



Moving On Up With MEPD

May 2009

WELCOME TO “Moving on Up with MEPD”

MEPD (Medicaid for Employed People with Disabilities) allows you to earn money for work and maintain your savings in the bank, which would normally put you over the limit to receive Medicaid. This newsletter is sent to all MEPD Medicaid members.

You get **Medicaid for Employed People with Disabilities (MEPD)** because you:

- Have a disability
- Are earning money from work
- Are under 65 years old

Remember, these things you need to tell your county worker:

- When you stop working.
- When you earn more money.
- When you earn less money.
- When you move to a new address.

Iowa Youth Leadership Forum Celebrates!

The Iowa Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) will be celebrating 10 years of promoting transition through self-advocacy, self-reliance, personal leadership and a whole lot of fun. The Iowa Division of Persons with Disabilities in partnership with the Department for the Blind and the Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services sponsor this school to work leadership-training program for students with disabilities known as the Iowa Youth Leadership Forum (YLF).

Approximately 30 high school students with disabilities are selected each year to attend this weeklong event. Students work on their life skills towards employment. The selection process is based upon academics, volunteerism, and the leadership qualities of the students. More importantly, the selection is based on the desire of students to move forward with their lives as they transition from school to work or on to college. Much of the success of this decade long opportunity for growth and accomplishment comes from the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors themselves. Partnering with Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation and the Iowa Department for the Blind has been a unique opportunity to get these creative transition services into the hands of clients at this critical time in their lives. Both the Supervisors and Counselors have been wonderful and diligent ambassadors of this one of a kind program providing services to youth at one of the most impressionable and crucial points of their lives.

The forum will take place from July 12th to July 17th and will be held at Iowa State University. The main intention of the forum is to encourage diversity, individual independence, and to assist young adults in preparing for college and future successes in Employment. In addition, students develop a personal leadership plan for them to follow, all in an accessible and inclusive environment.

- While the high school students selected from throughout the state have a variety of disabilities, nothing in life has diminished their commitment to prepare themselves for leadership.
- The students will participate in a variety of programs that will empower them to reach their education, employment and leadership goals.
- They will meet with elected officials who will speak to them about the future of their leadership in Iowa.
- They will enjoy a VIP tour of the State Capitol, meet and talk with state policy leaders, meet successful professionals with disabilities and attend a formal luncheon in their honor.

“I cannot think of any real opportunity over the past couple of years that has been more beneficial to me both as a student and as a leader”.

Tom Dirth
Senior at Wartburg
College, YLF alumni, YLF staff

The forum is presented at no cost to the participants through funds contributed by the Iowa Division of Persons with Disabilities, the Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services, and the Iowa Department for the Blind. For more information contact Iowa Division of Persons with Disabilities at 888-219-0471 or through the website at www.state.ia.us/dhr/pd.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Work Incentive Seminar Events (WISE)

For People with Disabilities Who Want to Become Employed

Each month Iowa's Medicaid Infrastructure Grant, with assistance from the Social Security Administration, Iowa's Work Incentive Planning & Assistance project, and Iowa's Disability Program Navigators sponsors workshops related to work and community living options for people with disabilities at different locations throughout the state.

Work Incentive Planning & Assistance staff present information about Social Security Work Incentives and other community supports available to working Iowans with disabilities. Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) staff discuss how Iowa's HCBS Waivers can assist people with disabilities both with work and community living.

Information is also offered about Iowa's newest program -- Community Choices Options, which allows people with disabilities to self-direct their own services.

Participation is free and voluntary and people are encouraged to attend all or part of the workshop. Mileage and personal assistance services can be reimbursed.

The following **Work Incentive Seminar Events** are scheduled for 2009:

June 11	Decorah Decorah City Council Chambers
July 9	Clinton
August 13	Sheldon NW Iowa Community College
September 10	Ames Gateway Hotel & Conf. Center
October 8	Cedar Rapids Iowa Workforce Development
November 12	Harlan Therkildsen Activity Center
December 10	Mason City NIACC Muse-Norris Building

For more information go to <http://www.ime.state.ia.us/HCBS/MemberEvents.html> or call 1-888-409-0283.

Self Employment: People Who Own Themselves

(Workshop registration is limited to the first 25 people)

This popular two-day workshop combines the principles of business ownership with information about how income generated from self-employment can impact Social Security and other public assistance benefits.

Molly Sullivan, an Associate with Griffin-Hammis Associates, conducts Iowa's Self-Employment workshops. Griffin-Hammis are national experts on self-employment for people with disabilities.

Self Employment workshop participants are invited to sign up for individual brainstorming sessions with Molly Sullivan and staff from Iowa's Work Incentives Planning and Assistance program. Participants receive feedback about their business start-up idea, information about the potential impact that earned income may have on their benefits, and suggestions about helpful resources.

Registration is free, although space is limited to the first 25 people who register -- so register early. Lunch is provided; mileage and personal assistance services can be reimbursed. To register, call toll-free **888-409-0283**.

The following **Self Employment** workshops are scheduled for 2009:

June 8 & 9	Oelwein/Northeast Iowa Community College
June 11 & 12	Mount Pleasant
August 3 & 4	Ottumwa/Hotel Ottumwa
August 6 & 7	Marshalltown Iowa Workforce Center
September 21 & 22	Spencer
September 24 & 25	Council Bluffs/MICAH House

For more information go to <http://www.ime.state.ia.us/HCBS/MemberEvents.html> or call 1-888-409-0283.

Here is what two participants of the April 23 Self Employment Workshop had to say...

"A great deal of info...illuminating."

"Found out a great deal of information that I didn't know that could definitely be useful to me."

Social Security's Economic Stimulus One-Time Payments Information Page

President Obama recently signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This act provides for the one-time payment of \$250 to individuals who get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security benefits.

Hopefully, everyone who is entitled to a payment will receive it by late May 2009.

No action is required on your part.

Details are currently being finalized regarding how the Social Security Administration will issue nearly 55 million one-time payments to beneficiaries.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTION: Who will receive a one-time economic stimulus payment from Social Security?

ANSWER: Nearly 55 million Social Security and SSI beneficiaries will receive one-time payments of \$250 each.

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**QUESTION:** When can I expect to receive my payment?

**ANSWER:** Plans are to pay all eligible Social Security and SSI beneficiaries by late May 2009, so you should expect to receive your payment by no later than the first week of June 2009. The one-time payment will be a separate payment, which will not be included in your regular monthly benefit payment.

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QUESTION: How will I receive my one-time payment?

ANSWER: Your payment will be delivered in the same way you currently receive your Social Security or SSI benefit. If your monthly benefit is delivered by check, you will receive your one-time payment by check. If you receive a monthly direct deposit or Direct Express debit card payment, that is how you will receive your one-time payment.

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**QUESTION:** Can an individual receive more than one payment?

**ANSWER:** No, individuals may receive only one \$250 one-time payment regardless of how many types of benefits they receive. An individual receiving Social Security and SSI or an individual receiving Social Security and VA or Railroad Retirement benefits, will be entitled to only one payment.

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QUESTION: Are beneficiaries from other federal programs eligible for this one-time payment?

ANSWER: Yes, individuals receiving benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or Railroad Retirement Board may be eligible for these one-time payments.

***A one-time Economic
Recovery Payment of***

\$250

**YOU DO NOT HAVE TO FILE A TAX RETURN TO
GET YOUR ECONOMIC RECOVERY PAYMENT**

If you are a retiree, disabled individual or a Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipient, you will receive your Economic recovery Payment directly from the Social Security Administration.

If you receive disabled veterans benefits, you will receive your Economic Recovery Payment from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

If you receive Railroad Retirement Benefits, you will receive your Economic Recovery Payment from the Railroad Retirement Board.

***Contact the agency that pays
your benefit for more information.***



Make a difference in your community!

AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT MICROBOARDS & AN INVITATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO FORMING A MICROBOARD ASSOCIATION IN IOWA

Microboard is a small group of committed family, friends, and other community members who join together with a person with a disability to create a non-profit corporation. The microboard manages support services. A microboard can also choose to be a service provider and would receive "agency-level" funding once they are approved.

Microboard * Basics: for Individuals who have not heard about Microboards

Wednesday, June 17th, 2009

Session 1 – 10:00 am to 11:30am

The Botanical Center
909 Robert D Ray Drive
Des Moines, Iowa 50316

Lunch will be provided between 11:30 – 1:00 p.m.

Developing a PATH** Strategic Plan for the Iowa Microboard Association:

For Everyone Interested in Being a Part of an Iowa Microboard Association

Wednesday, June 17th, 2009

Session 2 – 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

The Botanical Center
909 Robert D Ray Drive
Des Moines, Iowa 50316

**PATH stands for Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope. During the process either the focus person or an organization identifies hopes, dreams and goals for the future.

Who Should Attend?

Individuals with disabilities, seniors, parents, family, or friends considering ways to improve the self-determination, independence, or quality of life for someone we care about. You can attend one or both sessions. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME !!**

These sessions are free to participants. However, you must register by e-mailing or calling Brandee Toland at: 319-353-8869 or brandee-toland@uiowa.edu. Tell us if you are attending session 1, 2 or both and if you will be having lunch. Please let Brandee know of any accommodations such as large print, sign language, or similar needs. Mileage reimbursement is available for those who need it. Allow 30 days for the reimbursement. Due to the full agenda we are asking participants to do everything they can to be on time.

Sponsored by the University of Iowa Center for Disabilities and Development in collaboration with the Iowa Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (CMS grant#1QACMS030223).

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People with disabilities, advocates, policy administrators, employers, and medical professionals working together to enhance opportunities for Iowans with disabilities to work and live as they choose.