

DSS-4357EL

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GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

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DIVISION: Temporary Assistance

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TO: Local District Commissioners**FROM:** Patricia A. Stevens, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Temporary Assistance**SUBJECT:** Exclusion of Vehicles as Resources for Food Stamps**EFFECTIVE DATE:** June 15, 2000**CONTACT PERSON:** Eastern Region at (518) 473-1469

New York State has obtained approval to waive certain federal regulations, in order to exclude vehicles under the inaccessible resource provisions.

Under the terms of the waiver, for purposes of determining a household's Food Stamp eligibility, districts must exclude the value of a vehicle from consideration as an available resource if the equity amount of the vehicle is less than one half of the household's resource limit. As a result, a vehicle is excluded from a household's countable resources if the household's equity in the vehicle is less than \$1000 (or \$1500 for a household that includes an individual age 60 or older).

With implementation of this waiver, districts will evaluate vehicles against the Food Stamp vehicle exclusion criteria, in the following order:

1. Completely exclude from the Food Stamp resource test a vehicle used as a home or used to produce income, transport a disabled household member, or carry fuel for heating or water for home use;
2. If not excluded under #1, exclude as an inaccessible resource if the equity value is less than half of the household's resource limit (this is the new waiver provision);
3. If not excluded under #1 or #2, one general-purpose licensed vehicle per household, and any licensed vehicles used to commute to employment or training, are subject to the excess fair market value test. Fair market values over \$4650 are counted as resources toward the household's \$2000 (or \$3000) resource limit.
4. Licensed vehicles not addressed in #1, #2 or #3 are subject to the dual test, i.e., the higher of the fair market value in excess of \$4650 or the equity value is counted.
5. Unlicensed vehicles not excluded under #1 or #2 are evaluated on the basis of their equity value.

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Existing Temporary Assistance policy for evaluating vehicles as resources, as outlined in GIS 99 TA/DC013 (August 23, 1999), and existing Medicaid policy regarding vehicles, are not changed by this waiver.

This vehicle exclusion policy is effective June 15, 2000 for active cases and applications filed on or after that date. For applications pending on June 15, 2000, this vehicle exclusion policy must be applied to determine eligibility for June 15, 2000 forward.