

**EFFECTIVE** January 1, 2012.

- Subject(s)**
1. Food Assistance Program (FAP).
    - Vehicle asset change.
    - Lien exclusion.
    - SSI Dedicated Account.
    - Native American Lands.
    - Miscellaneous.
    - Bridge card replacement cost revision.
  2. Telephone billing.
  3. Child care tiers.
  4. Medicaid.

## SUMMARY OF CHANGES

### 1) FAP

**Vehicle Asset** **BEM 400**

#### **FAP**

One vehicle with the highest fair market value per FAP household is excluded. This exclusion occurs after all other vehicle exclusions are applied.

*Reason:* Executive Directive.

Communication Plan: What's New Tip and a memo will be sent by DHS Field Services to all local offices.

#### **Lien Exclusion**

Exclude a non-liquid asset against which a lien has been placed as a result of taking out a business loan and the household is prohibited by the security or lien agreement with the creditor from selling the asset(s). This asset is not accessible.

*Reason:* FNS clarification.

#### **SSI Dedicated Account**

Exclude an SSI Dedicated Account. These accounts are mandated if a child under 18 is approved for SSI and receives a lump sum payment.

*Reason:* Clarification.

#### **Native American lands**

Exclude Native American lands held jointly with the Tribe, or land that can be sold only with the approval of the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs.

*Reason:* FNS clarification.

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**MISCELLANEOUS****Trusts and Annuities**

A new address and email address to send trusts and annuities for review is added to policy. Send trusts and annuities referrals via mail or email to:

Michigan Department of Human Services  
Attn: Department of Family Program Policy  
P.O. Box 30037  
Suite 1307  
Lansing, MI 48909

Policy email box DHS-FAP-Trusts\_Annuities

**Note:** Use of the email box is limited to acceptable users per policy in BEM 100, Policy Interpretations.

Employer-sponsored annuities are excluded.

*Reason:* Policy and address change.

Communication Plan: What's New Tip.

**Lowest Balance**

Use the lowest checking, savings or money market account balance in the month when determining asset eligibility.

*Reason:* Clarification.

**Bridge Card Replacement Cost Revision****BAM 401E****FIP, SDA and FAP**

The benefit reduction for cards issued by the EBT vendor is \$3.03.

*Reason:* Interim Policy Bulletin was incorrect when it stated the fee is \$3.02.

*Reason:* Communication Plan: Corrected What's New Tips.

**2) Telephone Billing****BEM 706**

Providers must bill for hours of care using the Internet (I-Billing) system. Telephone billing is no longer an option.

*Reason:* Budgetary constraints.

Unlicensed providers are now required to use the DHS-1546, Provider's Child Care Daily Time and Attendance Record when billing for hours of care. The DHS-1546 must be retained by the provider for four years.

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The DHS-1546 can be printed from the Web site at [www.michigan.gov/childcare](http://www.michigan.gov/childcare).

*Reason:* Program integrity.

## 2) Child Care Tiers **BEM 710**

Child care tiers have changed. They are now 20, 40, 60 and 80. The actual calculated need hours must be entered in Bridges. Bridges will adjust to the correct tier.

*Reason:* Program integrity

## 3) MEDICAID

### **BEM 174 Freedom to work**

The reference to a DCH exceptions unit has been removed as the unit has been gone for years. Also updated term from disabled client to client with disabilities.

*Reason:* Policy is moving towards person centered language.

### **BEM 401 MA Trusts**

A reminder was added for workers that when computing a divestment penalty for an annuity (that does not name the state as first or second remainder beneficiary), the amount to use in the computation is the amount used to purchase the annuity. Also, added a reminder that any disbursements from a trust that is not for the benefit of the trust beneficiary is a divestment for the amount of that disbursement or portion of the disbursement which is not for the beneficiary.

### **BEM 220 Residency**

Residency of a child follows the mother. When a mother is in Michigan on a time limited Visa, or for any other reason the mother does not meet the residency requirements for Medicaid, the child cannot meet residency requirements for Medicaid. Residency is a separate element of Medicaid eligibility determinations, it is not related to the citizenship element for Medicaid eligibility.

*Reason:* Local office inquiries regarding eligibility of citizen children of non residents.

### **BEM 225 Citizenship**

There are no conditions attached to an individual's citizenship when determining eligibility for Medicaid. An individual is either a citizen or is not. Citizens are eligible for Medicaid.

There are conditions attached to alien/immigrant statuses. Persons in the country on a limited time Visa do not meet the citizenship item for MA.

Persons with a Permanent Resident card may meet the citizenship requirement under certain conditions.

### **BEM 111 TMA**

Removed corresponding language from this item for a change made to the child support item effective October 1, 2011. The October change was disqualification of an adult group member for TMA when the adult is not co-operating in child support efforts.

### **BEM 400 Assets**

Increased the equity limit for the homestead to \$506,000.

### **BEM 546**

Increase in the Community Spouse heat and utility allowance to \$552 and the basic total allowance to \$1839. Note: there has been no increase in the maximum allowance or the Protected Spousal Amounts for an Initial Asset Assessment.

### **BEM 211 and BEM 402**

Medicaid group composition and definition of a community spouse have been updated. Policy has always implied that a spouse who was in the community but already on Medicaid did not meet the definition of a community spouse. Now the policy has been incorporated into the definition of community spouse and MA group composition policy.

### **BEM 257**

There is a new phone contact for Third Party Liability section at DCH.

### **BAM 115**

There is now a reminder to the field that a DHS-4574 is only for persons residing in long term care facilities.