

**Reasons for Decision:**

**Order #AP1718-0347**

The appellants appealed that their application for Rent Assist benefits was denied.

The Rent Assist program received a reapplication on <date removed>. The net income as reported on the 2016 income tax return was <amount removed>. This income exceeded the income threshold of \$42,000 for a family of <family size removed>.

At the hearing, the appellant indicated that prior to the family's reapplication they had been receiving <amount removed> per month. The appellant stated the appellant's income only increased a small amount. The family expected that the rent assist amount would go down, but they did not expect that they would be eligible for nothing.

After carefully considering the written and verbal information the Board has determined that the Rent Assist program has properly calculated that the appellants are not eligible for any Rent Assist benefits. Two changes have affected the assessment for Rent Assist benefits since the family were previously in receipt of these benefits. The appellant's income has increased, and the formula for calculating eligibility has changed. Prior to July 1, 2017, families were expected to use 25% of their monthly income towards their rental costs. The program also does not take into account the actual monthly rental amount, but uses 75% of the market median rental amount based on family size. For a family of <family size removed>, that amount is \$980. This formula was changed to 28% effective July 1, 2017. The maximum benefit for a family of 6 is \$980 per month. This is reduced by 28% of the net family income  $\times 28\% =$  <amount removed>. The Regulation makes no provision to alter the amount a household is eligible for based on hardships or a change in circumstances. The decision of the Director has therefore been confirmed.

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