

MOST COMMONLY ASKED JIGGETTS QUESTIONS

1. Do I have to fill out a page six and seven for modifications?

You are not required to do a breakdown (pages 6 and 7 of an application) when submitting a modification to SDSS. However, the modification will be approved more quickly and will be less likely to be returned for clarification.

2. Can the third party stop paying or can the amount be lowered if the client has had another child?

No. SDSS will not remove or reduce a third party because another child was born. However, if another child is born and the rent is increased, SDSS will pay the increase up to the maximum they will approve for the new household composition.

3. Will SDSS pay the arrears for someone who started receiving SSI after the original application was approved if they were never told by the advocate or the Center that they had to make a contribution?

It depends. If the client starting receiving SSI many years go, it is possible that the client was never informed that they would have to contribute. Each of these cases will be evaluated on a case by case basis. You should provide a clear explanation of the circumstances in a letter to SDSS along with a modification. The modification should indicate that the SSI recipient has started to contribute and any other extenuating circumstances. SDSS has consented in some cases.

4. Are "Move Rather than Pays" evaluated differently than modification to moves?

Yes. However, there are similarities in the criteria of evaluation. In both situations, the most important factor is the monthly rent of the old apartment is similar (not more than a \$50 increase) to the monthly rent in the new apartment. In a Move Rather than Pay situation SDSS will also consider favorably a high amount of arrears that will not be requested balanced by the cost of relocating the family (i.e. moving expenses, broker's fees and security deposit). In a modification to move situation, SDSS will consider other factors in addition to the similarities in the rent. Important factors include the reason for the move, how long ago the arrears were paid, how much money was paid to retain the apartment, and how much it will cost to move the family to a new apartment.

5. If a child is receiving SSI is the household still eligible for Jiggetts?

Yes. The mother must meets the eligibility standards of ADC and have an open ADC case. SDSS will consider this case a household of one and therefore the maximum SDSS will pay is \$450. This child must contribute 20% of his SSI income. The reverse can be true if the parent receives SSI and the child has an open ADC case.

6. Will SDSS approve rent increases above SDSS's maximum if a child is added to the budget?

Yes. If additional household members are added to the budget SDSS will pay legal rent increases and the maximum they will pay so long as there was no third party contributor approved previously.

7. Under what circumstances will SDSS pay arrears that accrued because the third party contributor failed to pay?

Only in rare circumstances. If you have a case in which a third party contributor failed to contribute their portion of the rent and you now have future ability to pay this excess, you can request SDSS to pay the arrears. However, you must provide a complete explanation and compelling reason for why the third party failed to contribute. One factor SDSS considers is the length of time the donor contributed prior to no longer being able to contribute.

8. Can a client apply for Jiggetts with a holdover petition?

Yes. As long as rent or use and occupancy in excess of the household's shelter allowance is owed and can be documented by the court papers or by a landlord's breakdown. If the tenant is going to stay in the apartment, the case must be converted to a Non-Payment proceeding and the landlord must provide a lease or an agreement to permit the tenant to remain in the apartment for at least 12 months. However, more common is a move to a new apartment rather than pay situation. The new apartment must rent for roughly the same rent as the old apartment.

9. Under what circumstances will SDSS or HRA pay for period in which the client was sanctioned?

Never. You must always obtain this money from a private source, a waiver or rent abatement.

10. If one of the children in the family is receiving child support directly from his father but the other children are on the budget, is this family eligible for Jiggetts?

No, not until the child's income is budgeted against the family's public assistance grant for their household size. Another possibility is that all of the children are taken off the welfare budget leaving the mother to receive ADC benefits for 1. However, each child must then pay a pro rata share of the rent. This is a requirement of the Mandatory Filing Unit.

11. Does a person in the household on the ADC budget have to contribute from their outside income (i.e. work, Social Security, Unemployment)?

No. However, their income must be budgeted against the household grant (apply work and child care disregards, if applicable). It after disregards the public assistance grant is less than the shelter allowance for their ADC household size, the tenant must make up the difference between the balance and the shelter allowance for that family size. You do not need to state this on the application because technically it is not a contribution. You must fully explain to the client their responsibility because if the client does not pay the differential, HRA will not approve duplication. For example, if a family of 3 has income from UIB in the amount of \$400 their supplemental grant is \$177. The shelter allowance for a family of 3 is \$286, therefore they must pay the difference between \$286 and \$177, which is \$109.

12. Does everyone have to contribute even if they have no income?

Yes. The only exception to this rule is a person that is ineligible due to their immigration status. The most common example is when a child ages out of the ADC case. This adult child must apply for HR benefits or pay his pro rata share of the rent.