



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	20 TA/DC057 Upstate and New York City
Date:	June 7, 2020
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, TA Directors, SNAP Directors, HEAP Directors, WMS Coordinators, Medicaid Directors
From:	Jeffrey Gaskell, Deputy Commissioner Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	COVID-19 June 6, 2020 TA Expiration Dates
Effective Date:	Immediately
Contact Information:	Temporary Assistance (TA) Questions – TA Bureau at (518) 474-9344 or otda.sm.cees.tabureau@otda.ny.gov Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Bureau Questions – (518) 473-1469 or otda.sm.cees.snap@otda.ny.gov HEAP Bureau Questions – (518) 473-0332 or NYSHEAP@otda.ny.gov

Section 2

In response to the outbreak of COVID-19 and the declaration of a State disaster emergency (Executive Order 202, March 7, 2020), the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) released a series of GIS messages which advised social services districts (districts) of immediate measures that could be taken to simplify and streamline program administration for clients and staff. These measures are set to expire on June 6, 2020.

The purpose of this GIS message is to extend the deadlines for the following items until July 6, 2020:

- Allowing Temporary Assistance (TA) eligibility interviews to be conducted by phone;
- Allowing TA recertification interviews to be conducted by phone;
- Allowing drug/alcohol and domestic violence screenings to be conducted by phone;
- Extending domestic violence waivers set to expire between March 7, 2020 and July 4, 2020 through July 6, 2020;
- Enabling districts with local procedures such as a call-in process or other process that requires frequent contact with individuals experiencing homelessness and residing in emergency housing to conduct these contacts via phone, reduce frequency, or suspend them;
- Allowing continued flexibility on taking negative action on TA mail-in recertifications; and,
- Allowing temporary modifications to previously approved Case Supervisory Review (CSR) plans, temporary approvals for new CSRs, and the option for districts to request new temporary CSR plans.

This GIS also extends the deadline for allowing the issuance of a Common Benefit Identification Card (CBIC) for TA applicants and recipients without a photograph affixed until June 30, 2020, as the CBIC photograph requirement will be eliminated in statute as of this date.

These measures are outlined in greater detail in [20 TA/DC041](#), [20 TA/DC043](#), and 20 [TA/DC047](#).

The expiration of provisions contained in this message may be extended by future guidance. However, districts should be prepared for these extensions to expire and to resume normal agency operations effective July 6, 2020. This includes resuming in-person interviews and screening procedures.