MEPD and Texas Works Bulletin 20-16

Date: June 11, 2020

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

From: Access and Eligibility Services Program Policy
      State Office 2115

Subject: Spousal Impoverishment Dependent Allowance

The information in this bulletin will be included in a future handbook revision. Until the handbook is updated, staff must use the information in this bulletin. If you have any questions regarding the policy information in this bulletin, follow regional procedures.

Active bulletins are posted on the following websites:

Spousal Impoverishment Dependent Allowance

Background
In determining the co-payment for a person receiving Medicaid services in an institutional setting or under a Home and Community-Based Services program, a dependent allowance may be deducted from the person’s income.

The spousal impoverishment dependent allowance is calculated using 150 percent of the monthly federal poverty level (FPL) for a family of two. Although the FPL amounts are updated effective March 1st of each year, the new spousal impoverishment dependent allowance amount is not effective until July 1st.

Current Policy
MEPD
The current spousal impoverishment dependent allowance amount is $2,114 (MEPDH J-7400, Spousal Impoverishment Dependent Allowance).

New Policy
MEPD
Effective July 1, 2020, the new spousal impoverishment dependent allowance amount is $2,178.

Automation
Changes to TIERS were implemented with TIERS Release 107 on June 6, 2020.

Correspondence
Correspondence changes are not required.

Handbook
Updates to the Texas Works Handbook are not required.

The MEPD Handbook is currently scheduled to be updated in the September 2020 revision.

Training
Training will be updated with the adjusted 2020 spousal impoverishment dependent allowance amount.

Effective Date
This policy is effective beginning benefit month July 2020.