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Informational Letter

Transmittal:	10-OCFS-INF-06
To:	Local District Commissioners
Issuing Division/Office:	Strategic Planning and Policy Development
Date:	July 14, 2010
Subject:	2010 Income Standards for the Child and Family Services Plan
Suggested Distribution:	Directors of Social Services Adoption Services WMS Supervisors Planning Coordinators Advisory Council Members Staff Development Coordinators Child Care Services
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Attachments:	None
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Filing References, if applicable

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Canceled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
09-OCFS-INF-03		404.5b			

I. Purpose

The purpose of this letter is to provide an update on the 2010 income standards to be used in determining eligibility for services.

II. Background

State income standards are established using poverty guidelines [72 Fed Reg 3147] that are updated periodically in the *Federal Register* by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under the authority of 42 U.S.C. §9902(2). Local district eligibility levels are recorded in Appendix F of the local district Child and Family Services Plan. This information is used to update each local district's Welfare Management System services matrix.

HHS normally updates its poverty guidelines every year in late January. This year, Congress has taken actions to keep the 2009 poverty guidelines in effect, first until at least March 31, 2010, and then until at least May 31, 2010. The 2009 poverty guidelines remain in effect until Congress takes further action. Congressional actions on this matter have been in response to a decrease in the average annual Consumer Price Index for 2009. In the absence of legislative change, this decrease – the first since poverty guidelines began to be issued in 1965 – would have required HHS to issue 2010 poverty guidelines that were lower than the 2009 poverty guidelines; that would have led to a reduction in eligibility.

III. Program Implications

The 2009 poverty guidelines established by HHS remain in effect until any additional information is made available by HHS. The following are the income standards that are to be used, effective June 1, 2010, to determine eligibility for services from June 1, 2010, until May 31, 2011, or until HHS updates its poverty guidelines.

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Income Standards</u>
1	\$10,830
2	14,570
3	18,310
4	22,050
5	25,790
6	29,530
7	33,270
8	37,010

For families with more than 8 persons, add \$3,740 for each additional person.

When determining eligibility for a service, apply the appropriate percentage for that service to the above income standards. For example, if a family of three is applying for a service that a social services district provides at 200% income level, multiply the income standard for a family of three by 200% ($18,310 \times 2.00 = \$36,620$) to determine the income eligibility for that size family for that service.

/s/ Nancy W. Martinez

Issued By:

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