



MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP

April 3, 2020

Dear colleagues:

In today's MLP COVID-19 update you will find updated information on access to important public benefits (food stamps and energy assistance), an extension of time to secure health insurance coverage through the Exchange, and an emergency advocacy request sent to Governor Lamont to expand Medicaid coverage.

- **Access Health Connecticut Extends Enrollment Period**

[Access Health Connecticut](#) is extending the deadline for the new special enrollment period for uninsured residents to enroll in health insurance plans. The special enrollment period opened on March 19 and was originally anticipated to end April 2, however that deadline **is now being extended to April 17**. Anyone who enrolls during this extension period will receive coverage effective May 1. The only way to sign up for this special enrollment **period is by calling 1-855-365-2428. Telephone enrollment is available Mondays through Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

- **DSS Extends Home Energy Assistance and Emergency SNAP Benefits**

- The state Department of Social Services (DSS) has extended the application period for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program. Residents will now have until June 1, 2020 to apply for assistance to help cover this past winter's heating bills (the previous deadline was May 1). For application sites and eligibility information, visit [www.ct.gov/staywarm](http://www.ct.gov/staywarm), call 2-1-1, text CTWARM to 898-211, or contact a [community action agency](#).
- DSS will provide Emergency Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP) benefits to nearly half of Connecticut SNAP participants on April 9 and April 20. Authorized by the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020, the extra food benefits will go to approximately 97,000 households not currently receiving the maximum benefits allowed for their household size. This means that all households enrolled in SNAP will receive the maximum food benefit allowable for their household size, even if they aren't usually eligible for the maximum benefit. For more information visit [www.ct.gov/snap](http://www.ct.gov/snap).

- **Update on CARES Act Individual Stipends – No Tax Filings Required for Some**

In our [last update](#) (3-31-20) we indicated that all individuals would be required to file a 2018 or 2019 federal tax returns in order to qualify for the CARES Act individual or family stipends. The Department of the Treasury and IRS [reversed course yesterday](#) and indicated that “Social Security beneficiaries who are not typically required to file tax returns will not need to file an abbreviated tax return to receive an Economic Impact Payment. Instead, payments will be automatically deposited into their bank accounts.” For more detailed information on this policy change, please go [here](#).

- **Front-Line Physicians and Clinicians Letter to Governor Lamont Requesting Expansion of Medicaid Benefits**

A group of 185 front-line physicians and clinicians sent an urgent request to Governor Lamont earlier today requesting that the state expand its Medicaid and HUSKY B programs to include coverage for all undocumented children, youth and their families. The letter is attached and the email and document will be available on our [COVID-19 Resource and Information page](#) later today, along with instructions on how to add your voice to this impressive list of providers.

Thank you again for all your dedicated and tireless work, and please [let us know](#) if we can provide assistance or consultation on issues facing your patients and families.

Sincerely,

***The MLP Team***

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