



Nathan Deal, Governor

Frank W. Berry, Commissioner

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Alternative Living Services (ALS) Providers
FROM: Catherine Ivy, Program Director, Waiver Programs
DATE: October 15, 2018
SUBJECT: Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Payment Increases for 2019

Effective January 1, 2019, SSI and Social Security recipients will receive a 2.8% cost-of-living increase in their monthly payments. The 2019 SSI payments will be \$771.00 for single individuals and \$1,157.00 for couples.

Effective January 1, 2019, a resident's personal needs allowance will change also. Please refer to the charts below when determining personal needs allowances and room and board payments.

SINGLE INDIVIDUALS

Table with 3 columns: LEVELS, CURRENT LEVELS, JANUARY 1, 2019. Rows include Gross Monthly Income, Personal Needs allowance, and Room & Board Payment.

* The ALS individual who receives Social Security and SSI will have \$141.00 for the personal needs allowance.

COUPLES (both on Medicaid)

Table with 3 columns: LEVELS, CURRENT LEVELS, JANUARY 1, 2019. Rows include Gross Monthly Income, Personal Needs Allowance, and Room & Board Payment.



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As indicated in the Department of Community Health, Healthcare Facilities Regulations Division, Rules and Regulations for Personal Care Homes, **the provider must give written notices to residents and their sponsors sixty (60) days prior to the effective date of increased room and board payments.** The ALS provider should amend all Admission Agreements to reflect the payment level changes as soon as possible, **but must do so no later than January 1, 2019.** Each amended agreement must be signed by the provider and the client.

While there should be no change to resident Medicaid eligibility, if the Department of Community Health (DCH) terminates a client's Medicaid benefits effective January 1, 2019, the provider must refer the individual to the county Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) for a continuing Medicaid eligibility determination. When referring a client to DFCS, ask the client or their representative to provide the following information to the DFCS Medicaid eligibility worker:

- the individual's full name, date of birth and SSN
- the effective date of Medicaid termination or a copy of the SSI termination letter
- the name and contact information for the client's waiver case manager.

The provider must also advise the case manager of the referral to DFCS, and if it's available, send a copy of the SSI termination letter to the case manager. Once DFCS determines the client's continuing Medicaid eligibility, the caseworker will send a Medicaid certification letter to the care coordinator and the client. The letter will include the client's Medicaid number and the cost share amount. The case manager will also adjust the client's prior authorization for waiver services if necessary to reflect any changes.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact your assigned Elderly and Disabled Waiver case management specialist at 404.657.7228 or 404.463.1104.

Cl:jc,tu

Cc: Thomas Underwood, CCSP Unit Manager, DCH
DCH Waiver program specialists
Bradly Green, DFCS
AAA Directors
ADRC Program Managers
Waiver case management agencies
LTCO Coordinators
Elderly Legal Assistance Projects