

AID TO THE AGED, BLIND AND DISABLED (AABD) CASH BENEFIT CHANGES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question	Answer
<p>What changes are being made to the AABD cash benefit program?</p>	<p>AABD provides cash assistance to individuals who are 65 or older, blind or have a disability to help pay for everyday living expenses.</p> <p>H&W is reducing or eliminating cash payments to 1,250 people, about 9 percent of total participants. Payment reductions range from \$33 a month to \$200 a month.</p>
<p>When will the changes for AABD cash benefits go into effect?</p>	<p>July 1, 2010.</p>
<p>Why is it necessary to reduce AABD cash benefits?</p>	<p>AABD cash payments are funded with 100% state dollars. The reduction in benefits is necessary so Idaho can meet the budget for state fiscal year (SFY) 2011 (7/1/2010 – 6/30/2011), which state law requires.</p> <p>Enrollment in the program has grown more than 40% over the last ten years. Given the current budget situation, the State cannot continue current payment levels to the growing number of AABD participants.</p>
<p>Who will no longer qualify for the AABD cash benefit?</p>	<p>People who do not receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) will no longer qualify for AABD cash benefits.</p> <p>People who receive Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver services and reside in a Certified Family Home will no longer be eligible for AABD cash benefits.</p>

Question	Answer
<p>Who might have their AABD cash benefit reduced?</p>	<p>Approximately 1,250 of the 14,700 people receiving AABD cash assistance will be affected. Most recipients will continue to receive \$53/month in cash assistance.</p> <p>For SSI recipients, the maximum AABD monthly cash paid will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$198 for a person who lives in a non-relative room and board situation. • \$169 for a person who resides in a Semi-independent Group Residential Facility. • \$18 for a person who receives AABD cash benefits because they live with a person who is designated as essential to their well-being. <p>\$53 for a person who lives independently (This did not change).</p>
<p>How will I know if I am affected by the rule changes?</p>	<p>During the month of May, a letter from the Department will be mailed to participants who may be affected by the change.</p> <p>During the month of June, a notice of action will be mailed to each person who has a change in their benefit. The notice will explain the change in benefit amount or eligibility.</p>
<p>How can my needs be met if my income is reduced?</p>	<p>If you think that you may qualify for SSI, you can call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to apply.</p> <p>If you receive Food Stamp benefits, the income change will automatically be considered for your July Food Stamp benefits, which may increase the amount you receive.</p> <p>If you receive housing assistance, you should report the change in income to your housing authority for a possible adjustment in the amount you pay for rent.</p> <p>For information about benefits not offered by the Department, contact the Idaho CareLine at 2-1-1 or 1-800-926-2588.</p>

Question	Answer
<p>Will the change in AABD cash benefits affect my AABD Medicaid eligibility or other assistance/services I receive?</p>	<p>No. Your Medicaid eligibility will not be affected by the AABD cash benefit changes.</p> <p>Participants will continue to receive other assistance. For example, participants who live in certified family homes will continue to receive their Social Security Income payments of approximately \$674/month as well as medical coverage through Idaho's Medicaid program. This includes a payment of \$1,600 a month to the certified family home provider for helping a resident with daily living requirements.</p>
<p>Can I request a fair hearing if I do not agree with the changes to my AABD cash benefits?</p>	<p>According to rule 16.05.03.205 Appeal of Automatic Adjustments, appeals based solely on ending or decreasing AABD cash benefits due to a rule change will be dismissed.</p>
<p>What can I do if I do not agree with the rule changes for the AABD cash benefits?</p>	<p>The updated rules will be published in the June 2, 2010, Idaho Administrative Bulletin. Anyone may submit written comments regarding the rule changes. All written comments must be directed to the contact below and must be delivered on or before June 25, 2010.</p> <p>Tamara Prisock DHW – Administrative Procedures Section 450 W. State Street – 10th Floor P.O. Box 83720 Boise, ID 83720-0036 dhwrules@dhw.idaho.gov</p>
<p>Who do I call if I have questions about my AABD cash benefits?</p>	<p>Call 1-877-456-1233 or 208-334-6700 in the Boise area, select your preferred language, and then choose option four (4) to speak to an AABD Customer Service Representative.</p>