



FAMILY INDEPENDENCE ADMINISTRATION

Seth W. Diamond, Executive Deputy Commissioner




James K. Whelan, Deputy Commissioner
Policy, Procedures and Training

Lisa C. Fitzpatrick, Assistant Deputy Commissioner
Office of Procedures

Policy Bulletin #07-106-OPE

(This Policy Bulletin Replaces PB #07-76-OPE)

REVISION TO THE PA AND FS RESOURCE LIMITS/EXEMPTIONS DESK GUIDE (W-204X)

| <p>Date: August 21, 2007</p> | <p>Subtopic(s): Resource Limits</p> |
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| <p> This procedure can now be accessed on the FIAweb.</p> | <p>The purpose of this policy bulletin is to inform all Job Center and Non-Public Assistance (NPA) Food Stamp (FS) Office staff that the PA and FS Resource Limits/Exemptions Desk Guide (W-204X) is being revised to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expand the lump sum payment exemption criteria • indicate that the maximum allowable exemption amount of liquid cash assistance received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is capped at \$1400. <p>The PA lump sum exemption criteria has been expanded to include the following: The period of ineligibility can be shortened if the lump sum is used;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to repay the agency for past assistance • As a resource set aside. The maximum for individual or family amount is \$2,000 and \$3,000 for an individual or family with a household member age 60 years or older • to pay medical expenses that would have been covered by Medicaid • to meet the household's increased standard of need <p>The period of ineligibility can also be shortened if the family can verify that the lump sum became unavailable to the family for reasons beyond their control.</p> <p>Center Directors and FS site managers must ensure that all previous versions of the W-204X are removed from circulation and replaced with the revised form.</p> <p>A sample of the desk guide is attached.</p> |

HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS PROCEDURE?
Call 718-557-1313 then press 2 at the prompt followed by 765 or
send an e-mail to *FIA Call Center*


Effective Immediately

Related Items:

[PD #04-12-ELI](#) Public Assistance Resource Policy

Attachment:

W-204X PA and FS Resource Limits/Exemptions Desk Guide
(Rev. 08/21/07)

 Please use Print on Demand to obtain copies of forms.



PA and FS Resource Limits/Exemptions Desk Guide

The following rules apply to all applicants and participants. However, for FS purposes, households that are categorically eligible for FS are not subject to the resource limitation requirements.

| Resources | Public Assistance (PA) | Food Stamps (FS) |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Licensed Vehicles</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The household may own one vehicle with a fair market value of \$4,650. The fair market value is determined by using the wholesale value (trade-in value) quoted in the Kelley Blue Book. If the vehicle is used to travel to and from employment or to seek or maintain work activities, the exemption amount is increased to \$9,300. <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 48px; color: blue; font-family: cursive;">SAMP</p> | <p>One licensed vehicle per adult household member and one licensed vehicle for each child under age 18 who uses the vehicle for school, work, training, or to look for work is excluded from the resource test.</p> <p>Additional Licensed Vehicles are Excluded When:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used to produce earned income (including situations where the use of one's personally owned vehicle is required for employment such as that of a courier, delivery person, etc.); Annually producing income consistent with its fair market value, even if used only on a seasonal basis; Necessary for long-distance travel, other than daily commuting, when it is essential to the employment of a household member or ineligible alien or disqualified person regardless of purpose of transportation; Used as the household's home; Necessary to transport a physically disabled household member or ineligible alien or disqualified person; Leased by a household member; The title is held by a non member AND no member of the household is permitted to access the cash value of the vehicle; A household depends on it to carry fuel for heating or water for home use; The sale of the vehicle will produce a return of \$1,500 or less. <p>NONEXCLUDED: Licensed vehicles that do not meet these criteria must have the full equity value applied to the household's applicable liquid resource limit. Unlicensed vehicles and recreational vehicles must have their full equity value applied to the household's resource limit.</p> <p>NOTE: Resources of categorically eligible individuals continue to be exempt from the Food Stamp resource test.</p> |
| <p>Liquid Cash Limits (includes bank accounts, saving bonds, and cash on hand)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$3,000 for a household where at least one person is elderly (60 years of age or older). \$2,000 for all other households. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$3,000 for a household where at least one person is elderly (60 years or older) or disabled. \$2,000 for all other households. |
| <p>Liquid Cash Exemptions*</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal assistance provided under public law (PL) 93-288 Section 312(d) (Disaster Relief Act of 1974), as amended by PL 100-707. Comparable disaster assistance payments provided by state or local governments, or by disaster relief organizations, such as the American Red Cross or Salvation Army. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) payments made when there is a disaster or emergency (maximum = \$1,400). One separate bank account per household member that is created for the sole purpose of paying tuition (maximum = \$1,400) at a two-year accredited, postsecondary institution. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal assistance provided under public law (PL) 93-288 Section 312(d) (Disaster Relief Act of 1974), as amended by PL 100-707. Comparable disaster assistance payments provided by state or local governments, or by disaster relief organizations, such as the American Red Cross or Salvation Army. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) payments made when there is a disaster or emergency. |

* See Chapter 19, pages 1-8 of the Temporary Assistance Source Book for a full list of excluded resources; also see Section 16, pages 4-9 of the Food Stamp Source Book for a full list of excluded resources.

PA and FS Resource Limits/Exemptions Desk Guide

The following rules apply to all applicants and participants. However, for FS purposes, households that are categorically eligible for FS are not subject to the resource limitation requirements.

| Resources | Public Assistance (PA) | Food Stamps (FS) |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Lump Sum Payment Exemptions</p> <p>These exemptions apply to participants only.</p> | <p>The lump sum period of ineligibility can be shortened if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the lump sum is used to repay the agency for past assistance; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a resource set aside (maximum = \$2,000 for individual or family, or \$3,000 for individual or family with a member 60+; <u>or</u> • the lump sum is used to pay for medical expenses that would have been covered by Medicaid; • the lump sum becomes unavailable for reasons beyond the family's control; • the lump sum is used to meet the household's increased standard of need. <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>The lump sum is used within 90 days for <u>one</u> of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the purchase of an automobile that is exempt from resource limit because it is needed to seek or retain employment or travel to and from work (maximum \$9,300); • a resource-exempt bank account that is established to purchase a first or replacement automobile that will be used to seek or retain employment (maximum \$4,650); • a college tuition account that is used to pay tuition at a two-year postsecondary education institution (maximum = \$1,400); • a resource-exempt burial plot; • a resource-exempt bona fide funeral agreement (maximum = \$1,500). | <p>Nonrecurring lump sum payments are <u>counted as a resource</u> in the month the payment was received.</p> |
| <p>Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)</p> | <p>Exempt as income or a resource, whether received as a refund or as an advance payment as long as the EITC amount remains identifiable.</p> | <p>Advance payments of Federal EITC are excluded in the month received. Federal and State EITC paid in the form of a lump sum at the end of the year are also excluded as long as they remain identifiable.</p> |
| <p>Household Goods and Personal Effects</p> | <p>Items essential to day-to-day living, such as clothes, furniture and other similarly essential items of limited value.</p> | |
| <p>Home</p> | <p>A home that is the primary residence of the family.</p> | |
| <p>Burial Plot</p> | <p>One burial plot or space per household member.</p> | |
| <p>Funeral Agreement</p> | <p>One funeral per household member (maximum equity value of \$1,500).</p> | |
| <p>Real Property (not primary residence)</p> | <p>Exempt for six (6) months while the household is making a good faith effort to sell if the individual agrees, in writing, to repay cash public assistance received.</p> | <p>Real property remains excluded as a resource when the household is making a good faith effort to sell the property at a reasonable price and has not yet sold.</p> |