



Date: April 3, 2009  
To: Local LTC Ombudsman staff  
From: Sarah Slocum, State LTC Ombudsman  
Re: Individual Stimulus Payments

This notice is to inform you of the Economic Stimulus Single Payment that eligible beneficiaries will soon receive. Please share this information with consumers, their family members and guardians, and facility staff.

#### **Background**

An Economic Stimulus Single Payment provision is included in The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, signed by President Obama on February 19, 2009. This legislation provides for a one-time payment of \$250 to people who receive one or more of the following (as of March 26, 2009, the Internal Revenue Service has revised the *source of the payment* for each beneficiary type; see attached flyer):

**Social Security beneficiaries and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries will receive an Economic Recovery Payment directly from the Social Security Administration.**

**Disabled Veterans beneficiaries will receive an Economic Recovery Payment from the Department of Veterans Affairs.**

**Railroad Retirement benefits beneficiaries will receive an Economic Recovery Payment from the Railroad Retirement Board.**

***Please contact the agency that pays your benefit if you need more information.***

People who receive more than one of these benefits will receive only one payment of \$250. Each beneficiary or the payee is expected to receive this one time payment by late May 2009. The payment will be received in the same way the current benefit is received (check, monthly direct deposit or Direct Express® debit card payment)

**No action is required on the part of people who are eligible to receive the above benefits to get their \$250 payment.**

Each beneficiary has the right to determine how his or her economic stimulus payment is spent.

#### **Medicaid Eligibility**

The one-time payment is not counted as income in the month the payment is received and is not counted as a resource for the following nine months of the month received. For this time period, the payment does not affect the beneficiary's:

*State Long Term Care Ombudsman, Sarah Slocum, 7109 W. Saginaw, P.O. Box 30676, Lansing, MI 48909. Telephone 517/335-1560, Fax 517/373-4092*

- Medicaid eligibility,
- applied income or co-pay,
- spousal allowances or Spousal Protected Resource Amounts, or
- transfer penalty if the payment is transferred or given away.

The funds become a countable resource effective the tenth month following the month received.

Example: The Economic Stimulus Single Payment of \$250 is received on May 15, 2009.

- The \$250 payment is not counted as income for May 2009.
- The \$250 payment is not counted as a resource through the following nine months (the end of February 2010) for financial eligibility determination.
- Funds remaining from the \$250 payment are countable as a resource as of 12:01 a.m. on March 1, 2010.

#### **Overview and Additional Sources of Information**

**This program is administered by the federal government through the Social Security Administration (SSA).**

The Social Security Administration has provided information for beneficiaries and the public through their web site; the most current information is at:

<http://www.ssa.gov/payment/> and <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/payment/>.

#### **Please Note:**

The SSA requests that beneficiaries and payees not contact SSA, the **Department of Veterans Affairs** or **Railroad Retirement Board**, unless their payment is not received by June 4, 2009.

If you have questions regarding the information in this letter please visit the SSA website listed above.

Sincerely,

Sarah Slocum,