



Dear Colleague:

We are writing to inform you of a change in how we pay Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to residents of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Currently, the Social Security Administration (SSA) issues monthly SSI benefits that include both a Federal benefit and a State Supplement. Effective April 1, 2012, the Commonwealth will take over the administration of their State Supplement.

This change means that Massachusetts SSI recipients that are eligible for both a Federal benefit and a State Supplement will receive two benefit checks each month, one from SSA and a second from the Commonwealth. Currently some recipients only receive a State Supplement from SSA. With the change in administration, Massachusetts will begin paying those individuals directly.

SSA has been working with the Commonwealth to ensure that the community is aware of this change and to ease the transition. Massachusetts notified all SSI recipients of the change through direct mailings between February 10, 2012 and February 17, 2012. In the beginning of March 2012, SSA sent a "Notice of Planned Action" to all SSI recipients describing the changes that will take place effective April 1, 2012.

The attached document, titled "Change in Administration of Massachusetts State Supplement", contains some additional information. It should assist you in answering questions that SSI recipients may raise to you or your organization.

The Massachusetts State Supplement Program (SSP) Customer Service Center is available to answer telephone inquiries about SSP Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm at **877-863-1128**. The Commonwealth has also established a website at www.mass.gov/hhs/ssp.

Questions regarding SSA benefit programs, including continuing SSI eligibility and benefit amounts, may be directed to SSA at **1-800-772-1213** or by visiting our website at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Sincerely,

Roberto Medina
Regional Communications Director