

UPDATE 4: Memo CV-04

Temporary Changes to Apple Health – Unemployment Compensation

This update clarifies information provided in the series of memos regarding changes for counting certain types of unemployment compensation that have occurred in response to the public health emergency surrounding the outbreak of COVID-19.

As requests and approvals for additional state/federal authorities are evolving at a rapid pace, so is the correlating regulatory guidance for Medicaid eligibility. It is therefore imperative that you stay up-to-date on the most recent changes, so that we can support continuity of coverage for all our covered lives.

Pandemic Relief Payment

The Pandemic Relief Payment (PRP) Program is a one-time payment of \$550 for some recipients of Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits authorized by Gov. Jay Inslee on December 27, 2020. This income is not countable for Medicaid eligibility.

For more information visit: <https://esd.wa.gov/unemployment/pandemic-relief>.

Federal Stimulus Payment (Recovery Rebate)

The one-time federal stimulus payment of up to \$1,200 dollars for joint tax filers or \$600 for individual tax filers and \$600 for qualifying children is not countable for Apple Health eligibility.

For Classic Apple Health, this income is not considered a resource for 12 months following the receipt of payment. This income is excluded from the post-eligibility treatment of income calculation as well.

Extension of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation

The Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021 allows an extension of \$300 per week of additional Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation through March 14, 2021.

This additional weekly benefit is not countable towards Apple Health eligibility.

Classic Apple Health and Unemployment Compensation

The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation, and Extended Benefits offered under the CARES act has been extended.

As a reminder, Washington received 1135 waiver authority to disregard all unemployment compensation for Classic Apple Health programs. As a result, regular state issued UC in addition to the expanded UC described in the CARES Act including the Pandemic Unemployment Compensation and Pandemic Unemployment Insurance are not countable income for Classic Apple Health groups.





MAGI Apple Health and Unemployment Compensation

The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation, and Extended Benefits offered under the CARES act has been extended. This and regular unemployment compensation received in Washington remains countable towards an individual's eligibility for MAGI-based Apple Health programs.

If you have any questions about this guidance, please contact Maggie Clay at Margaret.Clay@hca.wa.gov.