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Provider Information Notice

TO: Early Intervention Providers and Payees
Child and Family Connections Offices

FROM: Benjamin Delgado, Jr., Chief 
Bureau of Early Intervention

DATE: July 26, 2023

RE: Incentive Payments for our dedicated service providers and service coordinators

We hope this message finds you well. We are writing to inform you of an exciting initiative we are implementing to recognize and reward your service in the field of early intervention. As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting our valued providers, the Bureau of Early Intervention will be issuing an incentive payment.

This incentive is a one-time payment to be issued directly to service coordinators, direct service providers, associate level providers and interpreters/translators utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. This is designed to acknowledge your continued dedication and expertise as fee-for-service providers and service coordinators. We understand the immense value you bring to the children and families you serve, and we believe it is crucial to recognize your commitment and experience in a tangible way.

Here are some key details regarding the Incentive Payment:

1. Purpose: These incentive payments are intended to express our sincere appreciation for your contributions to early intervention and the positive impact you have made in the lives of the children and families you support.
2. Eligibility: The incentive payment will be provided based on the length of time you have been actively serving as a fee-for-service provider or service coordinator with an active caseload within Illinois EI system. Length of time will be based on your original credentialed/enrollment date. Eligible providers must meet all of the following criteria:
 - a. Must be on the list of eligible providers in the attached addendum.
 - b. Must have an active credential or enrollment status.
 - c. Must have an active caseload in which billing was generated between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

We understand that there are unique circumstances for how associate level providers are authorized and billed as well as circumstances that are unique to service coordination. We are working to ensure that our process is inclusive of these unique circumstances and will communicate the specific details regarding on how these incentive payments will be processed in future communications.

3. Incentive Payment Amounts: The incentive payment amounts will be determined based on the tiered structure below:
 - \$1,300 for 10+ years of service
 - \$1,000 for 3 to 9 years of service
 - \$700 for 0 to 2 years of service

4. Process: In the coming weeks our team will be working diligently to gather all the necessary information from our databases to determine all those who are eligible based on the above criteria and determine the corresponding payment for each individual service provider and service coordinator. We will then work on preparing an incentive payment distribution schedule and begin generating payment files so incentive payments can be processed and distributed. Payees will be required to complete an attestation form that will be available electronically that will attest that 100% of the incentive payments received were passed through to individuals listed in their incentive payment summary. We will communicate the specific details regarding the payment amounts and the expected date of disbursement in a subsequent communications.

5. Payment Schedule: Our team is dedicated to ensuring a seamless process, and we are working diligently to have all necessary procedures completed. We aim to issue the incentive payments to eligible providers and service coordinators no later than October 31, 2023. Rest assured, we are committed to timely and efficient disbursements to express our gratitude for your invaluable contributions.

We understand that each of you has played a crucial role in the success of our early intervention program, and we are grateful for your unwavering commitment. These incentive payments are our way of expressing our gratitude and recognizing your dedication throughout the years.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at dhs.eiquestions@illinois.gov

Once again, we extend our heartfelt appreciation for your outstanding contributions to the field of early intervention. It is your commitment and expertise that continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication, and we look forward to sharing more information about the incentive payments in the near future.

ADDENDUM

Early Intervention Incentive Payment Eligible Provider Types

Developmental Therapist	Social Work Assistant
Developmental Therapist- Vision	Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor
Developmental Therapist- Orientation & Mobility	Licensed Clinical Psychologist
Developmental Therapist- Hearing	Psychology Assistant
Speech/Language Pathologist	Service Coordinator/CFC Manger who has carried a caseload
Speech/Language Pathologist Assistant	Registered Nurse
Physical Therapist	Licensed Dietitian Nutritionist
Physical Therapy Assistant	School Psychologist
Occupational Therapist	School Social Worker
Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant	Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
Licensed Clinical Social Worker	Board Certified Behavior Analyst
Licensed Social Worker	Translator/Interpreter