



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

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Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor—Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor—John M. Colmers, Secretary

Developmental Disabilities Administration

Michael S. Chapman, Director

**TO:** Community Residential Services Providers  
Community Supported Living Arrangement Providers  
Resource Coordination Agencies  
Support Brokers

**FROM:** Audrey S. Waters  
Acting Deputy Director

**DATE:** March 21, 2008

**RE:** Economic Stimulus Payments

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As you know, President Bush signed the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 to boost the economy by distributing payments to over 130 million American households. To qualify for this payment, individuals must file a 2007 Income Tax Return. I am encouraging providers, resource coordinators and support brokers to assist individuals with developmental disabilities, served by you or your agency, to file their tax returns. Taxes should be sent by April 15, 2008, if individuals' returns have not been filed.

This will not affect individuals' eligibility for Medicaid or other need-based benefit programs. However if the individual receives Medicaid the funds must be spent within the next two months following receipt of the payment. Attached is more information about the Economic Stimulus Payment.

The DDA considers the stimulus payment as the individuals' personal use funds and therefore not used as contribution to care. As a reminder, personal use funds are used for purchases that benefit the individual exclusively based on the individuals' preferences and desires. Examples of personal use funds are, but are not limited to clothing, personal items, personal recreation and medical costs not covered by Medicaid or other insurances. Agencies should assist individuals in spending the stimulus payment as personal use funds and assist individuals to spending this timely so that they are not ineligible for Medicaid.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (410)767-5600.

cc: Michael S. Chapman                      Laura Howell, MACS  
DDA Assistant Directors                  Cristy Marchand, Arc of Maryland  
DDA Regional Directors  
DDA Regional Fiscal Officers

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*Web Site:* [www.dhmh.state.md.us](http://www.dhmh.state.md.us)