

Remember...

- Contact us as soon as you think that you may get a one-time payment.
- If you get a one-time payment while you are applying for or getting FIP, you must use the money to live on until your period of ineligibility has ended.

Statement on Nondiscrimination

It is the policy of the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide equal treatment in employment and provision of services to applicants, employees, and clients without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, disability, political belief or veteran status.

If you feel DHS has discriminated against or harassed you, please send a letter detailing your complaint to:

Iowa Department of Human Services
Hoover Building, 5th Floor
Policy Bureau
1305 E Walnut Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0114
Email: contactdhs@dhs.state.ia.us

(Food Assistance only)
USDA – Director, Office of Adjudication
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20250-9410
or call **1-866-632-9992** (voice)

Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at **800-877-8339**.



Iowa Department of Human Services

Comm. 24 (Rev. 10/16)

One-Time Payments



What is a one-time payment?

A one-time payment is when you get money that you do not expect to get on a regular basis. We call this a nonrecurring lump-sum.

One-time payments can include:

- Insurance death benefits
- Lottery winnings
- Lawsuit settlements
- Inheritances
- Gifts

This can also include back payments that you get from:

- Social Security
- Worker's compensation
- Child support
- Unemployment benefits
- Veteran's benefits

What do I do if I get a one-time payment?

Tell us if you get or expect to get a one-time payment. We will tell you how the one-time payment will affect any benefits you get from us.

If you don't know in advance that you will be getting a one-time payment, tell us within ten days after you get the money. **It would be best for you and your family if you talk to us before you spend any of the money.**

How is a one-time payment counted?

We count one-time payments as income. This money is added to the other income that you get in a month. We use your income to decide if you can get Family Investment Program (FIP) or Medicaid.

FIP

If you are applying for the Family Investment Program (FIP) when you get a one-time payment, you might not be eligible to get FIP for a period of time.

If you are receiving FIP and the amount of your one-time payment plus your other income is too high, your FIP payments may stop for a period of time. We will tell you how long you will have to wait before you can get FIP again. This is called a period of ineligibility. If you want FIP after the period of ineligibility ends, you may reapply.

You cannot get FIP during your period of ineligibility even if you spend all of the money. This includes if you use the money to pay back bills or buy things you need, like a car or household items.

Medicaid

Effective January 1, 2014, if you are getting Medicaid when you get a one-time payment, we may count it as income in the month it is received. We will not prorate the lump sum for Medicaid.

Are there any payments that are not counted?

Some payments are not counted, like a property settlement from a divorce or gifts that are less than \$30 in a three-month period. We will not count payments that you get and spend for:

- Medical expenses
- Funeral and burial expenses
- Repair or replacement of a house, car or other personal property
- Costs of getting the lump sum, such as attorney fees

We do not count the one-time payment if you get the money when you are not applying for or getting FIP.

For example, if you think you will get a one-time payment in October and you ask to stop your FIP before October 1, there will not be a period of ineligibility or period of proration.

- For FIP, if you get a FIP check in October, you must return the actual FIP check or we will have to figure a period of ineligibility.
- You can reapply for FIP in November. We will not count the one-time payment as income. Any part of the one-time payment you will have left will be counted as a resource.

How is my period of ineligibility for FIP figured?

To decide how long we will count the one-time payment for FIP, we divide your income in the month you get the one-time payment by the FIP standard of need. The standard of need chart is on the next panel.

Number of People in Your Group							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
\$365	\$719	\$849	\$986	\$1092	\$1216	\$1335	\$1457
This chart increases if you have more than 8 people.							

Find the number of people in your FIP group in the chart. We will divide your one-time payment plus your other income by that amount.

Here is an example:

Ms. A and her two children get FIP. In October, the family gets \$2,250 from a one-time insurance payment. Ms. A reports getting the money within ten days. The family has \$300 in other income. The total income for October is \$2,550 ($\$2,250 + \$300 = \$2,550$). The period of ineligibility is figured by dividing the income by the standard of need for three people (\$849). $\$2,550 \div \$849 = 3$. There is \$3 left over. The period of ineligibility is October, November, and December. The extra \$3 will be counted as income in January if Ms. A reapplies for FIP. Because Ms. A reported the one-time payment within ten days she will not have to repay the November FIP.

Can my period of ineligibility or period of proration be reduced?

Your period of ineligibility or period of proration can be reduced if you no longer have the money because of the following:

- The money is lost or stolen and you report this to the police.
- The person with the money no longer lives with your family and you cannot get the money.

- The money is spent on any of the following bills which are not covered by your insurance:

- Medical services for members of your family
- Home repairs over \$25 if they are needed to keep your home livable and you own or are buying your home
- Costs for replacing a home or household goods damaged in a natural disaster, such as a fire, flood or tornado
- Funeral and burial expenses

When these things happen, the loss or expense may be deducted from the one-time payment. This would shorten the period of ineligibility or period of proration.

If you tell us the one-time payment is no longer available to you, you will have to show us proof. This proof can include a copy of a police report or a receipt that shows what you bought.

Here is an example:

Ms. A gives proof that she spent \$500 of the one-time payment she received in October on medical expenses. She reported getting the lump sum within ten days. The \$500 is deducted from her total income of \$2,550. This leaves \$2,050 as income. $\$2,050$ divided by \$849 equals a two-month period with \$352 left over.

For FIP: Ms. A's family's period of ineligibility is October and November. The remaining \$352 will be counted as income in December if she reapplies. Because she reported the one-time payment within ten days she will not have to repay the November FIP.

Can I continue to get other help?

You will not be able to get FIP during your period of ineligibility; however, you may be able to get other help. Some people can still get Medicaid and we will check to see if you can.

You may also be able to get more Food Assistance when your FIP stops.

Ask us about other types of help that may be available in your community.

What happens if I don't report a one-time payment?

If you don't report a one-time payment, you will risk:

- Having to pay back FIP benefits you should not have gotten.
- Having to pay some of your family's medical expenses.
- Losing a choice to have the one-time payment treated in a way that's better for you and your family.

What if I have questions?

If you have questions, contact your worker in your local Human Services office. You may also contact Iowa Legal Aid for assistance. The toll free number is: **1-800-532-1275**.