

DATE: May 2, 2016

TO: Subscribers

SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION: Commissioners, TA Directors, SNAP Directors,
Employment Coordinators, Staff Development
Coordinators

FROM: Phyllis D. Morris, Deputy Commissioner
Center for Employment and Economic Supports

SUBJECT: Temporary Assistance Policy: Change in the Vehicle Resource Exemption
and Lump Sum Set-Aside

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 16, 2016

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4-9344

This is to notify social service districts (SSD) of a change in the Temporary Assistance (TA) vehicle resource exemption and lump sum set-aside policies.

Chapter 54 of the Laws of 2016 changes the vehicle resource exemption policy for applicants and recipients of TA.

Vehicle Resource Exemption

Old Policy: The amount exempted from the \$2,000 resource limit consideration (or \$3,000 for households containing a member age 60 or over) for the first automobile was up to \$4,650 fair market value (FMV) if the vehicle was NOT used to seek or retain employment, or to travel to and from work activities; and up to \$9,300 FMV (or such other higher dollar value as the local SSD may elect to adopt) if the vehicle was used to seek or retain employment, or to travel to and from work activities.

New Policy Effective May 16, 2016: Up to \$10,000 FMV (or such other higher dollar value as the local SSD may elect to adopt) for the first vehicle is exempted from the resource limit when determining TA eligibility.

Whether or not a vehicle is used to seek or retain employment or to travel to and from work activities is no longer a consideration for this policy.

In addition, the auto exemption will increase again at the start of the next two State fiscal years. Beginning April 1, 2017, the exemption amount from the TA resource eligibility test for the first automobile will rise to \$11,000 FMV (or such other higher dollar value as the local SSD may elect to adopt). As of April 1, 2018, and thereafter, the exemption amount from the TA resource eligibility test for the first automobile will rise to \$12,000 FMV (or such other higher dollar value as the local SSD may elect to adopt).

Lump Sum Set-Aside

Effective May 16, 2016, the set-aside policy for lump sums will allow up to \$10,000 (or such other higher dollar value as the local SSD may elect to adopt) as a set-aside when the funds are used within 90 days of the receipt of the lump sum to purchase an automobile that is needed to seek or retain employment or for travel to and from work activities. This lump sum set-aside amount will increase to \$11,000 as of April 1, 2017, and to \$12,000 as of April 1, 2018.

Vehicle Bank Accounts for TA Recipients

Please note that there is no change to the statutory provision that allows a resource exemption of up to \$4,650 in a separate bank account established by a TA recipient for the sole purpose of enabling the individual to purchase a first or replacement automobile in order to seek, obtain or retain employment. This exemption remains a maximum of \$4,650.

Client Notices System (CNS)

Minor changes are required to CNS to accommodate the new vehicle exemption levels. These changes are anticipated to be ready as of the effective date of the new policy.

A detailed Administrative Directive will be forthcoming.