




*Department of Health Care Finance Informational Bulletin*

**DATE:** May 18, 2020

**FROM:** Melisa Byrd, Medicaid Director and Senior Deputy Director 

**SUBJECT:** **Treatment of Stimulus Check and Unemployment Enhanced Benefit Payments in Response to COVID-19 Public Health Emergency**

The purpose of this informational bulletin is to inform all District agencies and stakeholders involved in the administration of Medical programs, DC Healthcare Alliance (Alliance), and the Immigrant Children’s Program (ICP), of policy changes adopted by the Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) in light of the COVID-19 public health emergency. This bulletin is specific to the treatment of stimulus check income and the additional six hundred dollar (\$600) Pandemic Unemployment Assistance enhanced unemployment payments under the federal CARES Act for individuals who apply for or are currently enrolled in Medicaid, Alliance, and ICP. DHCF has adopted the below policy changes:

Type of Income	Treatment of Income (Income Counting)
<b>Stimulus Check (\$1,200.00 per adult plus \$500.00 for child)</b>	Stimulus check is not counted as income for the purposes of Medicaid, Alliance, and ICP eligibility. For Medicaid applicants and beneficiaries, that includes both MAGI (childless adults, parents/caretaker relatives, pregnant women and children) and non-MAGI (individuals who are sixty-five (65) or older, blind, disabled, or receiving long term care services and supports in a facility or waiver) programs. For the Medicaid non-MAGI, Alliance and ICP applicants and beneficiaries, the stimulus check amount will not count as income or a resource at initial application or renewal but will be counted as a resource if funds remain at the next annual renewal twelve (12) months after the month of receipt.
<b>Additional \$600.00 Weekly Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Enhanced Benefit Payments</b>	The additional \$600.00 weekly unemployment enhanced benefit payments will not be counted as income or resources for the purposes of Medicaid, Alliance, and ICP eligibility.
<b>Effective Date</b>	April 24, 2020, for payments associated with unemployment weeks as early as February 2, 2020.

- CC: Department of Human Services, Economic Security Administration (DHS/ESA)  
 Health Benefit Exchange (HBX)  
 Department on Disability Services (DDS)  
 Child and Family Services Administration (CFSA)  
 DC Hospital Association  
 DC Primary Care Association DC Health Care Association  
 DC Home Health Association  
 DC Behavioral Health Association  
 DC Coalition of Disability Service Providers  
 DC Medical Society