



995 Worthington Street, Springfield, MA 01109
Telephone (413) 734-5376 FAX (413) 737-7949

DMH PROGRAMS CHARGES FOR CARE GUIDELINES

All consumers living in a DMH group residence will be required to pay Charges for Care. This is to offset the cost of care in accordance with DMH regulation 104 CMR 30.06.

The following recurring payments will be considered at 75% for computing charges for care:

1. Earned income
2. Net income derived from a business
3. Interest
4. Net rental income
5. Dividends
6. Annuities
7. Pensions
8. Unemployment compensation
9. Worker's compensation
10. Royalties
11. Veteran's Administration benefits
12. Supplemental Security Income benefits
13. Old Age and Survivor Disability Insurance benefits

Adjustments for charges for care can be made when an individual has necessary expenses but does not have sufficient funds to pay for these expenses in a particular month. In such cases, charges can be reduced by an amount that will enable the individual to pay the expenses.

Necessary expenses included are:

1. Reasonable transition expenses to enable a person to move to a less restrictive living environment.
2. Cost of premiums to enroll and maintain a health insurance program
3. Medical and dental expenses, including medication, not covered by other insurance.
4. Transportation expenses
5. Child support or alimony payments
6. Loan payments, only if the loan was incurred to pay for expenses designated in this section.
7. Funeral related payments
8. Educational costs (i.e. tuition)
9. Uniforms for tools required by a job and required to be purchased by the individual
10. Maintenance needs of the individual's spouse, minor children or dependents at home.



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It is expected that each individual or his/her guardian provides the appropriate documentation of recurrent payments and expenses to Association Properties Group at the time of intake to facilitate the computation of the charges for care costs. Also, when changes of payments or expenses occur, it is the responsibility of the individual to notify Association Properties Group so adjustments can be made.

Charges for Care Guidelines

All consumers living in DMH group residences will be required to pay Charges for Care. This is to help offset the cost of their care as required by the State of Massachusetts.

All recurring payments will be considered at 75% for computing Charges for Care. Recurring payments are, but not limited to: Veteran’s Administration benefits, Retirement payments, Supplemental Security Income, Old Age and Survivor Disability Insurance benefits. The total annual income received in recurring payments will be reduced by an income adjustment of \$400.00 per year. An average monthly income will be determined. The Charges for Care will be the lesser of 75% of the average monthly income or the average monthly income less \$200.00.

Example A:

SSDI income: \$423.00 per month	Annualized: \$5076.00
	Income Adjustment: <u>\$-400.00</u>
	Adjusted Benefit Income: \$4676.00
Work income: \$72.00 per week	Annualized Work Income: \$3744.00
	Annual Income: \$8420.00
	Average monthly income \$702.00

Compare:

Average Monthly Income X 75%	\$526.00
Maximum CFC (Avg monthly income (\$702.00) less \$200.00)	\$502.00
Total Charges for Care (Room & Board) is lesser of the two	\$502.00



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If the consumer is living in a HUD 811/202 subsidized group residence, the Charge for Care will be reduced by the amount of rent required by HUD. In example A, if the rent charge is \$210.00, the charge for care amount would be adjusted to \$292.00.

CHARGES FOR CARE APPEAL PROCESS

Within thirty (30) days of being notified of the amount of the monthly fee-payor charge, a fee-payor may appeal the charge in writing to the Property Manager.

Grounds for appealing a charge for residential services and supports shall include:

1. Miscalculation of the charge.
2. Misidentification of the client or fee-payor.
3. Failure to adjust the charge for necessary expensed in accordance with DMH regulation 104 CMR 30.06.

During the appeal process, MHA shall continue to bill the fee-payor the monthly charge for residential services and supports.

The Property Manager or designee shall review the appeal within 30 days of receipt. The fee-payor shall be given an opportunity to present oral or written statements relevant to the charge, to question MHA concerning the charge and to have a representative present if desired. A decision shall be made within 30 days and the Property Manager shall notify the fee-payor in writing stating the reason for such decision.