

INTERPRETIVE MEMO

General Assistance Rule Interpretation

Procedural Instruction

This memo remains effective statewide until it is specifically superseded – either by a subsequent memo or by a contradictory rule with a later date.

Please file in your manual facing the page indicated below.

Facing page 2652.2; 2652.3 **Effective date of this memo** 1/23/2018 **Page** 1 of 2

This memo: **is new** **Replaces one dated** _____

The purpose of this interpretive memo is to establish the Department’s policy for housing individuals in separate applicant households together.

Individuals who are not considered members of the same applicant household under rule 2603 may be housed in the same motel room if they each request to be housed together.

The Department will house no more than two separate applicant households together.

Separate applicant households who wish to be housed together must apply for temporary housing assistance at the same time and complete separate applications. Each household must be eligible for temporary housing assistance in their own right (unless an individual is being housed with a client as a caretaker pursuant to a reasonable accommodation). Each household will be responsible for completing required activities (e.g., meeting with a housing case manager).

Applicants will be interviewed together, and each applicant must indicate, in writing, at the time of the interview that they want to be housed with the other applicant.

The applicants’ income will be considered together and calculated as one household for the purposes of determining the 30 percent income contribution (see GA Rule 2652.4).

The periods of ineligibility set forth in the Interpretive Memo facing rule rules 2652.2 and 2652.3 dated 11/9/2015 shall apply to each household.

The number of nights an eligible individual is housed with another household will count toward the total number of nights that individual is eligible to receive temporary housing assistance, regardless of whether the payment is authorized under the individual’s name. To determine the maximum number of nights the two households may be housed together, use the total for the household with the least number of nights (see examples below).

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EXAMPLE A: Mary and her 30-year old daughter, Jen, apply for temporary housing assistance and would like to be housed in the same motel room. Mary lost her home in a fire, and Jen receives SSI and has been asked by the friend she was staying with to move out (there is no landlord/tenant relationship). Mary has no income, and Jen received \$700 in SSI on the day of application. Because Jen is only eligible for 28 days of temporary housing assistance under rule 2652.3, Jen and Mary can only be housed together for up to 28 days. Before the Department will house them, they must house themselves for the number of days, rounded down to the nearest whole number, equal to 30 percent of Jen's SSI payment divided by the least expensive daily motel rate available in the district at that time. Mary can choose to be housed by herself until Jen is eligible.

EXAMPLE B: Emily and Floyd are in the district office applying for temporary housing and they are requesting to be housed together. Emily's apartment building burned down so she is eligible under catastrophic for up to 84-nights. Floyd is applying because he has no place to stay tonight and the Adverse Weather Conditions (AWC) is in effect. Emily and Floyd may be housed together tonight only. If they each want to continue to be housed together, they will need to re-apply daily if AWC is in effect. If Emily wishes to be granted for more than one night at a time, she can request to be housed alone.