

Pay-In Spenddown

Quick Summary of Pay-In Spenddown

- * Effective November 2008, anyone who is an active AABD community spenddown may enroll in Pay-in Spenddown. Persons who receive DHS Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) or DHS Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) community-based services are not eligible to participate
- * On or about October 20, 2008, eligible persons will be notified about the option of paying the amount of their monthly income and asset spenddown to meet their spenddown, similar to how a medical insurance premium is paid.
- * Clients who decide to enroll in Pay-in Spenddown will receive a monthly statement which must be returned with their payment to HFS, Bureau of Fiscal Operations (BFO).
- * The IDHS FCRCs will continue to be responsible for using medical bills and receipts that are turned into the IDHS office to meet spenddown. They also will be responsible to making any other changes needed: change of address, income, assets, etc.
- * For persons who enroll in Pay-in Spenddown, they have the option to use a combination of bills and Pay-in spenddown payments to meet the spenddown obligation..
- * Pay-in spenddown clients may decide from month to month whether to meet spenddown by submitting incurred or paid medical expenses to the FCRC, submitting payments to HFS or a combination of both. Receipts and bills will be applied before Pay-in payments are applied to meet spenddown.
- * Questions about Pay-in Spenddown are able to be answered at: 1-800-226-0768 (TTY 1-866-675-8440).
- * The entire state policy release can be read in full by going to <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=32892>

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- > Persons on spenddown can now meet the spenddown by mailing in payments to the state rather than bills
- > Pay-in clients can now control when the medical card is received
- > Clients can choose whether to Pay-in or Mail-in bills

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Benefits of Pay-In Spenddown

- * This new option will help persons who know that they need a medical card for a particular month. The individual will be able to pay ahead of time to be sure to receive the card by the beginning of the month when it is needed.
- * There is more flexibility in choosing the months for which someone wants to receive a medical card.
- * For those who choose to use only the pay-in option, they do not have to keep track of bills and receipts to take or send them to the IDHS caseworker and wait for the worker to complete the work.

How to enroll?

- * AABD individuals who are identified as eligible for Medicaid with a spenddown will be sent the Spenddown Enrollment Form; the Pay-in Spenddown Facts, and a pre-paid stamped return envelope.
- * This will occur when:
 - ◇ A person is newly approved for spenddown at application
 - ◇ A person is newly enrolled in spenddown and
 - ◇ When a redetermination is done and the person is not already enrolled.
- * To enroll, the individual will need to complete and sign the Pay-in Spenddown Enrollment Form and mail it to: Pay-in Spenddown Unit, PO Box 19161, Springfield, IL 62794-9161.
- * The Pay-In Unit (Office 250) will verify that the Pay-in Spenddown Enrollment Form is signed and that the person is actually eligible to enroll. If the form is not signed it will be returned. If the form is signed and the person is eligible the Pay-In Unit will enroll the person in Pay-in Spenddown.
- * Once enrolled the person will be sent Pay-in Spenddown Statement (Form HFS 458SP-5). This informs the person of their current spenddown amount and the amount of payment that is due.
- * Payments may be made by money order, cashier's check, credit or debit Visa or MasterCard. Personal checks are not accepted and will be returned. Individuals, or anyone paying on their behalf, completes the bottom of payment form and mails it with the payment(s) to: Spenddown Payment/Fiscal Operations, P.O. Box 19141, Springfield, IL 62794-9141.

What can you expect from the IDHS/FCRC?

- * IDHS staff are to inform eligible persons about the Pay-in Spenddown option, and provide them with the information pamphlet Pay-in Spenddown Facts, and refer them to the Pay-in Spenddown Unit if they have questions.
- * Caseworkers are to continue to accept applications and determine spenddown eligibility.
- * Caseworkers are to continue to accept bills and meet spenddown for persons choosing not to enroll in Pay-in Spenddown, or for persons who want to use the combination of bills and Pay-In spenddown.

How this affects Food Stamps?

When a person who enrolls in Pay-In spenddown has Food Stamps, the Pay-in payment made will be automatically deducted as a medical expense for Food Stamps.

This deduction will be made 2 months after the Pay-in payment has been made.

Pay-In Payment Refunds

HFS will implement a process to identify clients who are entitled to Pay-in refunds and issue refunds. Refunds will always be made to the person or the person's estate whether or not someone else made the original payment on their behalf.

Can the person change the enrollment?

Persons can opt out of the Pay-in option any time by calling the Pay-in Spenddown Unit at 1-800-226-0768 (TTY: 1-866-675-8440).

An individual can request to re-enroll at any time by calling the Pay-in Spenddown Unit.



Check out
www.mtcil.org