

First Friday Forum 05.07.2021

Classic Medicaid Information

*as of March 4th, 2021	Oldest Document	Total Cases
Classic Medicaid: Spend Down Program	5/3/21	195
Classic Medicaid: Daily Spenddown Emergent Cases	-	0
Classic Medicaid: Alien Emergency Medical Program	4/27/21	31

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.

P-EBT (Pandemic EBT)

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

Change to Public Charge

- August 2019 rule expanding public charge has been rescinded.
- Department of Homeland Security has reverted to 1999 Public Charge rule.
- Food benefits are not included in public charge.

TANF reengagement

- 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.

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Disaster Cash Assistance Program (restarted)

- Applicants may be eligible every month.
- No SSN or citizenship requirement
- Households with or without children may be eligible.
- Not subject to public charge
- Max grant = TANF grant amount
 - **\$363 – household of one**
 - **\$459 – household of two**
 - **\$569 – household of three**
- A new application is required every month.
 - Must meet eligibility and “need criteria” every month.

Basic Food Allotments

- New changes:
 - Households are eligible for at least the maximum allotment for their household size.
 - If the difference between a household’s usual Basic Food allotment and their maximum allotment is less than \$95, the household will receive the difference.
 - All households will receive at least \$95 in additional food benefits.
 - Example: pre-COVID allotment (household of one) = \$210*
 - Maximum allotment (household of one) = \$234*
 - \$234-\$210 = \$24*
 - \$95-\$24 = \$71*
 - Total allotment = \$305 (\$234 + \$71)*
 - New guidance from Food and Nutrition Service
 - Households that usually receive a \$0 benefit allotment are no longer eligible for the maximum emergency issuance.
 - Federal rule change
- Maximum allotments are approved for May 2021.
- If EBT benefits received prior to May 7 of the month, extra benefits will appear on the morning of May 7.
- If EBT benefits received on May 7 or after, extra benefits will appear on the usual benefit issuance date.

ABAWD Navigator Program ends

- Effective of April 8, ABAWD Navigator Program ended.
- All SNAP clients are still eligible for BFET (Basic Food Employment and Training.)
- BFET provides education, employment and training services to those not on TANF.

- 40 CBOs, 9 Work Source offices, 3 tribal entities and all 34 Washington State community and technical colleges participate.

WorkFirst and Social Service Phone Queue pilot discontinued

- Questions about cases and case management will be answered via callback.
- For clients lacking reliable phone service, staff will attempt a direct transfer to a case manager.
- These phone queues are being repurposed to accept WorkFirst and ABD/HEN intakes (coming soon.)

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?

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