



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
55 FARMINGTON AVE • HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06105

February 12, 2021

To: Nursing Home and Rated Housing Administrators
From: Connecticut Department of Social Services
Re: Treatment of Economic Stimulus Payments

Dear Administrators,

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, signed into law on December 27, 2020, provides economic stimulus payments of up to \$600 per individual. The Department of Social Services (DSS) previously issued guidance on June 3, 2020, about the treatment of economic stimulus payments authorized under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act, which was signed into law on March 27, 2020. Many Americans, including many of our shared clients, received a one-time stimulus check of up to \$1,200 under the CARES Act. Recent news reports suggest that additional stimulus legislation containing economic stimulus payments may be forthcoming.

This guidance outlines how these stimulus payments will impact eligibility for various programs administered by DSS. This guidance updates and, in part, supersedes the guidance we issued on June 3, 2020 with respect to the CARES Act payments.

Medicaid (HUSKY A/C/D)

Many Medicaid beneficiaries who are living in residential care homes, rated housing and nursing homes have received the stimulus payments. Under federal law applicable to Medicaid, these stimulus payments are excluded as income and as a resource for 12 months from the date of receipt. Because the stimulus payments do not count as income, they also will not be included in the calculation of any applied income or patient-liability amount owed by the beneficiary.

As a reminder, the first stimulus payments were issued last year, generally in April of 2020. If funds received by a beneficiary as a stimulus payment are not spent on the one-year anniversary of their receipt, they will be counted as an asset for Medicaid beneficiaries. However, under continuing eligibility rules in effect during the federally declared public health emergency, a beneficiary who exceeds the Medicaid asset limit due to these funds may not be discontinued during the declared emergency, depending on the circumstances of his or her case.

State Supplement/SAGA (state funded programs)

The federal law that excludes these economic stimulus payments in Medicaid does not apply to state-funded programs such as the State Supplement program and the State-Administered General Assistance program (SAGA). In order to protect the eligibility of recipients of these state programs, Governor Lamont issued Executive Order 10 on February 4, 2021. Executive Order 10 amends

previous Executive Order 7CC to exclude these and any future stimulus payments from benefit eligibility calculations in state-funded programs. Under Executive Order 10, this exclusion applies for the duration, including any period of renewal, of the state public health and civil preparedness emergencies. Accordingly, the stimulus payments will be excluded as income if received during the declared emergencies and will not be included in the calculation of any applied income or patient liability owed by the beneficiary. Furthermore, the stimulus payments will not be counted as an asset during the declared emergencies.

Please note that earlier guidance issued by DSS in response to Executive Order 7CC indicated that the asset exclusion in state-funded programs applied for the duration of the declared emergencies *or for two months after the date of receipt, whichever is later*. The guidance issued today is based on the language in Executive Order 10 that amends Executive Order 7CC, and therefore supersedes the previous guidance.

Additionally, please also note that Executive Order 10 applies to any future stimulus payments made while the state public health and civil preparedness emergency is in effect. This guidance will presumptively apply to any additional stimulus payments, such as those that are currently being discussed by Congress and the Biden administration. We will advise you if there are any changes in this guidance, but at this time you should operate under the principle that all stimulus payments issued while the state public health and civil preparedness emergency is in effect will be treated as described herein.

Summary

In summary, economic stimulus payments are excluded:

- As income for State Supplement and SAGA beneficiaries as long as they are received during the declared state emergencies
- As an asset for State Supplement and SAGA beneficiaries for the duration of the declared state emergencies
- As income for Medicaid beneficiaries
- As an asset for 12 months from the date of receipt for Medicaid beneficiaries

Please direct any questions by email to DSS at EligPolicy.DSS@ct.gov.

Sincerely,

Peter Hadler

Director
Division of Program Oversight & Grant Administration
Connecticut Department of Social Services