

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR IHSS PROVIDERS ABOUT CHANGES TO THE FEDERAL MEDI-CAL IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) PROGRAM

You are getting this Notice because you are a provider of IHSS services, and the person you provide those services to pays a Share of Cost (SOC) for Medi-Cal. The person who receives services from you is called your recipient/employer. As an IHSS provider, you may receive some of your payment for providing these IHSS services from your recipient/employer, and some of your payment in a paycheck from the State of California Controller's Office. This Notice is about a change in how your recipient/employer pays their SOC and how it may affect you.

WHAT IS A SHARE OF COST?

Most people who get IHSS services also have Medi-Cal. Some of those people must pay a certain amount each month toward their medical expenses. This dollar amount is called a Share of Cost (SOC). A SOC is similar to a private insurance plan's out-of-pocket deductible. Your recipient/employer has been paying his or her SOC every month directly to you or another provider who works for him or her.

WHAT ARE THE CHANGES?

Because IHSS services are now provided under Medi-Cal, and have to follow Medi-Cal rules, your employer may have other ways to pay their SOC. The recipient can continue to pay you, or can pay the SOC to a pharmacy, at a doctor's office or for other Medi-Cal approved expenses. Up until the time of this change, your employer has paid you their SOC as part of what you earned for providing IHSS services. This has been the only way your employer could pay their share of cost for the care they receive.

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT ME?

You will continue to turn in your timesheet twice each month to the county and you will continue to be paid for all the IHSS services you provide. What may change is the way you are paid. You may receive some of your wages from your recipient/employer and some of your wages from the State, or you may receive all of your wages from the State. The amount you receive from your employer and/or the State may change each pay period. It all depends on whether your recipient/employer pays their SOC other Medi-Cal expenses before your timesheet is processed each pay period.

WHEN DOES THIS NEW PROCESS BEGIN? June 1, 2006.

HOW WILL I KNOW HOW MUCH MONEY TO COLLECT FROM MY EMPLOYER AND HOW MUCH TO COLLECT FROM THE STATE?

The person who receives your services has a MediCal Benefits Identification Card (BIC). A computer system keeps track of each time your recipient/employer uses the MediCal card and knows how much your recipient/employer's SOC is. Each time your recipient/employer pays for medical expenses when using a MediCal card, the computer subtracts that amount from the total SOC until the whole SOC is paid each month.

When your timesheet(s) is processed for payment, the computer system will check to see how much your employer has already paid toward their MediCal SOC. Twice a month, both you and your employer will receive an "Explanation of IHSS SOC" letter that will tell you how much money to collect from your employer, and how much you will get in your check from the State. Your check from the State should arrive a few days after you receive the "Explanation of IHSS SOC" letter. It is very important that you turn in your timesheet promptly at the end of each pay period or your recipient/employer will not know how much of their SOC to pay directly to you.

Should your employer not pay you for any reason, you should call your county IHSS Office for assistance. They will help you resolve the non-payment issue.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM NOT THE ONLY PROVIDER? If your employer has more than one provider, the computer system will automatically subtract whatever SOC amount is still owed from whichever provider's paycheck is issued first. Your employer will no longer be able to choose which provider will receive payment of their SOC.