

The matter arises regarding the denial of Petitioner's December 2019 Medicaid benefits for Petitioner due to excess income. Bergen County determined that Petitioner's household was comprised of herself and her husband. Both were applying for benefits and received countable earned and unearned income totaling \$1,913.66 a month. In 2019, the income limit was \$1,410. In 2020, the limit increased to \$1,437. See Medicaid Communications No. 19-03 and No.20-02. As such, benefits were denied.

The Initial Decision upheld the denial and found that the couple's income exceeded the threshold for 2019. Similarly, their income exceeds the income standard for 2020. It appears that Petitioner is only comparing the couple's earned income with the income standard. As explained in the Initial Decision, earned and unearned income is used in the calculation of Medicaid eligibility and the couple's combined income exceeds the income standard. See N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.1.

After reviewing the record, I agree that Petitioner's application was properly denied. Petitioner may be eligible for the Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD) program by calling 1-800-792-9745. Thus, I hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision and uphold Bergen County's denial of Petitioner's application for Medicaid due to excess income.

THEREFORE, it is on this ^{28th} day of DECEMBER 2020,

ORDERED:

That the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED.



Jennifer Langer Jacobs, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Medical Assistance
and Health Services