
Date: June 19, 2014 **MEPD Policy Bulletin Number: 14-08**

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

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Subject: Spousal Dependent Allowance

The information in this bulletin is for **Medicaid for the Elderly and People with Disabilities (MEPD)** programs. Bulletins are sent to supervisors and other regional managers, who must share the information with eligibility staff. Please ensure copies are provided to staff without access to email. For questions regarding the information in this memo, follow regional procedures. Find active bulletins at the following respective handbook websites:

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

Background

Sections H-1600 and J-7400 of the MEPD handbook contain policy for spousal dependent allowance and the amount for the allowance. The current amount of the spousal dependent allowance is \$1,939.

Policy/Procedure Update

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recently informed HHSC of the new spousal dependent allowance amount. Effective July 1, 2014, **the new spousal dependent allowance amount will be \$1,967**. The non-spousal dependent allowance was updated with the new Supplemental Security Income benefit amount in January 2014.

Automation

The Texas Integrated Eligibility Redesign System is already updated with this new amount.

Handbook

This policy update will be added to the MEPD Handbook effective September 2014.

Training

MEPD New Hire Training and Continuing Skills Training will be updated to reflect the update.

Effective Date

The effective date of the change is July 1, 2014. Use the new amount in the co-pay budgets for July 1, 2014, and ongoing.