
Program Policy Notice No. 10-02

- ◆ U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
- ◆ Health Resources and
Services Administration
- ◆ Healthcare Systems Bureau

To: Facilities Obligated Under the Uncompensated Services
Assurance (HILL-BURTON)

Subject: Revised Poverty Guidelines

Each year when the poverty income guidelines are revised, we provide a copy for your use in making determinations of financial eligibility under the Hill-Burton uncompensated services program. This notice is to advise you that there have been no revisions to the poverty guidelines to date for 2010.

Congress enacted and the President signed the Continuing Extension Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111-157) which included a provision for extending the 2009 poverty guidelines until at least May 31, 2010.

Because there have been no revisions to the poverty guidelines, you should continue using the 2009 guidelines issued on January 23, 2009 (copy attached). We will notify you if there is a change in the future.

With the exception of facilities certified to operate under the Unrestricted Availability Compliance Alternative, facilities certified under one of the other uncompensated services compliance alternatives are not required to use these guidelines, although they are permitted to do so.

Facilities located in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Palau are to use the poverty guidelines for the "48 Contiguous States and the District of Columbia."

Page 2 – Facilities Obligated Under the Uncompensated Services Assurance (Hill-Burton)

The guidelines do not include a definition of "income;" however, Hill-Burton facilities are required to use the statistical definition of income previously provided in the guidelines (see the attached).

Although, the guidelines do not include a definition of "family," Hill-Burton facilities are required to use either the statistical definition of family previously provided in the guidelines (see the attached) or formally adopt their own written definition of family. However, the definition chosen must be used consistently in determining eligibility for uncompensated services. If the facility has not established its own formal written definition of "family," it must apply the statistical definition. To avoid misunderstandings, we recommend that facilities formally establish their definition in writing in their operating procedures manual.

For further information, you may contact the Division of Facilities Compliance and Recovery, Healthcare Systems Bureau, Health Resource and Services Administration, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 10-105, Rockville, Maryland 20857; telephone (301) 443-5656.

Joyce G. Somsak
Associate Administrator

Attachments