



Corporate Office:
8 Southwoods Blvd, Suite 110
Albany, NY 12211
(518) 235-1888
www.caredesignny.org

Information for Individuals & Families

Updated: June 2, 2020

In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, Care Design NY has developed an information resource to assist impacted individuals, families and providers. Below are a list of questions and answers to better explain Benefits and Entitlements.

Q- If a Member was employed and they are furloughed or laid off due to COVID-19 can they apply for Unemployment Benefits?

A. Yes.

Q- How does a Member apply for Unemployment Benefits?

A. Filing can be done online (recommended) or by phone (not recommended due to the call volume). Please [click here](#) to visit the Department of Labor website for instructions and to file a claim.

Q- Does Unemployment have a Liaison designated to work with the IDD Members?

A. No, however the Department of Labor does allow someone else to assist the person in filing.



Corporate Office:
8 Southwoods Blvd, Suite 110
Albany, NY 12211
(518) 235-1888
www.caredesignny.org

Q- Will all Members be receiving the Stimulus Check?

- A. Individuals will be eligible to receive the payment if their income is under the threshold and they are not claimed as a dependent on someone else's taxes. Payments will be made automatically to SSI and SSDI recipients. Check the IRS website for the latest information about these payments: [click here](#) .

The Social Security website has information about representative payees and Economic Impact Payments: [click here](#).

Q- How will Members receive the Stimulus Check and when should the Members expect to receive the check?

- A. Individuals will receive this payment by direct deposit if their banking information is on file with the IRS (from prior tax returns) or if they already get direct deposit of their SSI/SSDI benefit. Individuals who receive their payments via paper checks or a Direct Express card will receive their payments the same way. Some individuals will receive prepaid debit cards, but it is not clear who will receive those. After a slow start and many changes, SSA began issuing these payments for SSI/SSDI recipients in May and this will continue until all payments are made.

Q- How will receiving the Stimulus Check effect your SSI/ SSD Benefits?

- A. It will not affect either of these benefits. The Economic Impact Payment is not considered income and therefore is exempt as a resource (not counted) for SSI for 12 months after the month it is received. This allows the person the full use of the money without jeopardizing benefits.

SSDI has no resource limit, so there is no impact on this benefit either.



Q- Will the Member continue to receive their monthly Personal Allowance if they go home with a Family Member or loved one during this crisis period?

- A. YES! If the provider is receiving the person's benefits on their behalf (rep payee) or the person otherwise turns over money to the residential provider to be managed, the residential provider is required to follow OPWDD personal allowance regulations.

The person/family should work with the provider (your Care Manager can assist if needed) to arrange for how that money will be provided to the person while they are at home during this time. Additionally, please remember that Personal Allowance ALWAYS gets paid to the person first, before any provider payments for rent are calculated.

Q- Are SNAP Benefits effected by COVID-19?

- A. SNAP has extended recertifications due in March, April, May, and June for 6 months. Recertifications due in March will now be due in September, April will be due in October, May will be due in November, and June will be due in December. The requirement to recertify is not changing – they are just allowing additional time to do so. Another waiver has been requested for cases expiring in July, but this has not yet been granted, so July recerts should be completed and submitted timely unless we hear otherwise.

SNAP benefits can be used for online grocery shopping at many online retailers, including Amazon, Shop Rite, many Walmart stores, and others (check the store's website for more information and to confirm that they accept EBT).

New York State has added supplemental funding for the months of March-May. For these months, individuals who do not usually receive the maximum benefit amount for their household size will receive additional SNAP benefits on their EBT cards to bring them to the maximum benefit amount for their household size.



Corporate Office:
8 Southwoods Blvd, Suite 110
Albany, NY 12211
(518) 235-1888
www.caredesignny.org

Q- If the Member's Medicaid Renewal is due in the months of March, April and May, do Members need to complete the renewal?

- A. For renewals due in March, April, May and June, the renewals are not due until 2021, regardless of any renewal notices or packets received.

If anyone gets a notice that coverage is ending or that another negative action is being taken on their Medicaid case, they should contact their Care Manager right away – the Care Manager will work with the Benefits & Entitlements team to help resolve the issue. Please be sure to keep any notices received and to provide a copy (could be a photo of the notice) to the Care Manager if possible. If not possible, please be sure to provide the Care Manager with the action and reasons stated on the notice so we can provide the best assistance.

If a Medicaid case closed, that should not have, Medicaid offices and the Department of Health are correcting them manually – reach out to your Care Manager for help if this happens.

Q- Is there a limit on how the Member can spend the Stimulus Check?

- A. There are no limits on how the person can spend their payment – however, please note that residential agencies are not to bill this money for the provider payment (rent). The money is not considered income and rent calculations are based on income. The money is for the use of the individual in whatever way they see fit. See the SSA website for information on representative payees and Economic Impact Payments: [click here](#).

Q- Can you describe what an ABLE Account is?

- A. ABLE stands for Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE). It is a type of savings account that is exempt for SSI and Medicaid. ABLE accounts allow people to save money without jeopardizing their SSI or Medicaid benefits. Funds in ABLE accounts are readily accessible for many different things. It is a great way of helping people deal with the very low asset limit for SSI. [Click here](#) for more information and/or instructions on how to establish an ABLE account.



Corporate Office:
8 Southwoods Blvd, Suite 110
Albany, NY 12211
(518) 235-1888
www.caredesignny.org

Questions? Please contact:

Kristina Cunningham

Director of Benefits and Entitlements



Office: 518-235-1888 x7073 | Mobile: 518-448-9636

Email: KCunningham@caredesignny.org

Website: www.caredesignny.org

8 Southwoods Blvd, Suite 110

Albany, NY 12211

Fax Number: 518-261-1621

Emergency After-Hours 1-877-855-3673

Follow Us:



Disclaimer: This summary presented by Care Design NY Benefits & Entitlement is intended for general informational purposes only and represents the most up-to-date information we had at the time of publishing. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information and resources provided at the time of this communication. As this content is subject to change in a rapidly changing environment, we encourage you to substantiate the information for your organization's use.