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## **Frequently Asked Questions about Public Benefits and the Frontline Employees Hazard Pay Grant Program**

### **1. What is the Frontline Employees Hazard Pay Grant program?**

It is extra money for people working from March 13 to May 15, 2020. Employers apply for it through the State of Vermont to give to their employees. This hazard pay is not counted the same as other income for some public benefit programs. Only some public safety, public health, health care and human services employees can get it through their employer. They must have worked to relieve or respond to the COVID-19 emergency. They must have been at high risk.

### **2. I get Medicaid. Will I lose it if I get this hazard pay?**

Vermont is not stopping anyone's Medicaid during the federal COVID-19 emergency. The emergency is set to end January 21, 2021. It may go on longer than that. It could also end sooner. When it is over, the State of Vermont may check to see who can keep Medicaid.

### **3. I get public benefits from the Department of Children and Families. Will I lose them if I get this hazard pay?**

This hazard pay will **not** make you lose:

- General Assistance
- Fuel Assistance
- Essential Person
- Reach Up (and Reach Up related programs – Reach First, Reach Ahead, and the Postsecondary Education Program)
- Child Care Financial Assistance Program

Do you get 3SquaresVT? Did you have to pass a resource test to get it? If you did, hazard pay counts as a resource the month you get it. What if you did **not** have to pass a resource test? Then hazard pay does not count as income for 3SquaresVT. You can call Vermont Legal Aid at **800-889-2047** if you have questions.

### **4. I get public benefits. Will this hazard pay change my public benefits?**

Call the Health Care Advocate at **800-917-7787**. They can answer questions about your health care benefits, including Medicaid. Call Vermont Legal Aid at **800-889-2047**. They can answer questions about other public benefits. Or go to [www.vtlawhelp.org](http://www.vtlawhelp.org) on the internet.

### **5. What if I do not want to get this hazard pay?**

Tell your employer you do not want it. You have the right to turn it down.