

256I.04 ELIGIBILITY FOR GROUP RESIDENTIAL HOUSING PAYMENT.

Subdivision 1. **Individual eligibility requirements.** An individual is eligible for and entitled to a group residential housing payment to be made on the individual's behalf if the county agency has approved the individual's residence in a group residential housing setting and the individual meets the requirements in paragraph (a) or (b).

(a) The individual is aged, blind, or is over 18 years of age and disabled as determined under the criteria used by the title II program of the Social Security Act, and meets the resource restrictions and standards of the supplemental security income program, and the individual's countable income after deducting the (1) exclusions and disregards of the SSI program, (2) the medical assistance personal needs allowance under section 256B.35, and (3) an amount equal to the income actually made available to a community spouse by an elderly waiver recipient under the provisions of sections 256B.0575, paragraph (a), clause (4), and 256B.058, subdivision 2, is less than the monthly rate specified in the county agency's agreement with the provider of group residential housing in which the individual resides.

(b) The individual meets a category of eligibility under section 256D.05, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), and the individual's resources are less than the standards specified by section 256D.08, and the individual's countable income as determined under sections 256D.01 to 256D.21, less the medical assistance personal needs allowance under section 256B.35 is less than the monthly rate specified in the county agency's agreement with the provider of group residential housing in which the individual resides.

Subd. 1a. **County approval.** A county agency may not approve a group residential housing payment for an individual in any setting with a rate in excess of the MSA equivalent rate for more than 30 days in a calendar year unless the county agency has developed or approved a plan for the individual which specifies that:

(1) the individual has an illness or incapacity which prevents the person from living independently in the community; and

(2) the individual's illness or incapacity requires the services which are available in the group residence.

The plan must be signed or countersigned by any of the following employees of the county of financial responsibility: the director of human services or a designee of the director; a social worker; or a case aide.

Subd. 1b. **Optional state supplements to SSI.** Group residential housing payments made on behalf of persons eligible under subdivision 1, paragraph (a), are optional state supplements to the SSI program.

Subd. 1c. **Interim assistance.** Group residential housing payments made on behalf of persons eligible under subdivision 1, paragraph (b), are considered interim assistance payments to applicants for the federal SSI program.

Subd. 2. **Date of eligibility.** An individual who has met the eligibility requirements of subdivision 1, shall have a group residential housing payment made on the individual's behalf from the first day of the month in which a signed application form is received by a county agency, or the first day of the month in which all eligibility factors have been met, whichever is later.

Subd. 2a. **License required.** A county agency may not enter into an agreement with an establishment to provide group residential housing unless:

(1) the establishment is licensed by the Department of Health as a hotel and restaurant; a board and lodging establishment; a residential care home; a boarding care home before March 1, 1985; or a supervised living facility, and the service provider for residents of the facility is licensed under chapter 245A. However, an establishment licensed by the Department of Health to provide lodging need not also be licensed to provide board if meals are being supplied to residents under a contract with a food vendor who is licensed by the Department of Health;

(2) the residence is: (i) licensed by the commissioner of human services under Minnesota Rules, parts 9555.5050 to 9555.6265; (ii) certified by a county human services agency prior to July 1, 1992, using the standards under Minnesota Rules, parts 9555.5050 to 9555.6265; or (iii) a residence licensed by the commissioner under Minnesota Rules, parts 2960.0010 to 2960.0120, with a variance under section 245A.04, subdivision 9;

(3) the establishment is registered under chapter 144D and provides three meals a day, or is an establishment voluntarily registered under section 144D.025 as a supportive housing establishment; or

(4) an establishment voluntarily registered under section 144D.025, other than a supportive housing establishment under clause (3), is not eligible to provide group residential housing.

The requirements under clauses (1) to (4) do not apply to establishments exempt from state licensure because they are located on Indian reservations and subject to tribal health and safety requirements.

Subd. 2b. **Group residential housing agreements.** Agreements between county agencies and providers of group residential housing must be in writing and must specify the name and address under which the establishment subject to the agreement does business and under which the establishment, or service provider, if different from the group residential housing establishment, is licensed by the Department of Health or the Department of Human Services; the specific license or registration from the Department of Health or the Department of Human Services held by the provider and the number of beds subject to that license; the address of the location or locations at which group residential housing is provided under this agreement; the per diem and monthly rates that are to be paid from group residential housing funds for each eligible resident at each location; the number of beds at each location which are subject to the group residential housing agreement; whether the license holder is a not-for-profit corporation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; and a statement that the agreement is subject to the provisions of sections 256I.01 to 256I.06 and subject to any changes to those sections. Group residential housing agreements may be terminated with or without cause by either the county or the provider with two calendar months prior notice.

Subd. 2c. **Crisis shelters.** Secure crisis shelters for battered women and their children designated by the Minnesota Department of Corrections are not group residences under this chapter.

Subd. 3. **Moratorium on the development of group residential housing beds.** (a) County agencies shall not enter into agreements for new group residential housing beds with total rates in excess of the MSA equivalent rate except:

(1) for group residential housing establishments licensed under Minnesota Rules, parts 9525.0215 to 9525.0355, provided the facility is needed to meet the census reduction targets for persons with developmental disabilities at regional treatment centers;

(2) to ensure compliance with the federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act alternative disposition plan requirements for inappropriately placed persons with developmental disabilities or mental illness;

(3) up to 80 beds in a single, specialized facility located in Hennepin County that will provide housing for chronic inebriates who are repetitive users of detoxification centers and are refused placement in emergency shelters because of their state of intoxication, and planning for the specialized facility must have been initiated before July 1, 1991, in anticipation of receiving a grant from the Housing Finance Agency under section 462A.05, subdivision 20a, paragraph (b);

(4) notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision 2a, for up to 190 supportive housing units in Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, or Ramsey County for homeless adults with a mental illness, a history of substance abuse, or human immunodeficiency virus or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. For purposes of this section, "homeless adult" means a person who is living on the street or in a shelter or discharged from a regional treatment center, community hospital, or residential treatment program and has no appropriate housing available and lacks the resources and support necessary to access appropriate housing. At least 70 percent of the supportive housing units must serve homeless adults with mental illness, substance abuse problems, or human immunodeficiency virus or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome who are about to be or, within the previous six months, has been discharged from a regional treatment center, or a state-contracted psychiatric bed in a community hospital, or a residential mental health or chemical dependency treatment program. If a person meets the requirements of subdivision 1, paragraph (a), and receives a federal or state housing subsidy, the group residential housing rate for that person is limited to the supplementary rate under section 256I.05, subdivision 1a, and is determined by subtracting the amount of the person's countable income that exceeds the MSA equivalent rate from the group residential housing supplementary rate. A resident in a demonstration project site who no longer participates in the demonstration program shall retain eligibility for a group residential housing payment in an amount determined under section 256I.06, subdivision 8, using the MSA equivalent rate. Service funding under section 256I.05, subdivision 1a, will end June 30, 1997, if federal matching funds are available and the services can be provided through a managed care entity. If federal matching funds are not available, then service funding will continue under section 256I.05, subdivision 1a;

(5) for group residential housing beds in settings meeting the requirements of subdivision 2a, clauses (1) and (3), which are used exclusively for recipients receiving home and community-based waiver services under sections 256B.0915, 256B.092, subdivision 5, 256B.093, and 256B.49, and who resided in a nursing facility for the six months immediately prior to the month of entry into the group residential housing setting. The group residential housing rate for these beds must be set so that the monthly group residential housing payment for an individual occupying the bed when combined with the nonfederal share of services delivered under the waiver for that person does not exceed the nonfederal share of the monthly medical assistance payment made for the person to the nursing facility in which the person resided prior to entry into the group residential housing establishment. The rate may not exceed the MSA equivalent rate plus \$426.37 for any case;

(6) for an additional two beds, resulting in a total of 32 beds, for a facility located in Hennepin County providing services for recovering and chemically dependent men that has had a group residential housing contract with the county and has been licensed as a board and lodge facility with special services since 1980;

(7) for a group residential housing provider located in the city of St. Cloud, or a county contiguous to the city of St. Cloud, that operates a 40-bed facility, that received financing through the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Ending Long-Term Homelessness Initiative and serves chemically dependent clientele, providing 24-hour-a-day supervision;

(8) for a new 65-bed facility in Crow Wing County that will serve chemically dependent persons, operated by a group residential housing provider that currently operates a 304-bed facility in Minneapolis, and a 44-bed facility in Duluth;

(9) for a group residential housing provider that operates two ten-bed facilities, one located in Hennepin County and one located in Ramsey County, that provide community support and 24-hour-a-day supervision to serve the mental health needs of individuals who have chronically lived unsheltered; and

(10) for a group residential facility in Hennepin County with a capacity of up to 48 beds that has been licensed since 1978 as a board and lodging facility and that until August 1, 2007, operated as a licensed chemical dependency treatment program.

(b) A county agency may enter into a group residential housing agreement for beds with rates in excess of the MSA equivalent rate in addition to those currently covered under a group residential housing agreement if the additional beds are only a replacement of beds with rates in excess of the MSA equivalent rate which have been made available due to closure of a setting, a change of licensure or certification which removes the beds from group residential housing payment, or as a result of the downsizing of a group residential housing setting. The transfer of available beds from one county to another can only occur by the agreement of both counties.

Subd. 4. Rental assistance. For participants in the Minnesota supportive housing demonstration program under subdivision 3, paragraph (a), clause (5), notwithstanding the provisions of section 256I.06, subdivision 8, the amount of the group residential housing payment for room and board must be calculated by subtracting 30 percent of the recipient's adjusted income as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Section 8 program from the fair market rent established for the recipient's living unit by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. This payment shall be regarded as a state housing subsidy for the purposes of subdivision 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 256I.06, subdivision 6, the recipient's countable income will only be adjusted when a change of greater than \$100 in a month occurs or upon annual redetermination of eligibility, whichever is sooner. The commissioner is directed to study the feasibility of developing a rental assistance program to serve persons traditionally served in group residential housing settings and report to the legislature by February 15, 1999.

History: 1989 c 282 art 5 s 118; 1991 c 292 art 2 s 68; 1992 c 513 art 8 s 37; 1Sp1993 c 1 art 8 s 13-21; 1994 c 529 s 16,17; 1995 c 207 art 5 s 30,31; 1996 c 451 art 5 s 34-36; 1997 c 113 s 19; 1998 c 407 art 3 s 18-20; 1999 c 245 art 3 s 39; 2002 c 375 art 2 s 45; 1Sp2003 c 14 art 2 s 43; 2005 c 56 s 1; 2005 c 159 art 5 s 5; 2007 c 147 art 7 s 62; 2009 c 175 art 3 s 3,4