

Q&A on How Federal Unemployment Benefits and Economic Impact Payments Influence Benefit Eligibility

Federal Unemployment Benefits

Q: Will federal unemployment benefits provided under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Recovery (CARES) Act impact eligibility for Medicaid/CHIP?

A: No, according to the [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services](#) (CMS), the federal unemployment benefits provided under the CARES Act will not impact eligibility for Medicaid/CHIP, including the Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs). State Medicaid/CHIP agencies will work with their respective state Unemployment Insurance agency to determine how these payments will be identified so as to not impact eligibility.

Q: Will federal unemployment benefits provided under the CARES Act impact eligibility for the Extra Help benefit through the Social Security Administration (SSA)?

A: The federal unemployment benefits provided under the CARES Act are to be treated as countable unearned income, as is the case for regular unemployment compensation. For the purposes of determining countable income for the Extra Help subsidy, most of the income exclusions that apply to the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program also apply to Part D subsidy eligibility determinations.

Q: Will federal unemployment benefits provided under the CARES Act impact eligibility for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits?

A: Yes, according to the [Food and Nutrition Service](#) (FNS), federal unemployment benefits provided under the CARES Act will be considered unearned income for the purpose of determining SNAP eligibility and benefit amount, which is consistent with the treatment of non-pandemic unemployment benefits.

Economic Impact Payments

Q: Will the economic impact payments provided under the CARES Act be considered taxable income?

A: No, [the economic impact payments](#) will not be considered taxable income.

Q: Will the economic impact payments provided under the CARES Act impact eligibility for SSI benefits?

A: No, according to [SSA](#), and outlined in the CARES Act, economic impact payments will not impact eligibility for SSI recipients and the payment will be disregarded as an asset for 12 months.

Q: Will the economic impact payments provided under the CARES Act impact eligibility for Medicaid?

A: No, according to [CMS](#), and outlined in the CARES Act, economic impact payments will not impact eligibility for Medicaid, including the MSPs, and the payment will be disregarded as an asset for 12 months.

Q: Will the economic impact payments provided under the CARES Act impact eligibility for SNAP benefits?

A: No, according to [FNS](#), and outlined in the CARES Act, economic impact payments will not impact eligibility for SNAP benefits and the payment will be disregarded as an asset for 12 months.

Q: Will the economic impact payments provided under the CARES Act impact eligibility for public housing benefits?

A: No, according to the [House Committee on Ways and Means](#), economic impact payments will not impact eligibility for public housing benefits and the payment will be disregarded as an asset for 12 months.

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