**Revised - Policy Clarification**

**Cash Assistance- All - PCA-19921-150**

**Medical Assistance- All - PMA-19921-350**

**Food Stamps- All - PFS-19921-550**

**LIHEAP- All - PLA-19921-650**

**Submitted: 8/25/2020 Agency: CAOs**

**Subject:** **Counting Hazard Pay for All Programs during the coronavirus (COVID-19) Emergency**

**Question: Client called to report that current earnings of $13.06 per hour are increasing due to receiving an extra $3.00 per hour hazard pay. Should this income be counted toward benefits if it is expected to continue?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Response by: Policy Clarification Unit** **Date: 10/16/2020**Yes.  For Cash Assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Medical Assistance (MA) and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, the temporary hazard pay for essential workers during the COVID-19 emergency would be counted as earned income while being received. The hazard pay can be given as an hourly rate adjustment, a flat recurring amount, or a one-time payment. If the hazard pay is received as a one-time payment, lump sum policy should be applied. For MA, MA coverage should not be reduced or terminated during the emergency period to remain in compliance with existing guidance in OPS Memo 20-03-03. ~~individuals should be maintained at the same benefit level throughout the emergency period despite increases in income to remain in compliance with existing guidance in OPS Memo 20-03-03.~~ |  |