

Conclusion

The Department finds that the new and changed Planning Area boundaries and Community Development boundaries in Maurice River Township approved by the State Planning Commission are consistent with the purposes of CAFRA and the CZM Rules. Center boundaries recognize the areas of dense development in the Township while largely avoiding environmentally sensitive features. Where those features cannot be avoided within a center boundary, they are recognized with a CES overlay. The new Dorchester, Penny Hill, and Leesburg-River Road Commercial Nodes recognize the water dependent industries that are vital to the Township despite their vulnerability to flooding. These Community Development boundaries allow the planning areas in the rest of the Township to recognize the importance of open space and natural resources through Environmentally Sensitive and Park Planning Areas.

Upon the operative date of the approved changes to the Coastal Planning Area boundaries and Community Development boundaries, each Coastal Planning Area, CAFRA Center, and CAFRA node will be subject to the applicable impervious cover limit identified in Table H at N.J.A.C. 7:7-13.17 and vegetative cover percentages identified in Table I at N.J.A.C. 7:7-13.18. The impact of the planning area and other boundary changes will vary. For example, for the areas where there is a newly designated CAFRA Village Center that was previously designated as Coastal Environmentally Sensitive Planning Area, the impervious cover limits will increase from three percent to 60 percent. For areas where there is a newly designated CAFRA Node that was previously designated as Coastal Environmentally Sensitive Planning Area, the impervious cover limits will increase from three percent to 80 percent. For areas where the Coastal Planning Area changed from Coastal Environmentally Sensitive Planning Area to Coastal Rural Planning Area, the impervious cover limits will remain three percent. For impervious cover limits applicable to all mapped areas within Maurice River Township, see Table H at N.J.A.C. 7:7-13.17. Additionally, for vegetative cover requirements applicable to all mapped areas within Maurice River Township, see Table I at N.J.A.C. 7:7-13.18.

The boundaries are intended to promote concentrated, well-planned development while avoiding environmentally sensitive areas, including floodplains and habitat. This is consistent with the CZM Rule’s coastal goal for preserving coastal open space at N.J.A.C. 7:7-1.1(c)5 and the coastal goal for safe, healthy, well-planned coastal communities at N.J.A.C. 7:7-1.1(c)6. Additionally, the Dorchester, Penny Hill, and Leesburg-River Road Commercial Nodes recognize the importance of water dependent industries in the Township and is consistent with the goal of sustained and revitalized water dependent uses at N.J.A.C. 7:7-1.1(c)4. Further, the coordination and cooperation required from multiple State, county, and local government offices to appropriately and comprehensively plan throughout this process is consistent with the coastal goal at N.J.A.C. 7:7-1.1(c)7, which outlines the CZM Rules’ intent to achieve coordinated coastal decision-making, comprehensive planning, and research.

The resulting administrative change at N.J.A.C. 7:7 Appendix I is indicated below and shall be operative September 4, 2024 (30 days from August 5, 2024).

Full text of the changed rule follows (additions indicated in boldface **thus**; deletions indicated in brackets [thus]):

CHAPTER 7
COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT RULES
APPENDIX I
CAFRA CENTERS

This non-regulatory appendix contains the list of CAFRA centers, CAFRA cores, and CAFRA nodes, the boundaries of which have been accepted by the Department pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:7-13.16(b), and which are incorporated into and shown on the CAFRA Planning Map. As required at N.J.A.C. 7:7-13.17(b), an applicant shall refer to the CAFRA Planning Map in order to determine the location of a site for the purposes of determining the applicable impervious cover limits pursuant to this chapter.

The Department will update the list of CAFRA centers, CAFRA cores, and CAFRA nodes in this Appendix by notice of administrative change as part of the New Jersey Register notice required at N.J.A.C. 7:7-13.16(b). The appendix is organized as follows: Counties are listed alphabetically. Within each county, the municipalities are listed alphabetically. Within each municipality, the CAFRA centers, CAFRA cores, and CAFRA nodes are listed alphabetically.

- I.-III. (No change.)
- IV. Cumberland County CAFRA centers
- A.-C. (No change.)
- D. Maurice River Township **CAFRA centers and CAFRA nodes**
 - [1. Mauricetown Station CAFRA hamlet]
 - 1. Port Elizabeth CAFRA village**
 - 2. Dorchester-Leesburg CAFRA village**
 - 3. Heislerville CAFRA village**
 - 4. Mauricetown Station CAFRA Commercial node**
 - 5. Dorchester CAFRA Commercial node**
 - 6. Penny Hill CAFRA Commercial node**
 - 7. Leesburg-River Road CAFRA Commercial node**
- E. (No change.)
- V.-VII. (No change.)

HUMAN SERVICES

(a)

DIVISION OF AGING SERVICES

**Notice of Readoption
Lifeline Credit Program/Tenants Lifeline Assistance
Program Manual
Readoption: N.J.A.C. 10:167D**

Authority: N.J.S.A. 48:2-29.15 et seq., 48:2-29.30 et seq., 52:14C-1 et seq., and 52:14D-1 et seq.; and P.L. 2012, c. 17.

Authorized By: Sarah Adelman, Commissioner, Department of Human Services.

Effective Date: June 26, 2024.

New Expiration Date: June 26, 2031.

Take notice that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1, the rules at N.J.A.C. 10:167D were scheduled to expire on August 18, 2024. N.J.A.C. 10:167D establishes the rules governing the Lifeline Credit Program/Tenants Lifeline Assistance Program Manual (Lifeline).

The following is a summary of the subchapters within N.J.A.C. 10:167D:

Subchapter 1, Lifeline Credit Program/Tenants’ Lifeline Assistance Program, sets forth the purpose and intent of the chapter, the legal authority for the program, the definitions of terms used in the chapter as they pertain to the chapter, as well as explains the Lifeline credit and the tenant assistance payment that is provided to eligible individuals, including how the payments are distributed.

Subchapter 2, Administrative Organization, addresses the designation of the Department of Human Services (the Department) as the controlling administrative unit over Lifeline Programs, the responsibilities of the Department to process applications and determine eligibility, as well as other administrative functions, the Department’s responsibility to establish operating policies to expedite application processing and ensure compliance with the standards set forth in this chapter, defines the responsibilities of the utility companies to both the beneficiaries and the Lifeline Programs, and defines the boundaries of confidentiality and disclosure of information involving applicants and beneficiaries.

Subchapter 3, Application Process, describes and explains the application process, outlines the Department’s criteria for recognizing an applicant’s authorized agent, as well as sets forth the responsibilities of the Department and the applicant in the application process.

Subchapter 4, Eligibility, addresses the eligibility requirements for the Lifeline Programs. The subchapter includes income standards, residency requirements, and age requirements. It provides that it is not necessary to

be a citizen of the United States to be eligible for the Lifeline Programs and sets forth the requirements for documenting Social Security Title II disability status. The subchapter provides the utility information that must be documented to the Department to qualify for the Lifeline Credit Program, as well as the requirement that the name and address of a beneficiary’s landlord be provided to the Department in order to qualify for the Tenants Lifeline Assistance Program. The subchapter sets forth eligibility applications, including how the Department disseminates applications, which application forms must be completed by applicants, and provides that the Department determines eligibility from completed applications. It requires applicants to provide a Social Security Account Number (SSAN) to the Department, and establishes that in cases where an applicant does not have an SSAN, they will be assigned a unique identifying number by the Department. It provides that no application will be processed unless the applicant certifies that their application is accurate by signing and dating the certification, and indicates that by signing the certification and authorization statement on the application, the applicant authorizes the Department to verify any information on the application and agrees to visitation and review by representatives of the Department. The subchapter provides that the Lifeline Credit shall be applied to the beneficiary’s utility account and remain there until it is used or the account is terminated. Lastly, the subchapter provides that an applicant may request a hearing in the Office of Administrative Law when the Department determines that an applicant is ineligible and describes the appeal process.

Subchapter 5, Recoveries, defines benefits incorrectly paid and specifies the types of action that may be taken by the Department to recover payments or credits paid to an ineligible beneficiary, specifies certain rights and obligations of public utilities with regard to benefits illegally obtained, as well as provides that applicants and beneficiaries may contest eligibility determinations and recoveries through the Office of Administrative Law.

The chapter appendix includes the Tenant Verification form for PAAD, Lifeline, and Special Benefits Programs.

While the Department is readopting these rules, it recognizes that further rulemaking may be necessary to update these rules to reflect current practices. Thus, the Department will continue to review the rules and may consider making substantive amendments prior to the next scheduled expiration.

The Department has reviewed the rules and has determined them to be necessary, reasonable, and proper for the purposes for which they were originally promulgated. Therefore, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1.c(1), N.J.A.C. 10:167D is readopted and shall continue in effect for seven years.

(a)

DIVISION OF AGING SERVICES

**Notice of Readoption
Hearing Aid Assistance to the Aged and Disabled
Readoption: N.J.A.C. 10:167E**

Authority: N.J.S.A. 30:4D-41, 52:14C-1 et seq., and 52:14D-1 et seq.; and Reorganization Plan No. 001-1996.

Authorized By: Sarah Adelman, Commissioner, Department of Human Services.

Effective Date: July 2, 2024.

New Expiration Date: July 2, 2031.

Take notice that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1, the rules at N.J.A.C. 10:167E were scheduled to expire on August 18, 2024. N.J.A.C. 10:167E establishes the rules governing Hearing Aid Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (HAAAD).

The following is a summary of the subchapters at N.J.A.C. 10:167E:

Subchapter 1, General Provisions, sets forth the purpose and intent of the chapter, the scope of service, the target population, and the legal authority.

Subchapter 2, Definitions, provides the definitions of terms used in the chapter as they pertain to HAAAD, as well as the requirements that must be met for establishing a special needs trust.

Subchapter 3, Administrative Organization, addresses the designation of the Department of Human Services (the Department) as the controlling administrative unit over HAAAD, as well as establishing PAAD as the unit responsible for processing eligibility applications and authorizing HAAAD benefit payments, the requirement of the Commissioner to establish operating policies to expedite application processing and ensure compliance with program standards, as well as establishes the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) as the Division responsible for investigating matters of potential fraud or abuse.

Subchapter 4, Application Process, sets forth the process to apply for HAAAD, including general provisions, the recognition of authorized agents, the responsibilities of the PAAD unit, as well as the responsibilities of the applicant and subsequent beneficiary.

Subchapter 5, Eligibility Requirements, establishes eligibility standards, dictates acceptable forms of primary and secondary proofs of age, provides income standards and which sources of income are included and excluded when considering eligibility, provides citizenship and residence requirements, establishes HAAAD as the payer of last resort, requires the applicant to certify and authorize the application, sets forth the eligibility period, details how recoveries are made when benefits are incorrectly paid, and establishes the appeal process when PAAD determines that an applicant is ineligible for HAAAD benefits.

While the Department is readopting these rules, it recognizes that further rulemaking may be necessary to update these rules to reflect current practices. Thus, the Department will continue to review the rules and may consider making substantive amendments prior to the next scheduled expiration.

The Department has reviewed the rules and has determined them to be necessary, reasonable, and proper for the purposes for which they were originally promulgated. Therefore, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1.c(1), N.J.A.C. 10:167E is readopted and shall continue in effect for seven years.

(b)

**DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
Notice of Administrative Change
Social Services Programs—Personal Needs
Allowance**

N.J.A.C. 10:123-3.4

Effective Date: July 2, 2024.

Take notice that, the Division of Family Development (Division) is changing the rate of the personal needs allowance reserved by the owner or operator for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients and Work First New Jersey/General Assistance (WFNJ/GA) recipients living in residential health care facilities or boarding homes. The personal needs allowance is used to purchase personal items that may include clothing, hygiene items, reading materials, or other items that are not provided by the facility in which an individual resides. The personal needs allowance amounts are determined using a calculation at N.J.A.C. 10:123 that is tied to the SSI Federal benefit rate, which is adjusted annually according to the Federal cost-of-living increase.

SSI Federal benefit rates are impacted by a recipient’s living arrangement. The Social Security Administration (SSA) uses four living arrangement categories when determining payment amounts. Residential health care facilities and boarding homes are different living arrangement categories, resulting in differing SSI benefits and personal needs allowances.

The rates being changed in this notice impact recipients living in boarding homes and residential health care facilities. The rule is being changed to reflect that a personal needs allowance in the amount of at least \$142.00 per month will be reserved for recipients living in boarding homes. The personal need allowance reserved for recipients living in residential health care facilities is being amended to at least \$155.00,