

MANUAL MATERIAL TRANSMITTED					
MANUAL: INCOME MAINTENANCE			CHANGE NUMBER: 292		
DELETE			INSERT OR CHANGE		
PAGES	CHAPTER	DATED	PAGES	CHAPTE	DATED
APPENDIX A	10	4/04	APPENDIX A	10	5/04
			New Chapter	23	5/04
			FORM DFA-MWIN-1		5/04
FORM ES-RT-3		12/03	FORM ES-RT-3		5/04
FORM OFS-RT-3M		11/02	FORM DFA-RT-3M		5/04
FORM OFS-RT-2		11/02	FORM DFA-RT-2		5/04
DATE: May 1, 2004 TO: ALL INCOME MAINTENANCE MANUAL HOLDERS					

This change adds new Chapter 23 to implement the Medicaid Work Incentive Program (M-WIN) for working disabled individuals. It is established under the federal Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act (TWWIIA) and West Virginia Senate Bill 338 which was passed on March 8, 2003.

The Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 permits states to establish programs to enhance employment options for people with disabilities by the creation of two optional Medicaid groups. The purpose of this program is to encourage individuals with severe disabilities to engage in meaningful work, increase their standard of living and gain or maintain health care coverage through Medicaid. In 2002, the West Virginia Legislature's Joint Committee on Government and Finance initiated a resolution to study the feasibility of implementing this type of program. This involved collaboration among consumers, agencies and disability groups who drafted a proposal that was presented before the legislature. As a result, Senate Bill 338 was passed and signed into law. This Medicaid program permits individuals who are determined eligible the opportunity to participate by paying an enrollment fee and ongoing monthly premiums.

Although this is a Medicaid coverage group and many current Medicaid policies and procedures apply, there are a number of differences which include, but are not limited to:

- The requirement that the individual is employed, even though disabled
- The payment of an enrollment fee and monthly premium
- The retention of coverage during temporary periods of unemployment

- [] The retention of coverage when a disabling condition improves
- [] More liberal income and asset policies, including the ability to have independence accounts which may be established and used only for specific purposes.

A contract agency, Public Consulting Group, Inc., (PCG, Inc.) will collect the enrollment fee and premiums. Communication between PCG and the local office regarding these payments and related issues is extremely important. Because of this, each office must designate one Worker as the contact with PCG to send and receive all communications with them regarding M-WIN recipients. The name of the contact person, office phone and fax number must be forwarded to Judy Talbott in the DFA Policy Unit.

Worker-generated notices specific to the M-WIN group were developed. Information about the notices is included in RAPIDS instructions about this group.

Policy questions should be directed to the DFA Economic Services Unit.

RAPIDS issues should be directed to the RAPIDS Help Desk.

Questions received from disabled individuals regarding the need for employment or other benefit assistance should be directed to the M-WIN Program operated by the WVU Center for Excellence in Disabilities (WVUCED). The phone numbers are 304-293-4692 for the Morgantown office and 304-720-3200 for the Charleston office.