

~~15-124.~~

~~(a) (1) The Department shall maintain a Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program for low income individuals whose:~~

~~(i) Assets are not more than 1.5 times the amount of accountable resources according to the asset schedule of the Maryland Medical Assistance Program; and~~

~~(ii) Gross annual income does not exceed:~~

~~1. \$4,600 plus \$500 for each individual over 1 in a family unit; and~~

~~2. An annual increase set by the Secretary under paragraph (2)(ii)4 of this subsection.~~

~~(2) (i) 1. In this paragraph the following words have the meanings indicated.~~

~~2. "Income disregard" means the exclusion of up to \$1,000 of annual income earned by an individual as a client of a sheltered workshop if the individual's sole other income is derived from a Social Security payment.~~

~~3. "Sheltered workshop" means a workshop licensed by the Developmental Disabilities Administration under Title 7, Subtitle 9 of this article.~~

~~(ii) For the purpose of paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Secretary shall:~~

~~1. In order to determine eligibility for the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program, deduct any income disregards from the countable gross income of a unit that contains a disabled individual;~~

~~2. Define excluded assets;~~

~~3. Establish a family unit structure; and~~

~~4. Beginning July 1, 1985, increase annually at the time Social Security benefits are increased, rounded to the next highest even \$50 level, the income level within which an individual is eligible for benefits under the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program by the larger of:~~

~~A. The percentage by which benefits under Title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401-433) are increased by the federal government due to cost of living changes as that percentage is reported in the Federal Register pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 415(I)(2)(D) but not to exceed 8 percent; or~~

~~B. The dollar amount by which the medical assistance income schedules are increased by the State.~~