



# OFFICE OF POLICY, PROCEDURES, AND TRAINING

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## POLICY BULLETIN #21-04-ELI

### IMPACTS OF THE FEDERAL CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2021

<b>Date:</b> January 25, 2021	<b>Subtopic(s):</b> COVID-19, CA, SNAP, and HEAP
	<p>The purpose of this policy bulletin is to inform all Job Center, Non-Cash Assistance (NCA) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Center, Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) and HIV/AIDS Administration Services (HASA) staff about the treatment of recovery rebate payments, additional Federal Pandemic Unemployment benefits, and temporary changes in SNAP student eligibility rules in the Federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 that became law on December 27, 2020.</p> <p><b><u>2020 Recovery Rebate Payments</u></b></p> <p>The 2020 recovery rebate payments of up to \$600 per eligible individual must be excluded as income in the month received for initial and recurring Cash Assistance (CA) eligibility determinations and benefit calculations for Family Assistance (FA), Safety Net Assistance (SNA), Emergency Assistance to Families (EAF), Emergency Safety Net Assistance (ESNA), and Emergency Assistance to Adults (EAA) cases.</p> <p>The recovery rebate payments are also excluded as a resource for the above categories for twelve months from the date the household received the benefit.</p> <p>For SNAP, the recovery rebate payments must be excluded as income in the month received and excluded as a resource for twelve months from the date the household received the benefit.</p> <p>For HEAP, the recovery rebate payments are excluded as income in determining eligibility for Regular HEAP, Emergency, Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement (HERR), Heating Equipment Clean and Tune (C&amp;T), and Cooling Assistance benefits. Any remaining balance from these payments are not considered a liquid resource for the Emergency and HERR benefit components.</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

### **Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation Payments**

The Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) payments of an additional \$300 per week which are issued by the New York State (NYS) Department of Labor (DOL) are excluded as income and are excluded as a resource when determining eligibility and benefit levels for FA, SNA, EAF, ESNA and EAA cases.

For SNAP, the additional \$300 per week payments are excluded as income and excluded as a resource when determining eligibility and benefit levels.

For HEAP, the additional \$300 per week payments are excluded as income in determining eligibility for Regular HEAP, Emergency, HERR, C&T, and Cooling Assistance benefits. Any remaining balance from these payments are not considered a liquid resource for the Emergency and HERR benefit components.

A comment should be made in the electronic case record regarding the individual's receipt of these \$300 weekly payments.

### **Student Eligibility**

See PB #20-70-ELI for the student eligibility procedure.

To participate in SNAP, a student enrolled at least half time in an institution of higher education must either be working an average of 20 hours per week or meet one of the exemption criteria. One exemption is participation in a state or federally-financed work study program during the regular school year. The student needs to anticipate working during the time of attendance at the institution.

The legislation temporarily added two additional ways to be a SNAP eligible student:

- being eligible to participate in state or federally financed work study, without actual participation; and,
- having an "expected family contribution (EFC)" of \$0 in the current academic school year

The additional ways for students to be eligible for SNAP will be in effect until 30 days after the COVID-19 federal public health emergency is lifted. This means that new applications received 30 days after the emergency has been lifted will be processed under normal student eligibility criteria. The same standard will apply to recertifications occurring more than 30 days after the end of the emergency declaration.

Students granted eligibility under the temporary changes will maintain student eligibility until the next recertification regardless of the emergency declaration being lifted at any time during the certification period.

If a student meets either of the two temporarily added ways to be a SNAP eligible student and does not meet any of the criteria already listed in the Paperless Office System (POS), staff should select college work study and must make a comment in POS stating which method they met.

The household is responsible for providing verification of a student being eligible to participate in college work study or of having an EFC of \$0. College work study would be listed on a financial aid package from the school while the EFC is listed on the top right of the Student Aid Report (SAR) that is electronically or physically mailed to the student a few weeks after the filing of their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

*Effective Immediately*

**Reference:**

GIS 21 TA/DC004

**Related Items:**

PB #20-23-ELI	Treatment of One-Time COVID-19 Emergency Relief for CA, SNAP, and HEAP
PB #20-26-ELI	Treatment of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation for CA, SNAP, and HEAP
PB #20-57-ELI	Treatment of Supplemental Lost Wages Payments for CA, SNAP, and HEAP
PB #20-70-ELI	SNAP Student Eligibility
PB #21-02-ELI	Temporary Increase in SNAP Allotments due to COVID-19