



# Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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## General Information System (GIS) Message

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### Section 1

<b>Transmittal:</b>	22 TA/DC085 Upstate and New York City
<b>Date:</b>	September 12, 2022
<b>To:</b>	Subscribers
<b>Suggested Distribution:</b>	Commissioners, TA Directors, HEAP Coordinators, SNAP Directors, Employment Coordinators, Fair Hearing Officers, Staff Development Coordinators, WMS Coordinators
<b>From:</b>	Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner Employment and Income Support Programs
<b>Subject:</b>	Public Assistance Policy Changes Included in the Enacted 2022-23 New York State Budget
<b>Effective Date:</b>	October 1, 2022
<b>Contact Information:</b>	Temporary Assistance Bureau: (518) 474-9344 or: <a href="mailto:otda.sm.cees.tabureau@otda.ny.gov">otda.sm.cees.tabureau@otda.ny.gov</a>

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### Section 2

The purpose of this General Information System (GIS) message is to inform social services districts (districts) of certain Public Assistance (PA) policy changes included in the enacted 2022-23 New York State (NYS) Budget. Additional guidance on the below-mentioned PA policy changes will be provided in a forthcoming Administrative Directive Memorandum (ADM).

#### *Application of the Earned Income Disregard and the Work Expense Disregard*

Currently the Earned Income Disregard (EID) is applied to the difference between the eligible applicant or recipient's gross monthly earned income and the work expense disregard. Effective October 1, 2022, the EID will be applied prior to the work expense disregard. The work expense disregard will be deducted from the remainder of the individual's gross monthly earned income after the EID is applied.

#### *Earned Income Disregard*

The EID, which excludes a percentage of earned income, will change from 55% to 50% on October 1, 2022, and will be adjusted annually beginning June 1, 2023. However, the policy of only applying the EID for earnings up to the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for those residing in temporary housing shelter types remains unchanged.

#### *Work Expense Disregard*

Effective October 1, 2022, the work expense disregard will increase from \$90 to \$150.

### *Single Individuals and Childless Couples*

Effective October 1, 2022, the method by which gross earned income is calculated will change for Safety Net Assistance (SNA) cases for single individuals and childless couples. These cases, which were previously not eligible for the EID, will now be eligible to have the EID percentage deducted from their gross earned income when calculating their budgets. These cases remain eligible to have the work expense disregard deducted to calculate their total countable gross earned income after the EID is applied.

### *Elimination of the Gross Income Test and the Poverty Level Income Test*

Effective October 1, 2022, Automated Budgeting and Eligibility Logic (ABEL) will no longer perform the Gross Income Test (GIT) and the Poverty Level Income Test (PLT). ABEL will only perform the Needs Test in determining income eligibility for PA. For recipients, net income cannot equal or exceed the PA standard of need after deducting the 50% EID and then the \$150 work expense disregard. If net income equals or exceeds the PA standard of need, the recipient is ineligible. An applicant's eligibility for PA must be determined without application of the percentage EID unless the applicant is reapplying and has been off PA not more than four whole months.

### *Resource Limit Changes*

Effective October 1, 2022, changes to the PA resource limit policy are as follows:

- The amount of liquid and non-liquid assets that an applicant household can own and still qualify for PA will increase from \$2,000 to \$2,500;
- When any member of the PA household is age 60 years and older, the amount of liquid and non-liquid assets the applicant household can currently own and still qualify for PA is \$3,000. This amount will increase to \$3,750 for PA applicant households where any household member is age 60 years and older **or** is disabled; and
- All PA recipient households will have a resource limit of \$10,000.

### *Elimination of the SNA 45-Day Waiting Period*

For information pertaining to the elimination of the 45-day waiting period for SNA applications, please refer to [GIS 22 TA/DC080](#) and [GIS 22 TA/WMS032](#).

### *Repeal of Liens*

[GIS 22 TA/DC037](#) includes guidance on the changes to real property lien policy.

### *Rest of State Systems Implications*

For information on how the EID, work expense disregard, GIT and PLT changes will impact Rest of State systems, districts may refer to [ABEL Transmittal 22-2 – Revised](#).

### *New York City Systems Implications*

The impact that the EID, work expense disregard, GIT and PLT changes will have on New York City systems is described below.

The current ABEL budget calculations will change to first apply a 50% EID (previously 55%), then the \$150 (from \$90) work expense deduction will be applied. This change will be applied to PA case types:

11,12,16 and 17. This change is effective for budgets with FROM dates of 10/A/2022, or later. A Mass Rebudgeting/Reauthorization (MRB) has been scheduled to ensure that recipients who are in receipt of earned income will be budgeted with the new budget calculations. This year's MRB will be facilitated using an EID Pass I run and a Thrifty Pass II run. The EID Pass I run will encompass the population that will have grant changes that are required to be sent notices. Pass I was completed August 19-21, 2022 and created automated notices via the Client Notice System (CNS) informing recipients of these grant changes. The Thrifty Pass II run will cover the population that is included in EID and Thrifty. Pass II will occur during the weekend of September 16-18, 2022. As a result of the Pass II MRB, the budget effective date of the selected cases will be changed to 10/A/2022 and the correct algorithms will be applied.

Beginning budget effective date 10/A/2022, the PA 185% GIT and the PLT will be bypassed as eligibility requirements for all shelter types. Budgets with effective dates prior to 10/A/2022 are not impacted by these changes.

For the purposes of determining Transitional Employment Advancement Program-Transitional Benefits Alternative (TEAP-TBA) cases, the PA 185% GIT and the PLT will no longer be used, and the Needs Test will be the only test applied to determine eligibility. All PA cases that contain the following information will now only be subject to the Needs Test:

- Income Source Code (D.E. 07-800) = 37
- ETI Code (D.E. 03-500) = T
- Routing Location (D.E. 14-550) = E500
- Program Indicator (D.E. 98-424 or 98-487) = P

Budget Disposition codes (98-300) "19 - Zero Deficit", "Shelter Type 35 - Fail Poverty Guidelines Test", or "39 - Fail Poverty Guidelines Test" should not be output for a failed budget.

Although the Poverty Level guidelines are bypassed for eligibility requirements for non-TEAP TBA cases, they will remain in place to determine the amount of income counted toward the EID for transitional housing shelter types (D.E. 11-120) 06, 13, 14, 30, 33, 34 and 35, as outlined in WLM 2010-00657 and SA291300.