

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I am reaching out to you regarding the Renters' Rebate program. With the passage of legislation from November's Special Session, the Renters' Rebate program will go back to the way it was administered in prior years – cities and towns collect and verify information, then the State's Office of Public Management will send out checks to renters.

A change that came with the state budget was transferring the administration of the renters' rebate program to the towns. Upon learning about the delay this would cause, we immediately put pressure on legislative leaders to restore the program to the way it worked in prior years and we were successful in doing so. Approved renters should now expect to receive checks similar to last year's in December.

If you have further questions feel free to contact my office or the Renters' Rebate program hotline at 860-418-6377.

Sincerely, 

Legislative Office Building, Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Phone: 860-842-8267

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RENTERS' REBATE

Earlier this month, we ensured participants in the Renters' Rebate Program will receive their checks with a quick fix to the bipartisan state budget.

The Connecticut Renters' Rebate Program provides rebates to older adult or disabled renters whose incomes do not exceed certain thresholds. The bipartisan budget appropriated \$25 million in each year of the budget for the program, which has traditionally been managed through the state Office of Policy and Management.

Married couples can receive up to \$900 and a single person will be refunded a maximum of \$700 through the Connecticut Renters' Rebate Program. The rebate amount is calculated on a graduated income scale and the amount of rent and utility payments, excluding telephone, made in the previous year. This program helps ensure that we continue to help our most vulnerable residents.

MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAM

Medicare Savings Program: The state Department of Social Services recently announced it will delay changes to the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) and the scheduled income eligibility reductions that were set to begin January 1. DSS has put the plan on hold for at least two months in response to concerns raised by those who qualify for the program. I have been concerned about these changes since the Governor proposed them last winter and I am hopeful this will allow the legislature the time we need to reach a resolution to reduce the impact on those who rely on this program. If you or a loved one is potentially affected by the lower income eligibility levels, please call the CHOICES program at 800-994-8422 for health insurance assistance.