

First Friday Forum 08.06.2021

Classic Medicaid Information

	Oldest Document	Total Cases
Classic Medicaid: Spend Down Program	7/30/21	85
Classic Medicaid: Daily Spenddown Emergent Cases	8/4/21	3
Classic Medicaid: Alien Emergency Medical Program	7/22/21	12

Community Services Office Lobbies are closed

- Until the fall, all services are available remotely online at Washington.Connection.org or at 877-501-2233.
- Telephonic signature for all applications and eligibility reviews
- No EBT cards issued at the local offices except for clients with general delivery (masks required)
- Drop boxes are still available.

P-EBT (Pandemic EBT)

- Summer Food Program School Aged Children July 14 – July 16
 - Students who received P-EBT as a child in school will receive a one-time, lump-sum Summer P-EBT benefit of \$375. Benefits will automatically go onto existing P-EBT cards in July 2021. This includes students who graduated in June 2021. Address changes must be reported to the school (not DSHS) by June 14.
- Children under 6 Retro period October 2020 – March 2021 – Planned for issuance beginning July 27
- Children under 6 April to March 2021 + Summer P-EBT – Planned for issuances in August
 - Children under age 6 who are part of a household active on Basic Food anytime in June, July or August 2021 will receive a one-time, lump-sum Summer P-EBT benefit of \$375. Benefits will automatically go onto existing PEBT cards in August 2021. P-EBT can be used at participating farmers markets.

Pandemic EBT Reminders

- DSHS cannot replace P-EBT cards.
- P-EBT questions: 833-518-0282
- Farmers Market Benefit!

Mid-Certification Review

- MCRs were suspended on April 23, 2020, due to the COVID-19 emergency.
- The current waiver for suspending MCRs expired June 30, 2021.

- MCR letters will also resume, starting on June 27, 2021 for assistance units with a July MCR due.
- Additionally, a Non-Receipt of Mid-Certification Review will be sent to clients on July 18, 2021 if they haven't completed their review timely.

Child Tax Credit Payments

- The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 includes a significant change to the Child Tax Credit that will begin issuing payments to families beginning July 15, 2021.
- Receiving these advanced payments of the Child Tax Credit is excluded as income for applicants and recipients of food and cash benefits and does not count as a resource.
- For Medicaid, this credit is excluded as income, and does not count as a resource for twelve months following the end of the month in which the COVID-19 public health emergency ends.

TANF re-engagement

- Mandatory participation in WorkFirst to start again in late September 2021
- Case managers will begin to reach out and re-establish contact with caseloads starting May 10.
- WorkFirst partner agencies have been notified.
- Letters will be sent out to clients.

Max Basic Food Benefit Allotments

- Approved for August 2021
- All Basic Food households except for those with a \$0 issuance
Temporary increase. Will end when Covid emergency ends.

New Telephonic ABD/HEN Intakes

- Applicants financial eligible for ABD/HEN can conduct their social service intake on the telephone.
- No in-person intakes currently
- Applicants can choose intake method.
 - Call-back
 - After financial interview

EBT Suspension for Justice-Involved Individuals

- Single adults incarcerated for longer than 30 days
- Clients can call to verify at the end of incarceration.
- Prevents usage of EBT benefits by others.
- Only applies to single adult households, not households with multiple recipients.

Cash Assistance Increased 15%

- TANF, SFA, RCA, PWA, CEAP, DCAP will increase 15% on July 1.
- Change letters will be sent mid-month.
- Clients will automatically receive the increase.

HH	Payment Standard
1	417
2	528
3	654
4	771
5	888
6	1009
7	1165
8*	1289
9	1416
10+	1539

NEW: Customer Connect

- New Interactive Voice Response System
- Front-end of the Call Center phone number
- Allows clients to choose self-service or assisted service
- Features:
 - Verify status, including benefit amounts, next benefit payment, benefit balances, and when their next review is due.

Questions?

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