**Policy Clarifications**

**Medical Assistance – MAWD**

**PMW-19831-316**

**Submitted: 03/26/2020 Agency: CAOs**

**Subject: Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities (MAWD) Premium Payments during the COVID-19 Emergency**

**Question**: Should the CAO extend good cause for failure to pay MAWD premium payments due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency? How should the CAO handle a reported loss of wages due to the COVID-19 emergency?

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| **Response By: Division of Health Services** | **Date: 03/31/2020** |  |

Yes. The CAO will extend good cause beyond two months for extenuating circumstances, including failure to pay premiums during the COVID-19 emergency.

As stated in [Policy Clarification PMA-19804-350](http://mydhs/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/document/c_294244.docx?web=1), if the MAWD recipient self-attests to a decrease in wages due to the coronavirus, the CAO should update eCIS, narrate that the client reported the change was due to the COVID-19 emergency, run eligibility and send a new notice with the updated monthly premiums.

As stated in [Operations Memorandum 20-03-03](http://mydhs/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/document/c_294241.docx?web=1), due to the passing of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, the CAO will not close MA benefits for a client determined eligible prior to the emergency. If a MAWD recipient reports that he or she is no longer working due to the COVID-19 emergency the CAO will review for other MA benefits. If not eligible for other MA benefits, the CAO will keep the MAWD recipient open in the MAWD category. The CAO will give good cause for each month of the COVID-19 emergency.

If the CAO is unable to enter good cause for extended months, please contact ServiceNow.