



# The Check-In

BFC'S REP PAYEE- CASE MANAGER  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021



## SPRING 2021

Please remind consumers that in person services (check pick-up) is still **only available on Mondays and Fridays from 8:30 am to 12 noon in our NW Center vestibule.**

### RPP MAIN # (202) 386-7016

DC residents in need of **Groceries** can sign up to get a bag of groceries delivered at [Bread's website](#) or by calling (202) 265-2400.



Clients can also sign up to visit [Bread's Clothing Room](#) at our new SE Center by appointment.

## Retroactive OSP Increase 2020

Recently Social Security and DC Health Care Finance released an additional payment that retroactively increased the 2020 Optional State Payment (OSP) to \$710.70 month. This \$70.70 per month back payment (up to \$848.40 total) was paid out to most consumers who lived in a CRF in 2020 in early March.

As in past years DBH and DCHF have clarified that this back payment is payable to CRF operators because the DC regulations have maintained the personal needs allowance at \$100 per month. CRF operators were asked to share an official memo on the increase with consumers and to submit invoices to Bread for the City if they wish to collect the back payment. Invoices should be submitted by May 1st and we are expecting to make these payments to CRFs between now and the end of May.

We ask that CSWs help their consumers understand this complicated situation and that you take care to not make Additional Requests from consumer accounts that would spend this money before we have a chance to fulfill the CRF invoices.

**This does not change the CRF rate for 2021, which is still \$1334 Rent + \$100 PNA.**

## \$1400 Stimulus Received

As of 4/7/2021 we have received the new **\$1400 Economic Impact Payment** for many of our consumers. As with the previous EIPs, we are asking CSWs to assist their consumers in accessing the funds by submitting an [Additional Disbursement Request Form](#) to try to ensure that consumers receive their funds in a manner that is safe.

There is no requirement to collect receipts for the EIP funds, so it is ok to request amounts over \$250. However, please help to document this by writing Economic Impact Payment or Stimulus as part of the description on the Additional Request Form. Receipts are still required for non-stimulus Additional Requests of \$250 or more.

While the EIP is again excluded from the SSI resource limit for 12 months, it is important to think about how consumers will spend down. Please see additional information about **Spend Down Plans** on page 2.

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## Spend Down Plans

It is important to monitor your consumer's balance so that he/she does not accumulate resources over the \$2000 asset limit if he/she receives SSI benefits. This has become even more complicated this year with the addition of stimulus money. Each EIP is excluded from the asset limit for one full year, but for the first \$1200 payment received May 2020 that exclusion is about to end. **Now** is the time to start thinking about how to help consumers struggling to spend down.

Here are some ways to consider:

- Temporary increase to weekly or monthly personal expenses by changing the budget
- Shopping—BFC can assist with online orders for furniture or other large purchases
- Pre-Paid Burial
- Gifts to family—while SSI recipients are sometimes discouraged from giving away money, it is ok to gift the Stimulus money
- [Shared Horizons Special Needs Trust](#) account

Please reach out to your RPP Coordinator for further details or assistance to make a spend down plan for your consumer.

This table shows how the exclusion of the stimulus payments affects how much consumers can have saved and still be eligible for SSI. Note that these numbers apply ONLY if the three different stimulus payments were deposited into the RPP account at Bread for the City. If you have questions about your individual consumer(s) please follow-up with the RPP Coordinator.

Effective Resource Limit	If the consumer received all three EIP payments in May, January, and April.
\$2,000.00	SSI Resource Limit
\$3,200.00	\$1200 Stimulus Received May 2020 - excluded through May 2021
\$3,800.00	\$600 Stimulus Received January 2021 - excluded through January 2022
\$5,200.00	\$1400 Stimulus Received April 2021 - excluded through April 2022
\$4,000.00	As of 6/1/2021
\$3,400.00	As of 2/1/2022
\$2,000.00	As of 5/1/2022

## Direct Deposit Time Change

NACHA, the national network that determines the way that banks process Direct Deposit payments has recently made changes that have affected the RPP payment schedule. Payments issued by the RPP are now crediting same-day just before 5:00 pm EST. This means that consumers will be receiving Direct Deposit Additional Requests faster.

Unfortunately, this change has impacted our weekly payment schedule and means that weekly deposits are now being received on Mondays just before 5 pm instead of Monday mornings.

We know that this adjustment is difficult for some consumers, but we believe it is important to maintain the weekly payment day on Mondays. Before we became aware of this change, during the week of March 26th consumers receive their funds early on Friday afternoon and we found that consumers spent their money over the weekend without realizing it. On Monday morning many consumers were calling asking for their regular weekly money and then had no funds available for the entire period until the following weekly deposit. For this reason we have taken steps to keep payments on Mondays, but this requires the change to afternoons.

## Is your client due to recertify for SNAP and/or TANF?

Recertification resumed last month. There are 3 ways to recertify for benefits:

1. DC Benefits Portal (<https://dcbenefits.dhs.dc.gov/>)
2. District First Mobile App (available in the Google Play and Apple app stores)
3. Drop off recertification documents at one of the operating DHS service centers (H Street, Congress Heights, or Taylor Street)

In order to receive proper notice via mail or robocall, it is imperative that DHS has an up-to-date mailing address and phone number for your client. To update this information, please contact the **DHS Call Center at (202) 727-5355.**

If your client has issues recertifying or any other public benefits issues, please call Bread for the City's Legal Clinic at (202) 386-7616 for assistance.

## REMINDER:

Please report all **hospitalizations** lasting more than a few days.

Timely reporting of hospitalizations is important in order to avoid SSI overpayments and to preserve the consumer's ability to return to their permanent home. The sooner a hospitalization is reported the more we can help to ensure that these transitions go smoothly!

