



OFFICE OF POLICY, PROCEDURES, AND TRAINING

James K. Whelan, Executive Deputy Commissioner

Adam Waitzman, Assistant Deputy Commissioner

Office of Procedures

POLICY BULLETIN #21-70-ELI

IMPACT OF PAYMENTS FROM THE EXCLUDED WORKERS FUND (EWF)

Date: December 20, 2021	Subtopic(s):
<p>Refer to PD #17-07-ELI for the Lump Sum Budgeting Rules</p>	<p>The purpose of this policy bulletin is to inform all Job Center, Non Cash Assistance (NCA) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), and HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA) staff of the impact the Excluded Workers Fund (EWF) payments will have on applicant eligibility for CA, SNAP, and HEAP benefits. This policy bulletin is informational for all other staff.</p> <p>The EWF is intended to bring COVID relief to New Yorkers who have suffered income loss during the pandemic and were ineligible to receive any of the various federal relief programs, including unemployment and pandemic benefits. Applicants may qualify for EWF benefits of either \$15,600 dollars (minus taxes) or \$3,200 dollars (minus taxes), depending on the information and documents provided during the application process. Approved applicants will receive the benefit as a one-time payment issued on a Visa prepaid card.</p> <p>Programs affected by the receipt of EWF payments:</p> <p><u>Cash Assistance (CA)</u></p> <p>For CA, funds received from the EWF are considered lump sum payments. A lump sum received prior to application or while the CA application is pending is not used to determine a period of CA ineligibility. The amount of the lump sum that remains available at the time of application is considered a resource.</p> <p>CA recipients who receive a lump sum may not have a period of CA ineligibility. The Human Resources Administration (HRA) must allow the CA recipient to set aside the EWF lump sum, and if it does not exceed the CA resource limit when combined with the individual's (or filing unit's) countable resources, there is no period of CA ineligibility.</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

Distribution: X

The CA recipient can keep the lump sum without it impacting CA eligibility when it is under the resource limit. Refer to [03-ADM-10](#) and [PD #17-07-ELI](#) for more information.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

For SNAP, payments from EWF are excluded from consideration as income in the month payment was received, and as a resource for 12 months following receipt. After the 12 months, any remaining EWF amount could affect a household's SNAP eligibility if the household was subject to a resource test, and the remaining balance caused the household to exceed the resource limit.

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

For HEAP, EWF payments are counted as earned income for HEAP eligibility and benefit determination and must be counted in the HEAP budget if received in the month of application. EWF payments received in the month of application will be counted towards the HEAP household's income when determining eligibility for Regular HEAP, Emergency HEAP, Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement (HERR), Heating Equipment Clean and Tune (C&T), Cooling Assistance, and Regular Arrears Supplement (RAS) benefits.

EWR balances are considered a liquid resource for Emergency HEAP and HERR benefit components.

Effective Immediately

References:

21 TA/DC081
03-ADM-10

Related Item:

[PD #17-07-ELI](#)