

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION/INTERPRETATION

TO:	Name and Title: Jeff Sturm	FROM:	Name and Title: Rita Schilling, Director
	Organizational Unit: DDP		Organizational Unit: Job Connection, Inc
	Address: PO Box 4210		Address: 1501 14th Street West

1. **TYPE OF REQUEST:** Follow-up to Verbal Request - Date of Verbal Request: **XXXXX** Written Request written request

2. **STATEMENT OF QUESTION OR ISSUE:** I would like to clarify the use of goods and services. I have many requests from staff about what exactly we can use this category for and am trying to sort out the definition. It appears that we have a **Purpose statement** "Individual Goods and Services are services, supports or goods that enhance opportunities to achieve outcomes related to living arrangements, relationships, inclusion in the community and work as clearly identified and documented in the service plan. "Then we have **Categories**, which are **Memberships/ Fees or Devices/ supplies**. (Examples are given of these but we are advised to use them as ideas and not consider them to be all inclusive) Then we have **Criterion which is a) The item or service would increase the participants functioning related to the disability, or (b) the item or service would increase the participant's safety in the home environment or (c) the item or service would decrease the person's dependence on other Medicaid services. It cannot be available through another source and is not experimental.**

I have a person who is in general fund. Because of his working history and wages he has never been eligible for Medicaid. He started working as a young man above the SGA level of earnings and needs to work at this level to pay his bills. He has medical needs which include intermittent trouble with his back and glaucoma. We can get some of these "FEES and SERVICES" reduced or donated but not all of them. When we requested using "Goods and Services" dollars to help pay for these items we were told we cannot pay for medical out of "Goods and Services". This leaves me with many questions. I interpret paying for Dr visits or medications in this instance as meeting the **Purpose** as medical treatment is essential to achieving outcomes of living and work, it meets the **Categories**, medications (which I think of as a Supply) or a DR. visit (which I think of as a FEE), and it meets the **Criterion** of increasing safety and reducing reliance on other Medicaid Services (If we have to have him quit work to get medical needs met it plays havoc with his life, budget and makes him more reliant on Medicaid).

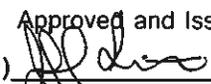
#1: Why doesn't paying for medical bills or supplies meet the criterion for goods and services when people do not have Medicaid?

#2: Are we supposed to examine everyone's budget and approve of their spending before we allow anyone access to funds in "goods and services" or is this a waiver category and they own the budget and can spend it as they wish? (If someone wants to take an art class are we supposed to examine their budget before we allow it? If the answer is "yes", can you give us guidance on how to determine how much spending money or savings any individual should have before we use goods and services?

#3: I would like some more clarification on how to interpret "Goods and Services" if looking at Purpose, Categories and Criteria is not the way to analyze these requests.

3. **ANSWER:** (1) Paying for a medical bill or a medical supply may be an appropriate use of an individual's cost plan dollars if it meets the following criteria: Waiver or General Fund Services should not pay for medical services until all other sources of funding, including personal resources have been accessed and expended. The medical service must be necessary for the person to live independently, work and participate in the community. (2) Budgets should be examined and agreed upon by the individual and their "Team". There is no set dollar amount required when making the decision to access "Individual Goods and Services." The "Team" should remember to focus on needs and what is important to the individual and what is important for them. (3) In interpreting Goods and Services requests review the Purpose, Categories and Criteria in order to analyze your requests and document it in your plans of care.

References:

Approved and Issued by:
(Program Director) 
Date: 8-19-70

<p>4: DISTRIBUTION:</p> <p>One Copy: _____ Requestor</p>	<p>5: FOLLOW-UP:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> To be issued as Bulletin to: _____ (Division</p>
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