

MSC E-VISORY

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State of New York Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
Diana Jones Ritter, Commissioner
Distributed by: Division of Policy and Enterprise Solutions
Gary Lind, Deputy Commissioner
Allen A. Schwartz, Deputy Director

The MSC E-Visory is an electronic advisory intended to provide timely information to Medicaid Service Coordination Supervisors and their staff.

Questions and comments should be directed to Carol Kriss, MSC Statewide Coordinator via e-mail: Carol.Kriss@omr.state.ny.us

Each E-Visory has pertinent information on programs and services available to individuals receiving Medicaid Service Coordination (MSC). Announcements about MSC training, conferences and meetings appear regularly in issues of the MSC E-Visory. Please forward this issue to all Medicaid Service Coordinators and MSC Supervisors.

In This Issue:

Economic Recovery Payment (ERP)

Recent legislation provides for a one-time economic recovery payment (ERP) of \$250 to certain individuals receiving Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Railroad Retirement, and Veterans benefits. According to the Social Security Administration, eligible individuals should receive the ERP no later than the first week of June 2009. Payments will be made in the same manner that recipients receive their monthly benefit payments (by check or direct deposit). The ERP will be sent separately from monthly benefit payments.

In order to receive the ERP, individuals must have been eligible for any of the Federal benefits listed above at any time between November 1, 2008 and January 31, 2009.

Payments to individuals in certified residential programs where the agency receives benefits on behalf of an individual must be treated as personal allowance funds.

Individuals receiving more than one type of Federal benefit are entitled to only one ERP. The Social Security Administration (SSA), Railroad Retirement Board (RRB), and Veterans Administration (VA) will determine who will be eligible under their respective programs. Individuals receiving a combination of Social Security benefits and Railroad Retirement/Veterans benefits will receive their ERP from SSA. Individuals receiving only Railroad Retirement or Veterans benefits will receive their payment from the RRB or VA, respectively. Married individuals who both receive benefits will both receive an ERP.

Not all recipients of the Federal benefits listed above will receive the ERP. The following individuals are **not eligible** to receive the ERP:

- Anyone living outside of the United States or its territories
- Individuals who no longer are lawfully present in the United States
- Individuals whose benefits have been suspended under the law for giving false or misleading statements
- Social Security beneficiaries under 18 (19 if still in high school) (SSI recipients under 18 **will** receive the ERP except as noted below)
- SSI beneficiaries who receive monthly benefits at a reduced rate of \$30 because they live in a medical treatment facility (such as an Intermediate Care Facility, nursing home or hospital) and Medicaid pays over 50% of the cost of their care
- Individuals only entitled to Medicare and not to Social Security, SSI, RRB, or VA benefits
- Prisoners, fugitive felons, and probation and parole violators

The benefit-paying agencies have the information they need to process payments for individuals entitled to the ERP. **Individuals do not need to do anything in order to receive the payment. SSA cautions that no information should be provided to anyone requesting information to process payments.**

Payments are expected to be issued at the end of May, 2009. While every situation is different and entitlement for the ERP will vary, **in no case will an individual be entitled to more than one ERP.**

For State-operated programs, DDSOs have been instructed to contact their Revenue Support Field Office (RSFO) should individuals receive more than one payment or if an individual who appears eligible does not receive any payment by June 10, 2009. The list of RSFOs is on OMRDD's website (www.omr.state.ny.us).

Voluntary agencies have been instructed to contact the benefit-paying agency should any individuals for whom their agency serves as representative payee receive more than one payment or if an individual who appears eligible does not receive any payment by June 10, 2009. The following is the contact information that has been provided for use in reporting these issues:

Railroad Retirement Board

1-877-772-5772

Social Security Administration

1-877-772-1213

TTY 1-800-325-0778

(You may also contact your local Social Security office for assistance.)

Veterans Administration

1-800-827-1000

(VA has not published information about reporting missing or duplicate payments. This is the toll-free number listed on their website for VA benefits.)

The ERP will not count as income for Federal tax purposes and will have no effect on any Federal or Federally-funded benefit programs, including Social Security, SSI, Medicaid, Food Stamps, Housing Assistance, etc. The ERP:

- **Does not** count as income/earnings for any Federal or Federally-funded benefit program, including Social Security, SSI, Medicaid, Food Stamps, Housing Assistance, etc.
- **Does not** count as a resource for Federal or Federally-funded benefit program, including Social Security, SSI, Medicaid, Food Stamps, Housing Assistance, etc. in the month it is received and for nine months following the month of receipt
- **Does not** count as a resource in determining eligibility for Extra Help for Medicare Part D in the month it is received and for nine months following the month of receipt
- **Will** be offset by delinquent child support and debts owed to State/Federal agencies
- **Will not** be used to collect SSA or SSI overpayments

Additional information about the ERP for Social Security or SSI beneficiaries can be found at www.socialsecurity.gov. Information about ERP for individuals receiving only Railroad Retirement or Veterans benefits can be found at www.rrb.gov, www.va.gov, respectively.