

# PATH

## Department of Prevention, Assistance, Transition, and Health Access

**FROM** Eileen I. Elliott, Commissioner  
for the Secretary

**BULLETIN NO** 02-25F

**DATE** September 11, 2002

**SUBJECTS** Reach Up Standards and Reduced Payment Computation Changes

**CHANGES ADOPTED EFFECTIVE** 10/1/02

### INSTRUCTIONS

**Maintain Manual - See instructions below.**

**Proposed Regulation - Retain bulletin and attachments until you receive Manual Maintenance Bulletin: 02-25F**

**Information or Instructions - Retain until \_\_\_\_\_**

### MANUAL REFERENCE(S)

2245.2                      2246  
2245.2 P.4

### *Revision to Reach Up Standards Updates*

This rule makes an annual cost-of-living adjustment to the needs standards used in determining financial assistance benefits for families participating in the Reach Up Program. Under this rule, the percentage of total needs actually paid to the family decreases from 51.0 percent to 50.1 percent.

The changes in the rule are based on changes in the Consumer Price Index applied to Reach Up basic needs standards, the amounts used to calculate benefits for families not living in room-and-board situations, and to the room-and-board standards.

To ensure that expenditures remain within the limits of appropriated funds, the rule decreases the percentage of total needs, based on the updated standards, actually paid to families from 51.0 percent to 50.1 percent. To ensure that no family's benefit is decreased solely because of this annual standards update, the department made three additional adjustments in the standards for families with three or fewer members.

### *Specific Changes to Policy Sections*

2245.2                      Updates the Reach Up basic needs standards.

2245.24                    Reduces the Reach Up ratable reduction percentage from 51.0 percent to 50.1 percent.

2246                        Updates Reach Up standards for families in room-and-board situations to reflect the changes in the Reach Up basic need standards.

The public was invited to submit written comments on the rule by August 29, 2002. No comments were submitted on the rule.

Vertical lines in the left margin indicate significant changes. Dotted lines at the left indicate changes to clarify, rearrange, correct references, etc., without changing regulation content.

Vertical lines in the left margin indicate significant changes. Dotted lines at the left indicate changes to clarify, rearrange, correct references, etc., without changing regulation content. Three dots at the bottom of a page after the last line of text and three dots at the top of the following page before the first line of text indicate that text has been moved.

**Manual Maintenance**

**Remove**

**Insert**

2245.2	(01-17F )	2245.2	(02-25)
2245.2 P.4	(01-17)	2245.2 P.4	(02-25)
2246	(01-17F)	2246	(02-25)

10/1/02

Bulletin No. 02-25

2245.2

2245 Need Standards - Household or Housing Unit

2245.2 Eligibility Standards – Reach Up

The following table contains the combined basic need standards used to determine eligibility for Reach Up. The combined basic standards include food, fuel, utilities, clothing, personal needs and incidentals (e.g., soap, toothpaste, cosmetics, etc.), chore (e.g., snow removal, lawn maintenance, household cleaning supplies, etc.), and special needs (e.g., telephone, life insurance premiums, water, sewer, and municipal assessment costs, fire insurance premiums, household appliances, etc.) required by assistance group members regardless of the total number of individuals residing in the household.

Number in Assistance Group	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 or more
Basic Needs	\$465	\$667	\$876	\$1047	\$1227	\$1350	\$1561	\$1741	Add \$167 for each additional person

10/1/02

Bulletin No. 02-25

2245.2 P.4

---

2245     Need Standards - Household or Housing Unit

2245.2   Eligibility Standards – Reach Up (Continued)

2245.24   Ratable Reduction

Because funding is insufficient to meet 100 percent of the need standard, payment to an eligible Reach Up assistance group is based on a calculation that limits it to 50.1 percent of the group's needs.

The group's Reach Up grant is determined according to the following steps:

- (1) For assistance groups living in a room and board situation, add the standard for other basic needs to the room and board standard (2246). For other assistance groups, add the basic need standard (2245.2), housing allowance (2245.3), and special needs housing allowance (2245.23) together.
- (2) Multiply the result in step 1 by 50.1 percent.
- (3) Subtract income countable for Reach Up from the result in step 2.
- (4) Round the result in step 3 down to the nearest whole dollar.

10/1/02

Bulletin No. 02-25

2246

2246 Room and Board

Room and board as a living arrangement for Reach Up participants shall be budgeted in the amounts established by the table below. Additional amounts are allowed for other basic needs, which include clothing, personal needs and incidentals, chore, and special needs.

<b>Number in Assistance Group</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9 or more</b>
<b>Room and Board</b>	\$371	\$536	\$711	\$840	\$992	\$1,080	\$1,243	\$1,380	Add \$136 for each additional person
<b>Other Basic Needs</b>	\$94	\$131	\$165	\$207	\$235	\$270	\$318	\$361	Add \$31 for each additional person

The total budgeted requirement (room and board standard plus other basic needs standard) is subject to the ratable reduction.

Payments for Reach Up children who qualify for Reach Up foster care shall be provided by the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services through Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, as amended.