



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH & WELFARE**

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER – Governor  
RICHARD M. ARMSTRONG – Director

LISA HETTINGER - Administrator  
DIVISION OF MEDICAID  
Post Office Box 83720  
Boise, Idaho 83720-0009  
PHONE: (208) 334-5747  
FAX: (208) 364-1811

March 25, 2016

*Dear Tribal Representative:*

The purpose of this letter is to give notice that the Division of Medicaid intends to promulgate temporary rule changes to IDAPA 16.03.18, "Medicaid Cost Sharing."

Disability Rights Idaho, Idaho's federally designated protection and advocacy group representing Idaho's disabled residents, has asked the Department of Health and Welfare to review the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) amounts used in the financial eligibility calculation for those Medicaid participants who reside in the community and are responsible for their rent or mortgage expenses. The Department has determined that while the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) figure is adjusted annually by the Social Security Administration to account for cost of living increases, it has not kept pace with the increase of housing and utility expenses in Idaho.

IDAPA 16.03.18.400.05 will be revised to reflect that the Personal Needs Allowance for individuals residing in the community who are responsible for rent or a mortgage will increase from 150% of the federal SSI amount to 180% of the federal SSI amount. This change will help ensure that Medicaid waiver participants are permitted a sufficient allowance within their financial eligibility calculation to rent or own a reasonably priced home or apartment without causing undue financial hardship. This change is expected to become effective July 1, 2016.

Idaho Medicaid is interested in receiving your comments, question or suggestions regarding the proposed rule change. Should you have any questions or suggestions about this notice please contact Ali Fernández at (208) 287-1156 or by email at [fernanda@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:fernanda@dhw.idaho.gov) prior to April 25, 2016.

Sincerely,

LISA HETTINGER  
Administrator

LH/af