



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

Subject: Public Notice for Changes to the Employed Individuals with Disabilities Program

Add'l info: The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) is amending the State Plan to (1) expand the eligible population for the Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) Program by establishing less restrictive financial eligibility requirements including (2) lowering the age from 18 to 16, (3) eliminating the income requirement and disregarding all retirement accounts for participants (3) creating the flexibility of an Independence Account for participants, (4) disregarding spousal income and assets as part of applicant eligibility, and (5) setting new premium levels for higher-income recipients.

Effective January 1, 2024, the Department will allow applicants 16 and older but under 65 years of age to be eligible for EID. Additionally, participants in the EID program may at this time create an Independence Account as an exempt asset and will have spousal income disregarded for eligibility purposes. New premium levels will go into effect for higher-income recipients on this date.

The establishment of less restrictive financial eligibility requirements will enable more individuals with disabilities to receive program eligibility regardless of their spouse's income and allow participants to save earnings via the Independence Account. Effective January 1, 2024, no income standard applies to applicants or recipients of EID and spousal income will no longer be considered as a part of eligibility determination. The Independence Account allows applicants to create an account upon determination of eligibility for EID that will be treated as an exempt asset for the purpose of calculating eligibility for Medicaid and EID and will aid in the participant's pursuit of personal or financial independence.

The Department has established a five-tier premium structure that begins at \$40 per month for those above 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) but below 250 percent and ends at 7.5 percent of monthly net countable income for those at 600 percent FPL and above.

The Department estimates a fiscal impact of \$3,258,144 per fiscal year, with 50 percent (\$1,629,072.00) coming from federal funds and 50 percent (\$1,629,072.00) coming from state funds. The Department anticipates a revenue increase of \$937,314 for Fiscal Year 2024 due to the estimated \$129 per member per month premium that the estimated 1,211 new recipients will be subject to.

For questions about the notice please contact Lorie Mayorga by email at lorie.mayorga@maryland.gov.

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