



COMMISSIONER
Adelaide Horn

March 13, 2009

To: All DADS Service Providers

Subject: Information Letter No. 09-36
TV Converter Box Program Update

The purpose of this letter is to provide updated information to providers regarding the transition from analog broadcasts to digital television. The Department of Aging and Disability Services previously provided information on the transition in October 2008 via Information Letter No. 08-139, *Assistance for NF and ICF/MR residents in changing from Analog to Digital Television*, which can be located at: <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/communications/2008/letters/IL2008-139.pdf>

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Included in this act was funding for the DTV Delay Act which **postpones the transition from analog to digital television until June 12, 2009.**

As a result of this delay the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has made several improvements to the TV Converter Box Coupon Program to assist consumers in transitioning more easily.

Receiving and Requesting Coupons

Residents who were approved for coupons but were placed on a waiting list due to lack of program funding will begin to have coupons issued to them effective immediately. To check the status of the coupon simply log on to the TV Converter Box Coupon Program website, located at the end of this letter, and enter the automatically-generated reference number received at the time of application.

Residents who have not yet applied for a converter box coupon may do so until July 31, 2009. The NTIA will fill these requests on a first-come, first served basis, while supplies last.

In order to expedite the receipt of all coupons, the NTIA will be mailing them out via First-Class Mail.

Expired Coupons

The NTIA is currently in the process of modifying the TV Converter Box Coupon Program to begin accepting applications for consumers whose coupons expired without being redeemed. Currently, consumers who try to reapply for coupons that have expired or were lost or stolen will be denied. Consumers are encouraged to check the DTV 2009 website for updates on when applications for replacement coupons will be accepted.

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Additional Information

Please note that limited stations in some areas have already converted to digital-only broadcasts. These stations can not be viewed unless you have digital reception capabilities.

Information regarding the status of coupons and how to apply for coupons can be found at the TV Converter Box Coupon Program's website located at: <https://www.dtv2009.gov/>. Additional information can be found at <http://www.dtvanswers.com/> and <http://www.fcc.gov/>.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact the Texas Association of Broadcasters at 512-322-9944.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Tommy Ford, Director
Institutional Services Section
Provider Services

[signature on file]

Michelle Dionne-Vahalik
Director
Community Services