

## TIP SHEET FOR RELATIVES AS PARENTS

### FINANCIAL BENEFITS NEWS

#### Economic Stimulus Package - \$300 - \$600

Did you not file taxes for 2007 because you did not need to? If you didn't, you can still file and receive your economic stimulus package. Millions of low-income seniors, veterans and people with disabilities did not file 2007 taxes. Their income was low enough that filing was not required. If you are one of these people, you will not receive the government economic stimulus package. You can still file your tax return until October 15<sup>th</sup> without penalty if you do not owe taxes. If you file, you will receive the economic stimulus package of \$300 or \$600, if you are a married couple.

You may still file if:

- You made over \$3000 in 2007 from Social Security benefits, SSDI, veterans benefits, railroad retirement or a combination of all of these sources.
- You are a low-income senior, veteran or on disability.
- You have a valid social security number.
- You are not a dependent.

Eligible people should have already received a mailing from the IRS. The mailing includes the 1040A (form needed to file taxes) along with special instructions. On the Internet, AARP along with the National Council on Aging have a website to help you file. The web page is [www.aarp.org/stimulus](http://www.aarp.org/stimulus) or [www.benefitscheckup.org](http://www.benefitscheckup.org). If you can't find the tax form 1040A and you believe you qualify for this program, call the IRS at 1-866-234-2942 or 1-800-829-1040, and ask them to send you one.

#### Check your Grandfamily Benefits through AARP's Benefits QuickLINK

Benefits QuickLINK is an online screening tool. It allows you to see if you may be able to get federal and state government benefits. These benefit programs are for both you and the children in your home.

QuickLINK screens for the following programs: Earned Income Tax; TANF-child only; MaineCare for children and adults; Supplemental Security Income for Children and Adults; Medicare Savings Programs, Prescription Drug Coverage, and Rx Extra Help; State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs; Food Stamps; Low Income Home Energy Assistance; State Property Tax Relief/Rebates; and Telephone Assistance.

To check your eligibility for these programs, go to [www.aarp.org/quicklink](http://www.aarp.org/quicklink). Click on "Find Benefits Programs." On this link, you can fill out the survey online and get instant results, or print the survey. You will need to gather information before you fill out the survey. Printing the survey, allows you to see what information you need. Once you have the information, it will take 15 to 30 minutes to complete the online survey.

AARP has many useful tools for grandfamilies. [www.aarp.org/grandfamilies](http://www.aarp.org/grandfamilies) is an excellent resource for you.

**You can also check your grandfamily benefits by talking to a Maine Kids-Kin staff person or reading the Maine Kids-Kin Resource Guide online or delivered to your home. Give us a call.**

---

*Copies of our tip sheets may be found on our web site at [www.mainekids-kin.org](http://www.mainekids-kin.org)  
For permission to reproduce Maine Kids-Kin materials contact us at [info@mainekids-kin.org](mailto:info@mainekids-kin.org)*