



Bulletin

NUMBER

#16-04-01

DATE

July 11, 2016

OF INTEREST TO

County Directors

Financial Assistance
Supervisors and Staff

Social Service Supervisors
and Staff

Tribal Directors

ACTION/DUE DATE

Please read information
and prepare for
implementation

EXPIRATION DATE

July 11, 2018

Elimination of the “Domestic Violence Shelter” Basis of Eligibility for General Assistance

TOPIC

This bulletin summarizes a change to the General Assistance (GA) program basis of eligibility.

PURPOSE

To provide information and instructions on a policy change affecting eligibility for General Assistance.

CONTACT

Submit policy questions to PolicyQuest. Submit a PF11 for all MAXIS-related questions.

SIGNED

CLAIRE WILSON
Assistant Commissioner

TERMINOLOGY NOTICE

The terminology used to describe people we serve has changed over time. The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the use of "People First" language.

I. Background

Current Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) policy states that "[w]omen living in battered women's domestic violence shelters that are under contract with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety have a basis of eligibility for GA." Combined Manual (CM) 13.15.15.

After reviewing the GA statute, DHS has determined that residing in a domestic violence shelter does NOT make a person eligible for GA. The statutory language that had supported this basis of eligibility was repealed by the Legislature in 1999.

This policy change affects both current GA participants and new GA applicants.

II. Participants

A list of current GA cases using this basis of eligibility was sent to workers via SIR posting on July 11, 2016. Workers should review this list and, at least 30 days prior to their eligibility review date, notify clients that they must meet another basis of eligibility to continue receiving GA after that date.

Continue GA eligibility for current participants until their next scheduled review. Workers should not terminate any active GA case using the domestic violence basis prior to their eligibility review date. At that time, clients must meet another basis of eligibility for GA.

III. Applicants

Effective July 1, workers should stop using the domestic violence basis of eligibility for GA.

Consider all other basis of eligibility for any GA applicant who resides in a domestic violence shelter. Also consider eligibility for other programs such as MFIP.

One possible alternative GA basis of eligibility for those residing in domestic violence shelters is "Placement in a facility," CM 13.15.12. That section says that: (1) "a person who has been placed in, and is residing in, a licensed or certified facility for purposes of physical or mental health or rehabilitation... meets a GA basis of eligibility," but only when (2) such placement is "based on illness or incapacity, and is according to a plan developed or approved by the county agency through its director or designated representative."

If licensed or certified, a domestic violence shelter can be considered a "facility for purposes of physical or mental health or rehabilitation," and would meet the first requirement. Not all residents of domestic violence shelters are placed in such settings under "a plan developed or approved by the county agency." But when such a plan exists, the second requirement of CM 13.15.12 is met.

If no other basis of eligibility exists, deny GA.

IV. System Changes

Planned MAXIS changes include expiration of the 08 code (Family Violence Indc) in the GA basis of eligibility dropdown on STAT/WREG. There is no specific date that this will occur. Until that happens, do not use code 08 in new cases.

When MAXIS system changes are completed, a SIR announcement will be posted.

In September 2016, Combined Manual 13.15.15 will be deleted.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Advisory

This information is available in accessible formats for people with disabilities by calling (651) 431-4670 (voice) or toll free at (800) 657-3739 or by using your preferred relay service. For other information on disability rights and protections, contact the agency's ADA coordinator.