



# OFFICE OF POLICY, PROCEDURES, AND TRAINING

James K. Whelan, Executive Deputy Commissioner

Adam Waitzman, Assistant Deputy Commissioner  
Office of Procedures

## POLICY BULLETIN #20-63-ELI

### OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS GRANTS FOR IMMIGRANT FAMILIES, INCLUDING UNDOCUMENTED NEW YORKERS

<p><b>Date:</b> October 14, 2020</p>	<p><b>Subtopic(s):</b> CA, SNAP, Income, Resources, COVID-19</p>
	<p>The purpose of this policy bulletin is to inform Job Center and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Center staff that the emergency COVID-19 related grants provided to immigrant workers and their families through Open Society Foundations (OSF) are exempt as income and a resource for both Cash Assistance (CA) and SNAP.</p> <p>OSF provided funding to the Mayor’s Fund to Advance New York City in partnership with the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA), which then partnered with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to give one-time emergency grants to immigrant workers and their families who were deemed ineligible for federal stimulus checks under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (signed into law by President Trump on March 27th, 2020) due to their immigration status or lack thereof.</p> <p>This initial funding reached up to 20,000 immigrants and their families affected by COVID-19 related job loss and facing financial distress. The award amounts are divided into three categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1,000 for families with children or more than two adults,</li> <li>• \$800 for two adults with no children, and</li> <li>• \$400 for individuals.</li> </ul> <p>If applicants had received other funding from another source, they may be eligible for a prorated amount (e.g. if a family with children received a \$500 check from another source, they would still be eligible to receive \$500 from the OSF/MOIA funds).</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

Cases with recipients of these grants will most often be in mixed-status households, such as undocumented parents with citizen children and mixed-status spouses, although there may also be individual applicants/participants who have received grants as well.

For ongoing CA eligibility purposes, this grant would be exempt and disregarded as income and resources with the understanding that these grants are not intended to meet basic needs (e.g., food, clothing, shelter, utilities), but are in furtherance of the family's investment in human capital development.

For SNAP eligibility purposes, this grant would also be exempt and disregarded as income. In addition, for SNAP these grants would be considered a resource in the month received, but under the SNAP categorical eligibility rules most SNAP households are not subject to a resource test.

Refer to PB #18-67-ELI

Staff must ensure that these grants are not calculated as part of a CA or SNAP budget, nor considered a resource when determining eligibility or continued eligibility for CA and SNAP cases.

For more information about the New York City COVID-19 Immigrant Emergency Relief Program with Open Society Foundations, staff may visit:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/262-20/mayor-de-blasio-new-york-city-covid-19-immigrant-emergency-relief-program-open>;

and

<https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/newsroom/open-society-foundations-commit-emergency-support-to-address-the-impact-of-covid-19-in-new-york-city>.

*Effective Immediately.*

#### **References:**

<https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/262-20/mayor-de-blasio-new-york-city-covid-19-immigrant-emergency-relief-program-open>

<https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/newsroom/open-society-foundations-commit-emergency-support-to-address-the-impact-of-covid-19-in-new-york-city>

18 NYCRR 352.16(a) and 352.22(f)  
7 CFR 273.8(e)(11) and 273.9(c)(8), (10), (19)  
7 USC 2014(d)(8), (18)  
42 USC 5155

**Related Item:**  
PB #18-67-ELI