

Special Assistance (SA) In-Home

Some individuals who need care in a licensed residential facility may remain safely in a Private Living Arrangement (PLA) with sufficient income, adequate housing, necessary health and social services, reliable informal support from family and friends, and case management, rather than move to a licensed residential facility, assisted living, supervised living/group home or what is also called domiciliary care. The General Assembly recognized this as a viable option when it passed a special provision in Session Law 1999-237 authorizing the SA/IH Program, and then making it a permanent statutory program in 2007. The SA/IH Program goal is to allow eligible clients to remain in the community and live as independently as possible. During the 2012 Legislative Session the General Assembly passed SL 2012-142 which requires that all 100 counties participate in the SA/IH Program. For each SA/IH dollar paid by the State to the client, the county matches with a dollar.

The SA/IH payment is an income supplement and is intended to assist with the provision of daily necessities such as food, shelter, clothing, utilities, transportation, in-home aide services, essential household items, essential home repairs and modifications and other services that enable the client to live at home safely.

NOTE: SA/IH payments do not replace the formal and informal services and supports already available to a client. When the client needs in-home or community-based services to continue to live safely in a Private Living Arrangement, other funding sources should be used to the fullest extent possible to provide these services.

Individuals who wish to receive an SA/IH payment must be eligible for full coverage Medicaid under Medicaid categorically needy guidelines. SA/IH funds are either mailed to the client monthly or to the DSS Representative Payee account at DSS, if DSS is the Representative Payee.

The county DSS manages the operation of the SA/IH Program in the county and assures that the policies and procedures for SA/IH are followed. The county DSS is responsible for client assessment, case management and authorization of the SA/IH payment and Medicaid.

When a person is interested in applying for SA/IH, the Adult Services Social Worker assesses the client's strengths and needs. After completion of the assessment, and reviewing the client's financial needs and comparing them to the client's financial resources, the Adult Services Social Worker develops a service plan with the client and his/her family. The service plan builds upon the client's strengths and address needs identified in the assessments related to the client's overall well-being to include health and safety needs which may impact the client's ability to be maintained safely in their home.