



**John R. Kasich, Governor**  
**John B. McCarthy, Director**

## **MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY MANUAL TRANSMITTAL LETTER NO. 118**

**To: All Medicaid Eligibility Manual Holders**

**From: John B. McCarthy, Director**

**Subject: Medicaid: spenddown**

Effective August 1, 2016, Ohio transitioned from being a 209(b) state to a 1634 state for Medicaid eligibility. The transition impacted how eligibility is determined for aged, blind, or disabled Medicaid. Most of the eligibility requirements will now be based on criteria established by the Social Security Administration for supplemental security income (SSI).

As a 209(b) State, Ohio used eligibility criterion more restrictive than the SSI program for Medicaid determinations and provided a mechanism for individuals to reduce their income to the income eligibility level through the use of Medicaid spenddown.

As a 1634 State, Ohio will now use SSA's determination of an individual's eligibility for SSI benefits as a determination for Medicaid coverage. Ohio has also chosen the option to determine eligibility for Medicaid coverage for individuals who do not receive SSI benefits but have a disability determination and meet the income and resource criterion for SSI.

As a result of these changes, the Ohio Department of Medicaid reviewed all existing eligibility rules on aged, blind, or disabled Medicaid. Some rules were significantly rewritten, while others were simply updated.

This MEMTL contains one amended rule from Chapter 5160:1-3 of the Administrative Code.

The effective date of the rule is August 1, 2016.

**Chapter 5160:1-3 Medicaid for the Aged Blind, or Disabled**

**5160:1-3-04.1 Medicaid: eligibility through spenddown process**

This rule was amended to add language describing the conditions in which the provisions of the rule shall be applied and changed rule number references and reference dates.

The information is available on the Internet and may be accessed at [www.medicaid.ohio.gov](http://www.medicaid.ohio.gov).