



OFFICE OF POLICY, PROCEDURES, AND TRAINING

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POLICY BULLETIN #21-19-ELI

IMPACTS OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021

Date: March 29, 2021	Subtopic(s): 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 impact on Cash Assistance (CA), SNAP, and HEAP of various benefits authorized by the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Consolidated Act of 2021 that became law on March 11, 2021.</p> <p>The ARP authorized recovery rebate payments, extended the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Insurance benefit payments, extended the temporary increase in SNAP allotments, expanded the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and allowed CTC to be issued to households as advanced monthly payments.</p> <p><u>2021 Recovery Rebate Payments</u></p> <p>The 2021 recovery rebate payments of up to \$1,400 per eligible individual must be excluded as income in the month received for initial and recurring 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 12 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 12 months from the date the household received the benefit.</p>

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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&T), and Cooling Assistance benefits. Any remaining balance from these payments are not considered a liquid resource for the Emergency and HERR benefit components.

Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation Payments

The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) have been extended by the ARP through September 6, 2021. The benefits are for individuals who would normally be ineligible for Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB) or who have exhausted their regular UIB. These benefits are considered unearned income are counted in determining eligibility for CA, SNAP and HEAP.

The Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) payments have also been extended through September 6, 2021. FPUC payments provide a weekly supplement of \$300 to the UIB of each eligible individual. FPUC also includes an additional \$100 weekly Mixed Earner Benefit for individuals who have earned \$5,000 or more in self-employment income in the last year.

For CA, the \$300/\$100 weekly FPUC payments are excluded as income and as resource for both ongoing and emergency benefits.

For SNAP, the \$300/\$100 weekly FPUC payments are excluded as income and are excluded as a resource for the month of receipt and the following 9 months.

For HEAP, the \$300/\$100 weekly FPUC payments are excluded as income when determining eligibility for Regular HEAP, Emergency, Heating Equipment Repair (HERR), Heating Equipment Clean and Tune (C&T), and Cooling Assistance benefits. Any remaining balance from these payments are not considered a liquid resource for the Emergency and HERR benefits.

Extension of the Temporary Increase in SNAP Allotments

The ARP extended the temporary 15% increase in SNAP Allotments through September 30, 2021. The temporary increase was initially authorized from January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021 by the Federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

See [PB #21-02-ELI](#) for the Temporary Increase in SNAP Allotments.

Child Tax Credits

The ARP expands the Child Tax Credit (CTC) up to \$3,600 and allows for the CTC to be provided in advanced monthly payments.

For ongoing CA, even if the CTC is received in advanced monthly payments, they are exempt as income in the month received and are excluded as a resource for 12 months from the date of receipt.

For EAF, ESNA and EAA, available income tax refunds and credits which are determined exempt resources must be used to alleviate any emergency before the use of emergency assistance

For SNAP, even if the CTC is received in advanced monthly payments, they are exempt as income in the month received and are exempt as a resource for 12 months from the date of receipt.

For HEAP, even if the CTC is received in advanced monthly payments, they will be excluded when determining eligibility for Regular HEAP, Emergency, Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement (HERR), Heating Equipment Clean and Tune (C&T), and Cooling Assistance benefits. Any remaining balance from CTC payments are not considered a liquid resource for the Emergency and HERR benefit components

These payments, if received retroactively, are excluded as income and are not subject to lump sum provisions.

Effective Immediately

Reference:

[GIS 21 TA/DC015](#)

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 #21-02-ELI	Temporary Increase in SNAP Allotments due to COVID-19
PB #21-04-ELI	Impacts of the Federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021