

Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 Digital Converter Boxes***Rebates Under the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008***

The rebates received under the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 are **not** to be taken into account as income and are **not** to be taken into account as resources for the month of receipt and the following 2 months. This applies to eligibility determinations for any household member for Medical Assistance/Family Health Plus (FHP) or the Medicare Savings Program (MSP). In addition, a transfer of the rebate within a three-month period is **not** subject to a transfer penalty. Additionally, this refund is **not** taken into account for post eligibility determinations or in looking at transfers of assets.

Coupons for the Digital-to-Analog Conversion Boxes for Television

The coupons that a house can receive upon request for a digital converter box for their television are also **not** to be counted as income. Effective January 1, 2008, all U.S. households are eligible to request up to two coupons, worth \$40 each, to be used toward the purchase of up to two, digital-to-analog converter boxes. These coupons cannot be converted to cash; therefore they are **not** to be counted as income or resources for Medicaid eligibility.

Incarcerated Individuals and Medicaid

Among the proofs consumers may need to provide at application are documentation of income and resources. Since it may be difficult for **incarcerated individuals** to obtain this information and many have no income, as part of their discharge plan, they will now be **permitted to attest** to how they support themselves.

Elimination of the Resource Test for MSP Consumers

Effective April 1, 2008 there is **no longer a resource test** for any Medicare Savings Program (MSP) consumer. This applies to consumers at both application and renewal. Similar to QI-1 consumers, financial eligibility for a QMB or SLIMB is now to be based **only** on an applicant's income.

Note: Consumers applying for both Medicare Savings Program (MSP) and Medicaid can continue to attest to their resources. However, if seeking **home care or other waived services**, their resources must continue to be documented.

MAP form in Bulk Supplies

The number to order MAP forms in bulk supply has changed. The new number is **(212) 630-1588**.

NYC MEDICAID FACTS ALERT
*Medical Insurance and Community Services
Administration (MICSA)*

April and May 2008

Employer Purchased Family Health Plus (FHP)

Effective April 1, 2008, the Employer Purchased Family Health Plus (FHP) program was introduced in NYC. Also known as the "**Partnership for FHP**," the program results from new legislation that allows certain employers to purchase FHP insurance for their employees.

In its initial implementation, the program is only being offered through Union Local 1199 for their Homecare workers. All program applications are being handled by the Facilitated Enrollment Application Unit (FEAU).

Mail Renewal 30 Day Grace Period

All consumers, including Medicare Saving Program (MSP) clients, are given a grace period of up to **30 days**, after closing date, to submit renewals to reopen their case. To do so, a consumer may go to any Medicaid Assistance Program community office and submit their completed Renewal Notification form. In addition to the community Medicaid Offices, clients in the Disabled Aged and Blind (DAB) category, **may also** submit their renewal to **340-A West 34th Street, New York, NY 10001**, up to **30 days after** the closing date.

Healthfirst

In December 2007, we informed you that Healthfirst was no longer accepting new enrollments from consumers in New York City. Effective immediately, Healthfirst has **re-joined** the Medicaid program as both a health care service provider and as a Facilitated Enroller.

Consumer's Income

Client representatives, facilitated enrollers and community-based organizations assisting consumers are to be reminded that:

- When a consumer's income is **constant or salaried**, **one (1) pay stub within the past four (4) weeks** is acceptable as an overall representation of income;
- When a consumer is paid **bi-weekly**, **two (2) pay stubs** within the past **four (4) weeks** are acceptable as an overall representation of income;
- When a consumer's income **varies**, the wages for the **four (4) weeks** immediately preceding the application are **to be averaged**; **four (4) pay stubs should be submitted**.