



ELEVATE BOULDER

DIRECT CASH ASSISTANCE FOR FINANCIAL STABILITY

BENEFITS GUIDE

Introduction. This guide is designed to help individuals understand how the monthly payments from Elevate Boulder may affect their public benefits. There are five major ways benefits can be impacted:

- **No Impact:** Receiving the monthly payments will have no impact on your eligibility or amount of benefit received.
- **Possible Reduction of Benefits:** Receiving the monthly payments *may* result in a reduction of benefit, meaning you will still get the benefit, but may get less each month. However, this is low or medium risk and depends on how much you earn outside of the Elevate Boulder monthly payments.
- **Likely Reduction of Benefits:** Receiving the monthly payments *are likely to result* in reduction of benefit, meaning you will still get the benefit, but may get less each month. In this case, if marked as 'likely' it means you are at high-risk of seeing a reduction in your benefit.
- **Possible Loss of Benefits:** Receiving the monthly payments *may* result in a loss of benefit, however this is low or medium risk and depends on how much you earn outside of the Elevate Boulder monthly payments.
- **Likely Loss of Benefits:** Receiving the monthly payments *are likely to result* in a loss of benefit, meaning this is high-risk.

On the following pages, you will find a benefits matrix outlining the types of benefits that may be available to you and what the *potential* impact may be if you receive monthly payments from Elevate Boulder.

Note: *This guide is offered to provide general guidance but it is not legal advice tailored for each applicant. Each applicant's situation should be considered carefully and they should ask questions as needed to the agency administering their benefits.*

The City of Boulder has provided this guidance to help identify potential issues but cannot be relied upon as legal advice. The City of Boulder is not responsible for any loss of benefit that may occur because of participation in Elevate Boulder.

Taxes & Public Benefit	What Is It?	Type of Impact
Income Taxes	Taxes you pay on a yearly basis based on income.	No Impact This is considered a cash gift under the IRS and does not count as taxable income as the annual gift tax exclusion applies.
Colorado Works (TANF)	Temporary cash assistance to support basic needs.	Likely Loss of Benefit The income you receive from participating in Elevate Boulder will likely be considered income when determining eligibility for Colorado Works.
Social Security (Retirement)	Retirement income payable to adults at least 61 years and 9 months old.	No Impact Eligibility is based on previous contributions to Social Security. The income you receive from participating in Elevate Boulder will not impact your social security retirement payments.
Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)	Financial supports for individuals who are disabled and have a qualifying work history, either through their own employment or a family member.	No Impact Eligibility is based on previous contributions to Social Security and inability to work. The income you receive from participating in Elevate Boulder will not be considered when determining SSDI eligibility or amount.
Federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	Minimum basic financial assistance to adults and persons with disabilities.	Likely Reduction or Loss of Benefit Income limits and rules for SSI are complicated. The income you receive from participating in Elevate Boulder will be considered and is likely to result in a reduction or may make you ineligible for SSI.
Unemployment Insurance (UI)	Temporary assistance for adults who lose their job to help them meet expenses while seeking new employment.	No Impact The income you receive from participating in Elevate Boulder will not be counted towards eligibility as it is considered a 'gift' not earned income. Your unemployment payments will not be impacted by this program.
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	Supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for mothers, and to infants and children up to age five years old who are at nutritional risk.	No Impact The income you receive from Elevate Boulder will NOT be considered when determining eligibility for WIC, as this funding is considered disaster recovery payments.

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Taxes & Public Benefit	What Is It?	Type of Impact
Free & Reduced School Lunch	Free or low-cost school lunches for low-income children enrolled in public schools.	<p>Possible Reduction or Loss of Benefit Eligibility is typically determined once per year and the income from Elevate Boulder will count against eligibility. The next time eligibility is assessed (likely the start of the school year), this program may move you from free to reduce price meals, or make you ineligible. However, if you receive the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) or Colorado Works (TANF), then your free & reduced lunch will be protected.</p>
Medicaid (HealthFirst Colorado)	Free or low-cost health insurance for children and adults.	<p>No impact The income you receive from Elevate Boulder will not count towards eligibility for Medicaid.</p> <p>Note: If you are a senior or person with disabilities who qualifies for Medicaid, cash gifts may be counted towards your eligibility requirements. Depending on how much you make, this program may make you ineligible for this benefit.</p>
Medicare	Free or low-cost health insurance for the elderly.	<p>Possible Reduction of Benefit The income you receive from Elevate Boulder will count towards eligibility for Medicare Parts B (insurance) and D (prescription drugs) costs. However, these thresholds are quite high and it is unlikely the additional \$500 a month will affect this benefit much, if at all.</p>
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Food stamps	Benefit enabling low-income adults and families to purchase eligible food in authorized retail food stores.	<p>Likely Reduction or Loss of Benefit The income you receive from participating in Elevate Boulder will count towards SNAP eligibility. Depending on how much income your household already makes, the income you receive from the Elevate Boulder could make you ineligible for SNAP due to being over income limits. However, if you receive TANF, then you will continue to receive SNAP regardless of the income you receive through Elevate Boulder.</p>

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Taxes & Public Benefit	What Is It?	Type of Impact
Public Housing (Section 8) & Housing Choice Vouchers	Housing assistance for low-income families, the elderly, and persons with disabilities either through government-owned housing or vouchers to be used in the private market.	<p>Likely Reduction / Possible Loss in Benefit</p> <p>The income you receive from participating in Elevate Boulder will be considered income for housing assistance. If you are already in housing assistance, you typically pay 30% of your monthly adjusted income for rent & utilities. Your rent may therefore increase as your payments through this program will be used to calculate your 30% monthly payment. If you are not already in housing assistance or if you are near the edge of eligibility, this program may impact your eligibility.</p>
Pell Grant	Post-secondary education (college, associate's degree) financial aid.	<p>No Impact</p> <p>The income you receive from participating in Elevate Boulder will not impact Pell Grants.</p>

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