

#14-518-26

Office of Income Maintenance
Bureau of Policy



2833 MAY 20 2010

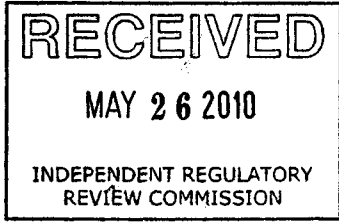
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May 24, 2010

Edward J. Zogby, Director
Bureau of Policy
4th Floor, Health and Welfare Bldg.
Harrisburg, PA 17105



Dear Mr. Zogby:

This letter is in reference to the Department of Public Welfare's (DPW) proposed regulations titled, "Revisions to the Special Allowance for Supportive Services Requirements (# 14-518). JEVS Human Services appreciates the opportunity to present our comments.

JEVS has been providing supportive services to individuals on public assistance for several decades. Last year alone we helped over 5,000 people work toward economic independence. Our experience tells us that the Supportive Services program is a vital component to moving our clients from welfare to work. We have supported efforts in the past to ensure the program operates with integrity and uses taxpayer funds responsibly, including new documentation and receipt requirements. However, we have concerns that the current proposal will impair our mutual objective of assisting TANF recipients in their pursuit of meaningful employment. Specifically, limits on transportation and work-related expenses will cause hardship for some participants as they seek to transition to work. In addition, the requirement that exempt participants who wish to volunteer for education or training activities comply with hours requirements creates a disincentive for some of our most motivated clients to engage in work-related activities.

As a provider agency, JEVS understands that budget constraints are a reality and we are mindful of the current necessity for state government to stretch limited resources. We support any continued efforts to ensure the Special Allowance program operates efficiently and serves only the individuals it is intended to serve. We urge that the Special Allowance program be preserved without additional barriers so that providers like JEVS may continue to assist people as they work to achieve economic self-sufficiency. If limitations to the program must be imposed, however, we hope that they will be minimal, will cause the least amount of disruption to clients, and will be implemented in a manner that rewards people who are complying with TANF regulations and living up to their responsibility to make every effort to leave the welfare rolls.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and take JEVS Human Services' letter under consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jay Spector". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jay Spector
President and CEO

cc: Arthur Coccodrilli, Chair, Independent Regulatory Review Commission

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