

Legislation Text

File #: 19-0473, **Version:** 1

Change in Federal Poverty Guidelines for 2019 - Riley

The Department of Health and Human Services has updated the federal poverty guidelines for 2019.

Physical Health (FQHC) operations are required to provide services at a discounted rate for those individuals and families who earn annual income greater than 100% and up to and including 200% of the federal poverty guidelines. The Medical, Dental and Mental Health programs included in the FQHC are required to follow section 330(k) (3) (G) for the Public Health Services Act, 42 USC. A nominal fee/ flat rate based on poverty levels for dental, medical and laboratory services was previously approved by the Governing Council and is referenced on the attached form. The federal poverty guidelines have changed, and we are requesting to update our sliding fee scale accordingly as of April 1, 2019.

The Family Planning Program under Title X of the Public Health Services Act, 42 USC e, and Illinois State regulations under the Illinois Family Planning Services Code, 77 Illinois Admin Code 635, region V requires a schedule of discounts for income to 250% of the federal poverty guidelines with 5 - 8 breaks, which must be no higher than 25% and proportional. This change in federal poverty guidelines is requested to go into effect on July 1, 2019.

Behavioral Health is required to provide discounted services for their Department of Mental Health and Department of Substance Abuse outpatient services. It was approved to utilize a discounted scale of up to and including 250% of poverty but with eight breaks. It is recommended to adopt the Department of Human Services poverty guidelines as of April 1, 2019 for this sliding fee scale.

Behavioral Health is required by the Department of Substance Abuse to provide discounted services for their residential programs, as well. It was approved to continue to utilize a discounted scale of 500% of poverty with eight breaks. It is recommended to adopt the Department of Human Services poverty guidelines as of April 1, 2019 for this sliding fee scale.

To adopt the updated Department of Health and Human Services federal poverty guidelines for the sliding fee scales in the Physical Health (FQHC) and Behavioral Health business units as of April 1, 2019 and July 1, 2019, as recommended.