



State of New Jersey
Department of Human Services
Division of Medical Assistance & Health Services

NEWSLETTER

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TO: All Long-Term Care Providers – **For Action**
Managed Care Organizations – **For Information Only**

SUBJECT: Long-term Care (LTC) Facilities and COVID-19 Stimulus Payments

EFFECTIVE: March 2020

The CARES Act provides for Economic Impact Payments of up to \$1,200 per adult. Medicaid recipients residing in long-term care facilities are entitled to receive and spend these stimulus payments.

Medicaid Eligibility and Stimulus Payments:

The stimulus payments are excluded as countable income and countable resources for Medicaid eligibility for up to 12 months. Unlike other excluded income, the stimulus payments will not be added to the individual's monthly cost share. Stimulus funds remaining after 12 months will become a countable resource. County Boards of Social Services will ensure that these funds are handled properly when eligibility is renewed.

How Stimulus payments should be handled by LTC facilities:

Facilities that act as the representative payee for their residents cannot retain these funds for any reason. As always, Medicaid payments to facilities are considered payment in full.

- Facility must notify the resident/authorized representative/power of attorney (POA) that the stimulus payment has been received.
 - The facility shall discuss possible methods of disbursement directly with resident/representative, and promptly make residents' stimulus payments available to access and spend.
 - If the resident chooses to deposit the funds into their personal needs account, they must be given the access to these funds to spend it as they choose for their sole benefit.
- If the resident does not have an authorized representative/POA and lacks capacity to manage their funds, the funds must be deposited into the resident's personal needs account at the facility, to be spent over the next 12 months.
 - The facility shall assist the resident in utilizing the funds for the resident's personal needs.

If you or your family reside in a nursing home and suspect that the nursing home is withholding your COVID-19 stimulus payment, please contact the NJ Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman at 1-877-582-6995.

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