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Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 8:53 AM

Subject: EIP/Stimulus Exemption Expiring 6/2021

To the residential financial benefits coordinators:

The initial \$1,200 CARES/Economic Income Payment (EIP) and the second \$600 EIP are excluded as resources for Medicaid and SSI for 12 months from receipt. Many exemption periods for the first \$1,200 payment will expire **June 2021**. If individuals exceed the \$2,000 SSI resource limit or the Medicaid resource limit of \$15,900, they may lose their benefits. Agencies are either responsible for or should be assisting individuals with staying below resource limits. The loss of SSI and of Medicaid will adversely affect an agency's ability to bill for rent and for services.

Please act quickly to spend the stimulus payments prior to the conclusion of the exemption period and loss of Medicaid and/or SSI.

These stimulus payments must be used for the benefit of the person. If teams are struggling to find ways to use for the person as required, please remember that these funds, like personal allowance, can be used:

- to reimburse family members, friends or advocates for items purchased for individuals; you will need a receipt for audits
- for companion tickets to events if the family or friend accompanies the individual
- for transportation expenses for friends and family to visit the individual, even while complying with social distancing
- to purchase a tablet or other device that enabled the person to keep in touch with friends or family who are unable to visit
- to purchase take-out or delivery food if it is the person's choice, not dietarily contraindicated, and they do not want the meal option provided by the residence
- to express themselves in clothing or accessories. This could also include masks, if the person prefers to not use the agency provided mask or to have additional masks, showing their personality and preferences like their favorite sports team, color, TV show or animal
- for tablets or other devices as well as subscriptions, streaming services and delivery charges for items like video games, beauty products, crafts or athletic wear
- to pre-pay for funeral arrangements

Other ideas and restrictions can be found in the OPWDD [Personal Allowance Manual](#). Please share this email with any other staff at your agency who may need the reminder.

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Financial Benefit Development Specialists for OPWDD

Division of Enterprise Solutions