



December 19, 2019

Mary Beth Slinko, MBA
Assistant Administrator
Office of Policy Analysis, Research and Development
R.I. Department of Human Services

Via E-mail

Comments re: 218-RICR-20-00-5.

Dear Mary Beth:

I write to make two comments on proposed changes to rules regarding the State Supplemental Payment (SSP).

First, Section 5.3(A)(2) provides that if an individual (couple) has been denied SSI by SSA for excess income, the individual completes an application at DHS to determine eligibility for SSP. The rule requires that as part of the application, the individual must provide “the denial letter, or proof of denial determination, from SSA” (A)(2)(b) (1). DHS can use the interface with Social Security to verify that the individual has been denied SSI benefits because of income. DHS should use this interface and not require the individual to provide paper verification. This will simplify and streamline the eligibility process for the individual, and reduce administrative burden on staff.

Second, this same section, at subsection (c) provides that the application for SSP is reviewed by the MART for a disability determination. My understanding is that current practice does not require review by the MART. And in fact, there is no reason for MART review – the applicant for SSP has been denied SSI solely because of income – and has been found eligible based on disability or based on age. I suggest that the rules requiring MART review be struck.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and I look forward to your response.

Linda Katz, J.D.
Policy Director