

ORDINANCE 2020-02

APPROVING CHANGES TO THE TOWNSHIP GENERAL ASSISTANCE AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE HANDBOOKS

WHEREAS, as of March 9, 2020, the Governor of Illinois declared all counties in the State of Illinois to be a disaster area as a result of the ongoing spread of the COVID-19 virus (“COVID-19”);

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic;

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the Governor of the State of Illinois executed Executive Order 2020-10 which added additional measures to earlier issued executive order, notably the Governor of Illinois issued a Stay at home of residence requirement for all individuals currently living within the State of Illinois;

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2020, President Trump approved a major disaster declaration for “all areas in the State of Illinois.”

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020, President Trump signed into law the CARES Act of 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to reduce the devastating economic impact on businesses, individuals and families, which, in part, includes a federal cash payment known as the Recovery Rebate to individuals meeting certain eligibility requirements;

WHEREAS, the Board (the “Board”) of Wheeling Township (the “Township”) acknowledges that a national and state emergency has been declared as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, the Wheeling Township Supervisor and Wheeling Township Board have adopted the Township Supervisors of Illinois General Assistance Handbook, 2009 version, (“GA Handbook”) and Township Supervisors of Illinois Emergency Assistance Handbook, 2001 version (“EA Handbook”);

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 9 of the *Illinois Public Aid Code* (“Code”) upon which the GA and EA Handbooks are based, and which provides certain provisions related to public aid and

Illinois townships General and Emergency Assistance programs. Included in the Code is a section regarding assistance to households during certain disasters. Specifically, the Code provides that:

[a] local government unit may provide assistance to households under its General Assistance program following a declaration by the President of the United States of a major disaster or emergency pursuant to the Federal Disaster Relief Act of 1974, as now or hereafter amended, if the local government unit is within the area designated under the declaration. Assistance under this Section may be provided to households which have suffered damage, loss or hardships as a result of the major disaster or emergency. Assistance under this Section may be provided to households without regard to the eligibility requirements and other requirements of this Code. Assistance under this Section may be provided only during the 90-day period following the date of declaration of a major disaster or emergency.

305 ILCS 5/6-9(a)(1);

WHEREAS, Sections 6.07 of the GA and EA Handbooks contain exemptions from currently available income;

WHEREAS, the Wheeling Township Supervisor and Board desire to amend the GA and EA Handbooks to exempt the Recovery Rebates from currently available income; and

WHEREAS, in order to minimize such impact on its residents, the Board approves the following changes to the General Assistance and Emergency Assistance Handbooks.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Wheeling Township as follows:

1. The preamble recitals are hereby incorporated as if fully set forth herein.
2. Section 6.07 (ae) of the GA Handbook is amended as follows:

(ae) Any disaster relief payment received from the Federal government including but not limited to Recovery Rebates under the Federal CARES Act of 2020, a state, a local governmental unit or a disaster relief assistance group.
3. Section 6.07 (i) of the EA Handbook is amended as follows:

(i) Any disaster relief payment made by the Federal government, including but not limited to Recovery Rebates under the Federal CARES Act of 2020, a state, a local governmental unit or a disaster assistance group.
4. As provided in the GA and EA Handbooks, any Special Unemployment Compensation Benefits (UCB) or Unemployment Insurance (UI) issued by the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), including but not limited to: Federal Pandemic Unemployment

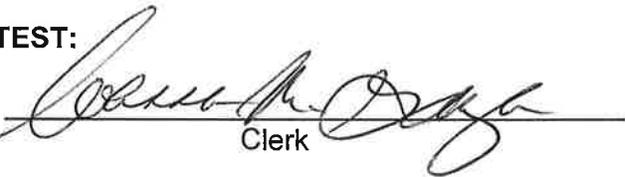
Compensation (FPUC), Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) provided by the CARES Act will still be considered unearned, non-exempt income. All other eligibility requirements of Article VI of the Illinois Public Aid Code and all other regulations in both the General Assistance and Emergency Assistance Handbooks remain in effect without any other changes.

5. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage, on this 28th day of April 2020.

WHEELING TOWNSHIP

By: 
Supervisor

ATTEST:

By: 
Clerk