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**Subject:** Looking Beyond LIHEAP: Alternative Energy Assistance

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***April 15, 2015***

**Looking beyond LIHEAP: Alternative forms of energy assistance**

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a valuable tool to help low-income households afford to heat and cool their homes. But LIHEAP block grant funds are exhausted quickly, and can only serve a small percentage of households in need. Our newest fact sheet looks at some other energy assistance programs that may be available in your state/community to further aid low-income seniors and persons with disabilities to safely meet their energy needs.

[Discover other energy assistance programs](#) | [Get LIHEAP facts](#)

**Understanding LIS/MSP asset levels**

We've received several inquiries lately asking for clarification of asset alignment between the Part D Low Income Subsidy (LIS) and Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs). Read our tip sheet that outlines the way burial allowances are considered, as well as variations between states' rules.

[Read the tip sheet](#)

**Free employment support for persons with SSDI**

Social Security encourages adults aged 18-64 receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) to obtain free employment support services through its Ticket to Work program. Ticket to Work connects beneficiaries to interview coaching, résumé development, benefits counseling, vocational counseling, and job placement. A series of free monthly webinars informs those with SSDI more about Ticket to Work and employment incentives.

[Find out more](#) | [Register for the Ticket to Work webinars](#)

**CMS releases MA and Part D payment & policy guidance for 2016**

Last week, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a Call Letter and Rate Announcement outlining the policy and payment updates for Medicare Advantage (MA) and Part D plans in 2016. The documents outline a number of changes to improve the value and quality of MA and Part D plans,

including updates to the star rating system on plan performance.

### **Get more info**

#### ***Register...***

*Unlocking the Door to Veterans' Benefits*, April 28 (**new date!**) at 3 p.m. ET—Register to learn more about the different types of benefits available to veterans, and how they work with Medicare.

*Building Community Partnerships with the VA: Providing Options Counseling to Rural Veterans*, May 19 at 3 p.m. ET—Join this webinar to see how one state is connecting rural veterans to other community resources.

#### ***Check this out...***

*3-Minute Budget*—April is Financial Literacy Month, a perfect time to share our 3-minute budgeting tool from EconomicCheckUp® with your clients.

*Building Financial Capability: A Planning Guide for Integrated Services*—Download this interactive guide from Assets for Independence for community-based organizations interested in integrating financial capability services into existing programs.

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