

CHAPTER 633C

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TRUSTS

Referred to in [§12L.3](#), [633B.211](#)

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633C.1 Definitions.

For purposes of [this chapter](#), unless the context otherwise requires:

1. “*Available monthly income*” means in reference to a medical assistance income trust beneficiary, any income received directly by the beneficiary, not from the trust, that counts as income in determining eligibility for medical assistance and any amounts paid to or otherwise made available to the beneficiary by the trustee pursuant to [section 633C.3, subsection 1](#), paragraph “b”, or [section 633C.3, subsection 2](#), paragraph “b”.

2. “*Beneficiary*” means the original beneficiary of a medical assistance special needs trust or medical assistance income trust, whose assets funded the trust.

3. “*Department*” means the department of health and human services.

4. “*Institutionalized individual*” means an individual receiving nursing facility services, a level of care in any institution equivalent to nursing facility services, or home and community-based services under the medical assistance home and community-based services waiver program.

5. “*Maximum monthly medical assistance payment rate for services in an intermediate care facility for persons with an intellectual disability*” means the allowable rate established by the department and as published in the Iowa administrative bulletin.

6. “*Medical assistance*” means medical assistance as defined in [section 249A.2](#).

7. “*Medical assistance income trust*” means a trust or similar legal instrument or device that meets the criteria of 42 U.S.C. §1396p(d)(4)(B)(i)-(ii).

8. “*Medical assistance special needs trust*” means a trust or similar legal instrument or device that meets the criteria of 42 U.S.C. §1396p(d)(4)(A) or (C).

9. “*Statewide average charge for nursing facility services*” means the statewide average charge for such care, excluding charges by Medicare-certified, skilled nursing facilities, as calculated by the department and as published in the Iowa administrative bulletin.

10. “*Statewide average charge for state mental health institute care*” means the statewide average charge for such care as calculated by the department and as published in the Iowa administrative bulletin.

11. “*Statewide average charge to private-pay patients for psychiatric medical institutions for children care*” means the statewide average charge for such care as calculated by the department and as published in the Iowa administrative bulletin.

12. “*Total monthly income*” means in reference to a medical assistance income trust beneficiary, income received directly by the beneficiary, not from the trust, that counts as income in determining eligibility for medical assistance, income of the beneficiary received by the trust that would otherwise count as income in determining the beneficiary’s eligibility for medical assistance, and income or earnings of the trust received by the trust.

[94 Acts, ch 1120, §3](#)

[C95, §633.707](#)

[96 Acts, ch 1129, §106](#); [2004 Acts, ch 1086, §99](#); [2004 Acts, ch 1166, §1](#); [2005 Acts, ch 38, §52, 53, 55](#)

[CS2005, §633C.1](#)

[2012 Acts, ch 1019, §139](#); [2015 Acts, ch 137, §118, 162, 163](#); [2023 Acts, ch 19, §1284](#)

Referred to in [§249A.12](#), [633B.214](#)

633C.2 Disposition of medical assistance special needs trusts.

Any income or assets added to or received by and any income or principal retained in a medical assistance special needs trust shall be used in accordance with a standard that is no

more restrictive than specified under federal law. All distributions from a medical assistance special needs trust shall be for the sole benefit of the beneficiary to enhance the quality of life of the beneficiary, and the trustee shall have sole discretion regarding such disbursements to ensure compliance with beneficiary eligibility requirements. Any funds retained in the medical assistance special needs trust of a beneficiary who is also a designated beneficiary as defined in [section 121.1](#) may be transferred to the Iowa ABLE savings plan trust account of the designated beneficiary in accordance with [this chapter](#) and [chapter 121](#). Any distinct disbursement in excess of one thousand dollars shall be subject to review by the district court sitting in probate. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to [chapter 17A](#) for the establishment and disposition of medical assistance special needs trusts in accordance with [this section](#).

[94 Acts, ch 1120, §4](#)

[C95, §633.708](#)

[95 Acts, ch 68, §8; 2005 Acts, ch 38, §53, 55](#)

[CS2005, §633C.2](#)

[2015 Acts, ch 137, §119, 162, 163; 2021 Acts, ch 136, §8](#)

Referred to in [§249A.3, 633C.4, 633C.5](#)

633C.3 Disposition of medical assistance income trusts.

1. Regardless of the terms of a medical assistance income trust, if the beneficiary's total monthly income is less than one hundred twenty-five percent of the average statewide charge for nursing facility services to a private-pay resident of a nursing facility, then, during the life of the beneficiary, any property received or held by the trust shall be expended only as follows, as applicable, and in the following order of priority:

a. A reasonable amount may be paid or set aside each month for necessary expenses of the trust, not to exceed ten dollars per month without court approval.

b. From the remaining principal or income of the trust, amounts may be paid for expenses that qualify as required deductions from income pursuant to [42 C.F.R. §435.725\(c\)](#) or [435.726\(c\)](#) for purposes of determining the amount by which medical assistance payments under [chapter 249A](#) for institutional services or for home and community-based services provided under a federal waiver will be reduced based on the beneficiary's income.

c. If the beneficiary is an institutionalized individual or receiving home and community-based services provided under a federal waiver, the remaining principal or income of the trust shall be paid directly to the provider of institutional care or home and community-based services, on a monthly basis, for any cost not paid under paragraph "b", to reduce any amount paid as medical assistance under [chapter 249A](#).

d. Any remaining principal or income of the trust may, at the trustee's discretion or as directed by the terms of the trust, be paid directly to providers of other medical care or services that would otherwise be covered by medical assistance, paid to the state as reimbursement for medical assistance paid on behalf of the beneficiary, or retained by the trust.

2. Regardless of the terms of a medical assistance income trust, if the beneficiary's total monthly income is at or above one hundred twenty-five percent of the average statewide charge for nursing facility services to a private-pay resident, then, during the life of the beneficiary, any property received or held by the trust shall be expended only as follows, as applicable, in the following order of priority:

a. A reasonable amount may be paid or set aside each month for necessary expenses of the trust, not to exceed ten dollars per month without court approval.

b. All remaining property received or held by the trust shall be paid to or otherwise made available to the beneficiary on a monthly basis, to be counted as income or a resource in determining eligibility for medical assistance under [chapter 249A](#).

3. [Subsections 1 and 2](#) shall apply to the following beneficiaries; however, the following amounts indicated shall be applied in lieu of the statewide average charge for nursing facility services:

a. For a beneficiary who meets the medical assistance level of care requirements for services in an intermediate care facility for persons with an intellectual disability and who

either resides in an intermediate care facility for persons with an intellectual disability or is eligible for services under the medical assistance home and community-based services waiver except that the beneficiary's income exceeds the allowable maximum, the applicable rate is the maximum monthly medical assistance payment rate for services in an intermediate care facility for persons with an intellectual disability.

b. For a beneficiary who meets the medical assistance level of care requirements for services in a psychiatric medical institution for children and who resides in a psychiatric medical institution for children, the applicable rate is the statewide average charge to private-pay patients for psychiatric medical institution for children care.

c. For a beneficiary who meets the medical assistance level of care requirements for services in a state mental health institute and who either resides in a state mental health institute or is eligible for services under a medical assistance home and community-based services waiver except that the beneficiary's income exceeds the allowable maximum, the applicable rate is the statewide average charge for state mental health institute care.

d. For a beneficiary who meets the medical assistance level of care requirements for services in a nursing facility and is receiving care or is receiving specialized care such as an adult receiving Alzheimer's care, a child receiving skilled nursing facility care, or an adult or child receiving skilled nursing facility care for neurological disorders, the applicable rate is the statewide average charge for nursing facility services for the services or specialized services provided.

94 Acts, ch 1120, §5

C95, §633.709

96 Acts, ch 1129, §113; 2004 Acts, ch 1086, §100; 2004 Acts, ch 1166, §2; 2005 Acts, ch 38, §53

CS2005, §633C.3

2007 Acts, ch 136, §1; 2012 Acts, ch 1019, §140; 2014 Acts, ch 1084, §1 – 3

Referred to in §249A.3, 633C.1, 633C.4, 633C.5

633C.4 Other powers of trustees.

1. Sections 633C.2 and 633C.3 shall not be construed to limit the authority of the trustees to invest, sell, or otherwise manage property held in trust.

2. The trustee of a medical assistance income trust or a medical assistance special needs trust is a fiduciary for purposes of chapter 633A and, in the exercise of the trustee's fiduciary duties, the state shall be considered a beneficiary of the trust. Regardless of the terms of the trust, the trustee shall not take any action that is not prudent in light of the state's interest in the trust. Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 633A to the contrary, the trustee of a medical assistance special needs trust shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the district court sitting in probate and shall submit an accounting of the disposition of the trust to the district court sitting in probate on an annual basis.

94 Acts, ch 1120, §6

C2005, §633.710

2005 Acts, ch 38, §53, 55

CS2005, §633C.4

2006 Acts, ch 1030, §78; 2015 Acts, ch 137, §120, 162, 163

633C.5 Cooperation.

1. The department shall cooperate with the trustee of a medical assistance special needs trust or a medical assistance income trust in determining the appropriate disposition of the trust under sections 633C.2 and 633C.3.

2. The trustee of a medical assistance special needs trust or medical assistance income trust shall cooperate with the department in supplying information regarding a trust established under this chapter.

94 Acts, ch 1120, §7

C2005, §633.711

[2005 Acts, ch 38, §52, 53, 55](#)
[CS2005, §633C.5](#)
[2023 Acts, ch 19, §1285](#)