

## COVID-RECOVERY ECONOMIC SUPPORTS GENERAL INFORMATION

*Revised April 23, 2020*

Federal legislation called the CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) provides funding to states to support multiple existing programs. It also provides for assistance to individuals during this temporary emergency.

**One Time Payments** – This payment of many names: stimulus check, recovery rebate or economic incentive payment is a one-time federal payment to help families recover from the economic effect of COVID-19. The payment is a one-time, \$1,200 cash payment for individuals making \$75,000 or less (\$150,000 for couples filing jointly) and \$500 per qualifying child. Payments will be calculated based on 2019 federal tax returns, and for those who have not yet filed their 2019 return, payments will be based on 2018 returns. Those receiving Social Security retirement benefits who have not filed taxes will also automatically receive this payment. If OFI recipients have questions on the payments, which are scheduled to begin direct deposit issuance in April, please find more information at the Internal Revenue Services website: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/economic-impact-payments-what-you-need-to-know>.

This one-time payment may be withheld for child support but will NOT be withheld for OFI program overpayments.

**Unemployment Benefits** – An additional \$600 per week in Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PUC) benefits will be sent out to those receiving state unemployment benefits starting the week of April 20<sup>th</sup>. PUC is temporary and will end July 25<sup>th</sup> for all applicants.

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) is available to those who have exhausted benefits under regular unemployment compensation. They may be able to receive up to 13 weeks of additional benefits. PUA may also be available to individuals who are self-employed or part-time workers. Both of these payments are counted for all programs similar to regular unemployment compensation.

Questions regarding unemployment should be directed to 1-800-593-7660 or <http://www.maine.gov/unemployment/>.

Program	One-time Payment (\$1200, \$2400, \$500)	PUC Income (\$600 per week)
MaineCare	<b>INCOME:</b> Excluded for all programs <b>ASSET:</b> Excluded as a resource for 12 months <b>LTC Consideration:</b> Excluded for eligibility determination and cost of care	Excluded for all programs, including cost of care calculations

TANF - PaS	INCOME: Excluded ASSET: Excluded as a resource for 12 months	Counted
Food Supplement Benefits	INCOME: Excluded ASSET: Excluded as a resource for 12 months	Counted
HOPE	INCOME: Excluded ASSET: Excluded as a resource for 12 months	Counted