

NUMBER

#20-21-04

DATE

May 1, 2020

OF INTEREST TO

County Directors

Social Services Supervisors and
Staff

Financial Assistance Supervisors
and Workers

Mille Lacs Tribal TANF

Tribal Chairpersons and Tribal
Health Directors

Health Care Eligibility
Operations (HCEO) Managers,
Supervisors, and Staff

ACTION/DUE DATE

Implement effective April 1,
2020

EXPIRATION DATE

May 1, 2022

DHS Explains Treatment of Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act Payments for Minnesota Health Care Programs

TOPIC

How to treat certain payments provided by the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act when determining eligibility for Minnesota Health Care Programs.

PURPOSE

This bulletin provides information on the treatment of Federal CARES Act payments when determining eligibility for Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP). These one-time payments issued by the Internal Revenue Service are also known as economic impact payments and recovery rebates.

CONTACT

Counties, tribal agencies, and HCEO should submit policy questions via HealthQuest.

All others should direct questions to the following:

Health Care Eligibility and Access (HCEA) Division
PO Box 64989
540 Cedar Street St. Paul, MN 55164-0989

SIGNED

MATT ANDERSON
Assistant Commissioner/State Medicaid Director
Health Care Administration

TERMINOLOGY NOTICE

The terminology used to describe people we serve has changed over time. The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the use of "People First" language.

I. Background

Section 2201 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides financial help to individuals and families, in the form of one-time payments. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will issue these Federal CARES Act payments of up to \$1,200 for individuals, \$2,400 for married couples and \$500 per dependent child under 17. These payments are also known as economic impact payments and recovery rebates. For purposes of this bulletin these payments will be referred to as Federal CARES Act payments.

This bulletin describes how these payments are treated for purposes of determining eligibility for Medical Assistance (MA) and MinnesotaCare applicants and enrollees. These policies are effective April 1, 2020.

The policies described in this bulletin apply to all of the following Medical Assistance (MA) populations and programs:

- Medical Assistance for Families with Children and Adults (MA-FCA)
- Medical Assistance for People Age 65 and Older, Blind or Disabled (MA-ABD)
- Medical Assistance for Employed Persons with Disabilities (MA-EPD)
- Medical Assistance under the TEFRA Option
- Medical Assistance Northstar Care for Children
- Medical Assistance for the Treatment of Breast and Cervical Cancer (MA-BC)
- Medical Assistance for People Receiving Services at the Center for Victims of Torture (MA-CVT)
- Medicare Savings Programs (MSP): Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMB), Service Limited Medicare Beneficiaries (SLMB), Qualified Individuals (QI) and Qualified Working Disabled (QWD)
- Emergency Medical Assistance (EMA)
- Minnesota Family Planning Program (MFPP)

The policies described in this bulletin apply to all MinnesotaCare populations, including MinnesotaCare for Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals.

These policies apply to all MA and MinnesotaCare enrollees, including enrollees from or receiving services from a Tribal Nation.

II. Federal CARES Act Payments

These policies are effective April 1, 2020.

Federal CARES Act payments are not counted as income for MA applicants or enrollees.

Federal CARES Act payments are not counted in a person's projected annual income for MinnesotaCare applicants or enrollees.

Federal CARES Act payments are an excluded asset for MA for Families and Children and Adults (MA-FCA) applicants and enrollees who have a spenddown and are subject to an asset test. For MA for a person who is age 65 or older, blind or has a disability (MA-ABD) and MSP applicants and enrollees who have an asset test, these payments are an excluded asset for 12 months after the month of receipt.

III. Action Required

County, tribal and DHS workers must follow the policies outlined in this bulletin. Procedures associated with the policies in this bulletin are in ONEsource.

IV. Legal Reference

Section 2201 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116-136)

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Advisory

This information is available in accessible formats for people with disabilities by calling 651-297-3862 or toll free at 800-657-3672 or by using your preferred relay service. For other information on disability rights and protections, contact the agency's ADA coordinator.