Office of
The Governor

No. 29-A FY 19/20
DATE April 27, 2020

AN ORDER AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER 29 FY 19/20

WHEREAS, I proclaimed a state of emergency on March 15, 2020 and a renewed state of emergency on April 14, 2020 to authorize the use of emergency powers in order to expand and expedite the State's response to the serious health and safety risks of the highly contagious COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, 37-B M.R.S.§ 742(1)(C)(l) & (2) authorize the Governor during a state of emergency declared due to the outbreak of COVID-19 to suspend or modify the enforcement of statutes or rules for the conduct of state business if strict compliance with such requirements would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in dealing with the emergency and to utilize resources of the state and its subdivisions as reasonably necessary to cope with the disaster; and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, I issued Executive Order 29 FY 19/20 that, for the reasons stated therein, suspended and modified certain requirements governing the General Assistance program in order to expedite access to General Assistance benefits while reducing the number of face-to-face encounters necessary to continue to process them; and

WHEREAS, it is now necessary to amend that Order to clarify, for purposes of General Assistance income determinations, the treatment of Economic Impact payments, also referred to as stimulus payments, received under S. 3548, 116th Congress: CARES Act, being made to qualifying persons by the federal government for the purpose of increasing spending in order to improve the economy; and

WHEREAS, these stimulus payments are not treated as income for purposes of determining eligibility for federal benefits and should be treated in the same manner when determining eligibility for General Assistance;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, pursuant to 37-B M.R.S. Ch. 13, including but not limited to the provisions cited above, do hereby Order as follows:

I. ORDER

Executive Order 29 FY 19/20 Section I is amended by adding a new paragraph 1-A, as follows:

1-A. Exclude stimulus payments made by the federal government as part of its response to COVID-19 from the definition of "income" or "lump sum payment" in determining a household's eligibility, whenever during this federal program a household receives such a payment;

II. OTHER

All other provisions of Executive Order 29 FY 19/20 remain in effect.

III. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Order takes effect on April 27, 2020 and, except as provided in paragraph I(1-A) terminates 30 days after the termination of the COVID-19 state of emergency declared in Maine unless sooner amended or rescinded.

Janet T. Mills

Governor