



Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

Family Investment Administration
ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Control Number: #05-35

Effective Date: UPON RECEIPT

Issuance Date: April 19, 2005

**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
HEALTH OFFICERS, LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND CASE MANAGERS
MCHP SUPERVISORS, LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**FROM: KEVIN M. MCGUIRE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JOSEPH E. DAVIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DHMH, OOEP**

**RE: INCOME EXCLUDED BY FEDERAL LAW - DISASTER RELIEF
EMPLOYMENT FUNDED UNDER NATIONAL EMERGENCY GRANTS**

**PROGRAM AFFECTED: FOOD STAMP PROGRAM, TEMPORARY CASH
ASSISTANCE, TEMPORARY DISABILITY ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, MARYLAND
CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM**

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS

SUMMARY:

This action transmittal describes how to treat disaster relief employment income received from a National Emergency Grant. National Emergency Grants are part of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). Although we do not expect to see this type of income, case managers should be aware of it and how to handle it.

General Information

- National Emergency Grants provide assistance to areas within a state that suffer from an emergency or major disaster.
- Funds are paid through public and private organizations.
- The funds are used for temporary job creation in areas declared eligible for public assistance by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), subject to WIA limitations.

- The funds provide disaster relief employment on projects that furnish food, clothing, shelter and humanitarian assistance for disaster victims. The funds also provide employment for projects that involve demolition, cleaning, repair, renovation and reconstruction of damaged and destroyed buildings in the disaster area.
- Dislocated or long-term unemployed workers or workers who are laid off as a result of the disaster are eligible for disaster relief employment.
- Employment cannot last for more than 6 months.

ACTION REQUIRED:

The case manager must verify whether the source of income is from a National Emergency Grant under WIA through the Maryland Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation if:

- The customer suffered a job loss due to a recent disaster,
- The employment is temporary (less than six months), or
- The type of work relates to the disaster.

Food Stamps

Federal law excludes this income for food stamps. Do not count allowances, earnings and payments to individuals in the program when determining eligibility or benefit level for food stamps.

Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA)

Earnings received from working through the National Emergency Grant under WIA are countable earned income for TCA applicants and recipients. The assistance unit is entitled to the normal earned income disregard of 40 percent

Count all of the earned income to the assistance unit for TCA.

Temporary Disability Assistance Program (TDAP)

Working at any job makes a customer ineligible for TDAP.

Medical Assistance (MA)

Income received from disaster relief assistance or maintenance from a federal, state or local agency or from a disaster relief organization is excluded from consideration as income for individuals receiving Family and Children (FAC), Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP) or Aged, Blind or Disabled (ABD) medical assistance coverage. For ABD, the nine-month limit on exclusion of such assistance no longer applies. NOTE: Provisions of the Workforce Investment Act exclude subsidies that cover transportation, clothes, uniforms, child care and other training related expenses. On-the-job-training payments **are** counted as unearned income for adults age 19 or older.

INQUIRIES:

Please direct food stamp questions to Kay Finegan 410-767-7939 or Rick McClendon 410-767-7307. Direct TCA questions to Marilyn Lorenzo at 410-767-7333 or Gretchen Simpson at 410-767-7937. Direct TDAP questions to Cynthia Carpenter at 410-767-7495. Direct MA questions to Deborah Weathers at 410-767-7994 or DHMH at 410-767-1463.

cc: FIA Management Staff
DHMH Management Staff
Constituent Services
DHR Help Desk