NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY.

Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

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To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, TA Directors, SNAP Directors, HEAP Coordinators Employment Coordinators, WMS Coordinators, MA Directors
From:	Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner, Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	Impact of Payments from the Excluded Workers Fund
Effective Date:	Immediately
Contact Information:	TA Bureau 518-474-9344 or otda.sm.cees.tabureau@otda.ny.gov SNAP Questions – SNAP Bureau (518) 473-1469 or otda.sm.cees.snap@otda.ny.gov HEAP Questions – HEAP Bureau (518) 473-0332 or NYSHEAP@otda.ny.gov

Section 2

On April 19, 2021, the Excluded Workers Fund (EWF) was signed into law and is administered by the New York State Department of Labor (NYS DOL) which has paid out over $1.2 billion in benefits and approved nearly 120,000 applications. The $2.1 billion fund is intended to bring COVID relief to New Yorkers who have suffered income loss during the pandemic and were ineligible to receive any of the various federal relief programs, including unemployment and pandemic benefits. Applicants may qualify for EWF benefits of either $15,600 (minus taxes) or $3,200 (minus taxes), depending on the information and documents provided during the application process. Approved applicants will receive the benefit as a one-time payment on a Visa® prepaid card which has ATM access and can be used everywhere Visa debit cards are accepted in the United States. The purpose of this GIS is to provide guidance to local social services districts (districts) on how these payments may affect eligibility for the following programs: Temporary Assistance (TA), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP).

For purposes of TA, funds received from the EWF are considered lump sum payments and are therefore treated as such. When a TA recipient receives a lump sum payment that would normally result in the calculation of a period of ineligibility, the district must allow the recipient to set aside that portion of the lump sum which, when combined with the individual's (or filing unit's) countable resources, does not exceed the TA resource limit. The amount set aside is not used in determining a period of lump sum ineligibility. It is important to note that this only applies when a lump sum period of ineligibility would be calculated without application of the resource limit set aside. Further guidance on how to treat lump sum payments for recipients can be found in 03 ADM-10.

Lump sum provisions do not apply to TA applicants. A lump sum received prior to application or while the TA application is pending is not used to determine a period of TA ineligibility. The amount of the lump sum that remains available at the time of application is considered a resource.

For SNAP, payments from the Excluded Workers Fund are excluded from consideration as income in the month of receipt and as a resource for 12 months following receipt. Any remaining balance from these payments could affect a household's eligibility after 12 months if a household subject to a resource test were to have a remaining balance from the payments and the remaining balance caused the household to exceed the resource limit.

For HEAP, payments from the EWF are counted as earned income for HEAP eligibility and benefit determination and must be counted in the HEAP budget if received in the month of application. EWF payments received in the month of application will be counted towards 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), Cooling Assistance, and Regular Arrears Supplement (RAS) benefits.

EWF balances are considered a liquid resource for the Emergency and HERR benefit components.