

First Friday Forum 09.03.2021

Classic Medicaid Information

	Oldest Document	Total Cases
Classic Medicaid: Spend Down Program	8/26/21	80
Classic Medicaid: Daily Spenddown Emergent Cases	9/1/21	1
Classic Medicaid: Alien Emergency Medical Program	8/5/21	28

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.
- 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.

Pandemic EBT Reminders

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

Special Immigrants from Afghanistan

- Washington state may receive 150 to 200 individuals and families.
- Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (ORIA) is working to determine eligibility for federal or state programs.
- Those parolees with SQ/SI status on their I-94s will be eligible for federal benefits (including medical) just as refugees.

- More info to come...

Afghan nationals and their families paroled as Special Immigrants under Sec. 602(B)(1) AIPA/Sec 1059(a) NDAA 2006 are eligible for federally funded benefits to the same extent as refugees.

We may also see Afghan nationals paroled into the U.S. as *Humanitarian Parolees*. A humanitarian parolee has a different immigration status than a Special Immigrant parolee under Sec. 602(B)(1) AIPA/Sec 1059(a) NDAA 2006. These individuals have different eligibility for benefits.

Please remember that per [WAC 388-424-0001 Definitions](#) (2) (f), individuals who are granted parole into the U.S. for a period of at least one year (or indefinitely), including "public interest" parolees, are qualified aliens. They have a five-year bar on federally funded benefits. However, during their first five years in the U.S., if they meet all other eligibility requirements, they could be eligible for:

- State-funded cash as stated in [WAC 388-424-0015 Immigrant eligibility restrictions for the state family assistance, ABD cash and PWA programs.](#)
- State-funded food per [WAC 388-424-0030 How does my alien status impact my eligibility for state-funded benefits under the food assistance program?](#)
- State-funded medical, if eligible for ABD/HEN as stated under [WAC 182-508-0005 Eligibility for Washington apple health medical care services eligibility and scope of coverage.](#) Afghani nationals may also be eligible for Alien Medical programs, Apple Health for kids and Apple Health for pregnant women.

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

Basic Food Benefits Increase in Oct.

- Average benefits will rise at least 25% from pre-pandemic levels.
- Change letters will be sent mid-month
- Clients will automatically receive the increase.

Household Size	Pre-Pandemic Maximum Allotment	NEW Maximum Allotment
1	\$204	\$250
2	\$374	\$459
3	\$535	\$658
4	\$680	\$835
5	\$807	\$992
6	\$969	\$1190
7	\$1071	\$1316
8	\$1224	\$1504
9	\$1377	\$1692
10	\$1530	\$1880
11+	+153	+188

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.

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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