

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT CHANGES TO THE IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) MEDI-CAL RECOGNIZED EXPENSES PAYMENT**

You are getting this Notice because you are an IHSS recipient, you pay a Share of Cost (SOC) and receive a State-funded pre-payment of Medi-Cal Recognized Expenses (MRE). This pre-payment of MRE is otherwise known as the SOC Buyout program.

### **WHAT IS CHANGING OCTOBER 1, 2009?**

**On October 1, 2009, the State-funded pre-payment of MRE will be terminated for all recipients and you will receive a separate Notice of Action at that time. The ending of MRE payments is due to a State law change [amendment of Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 12305.1]. Since this termination is the result of a change in state law, it cannot be appealed through a State Hearing.**

### **WHAT IS A SHARE OF COST?**

Most people who receive IHSS also have Medi-Cal. Some of them must pay a certain amount each month toward their program services and/or medical expenses. This dollar amount is called a Share of Cost (SOC). A SOC is similar to a private insurance plan's co-payment. As an IHSS recipient you may have been paying your SOC directly to your provider.

### **WHAT IS THE PRE-PAYMENT OF MRE (SOC Buyout)?**

As indicated by receipt of this letter, you receive a pre-payment of MRE (SOC Buyout) by the State. On your behalf, the State pre-pays a portion of your Medi-Cal SOC in the amount of the difference between your IHSS SOC and your Medi-Cal SOC when your Medi-Cal SOC is higher.

For example, if your Medi-Cal SOC is \$500, and your IHSS SOC is \$300, the MRE pre-payment amount would be the difference between the two, \$200. This means the State would pre-pay this \$200, and you would be responsible for the remaining \$300 SOC. In this example, without the MRE pre-payment (SOC Buyout) you would pay \$500. When the pre-payment (SOC Buyout) ends for all recipients on October 1<sup>st</sup> you will be responsible for the Medi-Cal SOC.

### **CAN I LOSE ELIGIBILITY FOR THE MRE PRE-PAYMENT (SOC Buyout) BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2009?**

Effective July 1, 2009, anyone who is receiving IHSS services, and receives an MRE pre-payment, may lose eligibility for the MRE pre-payment for any of the following reasons:

- Loss of Medi-Cal eligibility for any reason
- Loss of IHSS Program eligibility for any reason
- No provider on record for more than 30 consecutive days
- On IHSS Program leave for more than 30 consecutive days (For example: you are in the hospital, out of state, etc.)

### **WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO?**

Make sure your Medi-Cal and IHSS Program paperwork is completed and turned in on time, and register your IHSS provider immediately with the county.

### **WHAT IF YOU LOSE MRE PRE-PAYMENT (SOC Buyout) ELIGIBILITY BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2009?**

If you lose eligibility before October 1st you may request a State Hearing. If you are discontinued from receiving the MRE pre-payment, you will receive a Notice of Action that explains why the MRE pre-payment was discontinued and how to request a State Hearing.

### **OCTOBER 1, 2009 THE MRE PRE-PAYMENT ENDS FOR ALL RECIPIENTS.**

If you have any questions regarding this notice please contact your county social worker.