



Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

Family Investment Administration
ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Control Number: #09-42

Effective Date: UPON RECEIPT

Issuance Date: June 11, 2009

**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND ELIGIBILITY STAFF
HEALTH OFFICERS, LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS
LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT ELIGIBILITY STAFF**

**FROM: KEVIN M. MCGUIRE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JILL SPECTOR, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DHMH/OES**

**RE: TEMPORARY INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
BENEFITS**

PROGRAM AFFECTED: ALL PROGRAMS

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS

SUMMARY

A provision of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 allows states to increase unemployment compensation (UC) by \$25 per week. The federal legislation specifically excludes counting this income for medical assistance programs but does not address the other programs. According to guidance from the Food and Nutrition Service we must count this income for the Food Supplement Program (FSP).

The first week for which the additional compensation can be paid is February 28, 2009. Some states have already begun paying the extra amount. Maryland will begin paying the extra amount in the near future. Some people will get back payments, which we will treat according to nonrecurring lump sum policy for the FSP.

ACTION REQUIRED

Count the \$25/week increase for:

- The Food Supplement Program (FSP)

Exclude the income for:

- Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA)
- All Medical Assistance Programs

NOTE for the Food Supplement Program:

Simplified reporters do not have to report this increase in UC until recertification or interim change unless the increase puts the household over 130 percent of the Federal Poverty Limit (FPL).

CARES ACTION REQUIRED

To count the additional \$25/week unemployment as income for the FSP and exclude it for the other programs enter the income as OF – Other Countable Food Stamps only.

Example: A customer received \$300 of unemployment insurance benefits bi-weekly and now receives \$350 due to ARRA. Code the original \$300 bi-weekly amount as UC (unemployment compensation) with a frequency code of BW (bi-weekly) and code the additional \$50 as OF (other countable food stamps only) with a frequency code of BW.

CARES Reminder: On the UINC screen in CARES the following coding options are available:

OA - OTHER COUNTABLE CASH ASSISTANCE ONLY

MU - OTHER COUNTABLE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ONLY

OF - OTHER COUNTABLE FOOD STAMPS ONLY

OC - OTHER COUNTABLE - ALL PROGRAMS

ON - OTHER NON-COUNTABLE - ALL PROGRAMS

INQUIRIES:

Please direct FSP policy questions to Rick McClendon at 410-767-7307. For TCA and RCA questions contact Marilyn Lorenzo at 410-767-7333. For MA policy questions, contact the DHMH Division of Eligibility Policy and MCHP at 410-767-1463 or 1-800-492-5231 (select option 2 and request extension 1463).

cc: FIA Management Staff
Constituent Services
DHR Help Desk