

OFFICE OF POLICY, PROCEDURES, AND TRAINING

POLICY BULLETIN #23-45-OPE

PRE-RELEASE CASH ASSISTANCE APPLICATION FILING AND PROCESSING

Date:	Subtopic(s):	
August 9, 2023	Cash Assistance	
	Purpose	
	The purpose of this policy bulletin is to provide instructions to the FIA Special Project Center and Benefits Access Center (BAC) staff for application filing and processing of Cash Assistance (CA) applications received from incarcerated individuals scheduled for discharge from the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (NYS DOCCS). This policy bulletin is informational for all other staff.	
	Note : The process described in this procedure does not apply to applicants who are Brad H. class members.	
	Background	
	Under an approved federal waiver, incarcerated individuals who are scheduled for release in less than 60 days and who do not plan to return to an existing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) household that they would become part of, would be encouraged to file an application for CA/SNAP. NYS DOCCS discharge planning staff will meet with these individuals to evaluate how they will support themselves upon release, where the person would live, and connect that individual to available public benefits and services.	
	For those individuals who plan on residing in New York City and indicate a need for CA/SNAP benefits, NYS DOCCS or Community Based Organization (CBO) staff will assist the individual in submitting a combined CA/SNAP application. The processing of these applications would be pended, for up to 60 days, from the date the incarcerated individual is released. This release date would be set as the SNAP application filing date, establishing the first date when SNAP benefits can be issued from. Combined CA/SNAP applications will be completed on paper and then submitted either through mail, fax, or e-fax (RightFax).	

HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS PROCEDURE? Request a Clearance in <u>Service NOW</u>, or send an e-mail to <u>fiacallcenter2@dss.nyc.gov</u>, or Call 718-557-1313 then press 3 at the prompt followed by 1 or fax to: (917) 639-0298 These applicants will have the option to have a pre-release CA eligibility interview by telephone while still in NYS DOCCS custody, a post-release on-demand telephone CA interview, or a post-release face-to-face eligibility interview at a Benefits Access Center.

Required Action

NYS DOCCS or CBO staff will submit the completed paper CA application, along with the NYC DSS/HRA and NYS DOCCS Pre-Release Cash Assistance Program (CA) Application Cover Sheet (**DSS-42**) to the FIA Special Project Center.

The FIA Special Project Center will review the **DSS-42** and the CA application and then register the application in the Paperless Office System (POS). To accommodate this process, the POS intake screens have been designed to capture the expected date of discharge which will be used as the authorization date if the case is either activated for recurring assistance or placed in single issue status. This date will also be stored in the POS comments area. FIA Special Project Center staff will then screen the application for expedited SNAP processing eligibility, using the information on the application.

Pre-Release Interview

If the applicant has chosen to have a pre-release interview, the FIA Special Project Center will contact the NYS DOCSS or CBO staff indicated on the **DSS-42** and schedule the telephone interview for a time when the applicant will be available while meeting with the NYS DOCSS or CBO staff who will assist in facilitating the pre-release interview.

If based on the information on the CA/SNAP application and information obtained during the eligibility interview, the individual is determined eligible for SNAP benefits, FIA Special Project Center staff will issue the benefits, using the expected date of discharge as the start date of the benefits, and open the SNAP portion of the CA/SNAP case using SNAP opening code **Y17** (Meets eligibility requirements - Application Filed While in Jail/Prison) with the date of discharge as the authorization date.

If the individual is also determined eligible for CA, issue those benefits starting on the date of compliance.

If it is determined during the interview that the individual needs to be included in a currently active CA/SNAP case, then the registered application will need to be denied and then be added to the active CA/SNAP case in AP (applying) status for both CA and SNAP.

Post-Release Telephone Interview

If the **DSS-42** indicates a post release telephone interview is selected, FIA Special Project Center staff will mail the Interview Required for Your Cash Assistance Application (**FIA-1204**) with the Eligibility Factors and Suggested Documentation Guide (**W-119D**).

Post-Release In-Person Interview

In instances where the **DSS-42** indicates a post-release in-person interview is selected, FIA Special Project Center staff will register the application and schedule an in-person interview within seven days of the scheduled release date.

FIA Special Project Center staff must screen for expedited SNAP eligibility and annotate Part Four of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Application Expedited processing Summary Sheet (**LDSS-39838 NYC**) indicating that this is a pre-release submission and an in-person interview was requested.

Failure to Keep the Interview

Applicants who requested a post release interview will not have their application denied until 60 days after the application file date for failing to be interviewed.

Effective Immediately

Related Items:

PB #23-44-OPE	Pre-Release SNAP Application Filing and
	Processing
PD #14-13-ELI	Expedited SNAP Processing Rules
PD #06-03-ELI	Mental Health Outreach at Correctional Facilities
	(Brad H. Procedure)

Attachments:

DSS-42	NYC DSS/HRA and NYS DoCCS
	Pre-Release Cash Assistance Program (CA)
	Application Cover Sheet (08/07/2023)
FIA-1204	Interview Required for Your Cash Assistance
	Application (02/22/2023)
W-119D	Eligibility Factors and Suggested Documentation
	Guide (Rev. 11/28/2012)

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NYC DSS/HRA and NYS DoCCS PRE-RELEASE CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CA) APPLICATION COVER SHEET

TO:	FIA Special Project Center	FROM:
FAX:	917-639-2534	# OF PAGES:
	CAInterviewsupport@hra.nyc.gov	
	EMAIL	
	929-252-5770	
	PHONE NUMBER FOR PRE-RELEASE INTERVI	EW
Date	of Submission	
Appli	cant Name	
DoCO	CS Site Name	
Expe	cted Date of Discharge	
Interv	view Option Selected:	
	Pre-Releas	e Telephone Interview
	Post-Relea	se Telephone Interview
	_	se In-Person Interview
	—	

Upon electronic submission (email or fax) of this Cover Sheet and Cash Assistance (CA) application, please contact the DoCCS CA App Liaison at (<u>CAInterviewsupport@hra.nyc.gov</u>) to:

- (1) confirm receipt of this CA application;
- (2) coordinate submission of any needed verifying documentation; and,
- (3) schedule a pre-release telephone interview (if this option is selected).

<u>Note</u>: should the applicant's Expected Discharge Date be delayed, please notify your DoCCS CA App Liaison immediately, and no later than two (2) business days before the Expected Discharge Date.

Additional Notes/Comments

NYC DSS/HRA and NYS DoCCS PRE-RELEASE CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CA) APPLICATION COVER SHEET (continued)

Instructions for NYS DoCCS staff assisting Clients with CA Applications

Thank you for assisting our mutual clients apply for CA benefits prior to discharge to ensure that they have the necessary benefits to purchase food and other necessities upon discharge. This brief "cheat-sheet" will help guide you through the process to connecting these individuals to the CA Program.

- 1. Familiarize yourself with the CA program: Understand the CA program and promote and publicize this public benefit to your clients who have over 60 days prior to discharge.
- 2. Discuss and answer CA program questions for individuals with 30-60 days prior to discharge, and begin preparing CA applications for this group.
- **3.** For individuals anticipating discharge in around 30 days, please work to submit a CA application and accompanying Cover Letter by email to <u>CAInterviewsupport@hra.nyc.gov</u>.
 - (i) Communicate with your CA DoCCS liaison to confirm receipt; discuss what verifying documentation the applicant needs to submit, and schedule a date and time to conduct the telephone interview.
- 4. Submit needed venifying documentation to support CA application.
 - (i) Work with your CA Doccs liaison to submit the documents required to process the CA Application.
- 5. Conduct CA telephone interview at pre-arranged date and time: make the applicant available to speak with an HRA staff member on the submitted application it should take around 30 minutes.
- 6. Receive and forward a Notice of Determination of Eligibility to client once HRA makes its determination on the application. We will email you a PDF of the Notice.
- 7. If Client is Eligible, please work with the DoCCS CA Liaison to ensure that CA benefits can be loaded onto a "Vault" EBT (temporary NYS Common Benefit Identity Card) that can be given to the applicant after discharge at any CA center.
- 8. If Actual Discharge Date is later than Expected Discharge Date, please notify your DoCCS CA Liaison immediately; HRA will need to adjust the CA benefits loaded onto the Vault card if the discharge date is delayed.

Questions and/or concerns – speak to your DoCCS CA Liaison!



Date:	
Center Number:	
Case Name:	
Case Number:	
Application File Date:	

Interview Required for Your Cash Assistance Application!

We received your Cash Assistance (CA) application. You must contact us to be interviewed.

You should contact us by
If you have an emergency or an immediate need, contact us right away.
You can call Monday – Friday 8 30am to 5:00pm
Note: Our offices are closed on Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays.
You have thirty (30) days to complete your interview or you application will be denied (Please ignore this notice if you already completed your interview!)
Call NOW. Your interview will take about 30-60 minutes. Can't call today? Many people find it helpful to write down a plan to call. Write down your plan and put a reminder in your phone to help you remember. I will call:

(Turn page)

What will I need for the call?

Only your Cash Assistance Case Number (at the top of page 1 of this notice) or your ACCESS HRA Confirmation Number or a Social Security Number (SSN). This will help us find your case.

Who needs to be interviewed?

All members of the case that are 18 years or older should be available during the interview.

What documents will I need?

You will need to give us documents that prove the information you gave us on your application. If you had a case before, we may have documents from you that can be used again.

You can give us documents after your interview. You will be given at least 10 calendar days after your interview to give us any documents we ask for.

For each person who is applying, you must give documents that prove:

Identity
Income
Members of your household (the people you live with)

For each person who is applying, you may need to give documents that prove:

- Citizenship **or**
- Current immigration status

You will need to give documents that prove your home address (if you have one), and the number of people you live with.

You may need to give us additional documents. The Eligibility Factors and Suggested Documentation Guide **(W-119d)**, we sent with this notice, lists examples of documents that you can use.



Upload any required documentation via the ACCESS HRA mobile app that you have not already submitted (more info: <u>www.nyc.gov/hradocs</u>).

You do not need to return this form.

(Turn page)

Do you have a medical or mental health condition or disability? Does this condition make it hard for you to understand this notice or to do what this notice is asking? Does this condition make it hard for you to get other services at HRA? **We can help you.** Use the *Help For People With Disabilities* form in this mailing. You can also call us at 718-557-1399. You can also ask for help when you visit an HRA office. You have a right to ask for this kind of help under the law.





Eligibility Factor	To prove this factor, provide: ONE of the following V OR	TWO* of the following:
Vou must establish identity for each person listed.	 Photo I.D. Driver's license U.S. passport Naturalization certificate Hospital/Doctor's records Adoption papers 	 Statement from another person Birth/baptismal certificate Validated Social Security Number (SSN)
Marital Status You must prove if you are married, divorced, separated or widowed (not required for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program [SNAP]).	 Marriage/Death certificates Separation agreement Divorce decree Social Security records Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) records 	 Statement from clergy Census records Newspaper notice Statement from another person
Relationship If you are related to a child in the household, you must prove the relationship.	 Birth certificate (long form) Adoption papers/records Court records Medical records 	 Applicant's statement Newspaper notice Statement from clergy Statement from another person
You must verify your place of residence (if applicable).	Statement from landlord/primary tenant Current rent receipt or lease Mortgage records	 Statement from another person Current mail
Household Composition/Size You must prove who is living with you. *At recertification only required for minors if questionable	Satement from non relative landlord	Statements from other persons
Age You must prove the age of each person applying for assistance, where appropriate.	 Birth certificate Baptismal records/certificate Hospital records Adoption papers/records Naturalization certificate Driver's license 	 Insurance policy Census records Statement from another person Physician statement Official correspondence from Social Security Administration (SSA)
Absence/Death of Parent(s) If the parent(s) of any child in your home is not living with you, you must prove this (not required for SNAP).	 Death certificate Survivor's benefit records Hospital records VA or military records Divorce papers Proof of remarriage 	 Newspaper notice Insurance company records Institutional records Agency case records and burial payment files Statement from another person
Absent Parent Information If the parent(s) of any child in your home is not living with you, you must provide information you have about the individual's: name, address, SSN, birth date, and employment (not required for SNAP).	 Pay stubs Tax returns Social Security or VA records Monetary determination letters ID cards (health insurance) Driver's license or registration 	NA
Social Security Number For Temporary Assistance, SNAP Benefits and Medical Assistance only, you do <u>not</u> have to provide proof of your SSN unless the SSN you give does not match the SSA's records or cannot be verified by the Agency.	 Social Security card Official correspondence from SSA A Social Security number is not required for non-citizens who are seeking Medical Assistance for emergency treatment only or are Medical Assistance – only applicants who are pregnant. 	NA

*If you are applying for Supplementary Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits or Medical Assistance **only**, you need to bring **one form for each Eligibility Factor checked**.

Eligibility Factor	To prove this factor, provide ONE of the following:	
Citizenship or Current Immigration Status Status – U.S. citizens are eligible for Temporary Assistance, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and medical assistance. Non-citizens must be in a satisfactory immigration status in order to be eligible for Temporary Assistance, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and medical assistance. Immigration status is not an eligibility factor for pregnant women or immigrant children applying for Child Health Plus B. Non-citizens without an immigration status and temporary nonimmigrants are eligible only for the treatment of an emergency medical condition.	 Birth certificate Baptismal certificate/records Hospital records U.S. passport Military service records Naturalization certificate USCIS documentation (e.x., Green Card, Forms I-551, I-94, I-797, etc.) Evidence of continuous U.S. residence since prior to 1/1/72 	
Earned Income		
From employer If you have recently lost your job, you do not have to submit verification of your income from employment.	 Current wage stubs and statements of tips Pay envelopes Contact with employer On letterhead, rate of pay per hour, hours worked per week, first pay date, if new and employer's phone number 	
From self-employment	 Business records Tax records 	
Income from rent or loom/board	Records and related materials concerning self-employment earnings and expenses Current income tax return Current contribution check Statement from roomer, boarder, tenant Income tax record	
Child Support received from the non-custodial parent.	Statement from Family Court Statement from person paying support Cheek stubs Official correspondence from the Child Support Enforcement Unit	
Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB)	 Current award certificate Official correspondence with New York State Department of Labor (including emails) Screen shots or images of benefit statement from Department of Labor (must include identifying information like your name) 	
Social Security benefits (including SSI)	Current award certificate/letter Current benefit check Official correspondence from SSA	
☐ Veteran's benefits	Veterans Affairs official correspondence Current award certificate/letter Current benefit check	
Worker's Compensation	Award certificate/letter Check stub	
Education grants and loans	 Statement from school (including emails and screen shots) Statement from bank (including emails and screen shots) Statement from agency administering grant/award letter 	
Interest/dividends/royalties	 Statement from bank or credit union (including emails and screen shots) Statement from broker/financial institution/agent (including emails and screen shots) 	

Eligibility Factor	To prove this factor, provide ONE of the following:
Unearned Income (continued)	
Private pension/annuity	 Current award letter Current benefit check Official correspondence from source of income Contact with source of income Current contribution check
Other unearned income	
Resources (For Medical Assistance only, resource information is not requested from pregnant women, children under the age of 19, and persons eligible for Family Health Plus.)	
Bank Accounts: Checking, savings, retirement (IRA and Keogh), credit union	Current bank records (including screen shots or electronic statements) Current credit carc records (including screen shots or electronic statements)
Stocks, bonds, certificates and mutual junds	Stock/bond gertificate Statement from inancial institution
Life insurance	Insurance policy Statement from nsurance company
Burial trust or fund, burial plot, or funeral agreement	Bank recordsBurial agreementBurial plot deed
Income tax refund or Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)	Refund of EITC checkStatement from tax office
Real estate other than residence	 Deed Statement from real estate broker Broker's appraisal/estimate of current value by broker
Motor vehicle	 Registration (older models) Title of ownership Appraisal of current value by dealer Financing data
Lump sum payment	Statement from the source of paymentLump sum check
Other resources	 Statement from household Statement from nursing home Household statement of current value Sales slips Insurance appraisal

Eligibility Factor	To prove this factor, provide ONE of the following:
 Shelter Expenses You must prove how much it costs you to live where you do. (You may need to provide separate documentation for each item of shelter expense.) You must submit proof of your shelter expenses, if you have any, even if you have not paid your rent Medical Assistance does not require documentation of shelter expenses. 	 Current rent receipt/lease/mortgage book/records Property and school tax records Landlord statement Sewer and water bills Garbage/trash collection bills or receipts Homeowner's insurance records Fuel bills/shut-off notice Nonheating utility bills Telephone bills (or a statement from the household that the expense is incurred)
Medical Expenses For SNAP, for aged/disabled individuals only	 Statement from provider of health insurance premiums Copies of medical bills (paid and unpaid) Medicare prescription drug card Other proof of medical expenses that are not reimbursed (e.x., receipts from drug store, proof of payment for hearing aide, etc.)
Health Insurance If you or anyone applying has health insurance coverage (even if paid for by someone else), you must prove this. Disability/Incapacitation/Pregnancy If you or anyone living with you is sick or pregnant, you must provide proof. (For MA only, resource information is not requested from pregnant women, children, and persons eligible for Family realth Plus). Unpaid Bills Rent, utility	 Insurance policy/card Statement from provider of coverage Medicare card Separation or divorce agreement with court-ordered health coverage Statement from doctor, clinic or hospital verifying pregnancy, expected date of birth (a sonogram is not acceptable proof) Statement from medical professional Proof of SSA/SSI benefits for disability/blindness Copy of each bill showing amount owed, period of services, and provider of services
Referral Drug/alcohol treatment program	Statement from provider of treatment Statement from employment service
Employment service Other Expenses/Dependent Care Cost You must provide proof if you pay court-ordered support, child care, recurring loans, or for the services of a home health aide or attendant.	 Court order Statement from day care center or other child care provider Statement from aide or attendant Canceled checks or receipts
School Attendance You must prove who is in school.	 School records (current report card) Statement from school or higher education institution Other proof of school attendance

Eligibility Factor	To prove this factor, provide ONE of the following:
Past Management	
(For Safety Net Assistance)	
Earned Income	Letter from employer giving dates of employment, amount earned and reason(s) for leaving
	 If your most recent employer is closed or no longer in business, please give us the employer's last known address and telephone number. You must sign the statement and date it for our records.
Other	If you were not supporting yourself from employment/earned income, please bring verification of how you were able to support yourself in the past such as:
(For cash assistance only)	
	 Bankbook/bank statement Verification of expiration of benefits, including emails and
	screen shots (workers' compensation, disability, Social Security,
	UIB, etc.)Statement from person(s) who provided support
	Statement from person(s) who provided support
Potential Benefits	 If you or anyone in the household has applied for and been
	denied or has been accepted for benefits from any of the following
	sources, bring the award letter, check or other correspondence: Sodial Se curity, court payments, SSI, veteran's be nefits, workers'
	opprensation, union benefits, pension, military allotment, railroad retirement, NYS disability or other source
Other	
	V/