

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 8, 2020

From: Ronald S. Burke Jr., Executive Director, Pension and Fiduciary Service

To: Regional Office Directors, Pension Management Center Managers

Subj: CARES Act – Economic Impact Payments

Background Information

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed on March 27, 2020 to provide relief during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The CARES Act includes the 2020 Recovery Rebate, a one-time Economic Impact Payment for qualifying individuals. These payments shall not be treated as income or resources for purposes of determining eligibility for pension under chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code, or any other benefit under a law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Purpose

This letter provides guidance for processing income-based benefits when the claimant or beneficiary received an Economic Impact Payment under the 2020 Recovery Rebate in the CARES Act. The M21-1 Adjudication Procedures Manual will be updated accordingly.

Guidance

Any amount paid to a person under the 2020 Recovery Rebate in the CARES Act will not be treated as income or net worth when determining eligibility or continued entitlement to income-based VA benefits. Income-based benefits include Veteran's pension, Survivor's pension, and Parents' Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

Claims processors must exclude Economic Impact Payments when calculating income or net worth for Pension or Parents' DIC benefits.

Questions

Questions can be directed to the P&F Service corporate mailbox VAVBAWAS/CO/Pension & Fiduciary Svc.

/s/

Ronald S. Burke Jr.