

# *City of Alexandria, Virginia*

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 2, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO #132 : AMBULANCE FEES ORDINANCE

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At Council's April 22 legislative meeting Councilman Wilson asked for clarification about ambulance fees for persons determined to be medically indigent.

The question was about the exemption listed in Section 3-2-131(c)(2):

"Persons determined to be medically indigent according to (i) the eligibility determination made by the hospital to which the person is transported, or (ii) Level A of the income level scales established by the health department of the city for the purpose of determining eligibility for health services..."

Specifically, if Medicaid covers emergency ambulance transportation for such patients, why are they exempt from the ambulance transport fee?

According to Fire Department staff, if an individual qualifies for Medicaid and is accepted into the Medicaid Program the ambulance fee is not waived for this individual. Medicaid would be billed for the transport and would pay the allowable charges. Any remainder of the bill would then be written off, as required by Medicaid. If an individual meets the medically indigent criteria listed above and he or she has not been qualified for Medicaid, then the full amount would be written off.

It should also be noted that the contractor responsible for the Fire Department's ambulance billings routinely checks its databases to determine if an individual is covered by Medicaid, should the hospital fail to provide such information. If the patient does not have Medicaid or other insurance and requests a waiver of fees, the contractor transmits that request back to the Department for a decision.

The Fire Department uses the Health Department's eligibility scale (Attachment 1) and applies Level A gross income to determine eligibility for waiver of fees. Beginning July 1, 2008, fees for any person with an income of \$11,440 or less will be totally waived; persons with higher incomes are eligible for a waiver if more than one person resides in the household.

Attachment: Northern Virginia Health Department Income Levels chart

FEEL  
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CHART 2-NORTHERN VIRGINIA  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT INCOME LEVELS  
FOR DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR HEALTH SERVICES  
EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

NUM. IN FAMILY	GROSS INCOME	GROSS INCOME					GROSS INCOME	GROSS INCOME	GROSS INCOME	GROSS INCOME	INCOME L FOR WIC
		Level A	Level B-10% Charge	Level C-25% Charge	Level D-50% Charge	Level E-75% Charge					
1	Annual	\$0 - \$ 11,440	\$14,441 - \$13,863	\$13,864 - \$17,326	\$17,327 - \$20,800	\$20,801 - \$24,263	\$24,264 - \$28,463	\$28,464 and above	\$ 19,240		
	Monthly	\$0 - \$ 953	\$ 954 - \$ 1,155	\$ 1,156 - \$ 1,443	\$ 1,444 - \$ 1,733	\$ 1,734 - \$ 2,021	\$ 2,022 - \$ 2,455	\$ 2,456 and above	\$ 1,603		
	Weekly	\$0 - \$ 220	\$ 221 - \$ 266	\$ 267 - \$ 333	\$ 334 - \$ 400	\$ 401 - \$ 466	\$ 467 - \$ 566	\$ 567 and above	\$ 370		
2	Annual	\$0 - \$ 15,400	\$15,401 - \$18,662	\$18,663 - \$23,324	\$23,325 - \$28,000	\$28,001 - \$32,652	\$32,653 - \$39,662	\$39,663 and above	\$25,900		
	Monthly	\$0 - \$ 1,283	\$ 1,284 - \$ 1,555	\$ 1,556 - \$ 1,943	\$ 1,944 - \$ 2,333	\$ 2,334 - \$ 2,721	\$ 2,722 - \$ 3,305	\$ 3,306 and above	\$ 2,158		
	Weekly	\$0 - \$ 296	\$ 297 - \$ 358	\$ 359 - \$ 448	\$ 449 - \$ 538	\$ 539 - \$ 628	\$ 629 - \$ 782	\$ 783 and above	\$ 498		
3	Annual	\$0 - \$ 19,360	\$19,361 - \$23,460	\$23,461 - \$29,321	\$29,322 - \$35,200	\$35,201 - \$41,050	\$41,051 - \$49,860	\$49,861 and above	\$32,560		
	Monthly	\$0 - \$ 1,613	\$ 1,614 - \$ 1,955	\$ 1,956 - \$ 2,443	\$ 2,444 - \$ 2,933	\$ 2,934 - \$ 3,421	\$ 3,422 - \$ 4,155	\$ 4,156 and above	\$ 2,713		
	Weekly	\$0 - \$ 372	\$ 373 - \$ 451	\$ 452 - \$ 563	\$ 564 - \$ 676	\$ 677 - \$ 789	\$ 790 - \$ 958	\$ 959 and above	\$ 626		
4	Annual	\$0 - \$ 23,320	\$23,321 - \$28,259	\$28,260 - \$35,319	\$35,320 - \$42,400	\$42,401 - \$49,459	\$49,460 - \$60,059	\$60,060 and above	\$39,220		
	Monthly	\$0 - \$ 1,943	\$ 1,944 - \$ 2,354	\$ 2,355 - \$ 2,943	\$ 2,944 - \$ 3,533	\$ 3,534 - \$ 4,121	\$ 4,122 - \$ 5,004	\$ 5,005 and above	\$ 3,268		
	Weekly	\$0 - \$ 448	\$ 449 - \$ 543	\$ 544 - \$ 679	\$ 680 - \$ 815	\$ 816 - \$ 951	\$ 952 - \$ 1,154	\$ 1,155 and above	\$ 754		
5	Annual	\$0 - \$ 27,280	\$27,281 - \$33,058	\$33,059 - \$41,316	\$41,317 - \$49,600	\$49,601 - \$57,858	\$57,859 - \$70,258	\$70,259 and above	\$45,880		
	Monthly	\$0 - \$ 2,273	\$ 2,274 - \$ 2,754	\$ 2,755 - \$ 3,443	\$ 3,444 - \$ 4,133	\$ 4,134 - \$ 4,821	\$ 4,822 - \$ 5,854	\$ 5,855 and above	\$ 4,378		
	Weekly	\$0 - \$ 524	\$ 525 - \$ 635	\$ 636 - \$ 794	\$ 795 - \$ 953	\$ 954 - \$ 1,112	\$ 1,113 - \$ 1,351	\$ 1,352 and above	\$ 882		
6	Annual	\$0 - \$ 31,240	\$31,241 - \$37,857	\$37,858 - \$47,314	\$47,315 - \$55,800	\$55,801 - \$66,257	\$66,258 - \$80,457	\$80,458 and above	\$52,540		
	Monthly	\$0 - \$ 2,603	\$ 2,604 - \$ 3,154	\$ 3,155 - \$ 3,942	\$ 3,943 - \$ 4,733	\$ 4,734 - \$ 5,521	\$ 5,522 - \$ 6,704	\$ 6,705 and above	\$ 4,378		
	Weekly	\$0 - \$ 600	\$ 601 - \$ 728	\$ 729 - \$ 909	\$ 910 - \$ 1,092	\$ 1,093 - \$ 1,274	\$ 1,275 - \$ 1,547	\$ 1,548 and above	\$ 1,010		
7	Annual	\$0 - \$ 35,200	\$35,201 - \$42,656	\$42,657 - \$53,312	\$53,313 - \$64,000	\$64,001 - \$74,656	\$74,657 - \$90,656	\$90,657 and above	\$59,200		
	Monthly	\$0 - \$ 2,933	\$ 2,934 - \$ 3,554	\$ 3,555 - \$ 4,442	\$ 4,443 - \$ 5,333	\$ 5,334 - \$ 6,221	\$ 6,222 - \$ 7,554	\$ 7,555 and above	\$ 4,933		
	Weekly	\$0 - \$ 676	\$ 677 - \$ 820	\$ 821 - \$ 1,025	\$ 1,026 - \$ 1,230	\$ 1,231 - \$ 1,435	\$ 1,436 - \$ 1,743	\$ 1,744 and above	\$ 1,138		
8	Annual	\$0 - \$ 39,160	\$39,161 - \$47,454	\$47,455 - \$59,309	\$59,310 - \$71,200	\$71,201 - \$83,054	\$83,055 - \$100,854	\$100,855 and above	\$65,860		
	Monthly	\$0 - \$ 3,263	\$ 3,264 - \$ 3,954	\$ 3,955 - \$ 4,942	\$ 4,943 - \$ 5,933	\$ 5,934 - \$ 6,921	\$ 6,922 - \$ 8,404	\$ 8,405 and above	\$ 5,488		
	Weekly	\$0 - \$ 753	\$ 754 - \$ 912	\$ 913 - \$ 1,140	\$ 1,141 - \$ 1,369	\$ 1,370 - \$ 1,597	\$ 1,598 - \$ 1,939	\$ 1,940 and above	\$ 1,267		
9	Annual	\$0 - \$ 43,120	\$43,121 - \$52,253	\$52,254 - \$65,307	\$65,308 - \$78,400	\$78,401 - \$91,453	\$91,454 - \$111,053	\$111,054 and above	\$72,520		
	Monthly	\$0 - \$ 3,593	\$ 3,594 - \$ 4,354	\$ 4,355 - \$ 5,442	\$ 5,443 - \$ 6,533	\$ 6,534 - \$ 7,621	\$ 7,622 - \$ 9,254	\$ 9,255 and above	\$ 6,043		
	Weekly	\$0 - \$ 829	\$ 830 - \$ 1,004	\$ 1,005 - \$ 1,255	\$ 1,256 - \$ 1,507	\$ 1,508 - \$ 1,758	\$ 1,759 - \$ 2,136	\$ 2,136 and above	\$ 1,395		
10	Annual	\$0 - \$ 47,080	\$47,081 - \$57,052	\$57,053 - \$71,304	\$71,305 - \$85,600	\$85,601 - \$99,852	\$99,853 - \$121,252	\$121,253 and above	\$79,180		
	Monthly	\$0 - \$ 3,923	\$ 3,924 - \$ 4,754	\$ 4,755 - \$ 5,942	\$ 5,943 - \$ 7,133	\$ 7,134 - \$ 8,321	\$ 8,322 - \$ 10,104	\$ 10,105 and above	\$ 6,598		
	Weekly	\$0 - \$ 905	\$ 906 - \$ 1,097	\$ 1,098 - \$ 1,371	\$ 1,372 - \$ 1,646	\$ 1,647 - \$ 1,920	\$ 1,921 - \$ 2,331	\$ 2,332 and above	\$ 1,523		
Each Annual Addl Monthly Perso Weekly	Annual	\$0 - \$ 3,960	\$ 3,961 - \$ 4,798	\$ 4,799 - \$ 5,997	\$ 5,998 - \$ 7,200	\$ 7,201 - \$ 8,398	\$ 8,399 - \$ 10,198	\$ 10,199 and above	\$ 6,660		
	Monthly	\$0 - \$ 330	\$ 331 - \$ 359	\$ 360 - \$ 499	\$ 500 - \$ 600	\$ 601 - \$ 699	\$ 700 - \$ 849	\$ 850 and above	\$ 555		
	Weekly	\$0 - \$ 76	\$ 77 - \$ 92	\$ 93 - \$ 115	\$ 116 - \$ 138	\$ 139 - \$ 161	\$ 162 - \$ 196	\$ 197 and above	\$ 128		

For the calculation of 185% for WIC, the No. Va limits are not used. The amounts are from Chart 1.  
Based on the poverty guidelines published in the Federal Register, January 23, 2008 (Volume 73, Number 15), Pages 3571-3972.