

TO: All Mayors & First Selectmen

FROM: Michael P. Starkowski  
Deputy Commissioner

RE: Medicare Part D Reimbursements

DATE: June 28, 2005

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I am writing as a follow up to the letter you were sent by Governor M. Jodi Rell on June 8<sup>th</sup> regarding the potential funding available through the upcoming Medicare Prescription Drug program. As the tone of the Governor's letter suggests, this is an opportunity for funding from the federal government that should not be taken lightly. Depending on the pharmaceutical coverage you provide to your retirees you may be eligible to receive reimbursement of 28% of your costs from the federal government.

In order to obtain the federal dollars your municipality would have to file an application with an attached certification from a qualified actuary attesting or certifying that your plan is considered a creditable plan (equivalent to or better than the Medicare Part D plan). In order to ease the burden on municipalities, Governor Rell has authorized this department to assist as necessary in the process, including the payment for the actuarial services required. The actuarial services can be obtained by the municipality through the DSS actuary under contract with the department or through any other qualified actuary that the municipality wishes to contract with to provide the certification/attestation services.

Medicare Part D has been described as a complicated system to navigate. As we have learned more about the operational details we have been able to explain the package to various providers groups, develop informational materials for clients and brief legislators on the client benefits in Medicare Part D. With regards to the specific component related to the 28% reimbursement, we have been provided some general information but feel the details should be discussed and reviewed by each municipality. We are aware of two web casts that will be held by reputable and qualified actuaries. These web casts will provide an in depth understanding of the application/certification process and the ongoing benefits to municipalities that qualify for these federal dollars. (Information noted at the end of this correspondence).

If you are aware of additional information or opportunities to gain an insight in to the 28% reimbursement, feel free to e-mail the information to me at [michael.starkowski@po.state.ct.us](mailto:michael.starkowski@po.state.ct.us) (Please make sure the title of your e-mail subject is "Medicare Part D 28%". This will insure that any system filter that filters out unwanted junk mail does not reject the email.)

I am encouraging you to take advantage of these educational web casts and our offer of assistance, however, time is of the essence. In order to ensure that there is sufficient time for whichever actuaries you choose to complete this initiative, please e-mail me at the address above or send a letter of interest to my attention no later than July 18, 2005. Written correspondence should be addressed to my attention as follows:

Department of Social Services  
25 Sigourney Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

Please indicate whether you are interested in utilizing the DSS actuary or seeking reimbursement of costs from your own qualified actuary. The attached outline provides guidance for the selection of a “qualified” actuary and conditions for reimbursement of costs.

We look forward to working with your municipality to maximize the benefits from this new federal initiative. Hopefully this will provide another ongoing source of revenue for your municipality.

Sincerely,



Michael P. Starkowski  
Deputy Commissioner

**WEB CASTS/INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS**  
(Sessions are scheduled for one hour but may be longer depending on participation and questions and answers)

<b>ENTITY:</b> Milliman Consultants & Actuaries	<b>ENTITY:</b> Mercer Government Human Services Consulting
<b>DATE:</b> July 11, 2005	<b>*DATE:</b> July 12, 2005
<b>TIME:</b> 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	<b>TIME:</b> 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
<b>COST:</b> Free	<b>COST:</b> Free
<b>CONTACT:</b> Bill Thompson <b>E-Mail:</b> <a href="mailto:bill.thompson@milliman.com">bill.thompson@milliman.com</a> <b>Telephone:</b> (860) 687-0124	<b>CONTACT:</b> Steven Rubin <b>E-Mail:</b> <a href="mailto:Steven.Rubin@mercer.com">Steven.Rubin@mercer.com</a> <b>Telephone:</b> (203) 229-6359
	* Live presentation at Connecticut Convention Center

MPS:lap  
Enclosure

Cc: Governor M. Jodi Rell  
Lisa Moody, Chief of Staff to the Governor