

Pandemic Related Assistance Income and Resource Exclusions

Income Type	General Information About the Program	Income and Resource Treatment
<p>Economic Impact Payments (EIPs) (also known as Recovery Rebates)</p>	<p>The Internal Revenue Service, on behalf of the Treasury Department, issued first, second and third rounds of EIPs authorized by Congress in the CARES Act beginning in March 2020, CAA beginning in December 2020 and ARPA beginning in March 2021.</p> <p>First Round: Payment levels were up to: \$1,200 for individuals, \$2,400 for couples filing jointly, and included an additional \$500 per qualifying child.</p> <p>Second Round: Payment levels were up to: \$600 for individuals, \$1,200 for couples filing jointly, and an additional \$600 per qualifying child.</p> <p>Third Round: Payment levels were up to: \$1,400 for individuals, \$2,800 for couples filing jointly, and an additional \$1,400 per qualifying child.</p> <p>Some people received less than these amounts.</p>	<p>Pandemic related disaster assistance excluded from income and resources.</p>
<p>Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB)</p>	<p>This includes several programs that extended eligibility for regular unemployment and supplemented payment amounts.</p>	<p>All unemployment (regular and pandemic) received between March 2020 and September 2021 will be excluded from income through September 2021. UIB received between March 2020 and September 2021 that is unspent is excluded as a resource.</p>

<p>Paycheck Protection Program (PPP): Loan Forgiveness to Employers and Self-Employed Individuals</p>	<p>Small businesses affected by the pandemic are eligible to apply for forgivable PPP loans. These loans may enable employers to sustain payroll expenses for employees who might otherwise face reduced hours, temporary layoff, or job loss. Employees may benefit from their employer's PPP participation by receiving normal wage payments, paid time off or other leave, and continued health related benefits.</p>	<p>Pandemic related disaster assistance payments to employers and self-employed individuals is excluded from income and resources.</p> <p>Payments to employees are wages or leave payments and are not pandemic related disaster assistance payments. Special documentation is not required for wage payments or paid leave attributable to PPP loans.</p>
<p>Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Program: Loans/Grants to Employers and Self-Employed Individuals</p>	<p>Employers and self-employed individuals may receive grants and loan forgiveness from the EIDL program. Employees may benefit from their employer's EIDL participation by receiving normal wage payments, paid time off or other leave, and continued health related benefits.</p>	<p>Pandemic related disaster assistance to employers and self-employed individuals is excluded from income and resources.</p> <p>Payments to employees are wages or leave payments and are not pandemic related disaster assistance payments. Special documentation is not required to verify wage payments or paid leave attributable to EIDLs.</p>

Tribal Payments from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund	These programs may provide Tribal governments with financial resources to meet pandemic response needs. The Tribes are responsible for disbursing the funds to Tribal members and for using the funds to assist their Tribal community with obtaining the critical resources needed to combat the virus.	Payments from Tribal governments to Tribal members for these pandemic related disaster assistance is excluded from income and resources.
State Stimulus Payments	States have created programs that would issue stimulus payments to residents to assist with recovery from the pandemic. Programs will vary.	<p>Each State program must be evaluated separately. At the time of issuance of this GIS, the following are pandemic related disaster assistance payments excluded from income and resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •NEW YORK: Excluded Workers Fund Payments •CALIFORNIA: Golden State Stimulus I payments; Golden State Stimulus II payments; and Golden State Grant Program payments •MARYLAND: Stimulus payments for Earned Income Tax Credit filers •NEW MEXICO: Tax rebates for recipients of the Working Families Tax Credit

<p>COVID-19 Funeral Assistance</p>	<p>FEMA may reimburse certain COVID-19-related funeral expenses incurred on or after January 20, 2020. The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provide funding for this program. Payments range according to a person's reimbursable expenses. COVID-19 Funeral Assistance is limited to a maximum of \$9,000 per deceased individual. There is a \$35,500 per household limit for this assistance.</p>	<p>Pandemic related disaster assistance excluded from income and resources.</p>
<p>Emergency Rental Assistance Fund</p>	<p>The fund is used to provide financial assistance to eligible households, including payment of rent, rental arrears, utilities and home-energy costs, and other expenses related to housing incurred due, directly or indirectly, to the pandemic.</p> <p>The US Treasury is providing the funds directly to States, U.S. territories, local governments, and (in the case of CAA) Indian Tribes or Tribally Designated Housing Entities, as applicable, and the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. For amounts, see the entity providing the assistance for more information.</p>	<p>Pandemic related disaster assistance excluded from income and resources.</p>
<p>Emergency Assistance for Rural Housing/Rural Rental Assistance</p>	<p>This USDA program provides funding to help people in rural communities keep their homes during the pandemic. Funds are to be used to support rental assistance for residents of rural rental properties (subsidized via the Section 515 or Section 514/516 programs) and to cover unpaid rent for unassisted tenants in those properties. For amounts, see the entity providing the assistance for more information.</p>	<p>Pandemic related disaster assistance excluded from income and resources.</p>

Homeowner Assistance Fund	ARPA - Fund established to mitigate financial hardships associated with the coronavirus pandemic. The funds are provided to prevent mortgage delinquencies and defaults, foreclosures, loss of utilities or home energy services, and displacement of homeowners experiencing financial hardship after January 21, 2020. Funds may be used for assistance with mortgage payments, homeowner's insurance, utility payments, and other specified purposes.	Pandemic related disaster assistance excluded from income and resources.
Housing Assistance and Supportive Services Programs for Native Americans	ARPA - Housing block grants and Indian-community-development block grants for use related to COVID-19.	Pandemic related disaster assistance excluded from income and resources.
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund	The Department of Education is providing emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of school operations due to COVID-19.	Pandemic related disaster assistance excluded from income and resources.

Supporting Foster Youth and Families during the Pandemic	The CAA provides US Department of Health and Human Services additional funding for several programs authorized under titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act and requires title IV-E agencies to take a number of actions to protect and support youth/young adults currently or formerly in foster care. This program provides temporary flexibilities and assistance in response to COVID-19.	Pandemic related disaster assistance excluded from income and resources.
COVID-19 Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP)	<p>ARPA - Department of Veterans Affairs program offers education and training for jobs to veterans who are unemployed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. If an individual is eligible for VRRAP, they can get:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Up to 12 months of tuition and fees, and · A monthly housing allowance based on Post-9/11 GI Bill rates. 	Pandemic related disaster assistance excluded from income and resources.

<p>Emergency Assistance to Children and Families through the Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund</p>	<p>ARPA - This program provides supplemental funding to States to assist needy families impacted by COVID-19. The Department of Health and Human Services is providing non-recurring, short-term benefits to deal with a specific crisis or episode of need. Benefits must not be intended to meet on-going needs, must not extend beyond four months, and must only include expenditures such as emergency assistance and diversion payments, emergency housing and short-term homelessness assistance, emergency food aid, short-term utilities payments, burial assistance, clothing allowances, and back-to-school payments.</p>	<p>Pandemic related disaster assistance excluded from income and resources.</p>
<p>Coronavirus Food Assistance Program – Direct Payments to Farmers and Ranchers</p>	<p>This program is designed “to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus by providing support for agricultural producers, growers, and processors impacted by coronavirus.” The program will provide direct support based on actual losses for agricultural producers where prices and market supply chains have been impacted and will assist producers with additional adjustment and marketing costs resulting from lost demand and short-term oversupply for the 2020 marketing year caused by COVID-19.</p>	<p>Pandemic related disaster assistance excluded from income and resources.</p>

Farm Loan Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers	The program provides debt relief to certain socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. The program allows USDA to pay up to 120% of certain loan balances, as of January 1, 2021, for Farm Service Agency (FSA) Direct and Guaranteed Farm Loans and Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL) to any Socially Disadvantaged producer who has a qualifying loan with FSA.	Pandemic related disaster assistance excluded from income and resources.
USDA Assistance and Support for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers, Ranchers, Forest Landowners and Operators, and Groups	<p>May provide grants, training, and education for socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, or other members of socially disadvantaged groups. The funds support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Outreach, financial training, cooperative development and capacity building, and other technical assistance to socially disadvantaged groups; · Grants and loans to improve land access, including heirs' property issues, and aid former farm loan borrowers that suffered adverse actions or past discrimination or bias; · The creation and activities of equity commissions; and, · Research, education, and extension activities at minority serving institutions, including scholarships, internships, and pathways to Federal employment for students; eligible institutions include 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, 1994 Tribal Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions, · Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Insular Area Institutions. 	Pandemic related disaster assistance excluded from income and resources.