



ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

MICHAEL P. HEIN
Commissioner

BARBARA C. GUINN
Executive Deputy Commissioner

General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	20 TA/DC063 Upstate and New York City
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To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, TA Directors, SNAP Directors
From:	Jeffrey Gaskell, Deputy Commissioner Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	Applicants in Department of Corrections and Community Supervision Temporary Release Programs
Effective Date:	Immediately
Contact Information:	Glenna Roach, Employment and Income Supports Programs / Temporary Assistance Bureau, Glenna.Roach@otda.ny.gov , (518) 474-9344
Attachments:	N/A

Section 2

The purpose of this General Information System (GIS) message is to notify social services districts (districts), that due to reevaluation of the provisions of the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) temporary release programs, individuals who are permanently released from prison into a temporary release program during the COVID-19 crisis are not ineligible for Temporary Assistance as a result of their inmate status. Therefore, if otherwise eligible, these individuals are eligible for Temporary Assistance (TA). Earned income from a work release program must be used when determining TA eligibility.

These changes to DOCCS provisions mean that the policy previously outlined in question and answer #s 18, 19 and 20 of [10-INF-09](#) "Temporary Assistance Questions and Answers" does not apply during the COVID-19 crisis period.

The individuals being placed in the community through this program during the COVID-19 crisis are people that would otherwise be released in 90 days, are not violent felony offenders, and are not subject to SARA restrictions. In the interest of minimizing emergency housing placements when such individuals are released into the community, it is recommended that districts work with their DOCCS liaisons to facilitate locating housing for these returning individuals. The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) recognizes that a temporary housing placement may not be feasible in all incidences, but districts are strongly encouraged to find appropriate housing for these individuals including temporary hotel placement if necessary. Action with placements during this period will permit additional planning for community integration.