

STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF SENIOR SERVICES

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December 20, 2024

MEMORANDUM

TO:

Personal Choices Recipients

FROM:

Jean Stone, Assistant Commissioner

Medicaid Waiver Programs

SUBJECT:

Personal Choices Cash Need Change

The Alabama Department of Senior Services (ADSS) has reviewed current policy and the status of the cash needs service under the Personal Choices Program. Many of the items that the cash needs service was intended to cover can now be accessed through the expanded services in the ACT and E&D waiver programs. In addition, because the cash needs service is subject to being considered as income under IRS regulations, it could jeopardize your financial eligibility for the program if not properly accounted for with receipts. Therefore, effective January 10, 2025, the program policy will change to a **maximum monthly benefit of \$45.00 per month** for the cash needs service.

Your Monthly Budget Amount will remain the same. However, if you currently receive more than \$45.00 per month, the amount that exceeds \$45.00 will be placed into a savings account until a spending plan revision can be completed. You may choose to apply the amount in excess of \$45.00 as savings or as an increased pay rate for your worker. Your Counselor will work with you to revise your spending plan.

If you have receipts for items purchased that would qualify as an eligible item under the cash needs service, we will reimburse you for those up to the balance of the difference until the spending plan can be revised, but no later than March 31,2025. Please ask your Counselor in advance if you have questions about what is eligible for reimbursement.

To receive payment from the balance, you must submit the receipt to your Counselor for approval and submission to ADSS for processing. Receipts must be submitted for reimbursement by the end of March 2025, or the money will revert back to the Medicaid agency.

Please be aware that beginning in January 2025, you will need to provide receipts to your Counselor for review to ensure all items purchased with cash needs dollars meet program requirements. Failure to comply with this policy will result in corrective action.

JS/mr