

# Pooled Income Trust Process

## EXCESS INCOME PROTECTION

**How to Get Medicaid Despite Having “Excess Income” Using the Life House Supplemental Needs Trust to Eliminate the Spend-Down For Persons who are Elderly (65+), Blind, or Disabled**

**THE PROBLEM:** Medicaid requires elderly, blind and/or disabled persons to “spend down” their income to the Medicaid levels of \$825.00 for singles and \$1,210.00 for couples (after a \$20 income disregard). The amount that their income exceeds these levels, after they have paid for Medicare Part B and any other private Health Insurance premiums, is called the “spend-down/overage.” Every month, they must pay this amount to Medicaid or they must first incur medical bills in an amount that equals their spend-down to qualify for Medicaid. Since living costs are so high in New York, no one can live at the Medicaid levels. The spend-down is a huge burden and makes it impossible for many people to qualify for Medicaid.

**THE SOLUTION:** People who are disabled, regardless of age, blind or over 65 years old may enroll in a “Supplemental Needs Trust” sponsored by one of many non-profit organizations. The Trust is open to any person who is “disabled” as defined by the Social Security laws and/or by the Medicaid disability forms. When one joins this Trust, one agrees to deposit with the Trust each month the amount of their spend-down/overage. Once the Trust documents are signed, and the local Medicaid program approves the client’s enrollment in the Trust, Medicaid will change the budget so that the client has **NO SPEND-DOWN**. The client then requests the Trust to pay certain bills, such as rent, mortgage, electric, etc., from the funds that the client deposits each month.



**\*\*\*\*Please note the following: there is a one-time fee of \$300.00 To the Trust (which is subtracted from the first deposit), plus a monthly bank fee based on the deposited amount, which will be automatically deducted from the deposited funds. In addition, there is a yearly fee of \$200.00 for a banking audit.**

Medicaid Eligibility • Geriatric Care Services • Social Security Disability • P.R.I. Evaluation and Nursing Home Placement  
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