CHANGE NOTICE FOR MANUAL, NO: 07-15, SPOUSAL IMPOVERISHMENT STANDARDS

DATE: 06/19/2015

Manual: Aged, Blind, and Disabled Medicaid

Change No: 07-15

To: County Directors of Social Services

Effective: July 1, 2015

I. BACKGROUND

The minimum community spouse income allowance and excess shelter allowance are adjusted annually in accordance with changes in the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) federal benefit rate and the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Section 1924 of the Social Security Act directs that these adjustments be effective are July 1st of each year.

II. CONTENT OF CHANGE

MA-2270, Long Term Care Need and Budgeting, has been updated to remove specific amounts of the community spouse income allowance, the excess shelter allowance and the dependent allowance.

Administrative Letter 01-15, Spousal Impoverishment Standards includes the yearly amounts effective July 1, 2015.

Changes also include removal of references to EIS and NCFAST, and removal of examples.

III. EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION

This change in policy is effective July 1, 2015.

1. Applications

Apply the new amounts in determining the spousal income allowance and shelter standard effective on or after July 1, 2015. For the months prior to July 1, 2015 use the old amounts.

2. Ongoing Cases

Apply the new amounts in determining spousal income allowance and shelter standard at the first review or change in situation effective July 1, 2015 or later.

IV. MAINTENANCE OF MANUAL

Remove MA-2270, Long Term Care Need and Budgeting, pages 5-6, 9-20.

Insert MA-2270, Long Term Care Need and Budgeting, pages 5, 9-20.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact your Operational Support Team at <u>ost.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov</u>.

Dave Richard Deputy Secretary for Medical Assistance

(This material was researched and written by Christine Coffey, Medicaid Eligibility Unit).