County of Orange Social Services Agency
Family Self-Sufficiency & Adult Services Division

Program/Area:	Adult Services/In-Home Supportive Services		
Title:	Payment of Share-of-Cost		
Number:	1022	**Status:**	Final
Effective Date:	12/31/2006	**Revision Date:**	6/20/2022
Approved:	Signature on file		

PURPOSE

To provide information regarding payment of Share-of-Cost (SOC) obligation by IHSS recipients.

BACKGROUND

Approximately 10% of Orange County IHSS applicants/recipients are subject to mandated financial calculations to determine if they must pay for a portion of the goods and services they receive from Medi-Cal and/or IHSS programs.

Most people receive IHSS as a part of their Medi-Cal benefits. Depending on the amount of income received, some people must agree to pay a certain amount each month towards their Medi-Cal expenses before Medi-Cal will pay.

The money that must be paid before Medi-Cal will pay is called a Share-of-Cost (SOC). The SOC allows a person with income above the allowed amount to receive IHSS if they agree to pay the SOC. A SOC is similar to a private insurance plan's deductible.

The SOC may be paid to the IHSS provider, a pharmacy, doctor's office, or when purchasing other medical services or goods.

POLICY

Orange County Medi-Cal staff will complete Medi-Cal eligibility determinations and re-determinations for all IHSS applicants and recipients who do not receive Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP), or other Medi-Cal linked cash-based assistance such as CalWORKs, Refugee Cash Assistance, Foster Care, or Adoption Assistance Program.

A payment to the provider will occur when the IHSS recipient receives an "Explanation of Share-of-Cost" letter that identifies the amount of SOC to be paid that pay period. The SOC amount will also appear on the provider's timesheet under "Share-of-Cost Liability".

The amount paid to the provider may change each pay period depending on whether the recipient paid their SOC for other medical expenses before the timesheet is processed each pay period.

For example, as payments are made, such as for a doctor's visit and the recipient informs the doctor's office they have Medi-Cal, the SOC will be lowered based on the Medi-Cal approved expenses paid for out of pocket by the recipient. The recipient will be notified by Medi-Cal if their SOC was met

for the month or not. . Any remaining will be deducted from the IHSS provider's pay and will need to be reimbursed by the recipient.

If an IHSS recipient has more than one provider, the IHSS recipient may not choose which provider the SOC is paid to. Any SOC that is not paid will be subtracted from the first IHSS provider's timesheet that is processed. The IHSS recipient will be responsible to pay the difference to that provider.

PROCEDURE

County Medi-Cal eligibility workers (EWs) must determine Medi-Cal eligibility and they will calculate the Medi-Cal SOC for the individual or family budget unit. That Medi-Cal SOC must be reflected on Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) along with the Medi-Cal primary aid code.

MEDS communicates with the Case Management, Information, and Payment System (CMIPS) II to provide if the IHSS recipient will have a SOC. There are no additional steps for the IHSS social worker.

PROVIDERS

The best way to avoid any problems is to know ahead of time if the IHSS recipient has a SOC. It is the provider's right to ask the IHSS recipient if they have a SOC. If the IHSS recipient has a SOC, they will owe the IHSS provider money directly out of their pocket each pay period for services the IHSS provider provides.

If the IHSS recipient does not pay the wages they owe, which is their SOC, the County and the Public Authority will not intervene to collect the money and the IHSS provider should pursue action in small claims court.

REFERENCES

Share-of-Cost Fact Sheet
IHSS Provider Orientation – February 2020