

# SSI & Section 1619(b) Medicaid

## **In New York State, SSI Recipients Automatically Qualify for Medicaid:**

- ◆ If a person gets as little as \$1 in SSI benefits, Medicaid is automatic

## **Under Section 1619(b), Former SSI Recipients Can Still Keep Medicaid:**

- ◆ If the person's SSI payment was stopped due to earned income or a combination of earned and unearned income
  - Person living alone in 2010 – SSI payment will stop if gross monthly earnings are \$1,607 or higher (if no unearned income)
  - Person living with others in 2010 will lose SSI if gross monthly earnings are \$1,479 or higher (if no unearned income)
- ◆ The person's disability must continue

## **Additional Section 1619(b) Criteria (Non-Financial):**

- ◆ Prior month requirement: must have received an SSI check for at least one previous month on current SSI record
- ◆ Medicaid use test:
  - used Medicaid within past 12 months
  - expects to use Medicaid in next 12 months
  - would be unable to pay unexpected medical bill in next 12 months without Medicaid

## **Section 1619(b)'s Financial Criteria:**

- ◆ Unearned income must be within SSI's limits
- ◆ Resources must be within SSI's limits
- ◆ Annual income must be under New York State's section 1619(b) threshold, or it must be under an "individualized threshold"

## **Section 1619(b)'s Earned Income Threshold:**

- ◆ For calendar year 2010, New York's earned income threshold is \$43,956 per year
- ◆ If annual wages are below \$43,956 and the other criteria is met, Medicaid will continue

## **Section 1619(b)'s Individualized Threshold:**

- ◆ If gross earnings are more than the general threshold, eligibility may be established by adding up the following:
  - base amount of \$19,284 in 2010
  - New York Medicaid amount from threshold chart (\$24,672 in 2010), or actual Medicaid expenses if higher
  - impairment related work expenses
  - blind work expenses
  - publicly funded attendant care costs
- ◆ The total of these items establishes the individualized threshold
- ◆ If annual gross earnings are below this threshold, and other criteria are met, Medicaid will continue.