## N. C. Division of Aging and Adult Services Administrative Letter No. 14-11 Adult Services Section

Date: September 22, 2014

Subject: Appropriations Act of 2014: Changes to the Special Assistance Program

Distribution: County Directors Special Assistance Supervisors Adult Services Supervisors

## Effective Date: November 1, 2014

## I. BACKGROUND

- A. Residency: Session Law 2014-100, Appropriations Act of 2014, eliminates one of the allowable ways for applicants to meet the State residency requirement for State/County Special Assistance (SA.) This Statute, G.S. 108A-41(b) (3), had allowed a person to meet the SA State residency requirement if he/she moved to North Carolina to join a close relative who has lived in the state for at least 180 days.
  - B. Eugenics Payments: Session Law 2014-110, Appropriations Act of 2014, states that a qualified recipient under the Eugenics Program shall receive compensation in the form of two payments. By October 31, 2014, claimants determined by the North Carolina Industrial Commission to be qualified recipients shall receive an initial payment. Claimants determined to be qualified recipients after that date shall receive an initial payment within 60 days of the Commission's determination. A second and final payment shall be made after the exhaustion of all appeals arising from the denial of eligibility for compensation.

## **II. IMPLEMENTATION OF CHANGE TO THE SA POLICY**

- **A. Residency:** For applications taken on or after November 1, 2014, an applicant must meet the residency requirement by:
  - 1. Residing in North Carolina for at least 90 days immediately prior to receiving SA with the intent to remain. **Or** :
  - 2. Must have been discharged from a State facility as a result of an interstate mental health compact that requires the State to continue treating the person within the State.
- B. Eugenics Payments: In accordance with SA policy, Eugenics payments will be paid as lump sum payments payable as special government compensation. The payments will not be considered income, but will be counted as a resource to be excluded for nine months from the date of receipt. Do not exclude interest earned from counting towards income or resources.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the SA Program Unit at <u>specialassistance@dhhs.nc.gov</u>

Sincerely,

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Suzanne P. Merrill, Acting Director Division of Aging and Adult Services