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.45 Match Grant (MG) Program Income



This section includes information about income provided to refugees by the Match Grant Program.

Policy

The Match Grant Program is an intensive service and early employment program provided to refugees during their first four months residence in the United States. Match Grant income is countable.

Countable income is used to determine an income budget. (See <u>Income Budgeting</u> to see how FAA determines the income budget.) FAA needs to know about income that is both countable and not countable to determine whether a budgetary unit's expenses are exceeding their income. (See <u>Income Eligibility</u> for more information about how FAA uses countable and not countable income.)

Match Grant payments are provided by private non-profit volunteer resettlement agencies (VOLAGS). During the Match Grant four-month time limit, Match Grant participants are not eligible to receive CA or RCA benefits.

The Match Grant Program is a temporary alternative to CA and Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA). Match Grant Program financial and employment related services help **any** of the following newly arrived noncitizens attain immediate self-sufficiency:

- Amerasians
- Asylees
- Cuban and Haitian entrants
- Refugees
- Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) Holders
- Trafficking Victims
- Ukrainian Refugees

Procedures

When the participant is present, have them sign the Authority to Release (FAA-1765A) form to contact any companies or businesses involved. The FAA-1765A can be faxed or emailed to the participant's employer when it is not possible to use the Application for Benefits (FAA-0001A) or the HEAplus Authority to Release signed statement.

Verification

System interface and the <u>case file(g)</u> must be reviewed before verification is requested. No additional verification is needed when AZTECS interface or HEAplus hubs have verified the information.

The participant has the primary responsibility for providing verification. (See Participant

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Responsibilities – Providing Verification for additional policy.)

For NA, **all** of the following income is required to be verified before eligibility is determined:

- Reported on a new application, during the interview of a new application, or changes reported before the eligibility determination of a new application.
- Changes after an eligibility determination of a new application (e.g., a renewal application, mid approval contact, etc.) and any of the following apply:

The source of the income has changed.

The income is <u>questionable(g)</u> or <u>unclear(g)</u>.

The reported income amount has changed by \$51 or more.

The previous verification in the case file is more than 59 calendar days old.

For CA, all income is required to be verified before determining eligibility.

Examples of verification that can be used for Match Grant income include, and are not limited to, *any* of the following:

- Benefit award letters from SSA, Statement of Earnings VA, and other agencies
- Bank records
- Current check reflecting gross income
- Federal or state tax forms
- Contracts
- Signed statement from the agency or payer providing the income
- VOLAG or RA Matching Grant Notification Letter
- Volunteer resettlement agency (VOLAG or RA) Assistance payment records

AZTECS Keying Procedures

Key the OT Unearned Income Code in the INC TYPE field on UNIC.

Document the <u>case file(g)</u> thoroughly to support keyed codes, amounts, and frequencies. See the <u>AZTECS Data Entry Guide</u> for instructions on keying the AZTECS income screens.

NOTE Documentation must support determinations of eligibility and benefit level.

Document in sufficient detail to ensure that any reviewer can assess whether the determination is reasonable and accurate. Include specific information regarding the reason the income is determined to be normal. (See Budgeting Income Documentation Requirements for additional information.)

Legal Authorities

AAC R6-12-501-503

A.R.S 46-292-P01

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7 CFR 273.9(b)(2)(v)

7 U.S.C. 2014(d)

Prior Policy

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