

GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

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DIVISION: Office of Health Insurance Programs

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**TO:** Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Directors

**FROM:** Judith Arnold, Director  
Division of Coverage and Enrollment

**SUBJECT:** Economic Stimulus Act of 2008  
Digital Converter Boxes

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediately

**CONTACT PERSON:** Local District Support Unit    518-474-8887 Upstate  
212-417-4500 NYC

This GIS informs Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS) of two forms of income that are not to be counted as income when determining Medicaid eligibility. They are (1) the rebates issued under the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 and (2) the coupons consumers will receive upon request for digital-to-analog converter boxes for their televisions. This will ready their households for the switch to digital only broadcasting on February 18, 2009.

1. Rebates Under the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008.

The rebates received under the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 **shall not be taken into account as income and shall not be taken into account as resources for the month of receipt and the following 2 months.** This applies to determining eligibility for Medical Assistance or Medicare Savings Program for any individual in the household. In addition, transfer of the rebate in this three-month period would not be subject to a transfer penalty. Additionally, this refund is not taken into account for post eligibility determinations or in looking at transfer of assets.

2. Coupons for the digital-to-analog conversion boxes for televisions.

The coupons that a household can receive upon request for a digital converter box for their television are also not counted as income. Starting January 1, 2008, all U.S. households are eligible to request up to two coupons, worth \$40 each, to be used toward the purchase of up to two, digital-to-analog converter boxes. These coupons **cannot be converted to cash; therefore they are not to be counted as income or resources for Medicaid eligibility.**

Further information regarding Digital Conversion can be found on the following website: <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/dtvcoupon/>

Please direct any questions to the Local District Support Unit at 518-474-8887 Upstate and 212-417-4500 for NYC.