

CIRCULAR

Date: May 26, 2020

CIRCULAR NUMBER: COVID#: #2020-91

Alternate Program(s): N/A

To: Program Managers

Subject: **Disability Economic Support Program Benefit**

Reference:

Replaces:

Type: Policy For Internal Reference Only
 Procedure
 Rate
 Information Only

Effective Date: **June 2, 2020**

The Manitoba government is providing direct support to low-income Manitobans with disabilities to lessen the financial burden caused by COVID-19.

The new **Disability Economic Support Program (DESP)** will provide a **one-time \$200 benefit** to lower-income Manitobans with a disability receiving Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) benefits.

The benefit is being processed by the Department of Finance (not via SAMIN). Eligible EIA participants with a disability will receive a cheque for \$200 (\$400 per couple if both individuals are eligible under the disability program) during the first week of June 2020.

There is no application process. To be eligible, EIA participants must have an open file and assessed as having a disability as of May 22, 2020. This payment will not be considered taxable income, and will not affect any other benefits that lower-income Manitobans with disabilities are receiving.

Note: cases receiving SAHS Card-Only or the Rewarding Work Health Plan (RWHP) benefits are not considered as enrolled on EIA and therefore will not be eligible for the DESP.

Retroactive DIS benefits and the DESP benefit:

As there will be a number Disability Assessment Packages pending review, staff must also include a deficit payment for the DESP for files that are assessed as DIS and whose benefits are backdated to include May 2020.

More information will be coming about issuing deficit payments and replacement cheques.

Mailing Address:

All DESP cheques will be mailed to the current mailing address identified in SAMIN.

Any DESP payments/letters that are not delivered successfully will be returned to the EIA Programs Branch at 300-114 Garry Street for distribution to the appropriate office for staff follow-up and/or investigation.

Note: EIA is working to set up a separate process for DIS participants whose files are managed through the Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT).

If you have any other questions, please contact William Grindell at 204-945-1259, or Vincent Villanueva at 204-945-2684.

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