



**State of Florida
Department of Children and Families**

Rick Scott
Governor

Mike Carroll
Secretary

DATE: February 2, 2016 **TRANSMITTAL NO.:** I-16-02-0003

TO: Economic Self-Sufficiency Operations Managers
Economic Self-Sufficiency Program Offices

FROM: Dianna Laffey, Chief, Program Policy (**Signature on File**)

SUBJECT: Guidance on How to Count Funds in a Crowdfunding Account for All Programs

EFFECTIVE: Upon Receipt

This memorandum provides staff with guidance on how to count funds in crowdfunding accounts. Crowdfunding accounts allow individuals to receive funds for specific needs such as medical expenses. Examples of crowdfunding websites include GoFundMe, Kickstarter, and Indiegogo.

Food Assistance (FA) Policy

For food assistance, assets only count in assistance groups (AGs) that contain a member disqualified for an intentional program violation (IPV), felony drug trafficking including conspiracy, fleeing felon, or an Employment and Training penalty. For households with an elderly/disabled member and the AG fails the 200% gross income test, the household is subject to the asset test. In these situations, the funds in crowdfunding accounts are counted as liquid assets. The actual value of the funds in the account must be counted as soon as they are available to the household. If the customer meets eligibility and pays for an allowable expense from the crowdfunding account, they are entitled to the allowable deduction related to the paid expense.

For other food assistance groups not subject to the asset test, crowdfunding accounts do not count.

Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) Policy

The funds in crowdfunding accounts are liquid assets. The actual value of the funds in the account must be counted as soon as they are available to the household.

Medicaid Policy

In the Family-Related Medicaid program, crowdfunding accounts are not counted as an asset when determining eligibility.

In the SSI-Related Medicaid program, crowdfunding accounts are counted as an asset when determining eligibility. The actual value of the funds in the account must be counted as soon as they are available to the household.

If there are food assistance or TCA policy questions, region offices may contact Connie Mathers at connie.mathers@myflfamilies.com. If there are Medicaid policy questions, region offices may contact Dorthene Baker at dorthene.baker@myflfamilies.com.

cc: Assistant Secretary for Economic Self-Sufficiency (Jennifer Lange)
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