



<b>Policy Memo</b>	
<b>KDHE-DHCF POLICY NO: 2018-06-02</b>	<b>From: Jeanine Schieferecke, Senior Manager</b>
<b>Date: June 22, 2018</b>	<b>KEESM/KFMAM Reference: 8144.2, 8244.2</b>
<b>RE: Annual Change in Spousal Impoverishment Income Allowance</b>	<b>Program(s): Elderly &amp; Disabled Medical Programs</b>

This memo provides implementation instructions for the annual increase in the spousal impoverishment allowance and provides clarification of existing policy related to excess shelter expenses. Information contained within this memo is applicable to Elderly and Disabled Medical programs only.

## **1. SPOUSAL IMPOVERISHMENT INCOME ALLOWANCE**

### **A. INCOME ALLOCATION**

An increased community spouse and dependent family member allowance takes effect July 1, 2018 and will be available in KEES for determinations on or after May 22, 2018, when July 2018 becomes the come-up month. Current cases are to be adjusted the next time the case is touched, no later than the next annual redetermination.

Income allowances are to be adjusted in some of the cases as the community spouse can now get at least \$2,058 a month and any dependent family member can get \$686 a month provided his or her income is not in excess of \$2,058. The new community spouse standard affects the outcome of the excess shelter calculation. The maximum amount of excess shelter which can now be given is \$1,032. Excess shelter expenses are now reduced by a standard of \$226. Thus, if the person's shelter payment equals or exceeds \$1,258 all that can be allocated is \$1,032. Any payment less than \$1,258 but more than \$226 would produce a varying standard. These new guidelines may decrease or eliminate the excess shelter allowance in some cases.

The F-8, Kansas Medical Assistance Standards, has been updated with this revision to include the minimum and maximum community spouse resource allowance, minimum and maximum community spouse income allowance, dependent family member allowance, excess shelter deduction, and maximum excess shelter allowance. The ES-3163, Income

Allowance Determination Form, has also been updated to reflect the new minimum community spouse income allowance, dependent family member allowance, and excess shelter deduction.

## **B. EXCESS SHELTER EXPENSES**

Current policy contained within Medical KEESM 8144.2 and 8244.2 outlines which shelter expenses may be considered when determining the excess shelter expense for the community spouse. This policy has been clarified to reflect that homeowner's insurance is an allowable shelter expense. Renter's insurance is not an allowable shelter expense. This includes situations where the consumer's lease agreement includes a clause which requires them to purchase and maintain a renter's insurance policy.

## **2. QUESTIONS**

For questions or concerns related to this document, please contact one of the KDHE Medical Policy Staff listed below.

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Questions regarding any KEES issues are directed to the KEES Help Desk at [KEES.HelpDesk@ks.gov](mailto:KEES.HelpDesk@ks.gov)