To: Eligibility Services – Regional Directors
Program Managers
Eligibility Services Supervisors
Regional Attorneys
Hearings Officers

From: Stephanie Stephens, Director
Policy Strategy, Analysis, and Development
State Office 2115

Subject: Spousal Dependent Allowance

Bulletins are sent to supervisors and other regional managers who must share the information with eligibility staff. Please ensure that copies are provided to staff without access to email. For questions regarding the information in this memo, follow regional procedures. You can find active bulletins at the following respective handbook websites:

- Texas Works: http://www.dads.state.tx.us/handbooks/texasworks_bulletins/index.htm

Background

In order to determine an individual’s co-payment amount, a dependent allowance may be deducted from the individual’s total countable income. Sections H-1600, Dependent Allowance and J-7400, Spousal Impoverishment Dependent Allowance of the MEPD handbook contain policy for both the spousal and non-spousal dependent allowance along with the amount for the allowance. These amounts change annually.

The non-spousal dependent allowance is calculated using the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit amount and is updated January 1st of each year. The spousal impoverishment dependent allowance is calculated using 150 percent of the monthly Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for a family of two and is updated July 1st of each year.

Current Policy

The current spousal impoverishment dependent allowance is $1,967.
New Policy

Effective July 1, 2015, the new spousal impoverishment dependent allowance amount is $1,992.

Automation

Texas Integrated Eligibility Redesign System (TIERS) has been updated with this new amount for spousal impoverishment co-payment budgets effective July 1, 2015.

Handbook

The MEPD Handbook will be updated with the September 2015 revision.

Training

MEPD New Hire Training and Continuing Skills Training will be updated to reflect the new spousal dependent allowance amount.

Effective Date

Staff must use the new spousal impoverishment dependent allowance amount when calculating the monthly co-payment amount for July 1, 2015, and ongoing.