



# Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

KATHY HOCHUL  
Governor

BARBARA C. GUINN  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

## General Information System (GIS) Message

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### Section 1

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| <b>Transmittal:</b>            | 21 TA/DC087<br>Upstate and New York City  |
| <b>Date:</b>                   | December 24, 2021   |
| <b>To:</b>                     | Subscribers   |
| <b>Suggested Distribution:</b> | Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, TA Directors, SNAP Directors, Employment Coordinators, WMS Coordinators  |
| <b>From:</b>                   | Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner<br>Employment and Income Support Programs   |
| <b>Subject:</b>                | Treatment of the Federal Fiscal Year 2021 John H. Chafee Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood Cash Grants   |
| <b>Effective Date:</b>         | Immediately   |
| <b>Contact Information:</b>    | TA Questions - 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><br>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Questions – SNAP Bureau 518-473-1469 or <a href="mailto:otda.sm.cees.snap@otda.ny.gov">otda.sm.cees.snap@otda.ny.gov</a> |

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### Section 2

The purpose of this GIS message is to provide guidance to social services districts (districts) regarding treatment of cash grants made available through the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021 John H. Chafee Program (Chafee), administered through the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), for purposes of Temporary Assistance (TA), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) eligibility determinations.

Chafee funds have historically been provided to youth and young adults for specified purposes such as room and board or driving and transportation-related expenses. In December 2020, the “Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act,” Division X of the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021* (Public Law 116-260) was enacted into law. Among its provisions, this law provides increased funding and greater flexibilities for the 2021 Chafee Program, including unrestricted direct cash assistance to youth and young adults age 18 through 26 who were in foster care in NYS after the age of 14. Cash awards may range from \$1,050-\$1,750 per individual. These cash benefits are being provided to individuals in order to mitigate the negative impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has the potential to cause instability for thousands of young adults who aged out of foster care. More information regarding the FFY 2021 Chafee Program may be found in 21-OCFS-LCM-07.

#### TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE (TA)

In accordance with NYCRR §352.22(f)(2), unrestricted cash grants made available through the FFY 2021 Chafee Program are considered disaster assistance provided by the State and must be excluded as income and disregarded as a resource when determining eligibility for both emergency and ongoing TA. This includes Family Assistance (FA), Safety Net Assistance (SNA), Emergency Assistance to

Needy Families with Children (EAF), Emergency Safety Net Assistance (ESNA), and Emergency Assistance for Adults (EAA). A note should be made in the case record regarding the individual's receipt of these payments.

Cash grants made available for the same purpose through the **FFY 2022** Chafee Program will also be excluded as income and disregarded as a resource for purposes of determining TA eligibility.

These payments, if received retroactively, are excluded as income and resources and are therefore not subject to the lump sum provisions.

**SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)**

The direct cash award Payment(s) made under this program will be treated as a one-time, non-recurring, lump sum payment and shall be excluded from income consideration. These funds would be considered a resource in the month received and subsequent months.

**HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HEAP)**

The Payment(s) provided to individuals and families under the Chafee Program as a result of COVID-19 will be excluded as countable income for HEAP eligibility determinations and must not be counted in the HEAP budget. Payment(s) received under this program will be excluded from 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), and Cooling Assistance benefits. Any remaining balance from these payment(s) are not considered a liquid resource for the Emergency and HERR benefit components.