NEWS RELEASE
STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
No. 142 April 15, 2020

For more information contact:
Bob Wheaton
517-241-2112

MDHHS: Federal stimulus payments will not affect public assistance benefits

LANSING, MICH. Income from federal stimulus payments will not affect eligibility for public assistance benefits such as food assistance, according to the Michigan Department of Human Services (MDHHS). Stimulus checks also will not reduce the amount of public assistance benefits that anyone receives.

The IRS is issuing the Economic Impact Payment to eligible taxpayers under the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

"MDHHS wants to make sure that Michiganders who rely on food assistance and other federal benefits programs know that these stimulus payments will have no effect on their benefits," said Lewis Roubal, the department's chief deputy director for Opportunity. "Families are suffering from economic distress as a result of COVID-19 and its impact on the economy. We don't want them to worry about losing other benefits as a result of the stimulus payments."

Stimulus payments will not affect any of the following public assistance benefits:

- Food Assistance Program benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Cash assistance under the Family Independence Program or Refugee Cash Assistance program.
- Healthcare coverage, including Medicaid, Healthy Michigan Plan and MIChild.
- State Emergency Relief.
- Child Development and Care (childcare reimbursement).
- Women, Infant and Children (WIC).

To apply for public assistance benefits, visit www.michigan.gov/MIBridges. For more information about public assistance benefits programs, visit the Assistance Programs page on the MDHHS website.

MDHHS is not involved in the stimulus payments and thus does not have information to provide on the status of anyone's payment. For more, visit the IRS website.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

###

A PROUD tradition of SERVICE through EXCELLENCE, INTEGRITY, and COURTESY since 1917