

## **EAP Advisory Board Meeting**

### **EAP Income Level Update Discussion**

**February 6, 2023**

**Present:** Amanda Noonan (NHDOE), John Braswell (Eversource), Sue Corson (Unitil), Gary Cronin (NHDOE), Jessica Arnold (Liberty), Karen Emis-Williams (NHWA), Valerie Provenzano (BMCAP), Steve Town (NHLA), Lea Francoeur (NHDOE), Robyn Sarette (NHEC), Ray Burke (NHLA), Don Kreis (OCA)

NHLA has looked at other assistance programs, and the proposed income disregard of \$16 is within the range of allowable income disregards and is in support of the income disregard.

NHLA asked BMCAP for an updated spreadsheet with the 2023 FPG as it had questions about how the deduct was calculated. Using the monthly SSI income of \$914 for a single person, NHLA calculated a 30-day income of \$901, just \$3 more than the 30-day income for a single person household at 75% of FPG. Based on that, NHLA suggested the income disregard should be \$3. NHDOE agreed that it was reasonable to look at both incomes the same way. BMCAP agreed with NHLA's calculations but explained that the software for EAP follows the FAP procedures and it does not convert the monthly SSI income to a 30-day income. It compares the monthly SSI income of \$914 to the 30-day income at 75% FPG, which is \$898. Because of that, a disregard of \$16 is necessary to qualify the household for the 76% discount tier.

NHLA suggested that the process should be reviewed and simplified, noting that it is extra work to convert to a 30-day income and also noting that it is not a federal requirement but a state decision. NHDOE suggested there may be opportunities for changes with the new FAP/WAP/ EAP software.

Based on a review of income disregards from other programs, the Board concluded the change proposed is within reason.

NHDOE asked if there was any objection to the \$16 disregard for SSI income for single person households. Hearing none, NHLA moved to allow for the \$16 disregard, and BMCAP seconded the motion. The Board vote to approve the \$16 disregard was unanimo