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Number: SS-PT-09-002

Authorized Signature

Issue Date: 01/27/2009

Topic: Other

Transmitting (check the box that best applies):

- New Policy
 Policy Change
 Policy Clarification
 Executive Letter
 Administrative Rule
 Manual Update
 Other: Income Standards Change

Applies to (check all that apply):

- All DHS employees
 County Mental Health Directors
 Area Agencies on Aging
 Health Services
 Children, Adults and Families
 Seniors and People with Disabilities
 County DD Program Managers
 Other (please specify):

Policy/Rule Title:	Federal Poverty Level - OHP, ERDC and FS Income		
Policy/Rule Number(s):	461-155-0180, 461-155-0235	Release No:	
Effective Date:	January 23, 2009	Expiration:	
References:	461-155-0180 and 461-155-0235		
Web Address:			

Discussion/Interpretation: The annual adjustment to the federal poverty guidelines was released January 23, 2009, by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Implementation/Transition Instructions:

OHP Income Standards – With these new federal poverty level (FPL) amounts, the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) medical assistance program income standards are being updated effective January 27, 2009.

Attached is the Combined Standards (DHS 5530) form
 (<http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/selfsufficiency/publications/ss-pt-09-002-de5530.pdf>)

The OHP Standards are effective in the CM system January 28, 2009 (day after end of month processing). Start using the new OHP income standards immediately to determine eligibility. If you have an individual who is applying and eligible for OHP except that the countable income exceeds the old OHP income standard but is less than the new standard, wait until January 28, 2009, after end of month processing to code medical eligibility.

ERDC – The ERDC standards change is effective January 27, 2009. The new standards are included in the attached Combined Standards (DHS 5530) chart. The CM system and copay calculation will be updated on January 28, 2009. Please use the income standard on any ERDC applications you are currently processing. Remember that the copay amounts are not changing, only the income cap.

Food Stamps – The food stamp 185 percent categorical eligibility standard is changed effective January 27, 2009. The new standards are included in the attached Combined Standards (DHS 5530) chart. Begin to use this new categorical eligibility standard immediately. The 185 percent will be updated on FSMIS February 1, 2009. If you have a filing group who is applying and eligible for FS with income above the old 185 percent level but below the new one, wait until we notify you that FSMIS has been updated to code their case. The other FS income standards will not change until the annual update on October 1, 2009.

Post-TANF – The Post-TANF standards change is effective January 28, 2009, in the CM system. The new standards are included in the attached Combined Standards (DHS 5530) chart.

Qualified Medicare Beneficiary – QMB income standards will not be adjusted until March 1, 2009. For more information about dealing with QMB clients between now and March 1, 2009, refer to SPD IM 08-094.

Manual Updates – The Family Services Manual (FSM) and Administrative Rules Manual (ARM) releases for April 2008 will contain the new standards. The online ARM and the FSM will be updated this week.

Rules links are:

<http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/selfsufficiency/publications/ss-pt-09-002-155-0180.pdf>
<http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/selfsufficiency/publications/ss-pt-09-002-155-0235.pdf>

Contacts

If you have any questions regarding the new OHP income standards, please contact Joyce Clarkson at 503-945-6106, Michelle Mack at 503-947-5129 or Carol Berg at 503-945-6072.

If you have any questions regarding the new ERDC income standards, please contact Shiela Carter at 503-945-6110 or Peggy Cain at 503-945-6247.

If you have any questions regarding the new Post-TANF income standards, please contact Phil Laymon, 503-945-6128.

If you have any questions regard QMB income standards, please contact Michelle Knight, 503-945-6846.

If you have any questions regarding the new FS categorical eligibility income limit, please contact Anne Hilgers at 503-945-6105, Sandy Ambrose at 503-945-6092, Dawn Myers at 503-945-7018, Rosanne Richard at 503-945-5826, Eliza Devlin at 503-947-5105 or Sarah Lambert at 503-945-6476.

Training/Communication Plan: Local review of this transmittal.

Local/Branch Action Required: Review this transmittal with staff.

Central Office Action Required: Update computer systems and the manual.

Field/Stakeholder review: Yes No

If yes, reviewed by:

Filing Instructions:

If you have any questions about this policy, contact:

Contact(s):	see above		
Phone:		Fax:	
E-mail:			