

What is the CRR Room & Board Program?

Medical Assistance pays for authorized services related to treatment while youth are in CRR licensed group home or host home placement. However; room and board expenses are not considered treatment and therefore not covered by Medical Assistance. This cost is the responsibility of the parent. Fortunately, HealthChoices has obtained limited funding to help qualified York and Adams families to cover a portion of this non-clinical expense. The daily rate for room and board ranges from approximately \$19 to \$35 dollars per day.

How can I apply?

To assess eligibility and to determine the amount of assistance families may qualify for, the York/Adams HealthChoices Management Unit requires the following documents:

- A completed CRR Room & Board Host Home application;
- (2) Releases of information
 - One between MH/IDD (or SAM) and the York/Adams HealthChoices Management Unit and,
 - One between the York/Adams HealthChoices Management Unit and the CRR service Provider;
- Confirmation of the youth's income to include:
 - SSI/SSD benefits.
 - Wages
 - Personal income from inheritance
 - Or other types of income such as cash assistance, adoption subsidy, or child support.
- If the child's total resources are less than the maximum SSI rate, a current county liability is also required.

A case manager or the service provider must assist families in making application for this funding. Families need to cooperate with the application process so all necessary items required to determine eligibility can be obtained. This is not an entitlement program therefore; as funds decrease, the HCMU reserves the right to prioritize funding to support those families with the greatest financial need. Failure to apply and cooperate with the CRR room and board eligibility process could result in being responsible for the entire room and board costs.

How is our financial obligation determined?

If the youth receives the maximum SSI/SSD benefit, the maximum obligation for families to pay for room and board is 72% of benefit or \$527.76 in 2015.

If the youth receives less than the maximum SSI/SSD benefit, 72% of the benefit received will be assessed. Other resources of the child will be explored such as wages, adoption subsidy, cash assistance, and child support will be collected. If the total falls below the maximum SSI/SSD benefit, the case manager will arrange for the family to complete a county liability to determine if there is any additional the family financial obligation.

If the child doesn't receive SSI/SSD or any other income and the family financial obligation is less than 72% of the maximum SSI/SSD benefit, the family must apply for SSI/SSD benefits on behalf of the youth. The case manager is available to assist if this is the case.

What is considered appropriate confirmation of SSI/SSD benefits?

Any of the five below forms of confirmation is acceptable.

1. If a youth receives SSI/SSD a print out from the SSA website will suffice as verification.
2. If a youth receives the maximum SSI/SSD, the word of the parent is sufficient verification.

3. If a youth doesn't receive SSI/SSD, a print out from the SSA office or website indicating an application for benefits is pending will be sufficient.
4. If a youth has applied for SSI/SSD and it was denied, a print out indicating an appeal is pending is sufficient.
5. If a youth has applied for SSI/SSD, it was denied and also upheld after at least one appeal, a printout indicating the determination will suffice.

What if there are income changes during the time my child is in CRR?

Any income changes of greater than 5% upward or downward for the adult family members or the youth in CRR must be reported. Therefore, if an application for SSI/SSD is approved, this must be reported immediately. Likewise, any reported reductions in income may reduce the family obligation. These changes must be reported to the case manager who completed the application for the CRR room and board funding. Changes in income may require that the family complete an updated County Liability.

What regulations or bulletins relate to how this process?

1. Bulletin about R&B - http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/bulletin_admin/d_005729.pdf
2. 55 PA Code Chapter 6200 <http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/055/chapter6200/chap6200toc.html>

6200.17. Room and board charges from other sources of income.

(a) If a client has earned wages, personal income from inheritance, social security or other types of income, the provider shall assess the client for his room and board according to the standard room and board contract as specified in § 6200.35 (relating to standard room and board contract) not to exceed the 72% of the SSI maximum rate.

(b) If a client is ineligible for SSI benefits, assistance shall be provided to the client in applying to the appropriate County Assistance Office for public assistance benefits.

(c) If available income is less than the SSI maximum rate, 72% of the available income shall be charged to fulfill the client's monthly obligations for room and board.

(d) The client shall always be guaranteed at least \$30 per month for spending money.

(e) If actual room and board charges to a client are less than 72% of the SSI maximum rate, the county mental retardation program shall retain on file documentation that:

- (1) The actual value of the room and board is less than 72% of the current maximum SSI monthly benefit.
- (2) The Social Security Administration not only denied the client's initial application for SSI benefits, but also upheld that initial denial as a result of at least one appeal.
- (3) Assistance has been provided in applying to the appropriate County Assistance Office for public assistance benefits.

Source

The provisions of this § 6200.17 adopted March 23, 1990, effective July 1, 1990, 20 Pa.B. 1706.