



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

MICHAEL P. HEIN
Commissioner

BARBARA C. GUINN
Executive Deputy Commissioner

General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	20 TA/DC027 Upstate and New York City
Date:	April 6, 2020
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, TA Directors, SNAP Directors, WMS Coordinators, Medicaid Directors
From:	Jeffrey Gaskell, Deputy Commissioner Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	COVID-19 Emergency Relief - Treatment of Families First Coronavirus Response Act payments for Temporary Assistance (TA), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)
Effective Date:	Immediately
Contact Information:	TA Questions – Temporary Assistance Bureau 518-474-9344 or otda.sm.cees.tabureau@otda.ny.gov Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Questions – SNAP Bureau 518-473-1469 or otda.sm.cees.snap@otda.ny.gov Home Energy Assistance Program Questions - HEAP Bureau at: 518-473-0332 or NYSHEAP@otda.ny.gov

Attachments:

Section 2

The purpose of this GIS message is to provide guidance to social service districts (districts) on how to treat stimulus rebate payments from the Federal Government's H.R. 748 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). The CARES Act provides a onetime stimulus rebate payment of up to \$1,200 to eligible individuals and \$2,400 to eligible married couples and up to an additional \$500 per qualifying child of eligible individuals or families.

Temporary Assistance (TA)

For Family Assistance (FA), Safety Net Assistance (SNA), Emergency Assistance to Needy Families with Children (EAF) and Emergency Safety Net Assistance (ESNA), any federally funded stimulus rebates paid directly to individuals related to the 2020 coronavirus pandemic (hereinafter referred to as "Payment(s)") must be excluded as income for initial and recurring TA eligibility determinations and benefit calculations.

Such Payment(s) must be excluded for consideration as a lump sum for the month of receipt and the

following two months. This includes exempting the Payment(s) as a resource for recurring TA and prohibits a district from considering the Payment(s) as an available resource to meet an emergency need when determining eligibility for emergency TA.

For example, if a household receives the Payment(s) in April 2020, the district must not count it as income or a resource for April and must exempt it as a countable resource for May and June. In July, if the household has remaining funds from the Payment(s), the district must count the remaining funds as a non-exempt resource. This resource exemption applies to all categories of assistance including emergency assistance.

These income and resource exclusions apply to both federally and State/locally funded categories of Safety Net Assistance (SNA-FP and SNA-FNP), to Family Assistance (FA) and to all categories of emergency assistance including Emergency Assistance to Needy Families (EAF), Emergency Safety Net Assistance (ESNA) and Emergency Assistance for Adults (EAA).

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

For SNAP, the Payment(s) received under the CARES Act are not to be counted as income. They must be excluded as a non-recurring, lump sum payment under the federal regulations at 7 CFR 273.9(c)(8).

For new SNAP applicant households, the Payment(s) are excluded from consideration as a resource in the month received, and the month after under the federal regulations at 7 CFR 273.8(e)(12)(i). Any remaining balance would be counted as a resource in the months thereafter.

For households already receiving SNAP benefits when they receive the Payment(s), the payments are excluded from consideration as a resource for a period of 12 months following receipt of the payments under the federal regulations at 7 CFR 273.8(e)(12)(ii). Any remaining balance would be counted as a resource in the months thereafter.

Under broad-based categorical eligibility, few SNAP households are subject to a resource test. For those few households that currently are subject to a resource test, the test is applied at application and recertification. Only the few households subject to a resource test that also are subject to the change (not simplified) reporting requirements are required to report when their resources exceed the allowable limit for their household.

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

The Payment(s) provided to individuals and families under the CARES Act as a result of COVID-19 will be excluded as countable income for HEAP eligibility and benefit determinations and must not be counted in the HEAP budget. Payment(s) received under the CARES Act will be excluded from the HEAP household's income when determining eligibility for Regular HEAP, Emergency, Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement (HERR), Heating Equipment Clean and Tune (C&T), and Cooling Assistance benefits. Any remaining balance from these Payment(s) are not considered a liquid resource for the Emergency and HERR benefit components.