

**TO:** Commissioners of Social Services, MA Directors

**FROM:** Ann Clemency Kohler, Director, Office of Medicaid Management

**SUBJECT:** MBL Issues

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** December 5, 1997

**CONTACT PERSON:** Ken Jerge (518) 473-9851

1. This is to advise districts of issues resulting from the recent Mass Rebudgeting (MRB) for 1998. Prior to this year's MRB, when a non-SSI spouse's income (after allocation if appropriate) is less than the difference between the MA level for 1 and 2, the system reduced the MA level to 1 and compared only the SSI spouse's net income to the lower level. After and during MRB, the system did not look at the non-SSI spouse's income and erroneously compared the total income to the level for 2. In addition, if the budget type is 05 and an EDC date is present, the MA level was incorrectly increased.

This problem has been corrected on MBL, but the following corrective action should be taken for cases rebudgeted in MRB:

- Review the MRB reports for SSI related budgets (budget types 04, 05, 06) with a budget change (BC) and budgets produced Monday, December 1, 1997 and Tuesday, December 2, 1997.
- If there is a LA of 2 or an EDC date is present, the budget must be re-transmitted before any action or notice is taken on the case.

Those budgets which have no change (NC) do not require any action, however, future recalculations will reflect the corrected level.

2. Due to a problem in the calculations, budget types 01, 05, or 09 which have no income or only unearned income, the budget output reflects an asterisk at the MA level when the case would in fact be eligible at the LIF (PA) level. Since this problem occurred when MBR was done, there are budgets currently on file which should indicate eligibility at the LIF level. There is no immediate adverse impact on the recipient, however, budgets should be recalculated at next recert or redetermination of eligibility. If at recert/client contact the recipient has become employed, the case should be reviewed for previous LIF eligibility so the appropriate EID code is used.

This issue will be corrected on production Monday, December 8, 1997.

3. When the Household Size is greater than 2 for Budget Types 04,05,06, ignore the asterisk next to the PA Standard and compare the income to the MA Level (unless it is a congregate care situation or the Living Arrangement (LA) is 3 or 4).

The proper display of the asterisk will corrected in the near future.