

**EFFECTIVE** September 1, 2010.

**SUBJECT** Children's Clothing Allowance (bulletin only).

### **Family Independence Program (FIP)**

The children's clothing allowance will be issued again this year. Eligibility will include an allowance for all dependent children eligible for FIP for September 2010. The allowance is \$79 for each child. This allowance is excluded as income for all programs.

The department's fiscal year 2010 appropriations act includes funding for this clothing allowance. The allowance is intended to assist FIP families to purchase clothing for their children.

### **Automatic Supplements**

Bridges will automatically issue payments for the children's clothing allowance to groups with qualifying children who are active FIP on Bridges as of the single deadline date for August (August 31, 2010).

The payment amount will include \$79 for each eligible child on the case and will be automatically issued if FIP is active on August 31, 2010 for September benefits. A supplement will be deposited into the client's EBT cash account within the first week of September.

The payments will be viewable in Bridges on the **View Benefits** screen, under **Benefit Issuance**.

### **Manual Supplements**

Manually authorize supplements for children with a FIP eligibility determination group status of **eligible child** who did not receive the allowance automatically. You can verify that a child is eligible for this supplement by looking at the August benefit period on the **Eligibility Summary**. Only children with a Participation Status of **eligible child** should be allowed this manual supplement. Authorize \$79 for each eligible child on the case in a single supplement.

**Note:** Supplements for member adds and new case openings for September should be automatically generated by Bridges when eligibility results are certified. It is important to check the **View Benefits** screen in Bridges before issuing manual supplements.

Clothing allowance payments are deposited into the client's EBT cash account.

A letter from the Department of Human Services director, Ismael Ahmed, is mailed to FIP clients in **August** (see Client Notice attached). This letter advises eligible families of the allowance coming in September to help with the cost of children's clothing. It stresses the importance of children's self-esteem and its impact on their ability to reach their full potential.

## EXHIBIT



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
LANSING



ISMAEL AHMED  
DIRECTOR

August 10, 2010

Dear Parent/Caregiver:

Research has shown that a child's self-esteem has a big impact on how well he or she does in school. Our clothing allowance is designed to help children start school feeling good about themselves and about going to school.

Families receiving FIP benefits will receive \$79 for each FIP eligible child in September. Qualifying families will receive these funds as an additional deposit to their case account on their Bridge Card during the first week of September according to the last digit of their case number. If your FIP case was active, but closed before the allowance was deposited, the allowance may be issued as a separate check.

Shopping together with your child for clothing can be a wonderful experience. At the same time it gives them an opportunity to get excited about the upcoming school year. Starting the school year off on the right foot is important for all children, as it sets the tone for the year to come.

I encourage you to use this opportunity to discuss any concerns your child may have about school to ensure that he or she is comfortable when the first day of school arrives. Thank you for your commitment and the care you provide.

Sincerely,

Ismael Ahmed