

TREATMENT OF RECEPTION AND PLACEMENT (R & P) FUNDS

Refugees are eligible to receive R&P funds of \$1,100 per person within the refugee's first 90 days in the U.S.

Acceptable VOLAG verification shall include information to determine if the R&P funds received by the refugee were required to be spent for a specific purpose.

Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)	CalWORKs	CalFresh	Medi-Cal
<p>R&P is not counted as income or resources when determining eligibility to RCA. CPG 69-205 A.</p>	<p>R&P funds are treated according to the way the Voluntary Agencies (VOLAGs) disburse the funds:</p> <p>LUMP SUM R&P funds disbursed as a one-time payment, or issued in more than one payment the same month, is considered a non-recurring lump sum payment counted only as resources in the month received.</p> <p>DISBURSED IN MORE THAN ONE CALENDAR MONTH R&P funds given to the AU in several payments are counted as unearned income in the month received, even if disbursed as vendor payments. The funds shall be anticipated according to Quarterly Reporting/Prospective Budgeting (QR/PB) regulations. The family shall be evaluated for RCA if ineligible to CalWORKs due to the R&P funds. CPG 44-100 I; 44-250 & 44-250 H.</p>	<p>R&P funds are treated according to the way the VOLAGs disburse the funds:</p> <p>LUMP SUM If R&P funds are disbursed as a one-time payment, or issued in more than one payment in the same calendar month, it is considered a non-recurring lump sum payment and counted only as resources in the month received. Per MCE regulations, resources are not considered for CalFresh.</p> <p>VENDOR PAYMENTS R&P funds disbursed as vendor payments are excluded income. An expense paid with a vendor payment is not allowed as a deduction for the month the payment is intended to cover.</p> <p>DISBURSED IN MORE THAN ONE CALENDAR MONTH R&P funds disbursed in several payments in more than one calendar month are counted as unearned income and prospectively budgeted according to QR/PB regulations. However, R&P "earmarked" by the VOLAGs to be used for specific purposes (rent, utilities, furniture, household items, etc.) are considered excluded income. The refugee family can verify the R&P funds are being spent as indicated by the VOLAG by providing receipts or a "sworn statement." If the funds are not entirely spent for the purpose indicated by the VOLAG, the difference is unearned income. CalFresh Guide 63-224.11; 63-202.4; 63-203.19; 63-224.3 & 63-224.16.</p>	<p>R&P is exempt and not counted to compute the share of cost. MPG 10.03.02.B</p>

EXAMPLE 1

Refugee family arrives on 4/25/11 and applies for CalWORKs and/or CalFresh on 4/26/11. The refugee family receives all the R&P funds as one check on 5/6/11.

CalWORKs

The total R&P amount is treated as a lump sum payment hence counted as resources. The family shall be evaluated for RCA if ineligible to CalWORKs due to the R&P funds.

CalFresh

The total R&P amount is treated as a lump sum payment not counted as income for CalFresh and exempted as resources.

Medi-Cal

The total R&P amount is exempt and not counted to compute the share of cost.

EXAMPLE 2

Refugee family arrives on 4/4/11 applies for CalWORKs and/or CalFresh on 4/8/11. The refugee family receives three R&P checks on 4/5/11, 4/6/11 and 4/7/11.

CalWORKs

The total R&P amount is treated as a lump sum payment hence counted as resources. The family shall be evaluated for RCA if ineligible to CalWORKs due to the R&P funds.

CalFresh

The total R&P amount is treated as a lump sum payments not counted as income for CalFresh and exempted as resources.

TREATMENT OF RECEPTION AND PLACEMENT (R & P) FUNDS

Medi-Cal

The total R&P amount is exempt and not counted to compute the share of cost.

EXAMPLE 3

Refugee family arrives on 4/25/11 and applies for CalWORKs and/or CalFresh on 4/28/11. The refugee family receives R&P checks of \$40 and \$3,560 on 4/26/11 and will issue the final check of \$800 in May.

CalWORKs

The total R&P amount is considered unearned income and shall be treated according to QR/PB regulations. The family shall be evaluated for RCA if ineligible to CalWORKs due to the R&P funds.

CalFresh

Since the VOLAG did not identify the R&P funds shall be spent for a specific purpose, the total R&P amount is considered unearned income to CalFresh and \$4,400 will be budgeted for the quarter. The HSS shall contact the VOLAG to clarify if the R&P funds were required to be spent for a specific purpose.

Medi-Cal

The total R&P amount is exempt and not counted to compute the share of cost.

EXAMPLE 4

Refugee family arrives on 4/25/11 and applies for CalWORKs and/or CalFresh on 4/28/11. The VOLAG issued R&P funds on three separate checks; \$1,800 paid on 4/26/11 to pay the deposit and rent, \$1,800 on 4/26/11 to pay for furniture and household items, and the third check of \$800 paid in May to pay the second month rent.

CalWORKs

The total R&P amount is considered unearned income and shall be treated according to QR/PB regulations. The family shall be evaluated for RCA if ineligible to CalWORKs due to the R&P funds.

CalFresh

Since the VOLAG identified the R&P funds to be spent to pay for rent, deposit, utilities, furniture and household items, the R&P funds will be considered contributions and excluded income. The refugee family can verify the R&P funds are being spent as indicated by the VOLAG by providing receipts or a "sworn statement." NOTE: the household is not eligible to the shelter (housing) deduction for April and May as the rent was paid by the VOLAG.

Medi-Cal

The total R&P amount is exempt and not counted to compute the share of cost.

EXAMPLE 5

Refugee family arrives on 4/26/11 and applies for CalWORKs and/or CalFresh on 4/27/11. Before arrival, the VOLAG, with the R&P funds, rents an apartment and buys furniture and household items, and gives the family \$50 to buy food. The VOLAG gives the family the rest of the R&P funds (\$200) on 5/1/11 to be spent on whatever the family needs.

CalWORKs

The total R&P amount is considered unearned income and shall be treated according to QR/PB regulations. The family shall be evaluated for RCA if ineligible to CalWORKs due to the R&P funds.

CalFresh

The R&P funds used to rent the apartment, to buy furniture and household items are considered excluded vendor payments for CalFresh. The \$50 to buy food is considered a contribution and excluded because the VOLAG "earmarked" the \$50 shall be spent on food. The \$200 paid in May is treated as a lump sum payment not counted as income for CalFresh and exempted as resources. NOTE: the household is not eligible to the shelter (housing) deduction for April as the rent was paid with R&P funds.

Medi-Cal

The total R&P amount is exempt and not counted to compute the share of cost.