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Temporary Eligibility and Program Changes
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In furthering the mission of the Department of Health and Human Services and our commitment to support the basic needs of the individual and families we serve, the following changes have been made or requested to programs within the Department as we navigate through the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is in addition to the document published on April 1, 2020.

As the Department receives additional guidance, this will be amended and posted on the DHHS and COVID-19 websites.

April 17, 2020 Update:

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act (CARES) establishes two additional cash-related benefits for individuals:

- 1) Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation Benefit. This benefit adds an additional \$600 per week for all individuals filing for New Hampshire Unemployment Compensation benefits (UCB). This benefit is available until July 31, 2020. It also includes an additional 13 weeks of UCB on top of the existing 26 weeks;
- 2) Recovery Rebate Payments. Eligible individuals will receive rebate checks up to the amount of \$1,200 or \$2,400 for married couples who filed jointly. In addition to the rebate check, some individuals and couples will receive \$500 for each qualifying dependent child.

The Recovery Rebate Payments will be excluded when determining eligibility for Medicaid, SNAP, TANF and Child Care. The Income must be spent within a year of receipt.

The additional \$600 Unemployment Benefit made available through the CARES Act will be excluded as income for determining eligibility for Medicaid, TANF, and Child Care Scholarship. It will be included as unearned income for determining eligibility for SNAP.

MEDICAID:

April 17, 2020 Update

- Effective, Friday, April 17, 2020 for Spousal Impoverishment related to the hospital surge period only, the Department is temporarily able to rely on self-attestation of assets and verify financial assets through the Asset Verification System (AVS) post-enrollment and follow the process of dividing the couple's resources, allowing each one half.

The following item is still pending approval. All other items in the April 1, 2020 notice still apply.

- For new applicants seeking financial eligibility for Long-term Care, the Department will temporarily accept self-attestation, for initial eligibility only, for income, assets, and transfer of assets that the Department is unable to verify due to absence of documentation.*

*The Department is seeking these flexibilities under state and federal law to provide additional efficiencies during the federal emergency declared by the President. The Department is awaiting formal approval. We will update this document should we receive different guidance.

SNAP:

April 17, 2020 Update:

- When necessary, the Department can accept telephonic signatures from the applicant that s/he verbally attested to the information provided on the application.
- The Department received approval for the Supplemental benefit. Beginning with the April the SNAP benefit, recipients will receive a Supplemental benefit, a full month of SNAP benefits at the maximum household allotment for the following households:
 - Full month recipients;
 - Partial-month recipients; and
 - Recipients whose income reduces their regular SNAP monthly allotment.
- Beginning March 18, 2020, the Department will temporarily suspend the work requirement for Able-Bodied Adults for 90 days.
- The Department will continue SNAP eligibility for six months without requiring a redetermination for households due a redetermination from March – May. If the Department becomes aware of information that may change eligibility; the Department is required to take action and will reach out to the recipient for follow-up.
- The Department is unable to accept self-attestation for documentation that the applicant is unable to provide.

All other items in the April 1, 2020 notice still apply.

TANF:

April 17, 2020 Update:

- Beginning March 18, 2020, for new applicants having difficulty providing employment verification due to the business being closed due to the pandemic, a collateral call may be made for verification. If that is not possible, the Department has the flexibility, as needed for alternatives, such as a signed declaration.
- The Department will continue TANF eligibility for six months without requiring a redetermination for six months from March 18, 2020 through May 31, 2020, if the Department becomes aware of information that may change eligibility; the Department is required to take action and will reach out to the recipient for follow-up.

All other items in the April 1, 2020 notice still apply.

CHILD CARE:

April 17, 2020 Update:

- The creation of the Emergency Care Child Care Program has established a statewide network of 283 emergency child care providers to meet the needs of New Hampshire's eligible essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

All other items in the April 1, 2020 notice still apply.

HOUSING:

April 17, 2020 Update:

- In collaboration with community partners, the Department has created an Emergency Housing Collaborative to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. This collaborative has established plans and is developing:
 1. A surge site for individuals who are experiencing homelessness and have symptoms of or a diagnosis of COVID-19 to isolate.
 2. Local alternative locations for shelters to reduce the numbers of people in their shelter to increase social distancing.
 3. Assistance to community providers to mitigate community spread for those experiencing homelessness.

- The Department has received approval to waive the limit on rental assistance that are equal to or less than the Fair Market Rate, established by HUD, will assist to locate additional units for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
- The Department has received approval to extend the eligibility for homeless prevention assistance from three months to six months during the period of the emergency related to the COVID pandemic.
- The Department has received approval for increasing flexibility for the provision of Case Management during the time of the COVID pandemic emergency.

CHILD SUPPORT:

April 14, 2020 Update:

- For those that are unable to comply due to COVID-19, the Department is able provide increased flexibility for missed appointments for failure to provide requested documentation when required by TANF and Medicaid to ensure that people do not lose important benefits during this time.
- In an effort to continue the process to establish a legal order of support to move forward, the Department is promoting alternatives to paternity establishment if both parents agree to paternity.

The Department is evaluating the need for additional waivers and federal flexibilities, and will continue to do so throughout the COVID-19 emergency. Any updates and changes to this document will be made weekly and posted on the DHHS and COVID-19 websites.

