

**DSS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER NO. ECONOMIC AND FAMILY SERVICES 2-2008,
Child Support Income for Children Receiving SSI and Medicaid Coverage for Pregnant
Women and IV-D non-cooperation (November 18, 2008)**

(Work First Program)

TO: County Directors of Social Services

ATTENTION: Work First Program Administrators, Managers, and Supervisors

DATE: November 18, 2008

**SUBJECT: Child Support Income for Children Receiving SSI and Medicaid
Coverage for Pregnant Women and IV-D non-cooperation**

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately Upon Receipt

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

The purpose of this letter is to clarify Work First policy as it relates to counting child support income and Medicaid coverage when a pregnant parent or caretaker fails to cooperate with child support.

Work First Manual Section 114 XII A states: "All child support being received by any family unit member is counted as unearned income to that family unit member, even if the support is received on behalf of a child who has reached adult age (18) or no longer lives in the household". However, this letter is to clarify that if a child is receiving SSI, the child support income has already been taken into account in determining the SSI benefit amount. Therefore, child support income for a child receiving SSI should **NOT** be counted as income when determining Work First Family Assistance.

Work First Policy Section 120, II directs that if a parent or caretaker fails to cooperate with Child Support Enforcement without good cause, the parent or caretaker loses Medicaid eligibility, unless they are pregnant or receive Medicaid through SSI. Furthermore, upon timely notice, the entire assistance unit will be ineligible for Work First Family Assistance for one month or until compliance, whichever is later. If the parent is pregnant in such a situation, and if the pregnant parent is receiving Medicaid through the Work First Family Assistance case, the parent must be approved, if eligible, for Medicaid for Pregnant Women (MPW). There is no IV-D cooperation requirement for MPW. Therefore, effective immediately, any case involving a pregnant caretaker being sanctioned for IV-D non-cooperation must be taken off the Work First case following a timely notice and evaluated for Medicaid under the MPW program.

II. IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

Apply this policy to the next review, application, or change in situation.

III. EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy is effective upon receipt of this information. Should you need additional guidance, please contact your Work First Representative.

Sincerely,



Dean Simpson, Chief
Economic and Family Services Section

DS: gbw

cc: Sherry S. Bradsher
Sarah Barham

Hank Bowers
Sara Mims
Work First Local Support
Local Business Liaisons