

NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS OF COMMUNITY AGENCIES

MAAP SECTION .04 C. as amended December 7, 2006.

1. Appeals Procedures

Step a - Director of Audit

A Community Agency may appeal, in writing, the findings of an IPA audit or a Department examination within sixty (60) days after receiving the report from the Department. The appeal letter must identify the issues being appealed and include the specific supporting documentation. It must be addressed to the Director of the Office of Audit.

The Director or the Director's designee will initiate a review of the audit appeal and will, as needed, consult with program management responsible for the affected agreements, Agreement Administrators, and other applicable and appropriate staff. If, upon initial review, the Director, and any other parties involved, agree with the position of the Community Agency, the Director may proceed to issue a decision.

If the appeal is not resolved after the initial review, the Director or the Director's designee will convene an informal review meeting. The informal review meeting will involve the Office of Audit, the Community Agency, program management responsible for the affected agreements, Agreement Administrators, and other applicable and appropriate staff.

The Director or the Director's designee will issue a written decision on the appeal and the full basis of the decision to the Community Agency no later than sixty (60) days following the receipt of the appeal letter, unless both parties agree to a timed extension. The letter may be co-signed by other DHHS staff as applicable.

Step b - Office of Administrative Hearings

If the Community Agency wishes to proceed further in its appeal, it may appeal to the Office of Administrative Hearings within sixty (60) days of receiving the decision from the Director of the Office of Audit. The issue(s) on appeal will be limited to what was raised at the Step a appeal. The hearing will be a de novo Order of Reference appeal hearing. The Hearing Officer will issue a Recommended Decision with the Commissioner issuing a Final Decision.

Step c - Judicial appeal

The Commissioner's decision is the final Department appeals action. Any further appeal is to the Maine Superior Court pursuant to Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 80C and 5 M.R.S.A. §11001.