



**FAMILY INDEPENDENCE ADMINISTRATION**  
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**POLICY BULLETIN #09-51-ELI**

**TREATMENT OF ONE-TIME \$250 STIMULUS PAYMENT  
 FOR ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS**

<p><b>Date:</b> May 1, 2009</p>	<p><b>Subtopic(s):</b> Eligibility</p>
<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 Cash Assistance Food Stamp (NCA FS) Center staff that one of the provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 “Stimulus Bill,” signed into law on February 17, 2009, is a one-time stimulus payment of \$250 to each recipient of Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Railroad Retirement Benefits, and Veterans Disability Compensation or Pension Benefits.</p> <p>The \$250 stimulus payment is limited to individuals who were eligible for one of the above benefits during the three months prior to the enactment of the ARRA of 2009 “Stimulus Bill.” Therefore, not all of the aforementioned individuals may receive this payment. The federal government may begin issuing the payments as early as May 2009. It is anticipated that it will take several months to issue payments to all who are eligible.</p> <p>The ARRA of 2009 “Stimulus Bill” excludes these payments as income and as a resource for all federal programs and any state or local programs financed in whole or in part with federal funds. New York State has opted to extend this exclusion to <u>all</u> programs of assistance.</p> <p>The rules regarding the budgeting of the \$250 stimulus payment are outlined in this procedure.</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*

**Cash Assistance**

The income and resource exclusions described below apply to both federally funded and State/locally funded categories of assistance including all categories of emergency assistance.

**Income Exclusion**

Payments from the ARRA of 2009 “Stimulus Bill” must not be counted as income when determining initial and/or recurring eligibility, when determining the benefit level for recurring Cash Assistance (CA), or when determining income eligibility for emergency CA (Emergency Assistance to Needy Families [EAF], Emergency Assistance to Adults [EAA], and Emergency Safety Net Assistance [ESNA]).

**Resource Exclusion**

Workers must exempt the \$250 stimulus payment as a countable resource for the month of receipt and the following nine months. This includes exempting the \$250 stimulus payment as a resource for recurring CA and as an available resource to meet an emergency need when determining eligibility for emergency CA.

For EAA, any remaining balance of the stimulus payment must be considered unavailable to meet an emergency need, even after the exclusion period has expired.

For example, if a household receives a \$250 stimulus payment in May 2009, it must not be counted as income or as a resource for May, and must be excluded as a countable resource for the following nine months. However, after February 2010 (in March 2010 or later), if the household has remaining funds from the \$250 stimulus payment, the balance must be treated as a non-excluded resource, unless the household is applying for emergency relief under EAA, as noted above.

**Food Stamps****Income Exclusion**

Payments from the ARRA of 2009 “Stimulus Bill” must not be counted as income when determining eligibility for ongoing food stamps. The receipt of the stimulus payment has no effect on the determination of Expedited Food Stamp (EFS) service eligibility.

**Example:** An individual in receipt of Social Security Disability Income comes in to apply for food stamp benefits. The applicant received the \$250 stimulus payment two days prior to the date of application and informed the Worker that there is \$200 in cash still available. When determining an applicant's eligibility for EFS, the \$200 in cash must be counted as available, regardless of the source of the available cash.

#### Resource Exclusion

See [PB #09-27-ELI](#)

For those food stamp households that are not categorically eligible and are still subject to a resource requirement, the \$250 stimulus payment is not countable as a resource for the month of receipt and the following nine months. Categorically eligible households are automatically exempt from the resource requirement.

#### Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

The \$250 stimulus payment must not be counted as income when determining eligibility for HEAP. The payment, or any remaining amount, is also not countable as a resource for the month of receipt and the following nine months.

#### Medicaid

The \$250 stimulus payment must not be counted as income for Medicaid or as a resource for Medicaid in the month of receipt and the following nine months.

*Effective Immediately*

#### **References:**

[GIS 09 TA/DC009  
08 ADM 09](#)

#### **Related Item:**

[PB #09-27-ELI](#)