

## First Friday Forum 03.05.2021

### Classic Medicaid Information

*as of March 4th, 2021	Oldest Document	Total Cases
Classic Medicaid: Spend Down Program	2/22/2021	195
Classic Medicaid: Daily Spenddown Emergent Cases	3/3/2021	2
Classic Medicaid: Alien Emergency Medical Program	2/19/2021	37

### Community Services Office Lobbies are closed

- All business conducted over the phone (877-501-2233)
- **Identicard service is back.**
- Telephonic signature for all applications and eligibility reviews
- No EBT cards issued at the local offices except for clients with general delivery
- Drop boxes are still available.

### Child-Support "Pass-Through" Payments

- Previously, DCS collect *all* child support on behalf of TANF recipients.
- Starting 2/1/2021, TANF recipients may begin to receive a portion of that collected child support.
- "Pass-Through" payments
- \$50 max for one child or \$100 max for more than 1 child
- Not counted against cash assistance but counted for food and medical

### P-EBT (Pandemic EBT)

- Begins mid-late March
- DSHS is not issuing benefits nor accepting applications.
- A 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor, Accenture, will work with OSPI to administer the program.
- Questions: 833-518-0282
- PEBT benefits will be issued on a separate card.

### Student Eligibility for Basic Food

- Expanded pool of eligible students
- Expected family contribution (EFC) = \$0
- Max pell grant
- Eligible for work study (even if not participating)

- Temporary rules

#### **Basic Food Allotments**

- All households will receive the maximum benefit amount for their household size.
- Since March 2020
- **Also, March 2021**

#### **Basic Food Benefit Increases**

- Due to the Consolidated Appropriations act passed by Congress, food benefits will *temporarily* increase by 15%.
- No effect on emergency allotments or P-EBT
- Clients will not receive a letter advising them about the increase in Food benefits.
- Food benefits will return to regular issuance amounts in July 2021.
- January's 15% increase was added to cards on 2/28.

#### **ORCA LIFT & Subsidized Annual Pass**



#### **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?**

Mario Paduano

[paduamj@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:paduamj@dshs.wa.gov), 425-412-2792 (office), 253-293-6726 (work mobile)

Andy Som

[soma@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:soma@dshs.wa.gov), 206-327-2948