

WGIUPD

GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM
DIVISION: Office of Health Insurance Programs

4/20/20

GIS 20 MA/05

PAGE 1

TO: Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Directors

FROM: Lisa Sbrana, Director
Division of Eligibility and Marketplace Integration

SUBJECT: Impact of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act on Medicaid Financial Eligibility

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

CONTACT PERSON: Local District Support Unit
Upstate (518) 474-8887 NYC (212) 417-4500

The purpose of this General Information System (GIS) message is to provide information on the impact of certain federal COVID-19 related payments on Medicaid eligibility determinations.

Section 2104 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020 made changes to Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB) in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Eligible individuals who are collecting UIB will receive an additional weekly compensation payment of \$600. Although income received through an UIB is typically countable income under Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) and non-MAGI budgeting methodology, the CARES Act specifically directed states to disregard the \$600 weekly Pandemic Unemployment compensation when determining eligibility for Medicaid. The regular UIB payments received are still counted as income.

Additionally, section 2201 of the CARES Act created a relief payment in the form of a refundable tax credit for 2020 to eligible individuals. The "recovery rebate" or "stimulus payment" is up to \$1,200 for single adults, \$2,400 for married couples filing jointly and \$500 for children under age 17. This stimulus payment is not taxable income and therefore not countable in MAGI-based eligibility determinations. For non-MAGI determinations, rebates are not countable as income and are an exempt resource for 12 months. After the 12-month period any portion of the stimulus payment remaining is a countable resource.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services also advised that the \$600 weekly Pandemic Unemployment compensation payment and stimulus payments are not countable income (and are excluded as a resource for 12 months, if retained) for purposes of determining the amount of income to be contributed toward the cost of care under post-eligibility rules.

Please direct any questions regarding this GIS message to your local district support liaison.