

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF AGING AND ADULT SERVICES

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH
SECRETARY

SUZANNE P. MERRILL, MSW
DIRECTOR

July 20, 2017

Dear County Director of Social Services:

Subject: Temporary Financial Assistance for Facilities Licensed to Accept Special Assistance

**Attention: Finance Officers
Medicaid and SA Program Managers, Supervisors, and Caseworkers**

Session Law 2017-57, the Appropriations Act of 2017, effective July 1, 2017, continues temporary payments to facilities on behalf of Special Assistance (SA) beneficiaries. Sections 11C.13.(a)-(g) appropriate \$5 million in non-recurring funds for the 2017-2019 biennium to continue a \$34 monthly temporary payment to facilities on behalf of each SA resident.

The legislation includes the following requirements for SFY 2017-2019. They remain essentially the same from the previous state fiscal year.

- The amount of the monthly payments authorized is equal to thirty-four dollars (\$34.00) per month for each SA resident of the facility as of the first day of the month.
- A facility receiving the monthly payments shall not, under any circumstances, use these payments for any purpose other than to offset the cost of serving SA residents.
- The payments are effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019 to the extent that sufficient State and county funds are available for this purpose. If funds are depleted, the final month's temporary payments to facilities will be a pro-rata amount for each SA recipient.
- Monthly payments will not be made on behalf of a resident whose eligibility determination for SA is pending.

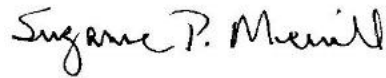
The legislation requires that the county share continues at fifty-percent (50%) of the cost of providing the monthly payments. The county match is drawn mid-month prior to the payments being made to the facilities. The NC XPTR report posted mid-month, **DHREJA HB1030 PAID BY CNTY**, lists the SA cases and their respective facilities. The county summary at the end of the report lists the counties and the total amount of payments per county (the report combines the State and county share).

To ensure that payments on behalf of SA residents are made timely and to the correct facility, it is essential that caseworkers:

- Remain diligent in maintaining accurate information in the NC FAST Income Support Case Living Arrangement, Facility Participant field. Before entering the facility name, the caseworkers should verify the license number for the facility, as many facilities have the same or similar name. It is critical for county DSSs to have the correct facility name for each SA facility case in NC FAST.
- Complete redeterminations in a timely manner;
- Ensure that case is not on hold or in suspended status.

If DSSs receive questions, please refer them to the Division of Aging and Adult Services and the listserv we have set up for providers, tempfacpay@dhhs.nc.gov. If DSS staff have questions, please contact the SA listserv at specialassistance@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



Suzanne P. Merrill, Director

SPM: cu

AFS-02-2017