

**EFFECTIVE**

September 1, 2009.

**SUBJECT**

Children's Clothing Allowance (bulletin only)

**CHILDREN'S  
CLOTHING  
ALLOWANCE****Family Independence Program (FIP)**

The children's clothing allowance will again be issued this year. Eligibility will include an allowance for all dependent children eligible for FIP for September 2009. The allowance is \$84 for each child. This allowance is excluded as income for all programs.

The department's fiscal year 2009 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, 2009).

The payment amount will include \$84 for each eligible child on the case and will be automatically issued if FIP is active on August 31, 2009 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 under **View Benefits**.

**Manual  
Supplements**

Manually authorize supplements for children with a FIP eligibility determination group status of **eligible child** who did not receive the allowance automatically. Authorize \$84 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.

### Client Notices

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  
GOVERNORSTATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
LANSINGISMAEL AHMED  
DIRECTOR

August 10, 2009

Dear Parent/Caregiver:

Families with children who are eligible for Family Independence Program (FIP) benefits in September will receive extra money to help with the cost of children's clothing. The clothing allowance is an important resource to help your child reach his or her full potential.

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 \$84 for each FIP eligible child. Qualifying families will receive these funds as an additional deposit to their cash account on their Bridge Card during the first week of September according to the last digit of their Recipient ID number. If your FIP case was active in the month of September, 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

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**ONLINE MANUAL  
PAGES**

No online manual pages are updated with this release.

**MANUAL  
MAINTENANCE  
INSTRUCTIONS**