

**CIRCULAR**

**Date:** June 4, 2020

**CIRCULAR NUMBER:** COVID#: #2020-97

**Alternate Program(s):** N/A

---

**To:** Program Managers

**Subject:** **Disability Economic Support Program Benefit**

**Reference:** COVID#: #2020-91

**Replaces:**

---

**Type:**  Policy  For Internal Reference Only  
 Procedure  
 Rate  
 Information Only

**Effective Date:** **June 2020**

---

Further to Circular COVID 2020-91, the Disability Economic Support Program (DESP) payment that was issued May 28, 2020 is a special benefit under the responsibility of the EIA Program. To facilitate the payment quickly, this benefit was paid out of the Government's SAP system instead of SAMIN.

The DESP cheques were mailed June 1, 2020. Clients should begin to receive them around June 4<sup>th</sup>.

Some EIA participants may require a cheque cashing verification letter if they do not have any identification or a bank account. Staff should follow the process set out in circular 2019-07.

To confirm whether a payment was issued for a client: please send an email request to [SAMINReport@gov.mb.ca](mailto:SAMINReport@gov.mb.ca).

The following is the process for issuing **replacement** or **deficit cheques** for this benefit.

**REPLACEMENT CHEQUE:** client advises that they lost the cheque or it was stolen or destroyed (before being cashed)

1. Email [Carol.Desjarlais@gov.mb.ca](mailto:Carol.Desjarlais@gov.mb.ca) with case # and client name with request for replacement.
2. Carol will confirm a payment was processed and will return Statutory Declaration forms and the cheque number for the client to sign.
3. Once completed, return the forms to Carol who will ensure it has not been cashed and will put a stop payment on the cheque.

4. Replacement cheques will be issued by Finance 10 days after it was originally issued (no earlier than June 11, 2020) and will be mailed only.
5. DESP or HESP payments should not be duplicated should a client lose the money after the cheque has been cashed.

**DEFICIT PAYMENT:** client did not receive payment as their DIS eligibility was under review with the Integrated Disability Assessment Panel (IDAP) at the time that the initial list of DIS clients was identified (May 22, 2020).

1. Email [Christine.Hillis@gov.mb.ca](mailto:Christine.Hillis@gov.mb.ca) who will confirm that the cheque was not processed for the client and will confirm the amount.
2. Issue a payment in SAMIN using a new Samin Code **HESP** (\$200 per DIS adult).
3. Program Manager approval is required to ensure the amount is correct, that the client(s) meet the eligibility criteria, and a duplicate payment is not being issued.
4. The payment can be processed by the method as set up for the case (direct deposit or cheque).
5. Clients whose DIS eligibility started after May 22, 2020 are not eligible for the DESP benefit.

### **RETURN CHEQUE:**

The physical cheque should be sent to [Carol.Desjarlais@gov.mb.ca](mailto:Carol.Desjarlais@gov.mb.ca) who will process the return in SAP. The cheque is a brown cheque and the cheque stub will say Disability Economic Support Program. Do not enter the return cheque on the IMRE screen.

In all situations, a case note should be entered for future reference.

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

John Mikula, A/Executive Director  
Employment and Income Assistance Programs | Employment, Income and Health Supports

Brian Malkowich, A/Executive Director  
Regional Social Services

Marcy Hrycio, A/Director  
EIA Centralized Services

c. Distribution List