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To: OMH Licensed, Operated, and Funded Housing Providers
From: OMH Bureau of Housing and Development
Subject: COVID-19 Economic Impact Payment
Date: April 30, 2020

The purpose of this memo is to provide information regarding the COVID-19 Economic Impact Payment for the purpose of informing housing providers of their role in assisting clients with receiving and managing the payment.

On March 27, 2020, Congress passed the CARES act to help individuals that are negatively impacted by the coronavirus epidemic. To help provide individual relief, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will distribute Economic Impact Payments (EIP) to those who are eligible.

United States (US) citizens and resident aliens who meet the following criteria are eligible to receive the COVID-19 economic impact payment:

- have a valid Social Security number (SSN);
- could not be claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer and;
- have adjusted gross income under certain limits.

For more information on eligibility and income limits, please read [EIP Eligibility and General Information](#).

Most eligible individuals will not need to take any action in order to receive the economic impact payment. Eligible US taxpayers will automatically receive the COVID-19 impact payment through direct deposit into the same bank account reflected on their filed tax return. Social Security retirement and disability beneficiaries (SSDI), Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients, and Railroad Retirement beneficiaries will also automatically receive economic impact payments, either by direct deposit, Direct Express debit card or paper check, depending upon how they would normally receive their monthly benefit amount. The US Treasury expects automatic payments for Social Security beneficiaries and SSI recipients to be received no later than early May.

Individuals who neither received the above listed benefits, nor filed taxes in 2018 or 2019, either because their gross yearly income did not exceed \$12,200, or they were not otherwise required to file federal income tax will need to submit information to the IRS via the Non-Filers Application to receive their economic impact payment.

Note: New SSD/SSI/RR beneficiaries since January 1, 2020, who did not file a tax return for 2018 or 2019 should also submit their information on Non-Filers Application to ensure payment.

The following information will be needed to complete the Non-Filers Application:

- Full name, mailing address and email address
- Date of Birth and a valid Social Security number
- Bank account and routing number
- Driver's license (if available)
- For each qualifying child: name, social security number and their relationship to the applicant

Upon completion of the Non-Filers Application, the applicant will receive an email acknowledging submission of the information.

Additional information will be forthcoming regarding the implications of the economic impact payments for SSI recipients. The Social Security Administration has stated that the payment will not count as income, nor will it count as an asset for one year after the date of receipt.

What this means for OMH licensed, operated, or funded providers

Housing providers are expected to ensure individuals receive their EIP and to provide support with appropriately budgeting, especially when working with individuals whose goals involve money management. In circumstances where the provider is designated as the rep payee, it should be ensured the money is transferred to Personal Needs Accounts.

It is important to note that, because this EIP is not considered income, it should not be factored into the 30% of income contributed towards rent for individuals in supportive housing. The EIP is intended for the recipient only and in no way should be considered a resource for housing providers.

Housing providers can assist individuals with checking on the status of their economic impact payment by visiting <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>.