

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
AGING SERVICES DIVISION STATE UNIT ON AGING (SUA)
PROGRAM INSTRUCTION



10/1/2011

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Effective Date

PROGRAM INSTRUCTION: SUA-SPI-11-01

PROGRAM (S): National Family
Caregiver Support Program

SUBJECT: Cost Sharing for the Connecticut National Family Caregiver Support Program

This Program Instruction (PI) provides procedures for soliciting service contributions from recipients of Title III-E services **only** that are provided under the Older Americans Act.

In 2000, amendments to the Older Americans Act (OAA) allowed states to implement cost sharing for certain OAA services. The Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act of 2006 retains the cost sharing options for specified Title III services first enacted with the 2000 amendments in Section 315, Consumer Contributions.

Cost sharing policies shall be established by each Area Agency on Aging based solely on care recipient income (or the income of a relative caregiver for a child 18 or younger) and the cost of services being provided. Care recipients at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) will be excluded from consideration. However, those individuals with incomes at or below 200% of the FPL may make voluntary contributions for services received. Cost sharing policies developed by the AAA's shall be designed to ensure that participation of low-income individuals will not decrease. Each AAA shall inform new and recertified clients of cost sharing requirements for the Program.

Pursuant to Section 315, (a), (2) of the Older Americans Act cost sharing will be implemented for Title III-E services funded by the OAA, with the exception of information and assistance, outreach, benefits counseling, case management services, ombudsman, elder abuse prevention, legal assistance, consumer protection services, congregate and home delivered meals, and those services delivered through tribal organizations. Cost sharing will be implemented for Title III-E respite and supplemental services only.

- 1) The cost-sharing policies developed by each AAA must ensure that the AAA shall:
 - protect the privacy and confidentiality of each older individual with respect to the declaration or nondeclaration of individual income and to any share of costs paid or unpaid by an individual;
 - establish appropriate procedures to safeguard and account for cost share payments;
 - use each collected cost share payment to expand the service for which such payment was given;

- not consider assets, savings, or other property owned by an older individual in determining whether cost sharing is permitted;
- not deny any service for which funds are received under this Act for an older individual due to the income of such individual or such individual's failure to make a cost sharing payment;
- determine the eligibility of older individuals to cost share solely by a confidential declaration of income and with no requirement for verification; and
- widely distribute written materials in languages reflecting the reading abilities of older individuals that describe the criteria for cost sharing, the State's sliding fee schedule and that services will not be denied individuals as mandated under subparagraph 5 above.

Reporting on cost share procedures will be at the discretion of the Department's State Unit on Aging. Area Agencies on Aging must submit initial cost sharing policies for SUA approval no later than 8/1/11. Review and approval of each AAA's policy shall be completed at least 30 days prior to the start of the Federal Fiscal Year. Any changes to AAA cost sharing policies will require approval by the SUA prior to implementation.

- 2) Area Agencies on Aging must ensure that fees generated from cost sharing on all fund sources
 - are used to serve eligible individuals currently on waiting lists;
 - are utilized to expand service availability to regions of the planning and service area in which services have not been available;
 - utilize cost sharing funds to expand program services only within the category for which services were provided. Collected cost share payments for respite services shall be utilized for Title III-E respite services only and for supplemental services shall be utilized for Title III-E supplemental services only; and
 - shall be based on the actual cost of services delivered up to the maximum benefit allowed for respite (\$3,500) and supplemental (\$750) services.

- 3) The cost-sharing policies developed by the AAAs shall utilize the following sliding fee scale based on a declaration of income to determine the amount of cost share and to provide guidance to consumers in making voluntary contributions:

Based on 2010 US Poverty Guidelines

Income Range (% of FPL)	Individual 's Monthly Income	Couple's Monthly Income	Cost Share Amount
0 – 200%	\$0 to \$1,806	\$0 to \$2,430	0%
201 – 250%	\$1,807 to \$2,258	\$2,431 to \$3,038	20%
251 – 300%	\$2,259 to \$2,709	\$3,039 to \$3,645	40%
301 – 350%	\$2,710 to \$3,159	\$3,646 to \$4,250	60%
351 – 400%	\$3,160 to \$3,612	\$4,251 to \$4,860	80%
401 and above	\$3,613 and over	\$4,861 and over	100%

The amount of cost to be shared is determined by using the care recipient's self-declared monthly income (for grandparent services the caregiver's monthly income). The following are considered income: Social Security, Supplemental Security, Railroad Retirement income; pensions; wages; interest; dividends; net rental income; veteran's benefits; and any other

payments received on a one-time or recurring basis. If accounts are jointly owned between a care recipient and another person such as the spouse, 50% of the total interest income in the account will be counted as care recipient income.

Services Subject to Cost Sharing

<p>Respite Care Services, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Skilled Nursing Visits ➤ Adult Day Care/Health Services ➤ Companion Services ➤ Home Health Aide ➤ Homemaker Services ➤ Personal Care Worker ➤ Child Respite ➤ Transportation Services ➤ Self-Directed Care Services ➤ Temporary Inpatient Care 	<p>Supplemental Services, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Chore Services ➤ Home Safety/Modifications ➤ Grocery Delivery ➤ Medical Related Equipment/Supplies ➤ Emergency Items/Home Repair ➤ School Supplies and other grandparent supplemental service items ➤ Personal Reassurance ➤ Safe Return ➤ Transportation Services
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- 4) An Area Agency on Aging may request a waiver to the State’s cost sharing policies, and the State Unit on Aging shall approve such a waiver if the AAA can adequately demonstrate that
- At least 80% percent of persons receiving Title III-E services subject to cost sharing in the planning and service area have incomes below 200% percent of the FPL;
 - The annual ongoing administrative expense of cost sharing is greater than the revenue generated.

Waiver requests must be submitted to the State Unit on Aging no later than 60 days prior to the start of the upcoming Federal Fiscal Year. Written notice of approval or denial shall be provided within 30 days of receipt of such request.

LEGAL AND

RELATED REFERENCES:

Older Americans Act Section 315;
 Connecticut State Agencies Regulations 17b-423-8: Title III-E Caregiver Support; Administrative Charts for the National Family Caregiver Support Program and Statewide Alzheimer’s Respite Care Program

Disposition:

Retain for Reference

Distribution:

Area Agencies on Aging

Responsible Unit:

Roberta Gould, (860) 424-5199

Date Issued: April 26, 2011