



April 17, 2020

FAQ FRIDAY

HCV and PH Question: CARES Act Funds after Unemployment Ends

Q: With the passing of the CARES Act, individuals whose employment ends are compensated through basic unemployment PLUS additional funds of \$600 per week for four months. HUD has not issued any guidance on how to calculate the additional \$600 per week for the four-month period. Is this considered temporary income and excluded or is this considered part of the regular, periodic payment and included in annual income?

A: As of yet, HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing has not included this question in any of the [COVID-19 Resources](#) or FAQs, so we reached out to them via email for an answer. In their response, they stated the following:

The \$600 temporary unemployment benefit is not to be treated as income for the purposes of calculating rent.

This answer does not come as a surprise. While the PIH Office hasn't officially addressed the issue, HUD's Office of Multifamily Housing has. The most recent updated version of their [Questions and Answers for Office of Multifamily Housing Stakeholders](#), dated April 16, includes the following question and answer:

Household Stimulus Payments

Q4: Are household payments under the CARES Act reportable as tenant income?

A: Household stimulus payments of up to \$1,200 (which is technically an advance tax credit) and the temporary \$600 per week federal enhancement to unemployment insurance provided by the CARES Act are not to be included in calculations of income. However, HUD notes that regular payments of unemployment insurance (issued by the state) are treated as income, as is customary under program rules.

This means that HUD Multifamily is treating the additional \$600 as part of the stimulus payment and not counting it as annual income. Presumably we can expect a similar update to the [PIH FAQs](#) or other [COVID-19 resources](#) to provide an officially documented answer to this question very soon.

GENERAL NEWS

HUD Archives Webcasts for Viewing on Demand

This week on the [HUD Exchange Channel](#) at [YouTube](#), the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) archived the following webcasts for viewing on demand:

- [COVID-19 Planning and Response for Homeless Assistance Providers Office Hours: April 3, 2020](#)
- [COVID-19 Planning and Response for Homeless Assistance Providers Office Hours: April 10, 2020](#)
- [COVID-19 Planning & Response Office Hours: Mega-Waiver and CARES Act](#)



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