

Policy Clarifications

Cash Assistance – PCA-20115-150

Medical Assistance – PMA-20115-350

Food Stamps – PFS-20115-550

LIHEAP – PLA-20115-650

Submitted: 9/16/2020

Agency: CAOs

Subject: Pennsylvania has been approved to pay an extra \$300 per week in disaster assistance benefits as part of the Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) Program from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Question: Is the LWA payment of \$300 per week excluded for Cash, Medical Assistance (including Long-Term Care) and Home and Community-Based Services, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)?

Response by: Policy Clarification Unit

Date: 9/29/2020

Yes. The \$300 per week LWA payment will be excluded as income and resource for Cash, Medical Assistance (Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) & Non-MAGI), SNAP and LIHEAP. The CAO should enter the income in the Electronic Client Information System with the correct exclusion code for all programs and must narrate in the case record that the income is excluded and was not used in determining eligibility.

Only individuals who are unemployed due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) disruptions may apply for this benefit.