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## **CMCS Informational Bulletin**

**DATE:** June 10, 2014

**FROM:** Cindy Mann

Director Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services

### **SUBJECT: Updated 2014 SSI and Spousal Impoverishment Standards**

Certain Medicaid income and resource standards are adjusted annually in accordance with changes in the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) federal benefit rate and the Consumer Price Index (CPI). These include some of the standards in section 1924 of the Social Security Act, which describes the financial eligibility rules (the “spousal impoverishment rules”) that apply when married individuals seek coverage of certain long-term services and supports.

While some of the spousal impoverishment standards, such as the maximum community spouse income maintenance allowance and community spouse minimum and maximum resource allowances, are adjusted each January, section 1924 directs that the community spouse’s minimum monthly maintenance needs allowance (MMMNA) be adjusted, in accordance with changes to the federal poverty level, effective July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Additionally, as the community spouse’s monthly housing allowance (otherwise known as the excess shelter allowance) is calculated based on a percentage of the MMMNA, the excess shelter allowance is adjusted each July 1<sup>st</sup> as well.

Included with this informational bulletin is the revised *2014 SSI and Spousal Impoverishment Standards* chart that displays the updated MMMNA and Community Spouse Monthly Housing Allowances. These standards are also available on Medicaid.gov at <http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Eligibility/Downloads/Spousal-Impoverishment-2014.pdf>.

Please update your standards in accordance with this information.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Gene Coffey at 410-786-2234 or [Gene.Coffey@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Gene.Coffey@cms.hhs.gov).