



STATE OF DELAWARE  
STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES  
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 31, 2012

TO: Ms. Sharon L. Summers, DSS  
Policy, Program & Development Unit

FROM: Daniese McMullin-Powell, Chairperson  
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: 16 DE Reg. 378 [DSS Proposed General Assistance Time Limit Reg.]

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed the Department of Health and Social Services/Division of Social Services' (DSS) proposal to amend its General Assistance regulations. The proposed regulation was published as 16 DE Reg. 378 in the October 1, 2012 issue of the Register of Regulations. As background, last year, DHSS proposed the elimination of the General Assistance (GA) program and the Joint Finance Committee opposed that initiative. The program, which pays qualified individuals \$95 per month and provides automatic Medicaid coverage [16 DE Admin Code 16120], covers many unemployable adults with disabilities who do not qualify for other programs (e.g. SSI).

In April 2010, DSS had adopted a regulation contemplating a 24-month time limit on GA assistance. The Division recites that the 24-month limit was never implemented. DSS is now proposing to repeal the regulation authorizing the cap based on the following rationale:

Many recipients if not most of the GA caseload are destitute and have no access to other cash resources to meet basic needs. Given the unavailability of other resources, the vulnerability of the population in the program, and the relative stabilization of the General Assistance caseload, DSS is repealing the 24-month time limit.

SCPD strongly endorses the proposed regulation.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions or comments regarding our position on the proposed regulation.

cc: Ms. Elaine Archangelo  
Mr. Brian Hartman, Esq.  
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens  
Developmental Disabilities Council