

Newsletter #101 May 14, 2021

Licensed and Certified Facilities

Aloha,

CTA is distributing this information which is approved by the Office of Health Care Assurance. It is being distributed to all CCFFHs and CMAs.

Client stimulus money is considered personal allowance money and has no effect on their Medicaid or Social Security income. If the CCFFH is responsible for handling client's personal fund, all economic impact payments (EIPs), sometimes called stimulus money, must be accounted for in the client account record along with any receipts.

Any CCFFH that used any client's stimulus money or claimed a client as a dependent will be found to be in violation of the client's rights as well as federal IRS laws.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients who do not typically file a tax return should have received their third economic impact payment (EIP) automatically in April 2021. Those who receive their SSI benefits electronically by direct deposit or Direct Express Card should have received their EIP in the same way around April 7. Those who receive their monthly SSI benefits by check in the mail were mailed paper check EIPs beginning April 9.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) will **not count any of the EIPs as income for SSI recipients**, and the payments are **excluded** from resources **for 12 months after receipt**. Many SSI recipients received their first EIP (or stimulus check) under the CARES Act in May 2020. They are now approaching the end of the 12-month exclusion period for the first EIPs starting on June 1, 2021.

AFTER JUNE 1, 2021, any remaining CARES Act EIP funds they still have that puts them **over the \$2,000 resource limit (\$3,000 for an eligible couple) will be counted as a resource**, and **they will lose their eligibility for SSI for that month.**

SSI recipients and their payees must be sure they have spent down their CARES Act EIP funds BEFORE 12 months have passed since they received the payment.

Since EIP funds are **not the same as SSI benefits**, individuals **are not limited** in what they can spend these funds on and can spend it on whatever they wish, including on gifts and charitable contributions.

Please contact ConsultNCLER@ael.hhs.gov if you need technical assistance regarding suspension of SSA benefits.

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