

**The Center for Benefits & Services
and the
Managed Care Consumer Assistance Program (MCCAP)**

Fall 2008 Training Schedule

Overview of the Government Benefit System (CBS)

Speaker(s): Leslie Boutin and Santa Soriano, Training/Technical Assistance Specialists

Designed for the social service provider new to the complex world of public benefits, this workshop reviews the distinction between needs-based and insurance-based benefits, discusses key concepts such as income, resources, work history, category, and immigration status requirements, and introduces the following major benefit programs: Public Assistance, SSI, Social Security benefits, Medicaid, Medicare, and Food Stamps. We will also discuss how benefits are administered and accessed. Case examples and practical advocacy tips are included.

Date: Wednesday, September 10th

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Fee: \$40.00

Basic Medicaid (CBS)

Speaker(s): Diane Wenzler, Director of Publications and Santa Soriano, Training/Technical Assistance Specialist

Learn the fundamentals of the Community Medicaid Program. You will learn Medicaid's eligibility rules and will be able to identify the Medicaid categories which are key to eligibility, identify various avenues to apply for Medicaid in the community, and how to maintain ongoing eligibility. Also included are strategies and techniques to navigate the Medicaid system in order to advocate effectively when clients experience challenges common with the Medicaid system.

Date: Wednesday, September 17th

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Fee: \$40.00

Medicaid Spenddown (CBS)

Speaker(s): Diane Wenzler, Director of Publications and Santa Soriano, Training/Technical Assistance Specialist

If you have difficulty helping your clients access Medicaid's spenddown program (also known as the Excess Income Program), this workshop will help you. All aspects of the spenddown program will be reviewed, including who is eligible, how to figure out the spenddown amount, the difference between the medical bills system and the pay-in program, how to get hospital services through the spenddown program, and more.

Date: Wednesday, September 24th

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Fee: \$40.00

Introduction to NYCHA Public Housing - (CBS)

Speaker(s): Jacqueline C. Burger, Director of Tenant Advocacy

This is an introductory workshop for tenant advocates and social service providers on helping clients obtain and keep their NYCHA apartments. The training will cover eligibility criteria, priority codes, rent calculations, apartment transfers, recertification procedures, grounds for eviction, grievance and appeal procedures, and community service requirements.

Date: Wednesday, October 1st

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Fee: \$40.00

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) (CBS)

Speaker(s): Leslie Boutin, Training/Technical Assistance Specialist and Diane Wenzler, Director of Publications

To be an effective advocate it is important to understand the distinction between SSI and SSDI. This training highlights the differences between the two programs and teaches advocates how the programs interact with each other. You will gain insight into the eligibility criteria for both SSI and SSDI, understand the ongoing requirements for maintaining the benefits and learn the type of health insurance recipients receive with each benefit. Included is documentation guide advocates can use when assisting clients through the application process.

Date: Thursday, October 2nd

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Fee: \$40.00

Transition to Work Provisions for SSI & SSDI Recipients (CBS)

Speaker(s): Leslie Boutin, Training/Technical Assistance Specialist and Diane Wenzler, Director of Publications

Many individuals want to work but are unsure how earnings will affect their SSI or SSDI benefit. You will learn how an SSI or SSDI recipient's benefit will be affected when making the transition to work, including how to determine break-even points for SSI earnings, what happens when an SSDI recipient enters and ends a trial work period, and what an extended period of eligibility is. We will also cover how earnings impact Medicaid and Medicare, and more.

Date: Wednesday, October 15th

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Fee: \$40.00

How to Maximize the Medicare Part D Plan Finder (MCCAP)

Speaker(s): Medicare Rights Center

The Medicare Prescription Drug Program (Medicare Part D) utilizes an online plan finder to help clients narrow down and determine the best plan for their prescription drug needs. However, it can be a bit tricky to navigate this site and maximize all that it can do. Please join as experts from the Medicare Rights Center walk us through the best way to help clients use this resource.

Date: Thursday, October 16th

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Fee: Free

Immigrants' Eligibility for Public Benefits (CBS)

Speaker(s): Diane Wenzler, Director of Publications and Santa Soriano, Training/Technical Assistance Specialist

Immigrants face additional challenges when trying to access benefits. Immigrants' eligibility for benefits is often restricted to those who are "qualified aliens." Knowing who is a "qualified alien" is fundamental to understanding immigrants' eligibility for many government programs such as Food Stamps, SSI, Medicaid, and Public Assistance. This workshop will cover these topics, as well as rules surrounding sponsor deeming, issues of public charge, and reporting requirements.

Date: Wednesday, October 22nd

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Fee: \$40.00

Public Assistance (Basic) (CBS)

Speaker(s): Leslie Boutin and Santa Soriano, Training/Technical Assistance Specialist

Learn the basics of the Public Assistance (PA) program including how the PA grant is structured, how the benefit amounts are calculated, and how the grants are issued. Learn how to prepare your clients for the application process and the on-going reporting requirements needed to maintain PA benefits. This training is designed to provide strategies and techniques the social service provider can use to advocate effectively when clients experience challenges common in the PA system. Also included are comprehensive tools and resources to help assess and understand public assistance rules and guidelines.

Date: Wednesday, October 29th

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Fee: \$40.00

Introduction to Section 8 Vouchers (CBS)

Speaker(s): Jacqueline C. Burger, Director of Tenant Advocacy

This is an introductory, step-by-step workshop for tenant advocates and social service providers on qualifying for and keeping an apartment with a Section 8 voucher. The workshop will cover eligibility criteria, priority codes, rent calculations, recertification procedures, subsidy termination, avoiding eviction, and the grievance process. The workshop will focus mainly on NYCHA Section 8; but information about HPD and DHCR vouchers will also be covered. strongly encourage advocates to take this class before other topics on Section 8 vouchers.

Please note: Section 8 housing subsidies continue to be closed except to a very limited group.

Date: Wednesday, November 5th

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Fee: \$40.00

Food Stamps (CBS)

Speaker(s): Leslie Boutin, Training/Technical Assistance Specialist and Diane Wenzler, Director of Publications

Food Stamp rules are often misunderstood, resulting in entitled households losing out on benefits. This workshop will focus on determining eligibility for Food Stamps and doing an actual Food Stamp budget. We will review Food Stamps' gross and net income tests to determine eligibility, including special deductions and budgeting considerations for the elderly and disabled. Also covered are Food Stamps' complex immigrant eligibility rules, time limits, and work requirements.

Date: Wednesday, November 12th

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Fee: \$40.00

Introduction to Project Based Section 8 (CBS)

Speaker(s): Jacqueline C. Burger, Director of Tenant Advocacy

This training on Section 8, project-based subsidies, focuses on eligibility criteria such as immigration and income; priority codes; subsidy calculations; recertification procedures; grounds for eviction; and termination of subsidy and appeal procedures.

Please note: Section 8 housing subsidies continue to be closed except to a very limited group.

***Date:* Wednesday, November 19th**

***Time:* 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

***Fee:* \$40.00**

Work Advantage Rental Subsidies and Family Eviction Prevention Supplement (FEPS) (CBS)

Speaker(s): TBA

Learn about the Advantage Assistance Rental Programs: Work Advantage, Fixed Income Advantage, Children Advantage, Domestic Violence Advantage and Short Term Advantage. The training will cover the benefits and eligibility criteria for all programs, application procedures, as well as advocacy information. In addition a brief overview of the FEPS (Family Eviction Prevention Supplement) will be covered, including who is eligible, how earnings impact the supplement, and how it works when there is SSI income in the household.

***Date:* Wednesday, December 3rd**

***Time:* 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

***Fee:* \$40.00**

Informal Advocacy (CBS)

Speaker(s): Leslie Boutin and Santa Soriano, Training/Technical Assistance Specialists

Knowing how public benefits work is the first step in advocacy. Take the next step and learn how to ensure your clients receive the benefits they are entitled to. Learn how to assess a client's situation by gathering the right information, developing a time-line and determining the best plan of action. Learn how to resolve some common problems: improper notification, missed appointments, lost documentation, etc. This workshop will also introduce several welfare lawsuits to help in effectively advocating for your clients. Included are helpful resources, agency contacts, and a brief description of the fair hearing process.

***Date:* Wednesday, December 10th**

***Time:* 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

***Fee:* \$40.00**

Understanding Managed Care for SSI Recipients (MCCAP)

Speaker(s): TBA

The world of managed care can be new and confusing to those that did not access Medicaid this way, such as SSI recipients. Many SSI recipients may not be aware that there has been a change in how they access health benefits or how this change affects them. This training will go over the change in populations previously not in managed care access benefits as well as provide a brief overview of how to maximize care within a managed care plan.

***Date:* Thursday, December 11th**

***Time:* 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

***Fee:* Free**