care.

## Client is not eligible for Medicaid Buy-In for Working People with Disabilities (MBI-WPD)

- Under age 65, disabled, doing any amount of paid work (even \$1/mo.)
- Income: \$2,328/mo. Resources: \$20,000

## Client has capacity, or has someone else with valid Power Of Attorney

- Some SNTs will not accept a standard POA; it must have specific language about establishing trust

- Client has someone who can help with paperwork**
  - Sending contribution checks to trust each month
  - Submitting disbursement requests each month, coordinating the timing to ensure bills get paid on time
  - Reviewing calculation of contribution at the end of each year to adjust to increased income and Medicaid limits
  - Obtaining verification of deposits made to pooled trust over last year to enclose with annual Medicaid recertification
  - Even if client can handle it now, what about 5 years from now?
  
- Client knows how much to contribute to the pooled trust**
  - Use pooled trust contribution worksheet at:  
<http://www.wnyc.com/health/download/316/>
  
- Client knows which bills will be paid through pooled trust**
  - Rent / maintenance / mortgage is best
  - Must be third-party vendor payments; not cash reimbursement
  - All bills must be in client's name
  - Can usually pay credit card bill down (for approved expenses)
  - Each trust has its own rules
  - Must make sure that you do not accumulate a large balance in trust account; this could cause a transfer penalty for nursing home care