

**Date:** June 10, 2015

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**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

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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:

- Medicaid for the Elderly and People with Disabilities (MEPD): [http://www.dads.state.tx.us/handbooks/mepd\\_policy/index.htm](http://www.dads.state.tx.us/handbooks/mepd_policy/index.htm)
- Texas Works: [http://www.dads.state.tx.us/handbooks/texasworks\\_bulletins/index.htm](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.