



Promoting wellness and recovery

John R. Kasich, Governor • Tracy J. Plouck, Director • 30 E. Broad St. • Columbus, OH 43215 • (614) 466-2596 • mha.ohio.gov

September 22, 2014

Dear Licensed Facility/Operator,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of important changes to the Residential State Supplement (RSS) Program effective October 1, 2014. RSS provides financial assistance to adults who have increased housing support needs due to a disability that is not severe enough to require long term care in an institution, such as a nursing home or hospital. Individuals use RSS, which *supplements* their income, to pay the monthly allowable fee (or “rent”) for accommodations, supervision, and personal care services at eligible living arrangements in the community.

Beginning October 1, 2014, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) will open program enrollment for RSS to current residents of Adult Care Facilities (including Adult Family and Group Homes) and Adult Foster Homes in order to prevent premature or unnecessary institutionalization of individuals. *Those applicants currently residing in ACF’s or Adult Foster Homes will need a Level of Care (LOC) assessment* in order to determine whether they meet RSS eligibility criteria. OhioMHAS will continue to receive applications from individuals receiving treatment in nursing homes and they will not require a LOC assessment.

Effective October 1st, the RSS application process will be as follows:

- 1) Individual/Authorized Representative submits application forms to OhioMHAS.
- 2) OhioMHAS reviews the RSS application and determines whether the applicant meets all non-financial eligibility criteria.
- 3) If the applicant is currently receiving treatment in a nursing home, the individual will continue to be presumed to meet a Protective Level of Care (LOC) as in current program operations.
- 4) If the applicant is not in a nursing home, then OhioMHAS will send a request to the local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for a face-to-face Level of Care assessment. The local AAA will reach out to the individual/authorized representative to schedule the LOC assessment. Please note that the completion time of the LOC determination depends upon demand for assessments in your area.
- 5) The local AAA will contact OhioMHAS regarding the LOC determination, which OhioMHAS will communicate to the individual and/or authorized representative.
- 6) If the individual meets RSS eligibility criteria, OhioMHAS will forward a referral to the local County Department of Job & Family Services (CDJFS) to complete the financial eligibility determination and RSS enrollment.

OhioMHAS will accept RSS applications submitted under the new eligibility criteria no earlier than October 1st. More information regarding the RSS Program, including updated application instructions and forms, are available on the OhioMHAS website at <http://mha.ohio.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=201>. If you have further questions, please contact the Bureau of Housing Resources and Recovery Supports at RSS@mha.ohio.gov or (614) 752-9316. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ellie Jazi, LISW-S
Housing Policy & Resource Administrator

cc: ADAMH/ADAS Boards
Ohio Adult Care Facility Association
Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA)
Services to Adult Care Homes (SACH)