



# Food Distribution National Policy Memorandum

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

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**DATE:** April 6, 2009

**POLICY NO.:** FD-086: Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

**SUBJECT:** Economic Recovery Payments to Recipients of Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Railroad Retirement Benefits, and Veteran's Disability Compensation or Pension Benefits.

Section 2201 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) authorized a \$250 one-time payment to recipients of Social Security, SSI, Railroad Retirement Benefits, and Veterans Disability Compensation or Pension Benefits. These payments are expected to be issued in May and June of 2009. ARRA excludes this payment as income and as a resource for the month of receipt, and the following nine months for the purpose of determining eligibility or the extent of assistance under any Federal program.

In accordance with section 2201 of ARRA, CSFP and TEFAP must exclude these rebate checks from income when determining eligibility, benefit allotments, and for all other purposes.

There are no resource limits applied in determining eligibility for participation in CSFP or the amount or extent of benefits provided through that program. Therefore, this payment will not impact these decisions for CSFP applicants or participants.

States do, however, have the discretion to include resource limits in eligibility criteria for household participation in TEFAP. In States where resource limits are imposed, agencies must not treat this payment as a resource for the month of receipt and for the next nine months. In these States, any participating household that receives a payment and deposits it into an account would have the value of that account reduced by \$250 for the 10-month period. If the rebate is held as cash, it would not be counted as a resource.

This policy applies to all applicant and participant households as well as any household that reports a change in resource level. If the household indicates that it has exceeded its resource limit due to the rebate amount at the end of the 10-month period, action must be taken in accordance with requirements established by the State agency.

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