



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	24DC039 Upstate and New York City
Date:	July 9, 2024
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, Temporary Assistance Directors, Staff Development Coordinators, Fair Hearing Staff, DSS Attorneys
From:	Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner, Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	Cash to Outgoing Incarcerated Individuals AKA Gate Money
Effective Date:	Immediately
Contact Information:	Temporary Assistance (TA) Bureau at: (518) 474-9344 or otda.sm.cees.tabureau@otda.ny.gov

Section 2

The purpose of this GIS is to advise social services districts (districts) that the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), pursuant to 18 NYCRR § 352.16, has approved the exemption of the one-time Cash to Outgoing Incarcerated Individuals (COGI) AKA Gate Money payment received by individuals being released from incarceration. This payment must not be considered as income or resources for Temporary Assistance (TA) and Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) eligibility and budgeting or considered a resource for temporary housing should the individual apply for such assistance. For Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), one time (non-recurring) lump sum payments are not considered income for SNAP but are considered a resource in the month received, and any unspent balance is considered a resource in subsequent months.

Historically, individuals being released from incarceration pursuant to NYS Correction Law Section 125 (2) were to receive at least \$40 upon release. The enacted New York State budget for the fiscal year 2024-2025 provided for an increase to the gate money payment.

Effective May 1, 2024, gate money issued by Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) for individuals being released from incarceration was increased from \$40 to \$200. The Gate Money provided upon an individual's release is earmarked to assist in reducing various financial barriers that releasing individuals face, including but not limited to the purchase of appropriate clothing and toiletries, set up of a phone, and transportation, thereby increasing the likelihood of successful reentry into their communities.