



FAMILY INDEPENDENCE ADMINISTRATION

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POLICY BULLETIN #07-76-OPE

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

Date: June 26, 2007	Subtopic(s): Resource Limit
<p> This procedure can now be accessed on the FIAweb.</p> <p> Please use Print on Demand to obtain copies of forms.</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 Public Assistance (PA) and Food Stamp (FS) Resource Limits/Exemptions Desk Guide (W-204X) is being revised to include a reference to Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). This policy bulletin serves as information for all other staff.</p> <p>The EITC program is a common excluded resource. For PA purposes, EITC is exempt as income and a resource whether received as a refund or as an advance payment as long as it remains identifiable.</p> <p>For FS purposes, 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 also are excluded as long as they remain identifiable.</p> <p>Center Directors and Food Stamp site managers must ensure that all previous versions of the W-204X are recycled and replaced with the revised form.</p> <p><i>Effective Immediately</i></p> <p>Attachments: W-204X PA and FS Resource Limits/Exemptions Desk Guide (Rev. 06/26/07)</p> <p>Related Item: PD #04-12-ELI Public Assistance Resource Policy PD #07-01-ELI Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Other Tax Credits for Tax Year 2006</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*

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; opacity: 0.5;">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 nonmember 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 <u>disabled</u>. \$2,000 for all other households.
<p>Liquid Cash Exemptions*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal assistance provided under public law (P.L.) 93-288 Section 312(d) (Disaster Relief Act of 1974), as amended by P.L. 100.707. Comparable disaster assistance payments provided by state or local governments, or by disaster organizations, such as the American Red Cross or Salvation Army. Comparable disaster assistance payments provided by state or local governments, or by disaster organizations, such as the American Red Cross or Salvation Army. Federal Emergency Management Assistance (FEMA) payments made when there is a disaster or emergency. One separate bank account per household member that is created for the sole purpose of paying tuition (maximum = \$1,400) at a 2-year accredited, postsecondary institution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal assistance provided under public law (P.L.) 93-288 Section 312(d) (Disaster Relief Act of 1974), as amended by P.L. 100.707. Comparable disaster assistance payments provided by state or local governments, or by disaster organizations, such as the American Red Cross or Salvation Army. Federal Emergency Management Assistance (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

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Resources	Public Assistance (PA)	Food Stamps (FS)
<p>Lump Sum Payment Exemptions</p> <p>These exemptions apply to participants only.</p>	<p>If used to repay the agency for past assistance; <u>or</u></p> <p>If used within 90 days of receipt for one 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 which 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>