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**State of New Jersey**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services  
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Commissioner

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Assistant Commissioner

**MEDICAID COMMUNICATION NO. 23-07**

**DATE: September 26, 2023**

**TO:** NJ FamilyCare Eligibility Determining Agencies

**SUBJECT:** Post-Eligibility Treatment of Income – 2023 Adjusted Utility Allowance  
**N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.7**

In determining the amount that may be deducted from the income of an institutionalized Medicaid-eligible individual for the maintenance of a community spouse, consideration is given to the excess shelter expenses of the community spouse. When calculating the amount of the shelter expenses, the standard utility allowance is utilized when the community spouse directly incurs utility charges.

As you are aware, these utility allowances are the same as those applicable in determining eligibility under the authority of the Division of Family Development's (DFD) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). DFD has announced that the standard utility allowance will increase from \$730.00 to **\$850.00 per month, effective October 1, 2023.**

County Welfare Agencies (CWA) and Institutional Services Section (ISS) offices shall continue to apply these standards in the post-eligibility treatment of income beginning with the month of October 2023 for all new cases and cases subject to redetermination.

If you have any questions regarding this Medicaid Communication, please refer them to the Division's Office of Eligibility field service staff member for your agency at 609-588-2556.

JLJ:avv

c: Sarah Adelman, Commissioner  
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