

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Effective Date of the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) Changes to Medicaid/Long-Term Care Eligibility

TO: Executive Directors

FROM: Joanne Glover
Director
Bureau of Operations

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Information Memorandum is to notify staff of a change in the implementation date for the policy and procedures effecting eligibility for Medicaid/Long Term Care (LTC) that must be used for applicants, recipients and spouses of applicants and recipients applying for or receiving Medicaid/LTC services.

BACKGROUND

The changes to the eligibility requirements for Medicaid/LTC services resulting from the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005 (Public Law 109 - 171) were initially to be effective with applications made on or after January 1, 2007. Informational sessions were conducted for County Assistance Office (CAO) staff throughout the state. CAO staff had been provided with instructions and drafts of Operations Memoranda indicating that the implementation date of these changes was to be January 1, 2007.

DISCUSSION

The DRA mandated significant changes to the eligibility requirements for applicants and recipients of Medicaid/LTC. These changes will impact not only the citizens of Pennsylvania in need of LTC services, but also the CAO staff responsible for these cases. Because of the volume and complexity of the changes to Medicaid/LTC as a result of the DRA, it has been decided to change the effective date of implementation to March 5, 2007.

NEXT STEPS

1. Review this Information Memorandum with appropriate staff.

2. Contact your Area Manager if you have questions.
3. To ensure all CAOs receive and are aware of the changes to the implementation of the new Medicaid/LTC eligibility requirements, this information is issued by an Information Memorandum versus a Policy Clarification.
4. Operations Memoranda for all DRA changes to Medicaid/LTC will be forthcoming.