April 17, 2020

Department of Social Services
Office of the Commissioner
55 Farmington Ave.
Hartford, CT 06105

Dear Commissioner Gifford:

Because so many DSS beneficiaries do not regularly file income tax, they are in the demographic most likely to have more difficulty receiving the Economic Impact Payments authorized in the CARES Act (Pub. L. 116-137). We recommend including a link to the IRS website describing the program (https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments) and the non-filers form (https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here). We have included a link on our CTLawHelp.org/coronavirus page, but we think this information is worth posting multiple places in order to help ensure the largest participation. We also note that there are some excellent explanations of the program, including this one from the University of Michigan, https://poverty.umich.edu/stimulus-checks/, that could be included on your site.

We would also recommend that the Governor include the topic and a reference to your website in his daily briefing.

This stimulus program has the potential to greatly improve the lives of those most impacted by the public health emergency, but in order for it to be effective, it has to reach those most in need.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Alison M. Weir	Kristen Noelle Hatcher	Shelley White
Policy Advocate	Managing Attorney—Benefits	Director of Litigation & Advocacy
Greater Hartford Legal Aid	Connecticut Legal Services	New Haven Legal Assistance Assoc.

Cc: Kate McEvoy, Director, Division of Health Services

Peter Hadler, Social Services Program Administrator