The Public Assistance to Adults (PAA) program was established in 1974 as a program to supplement Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. Individuals who received public assistance grants in December 1973 that exceeded benefits provided by the new SSI program received a supplement to increase their SSI to the level of their public assistance benefit. This part of the program is called Mandatory State Supplement. There are now fewer than ten Mandatory State Supplement customers.

Over the years, the program has evolved from an SSI supplement to a state-funded program designed to assist vulnerable adults who are pending placement or reside in specified protective living arrangements. These living arrangements are limited to three types of PAA facilities:

- CARE Homes provide an alternative to institutional care for disabled adults.
- DHMH Rehabilitative Residences are supervised apartments for disabled adults who have been discharged from State psychiatric hospitals.
- Assisted Living facilities care for aged or disabled individuals in a licensed protective environment.

A. Program requirements are basically the same as other Family Investment Administration (FIA) assistance programs. Applicants must meet technical and financial eligibility criteria. A technical factor for PAA eligibility that differs from other cash assistance programs is a verified need for a Protected Living Arrangement.

1. The PAA assistance unit is always one person and recipients are eligible for Medical Assistance.

2. Applicants must apply for SSI as a condition of eligibility.

B. While basic eligibility requirements are the same for the three types of living arrangement categories, there are significant differences among the subcategories. This PAA manual has been organized to facilitate access to information regarding each category.

1. Sections 200 through 800 are generic sections. Information in these sections applies to all three categories.

2. Section 900 has three subsections covering calculation of benefits for the three types of living arrangements, Assisted Living, CARE Homes (Project Home), and Rehabilitative Residences.