

**TO:** Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Directors

**FROM:** Kathryn Kuhmerker, Deputy Commissioner  
Office of Medicaid Management

**SUBJECT:** Revised Federal Poverty Levels for January 1, 2001

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 2001

**CONTACT PERSON:** Local District Support Unit 518-474-9130 Upstate  
212-268-6855 NYC

This is to inform social services districts of revised federal poverty levels effective immediately. The estimated federal poverty levels were effective January 1, 2001 pending the actual poverty levels published in the Federal Register in February. The Department implements the estimated levels to ensure more stable periods of eligibility. However, the actual annual federal poverty line is \$50 higher (\$4.00 monthly) than the estimated poverty line. Therefore, the actual poverty levels are effective for all new applications and recertifications immediately.

For all new applications, the income must be compared to the revised federal poverty levels. A chart with the new poverty levels is attached to this GIS. This chart should be given to every eligibility worker. New applications which have income above the applicable poverty level may, consistent with case processing timeframes, be held until the revised poverty levels are available on MBL on March 19, 2001 with an effective From Date of January 1.

For undercare cases, a district specific report will be developed identifying cases that are either spenddown or have been denied or referred to Child Health Plus due to eligibility based on the estimated poverty levels. These cases will need to be rebudgeted using the new poverty levels. Some cases with income slightly above the estimated poverty line may gain full Medicaid eligibility. Those individuals whose eligibility may be affected are:

|                                    |                                  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Children under 19                  | Infants                          |
| Pregnant Women                     | Persons eligible for AIDS Health |
| Qualified COBRA                    | Insurance Program                |
| Continuation Beneficiaries         | Qualified Disabled and Working   |
| Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries   | Individuals                      |
| Specified Low Income Beneficiaries |                                  |

A list of such cases and necessary action will be included in a letter to each district shortly.

Social services districts should revise the notice "Notice to Potential Qualifying COBRA Continuation Beneficiaries" for one and two person households to reflect the January 1, 2001 change in the federal poverty level to \$716 for an individual and \$968 for a couple. For other notices, usual procedures apply.

An ADM is forthcoming on the 2001 Medicaid income and resource guidelines and federal poverty levels. Please direct any questions to your local district liaison.