



# Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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## General Information System (GIS) Message

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### Section 1

<b>Transmittal:</b>	20 TA/DC092 Upstate and New York City
<b>Date:</b>	September 24, 2020
<b>To:</b>	Subscribers
<b>Suggested Distribution:</b>	Commissioners, TA Directors, SNAP Directors, HEAP Directors, WMS Coordinators, Medicaid Directors
<b>From:</b>	Jeffrey Gaskell, Deputy Commissioner Employment and Income Support Programs
<b>Subject:</b>	COVID-19 Emergency Relief – Treatment of Supplemental Lost Wages Payments for Temporary Assistance (TA), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)
<b>Effective Date:</b>	Immediately
<b>Contact Information:</b>	Temporary Assistance (TA) Questions – TA Bureau at (518) 474-9344 or <a href="mailto:otda.sm.cees.tabureau@otda.ny.gov">otda.sm.cees.tabureau@otda.ny.gov</a> Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Questions – SNAP Bureau at (518) 473-1469 or <a href="mailto:otda.sm.cees.snap@otda.ny.gov">otda.sm.cees.snap@otda.ny.gov</a> Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Questions – HEAP Bureau at (518) 473-0332 or <a href="mailto:NYSHEAP@otda.ny.gov">NYSHEAP@otda.ny.gov</a>

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### Section 2

The purpose of this GIS message is to provide guidance to social services districts (districts) on how to treat the new Supplemental Lost Wages (SLW) payments for Temporary Assistance (TA), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). These payments are funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the authority of section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act (42 USC 5174) and Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations. SLW payments must not be counted as income or as a resource in determining eligibility for TA, SNAP, or HEAP. These payments will be issued by the New York State Department of Labor and will provide an additional \$300 in federally funded dollars each week to the Unemployment Insurance Benefit (UIB) of each eligible worker.

These payments are funded and treated differently than the previously authorized Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) payments described in [20 TA/DC035](#).

#### Temporary Assistance (TA)

SLW payments are excluded as income and disregarded as a resource when determining eligibility for both emergency and ongoing TA. This includes Family Assistance (FA), Safety Net Assistance (SNA),

Emergency Assistance to Needy Families with Children (EAF), Emergency Safety Net Assistance (ESNA), and Emergency Assistance for Adults (EAA). For TA applicants or recipients who are receiving UIB, the SLW portion of the UIB must be excluded from the budget. A note should be made in the case record regarding the individual's receipt of these payments.

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

### **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**

For SNAP, the SLW payments are excluded (not to be counted) as income and are also disregarded as a resource when determining eligibility and calculating benefits for SNAP. As set forth above for TA, SLW payments, if received retroactively, are already excluded as income for SNAP and therefore are not subject to the lump sum provisions.

### **Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)**

SLW payments provided to individuals and families will be excluded as countable income for HEAP eligibility and benefit determinations and must not be counted in the HEAP budget. These SLW payments will be excluded from the HEAP household's income 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 these SLW payments are not considered a liquid resource for the Emergency and HERR benefit components.

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