

EXPLANATION OF THE EXCESS RESOURCE PROGRAM

The following is an explanation of how you may become eligible for Medicaid and receive help with your medical bills even though your resources may be over the limit. Please contact your social services worker if you need help understanding this letter.

If you have applied for Medicaid, our written notice to you will tell you if you have **resources** over the Medicaid resource limit and the amount by which your resources are over the limit. This amount is also called excess resources. Certain resources may be verified through computer matches. If you think the excess resources amount listed on your notice is incorrect, you must contact the agency immediately, but no later than 30 days from the date of the eligibility decision. We may ask you to send proof of your resources. Your **income** may also be over the allowable limit. If it is, our notice to you will tell you how much excess income you have. There is a separate explanation of the excess income program, which you will receive if you have excess income.

EXCESS RESOURCES

If your resources are over the Medicaid limit for your household size, you may be eligible for Medicaid coverage if you have medical bills that are equal to or higher than the amount of your excess resources, or if you spend excess resources on certain expenses set aside for your and your spouse's burial.

We count the amount of resources you had as of the first day of the month for which you want Medicaid coverage. Medical bills used to offset the excess resources are those you owed as of the first of the month, bills you get for medical services in that month, and medical bills you paid in that month. Once your excess resources have been entirely applied against these medical bills, you can become eligible for Medicaid. When medical bills offset your excess resources, it is your responsibility to pay them. The medical provider is told the amount of the bill that is your responsibility. **Medicaid will not pay that amount of the bill.**

For your excess resources to be offset by burial expenses, you may establish an irrevocable burial trust for your/your spouse's burial expenses with a funeral director or any person or firm in the business of making such an agreement. There is no limit on customary burial related goods and services purchased through an irrevocable burial trust. However, any money left over in the trust after the funeral and burial expenses have been paid will go to the county. Once this irrevocable burial trust is established, you will not be able to have your money refunded, but you may change your choice of funeral home. Additionally, you may be allowed an exempt burial fund of up to \$1,500 (\$3,000 for a couple). For your resources to be offset by certain prepaid burial expenses or reserves, expenditures related to your/your spouse's burial must be made, and your worker must be notified within 10 days of the date you are told the amount of your excess resources. For new applications, the offsetting of excess resources by these burial-related exemptions for you and/or your spouse will be allowed as if they had been purchased during the retroactive period. Your worker will be able to tell you more about the type of burial expenditures you can make to reduce your resources.

IMPORTANT: If your resources increase to an amount more than Medicaid allows, either because interest is credited to your account or because you deposit other money to your account, you are ineligible for assistance in that month and until the excess resources are offset by medical bills or are used to purchase burial-related items as described above. If you receive Medicaid when you are ineligible, your social services district may collect from you the amount that was incorrectly paid on your behalf.

If you have questions, please contact your Medicaid eligibility worker.