

DSS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER
FAMILY SUPPORT AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES 03-05 WORK FIRST

TO: County Directors of Social Services

Attention: Work First Administrators, Program Managers, and Supervisors

DATE: April 7, 2005

In 1999 the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 1134, which was subsequently signed into law. The Bill made changes in the Work First Program in Standard and Electing Counties. An Administrative Letter (#11-99) was forwarded to counties interpreting the legislative changes. Included in the Administrative Letter was the option to provide services to families with income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. However, Senate Bill 1134 does not allow an option in the provision of services to families at 200% or below of poverty. Therefore, all counties should provide services to such families.

The purpose of this letter is to clarify that providing services for families at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level threshold is not an option. Each county plan must address the provision of 200% services (see Work First Policy 003) in their county plan. Amendments will be required for the few counties that have selected not to provide 200% services. We have contacted those counties affected by this issue. For the majority of counties this is not an issue. A manual change will be forthcoming re-addressing the fact that 200% services are not an option. This change is effective upon the receipt of this letter.

Please note that DSS Administrative Letter No. Economic Independence 11-99 is not made obsolete by this letter, only the statement that these services are optional is rescinded.

If you have questions around this issue, please contact your Work First Representative or Carla McNeill at (919)-733-3360.

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Lamm, Section Chief
Family Support and Child Welfare Services Section

cc: Pheon Beal
Sherry Bradsher
Wilbert Morris
Sarah Barham
Jane Smith
Family Support and Child Welfare Team Leaders
Work First Representatives
Local Business Liaisons