



**OFFICE OF POLICY, PROCEDURES, AND TRAINING**

James K. Whelan, Executive Deputy Commissioner

**Adam Waitzman, Assistant Deputy Commissioner**  
Office of Procedures

**POLICY BULLETIN #20-23-ELI**

**TREATMENT OF ONE-TIME COVID-19 EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR CASH ASSISTANCE (CA), SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) AND HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HEAP)**

<p><b>Date:</b> April 28, 2020</p>	<p><b>Subtopic(s):</b> COVID-19, CA, SNAP, and HEAP</p>
<p>Federally funded, state/locally funded and emergency categories of assistance</p> <p>Lump Sum</p> <p>Emergency need available resources</p>	<p>The purpose of this policy bulletin is to inform all Job Center, Non-Cash Assistance (NCA) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Center, and HIV/AIDS Administration Services (HASA) staff on how to treat stimulus rebate payments from the Federal Government’s H.R. 748 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). This policy is informational for all others.</p> <p>The CARES Act provides a onetime stimulus rebate payment of up to \$1,200 to eligible individuals, \$2,400 to eligible married couples and up to \$500 per qualifying child of eligible individuals or families.</p> <p><b><u>Cash Assistance</u></b></p> <p>Any federally funded CARES Act stimulus rebates paid directly to individuals or families related to the 2020 coronavirus pandemic must be excluded as income for initial and recurring CA eligibility determinations and benefit calculations.</p> <p>The income and resource exclusions apply to <b>both</b> federally funded and state/locally funded categories of Safety Net Assistance (SNA-FP and SNA-FNP), to Family Assistance (FA), and to <b>all</b> categories of emergency assistance including Emergency Assistance to Needy Families (EAF), Emergency Safety Net Assistance (ESNA) and Emergency Assistance to Adults (EAA).</p> <p>CARES Act stimulus rebates must be excluded for consideration as a lump sum for the <b>month of receipt</b> and the following <b>two</b> months. This includes exempting them as a recurring resource for CA. The rebate must <b>not</b> be considered an available resource to meet an emergency need when determining eligibility for emergency CA.</p>

HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS PROCEDURE?  
Call 718-557-1313 then press 3 at the prompt followed by 1 or send an e-mail to *FIA Call Center Fax* or fax to: (917) 639-0298

Stimulus rebates funds remaining after the exempted two months

For example, if a household receives the stimulus rebate in April of 2020, the rebate must not be counted as income or as a resource for April 2020 and must be exempt as a countable resource for May and June of 2020. If the household has any remaining funds from the stimulus payment starting in July 2020, the remaining amount **must** be counted as a non-exempt resource from July 2020 and going forward.

### **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**

Stimulus rebate payments received under the CARES Act are not to be counted as income. They are to be excluded as a non-recurring, lump sum payment under federal regulation.

New SNAP applications

When processing a **new** application for SNAP, staff should exclude any stimulus rebate payments from being counted as a resource in the month received and the month after it is received. Any stimulus rebate balance remaining after that must be counted as a resource.

Households already receiving SNAP

For households **already receiving** SNAP when they receive the stimulus rebate payment, staff must exclude the payment as a resource for twelve (12) months after the household receives the money. Any amount of stimulus payment remaining after the 12-month period must be counted as a resource thereafter.

Change reporters and resource test

For the few SNAP households who are subject to a resource test because they are not categorically eligible for SNAP, the resource test will be applied at application and recertification. Only households subject to change reporting (not simplified reporting) and the resource test are required to report when their resources exceed the household limit.

### **Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)**

Stimulus rebate payments received under the CARES Act will be excluded as countable income for HEAP eligibility and benefit determinations and must not be counted in the HEAP budget.

The payments must be excluded when determining eligibility for Regular HEAP, Emergency HEAP, Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement (HERR), Heating Equipment Clean and Tune (C&T), and Cooling Assistance benefits. Any remaining stimulus rebate payment balance remaining are not to be considered a liquid resource for Emergency HEAP and HERR benefit components.

*Effective Immediately*

**References:**

GIS 20 TA/DC027  
7 CFR 273.9(c)(8)  
7 CFR 273.8(e)(12)(i)  
7 CFR 273.8(e)(12)(ii)