



Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

Family Investment Administration
ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Control Number: #10-20

Effective Date: Upon Receipt

Issuance Date: January 28, 2010

**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS**

FROM: KEVIN M. MCGUIRE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**RE: EXCLUSION OF THE TEMPORARY INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT
COMPENSATION PAYMENTS FOR THE FOOD SUPPLEMENT
PROGRAM**

PROGRAM AFFECTED: FOOD SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS

SUMMARY:

On June 11, 2009, we issued Action Transmittal 09-42, which provided policy about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 \$25 per week temporary increase in unemployment compensation (UC). The ARRA excluded this income for all programs except the Food Supplement Program (FSP). On November 6, 2009, President Obama signed the Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009. This Act excludes the \$25 per week payments from all calculations of resources and income for the FSP.

The \$25 weekly payments are now excluded for all programs.

This policy was effective on November 6, 2009 for the FSP but applies to the entire month of November. We will exclude the weekly \$25 temporary increase in unemployment compensation from resources and income for all months beginning with the entire month of November, 2009.

ACTION REQUIRED:

- Exclude the \$25 weekly payment from any resources when calculating the benefit amount.
- Exclude this \$25 weekly amount in the calculation of gross and net income.
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- At redetermination if the stimulus money is being counted, recalculate the benefits without counting the stimulus benefit. Issue restored benefits back to November 1, 2009, if appropriate.

The CARES workaround described in AT 09-42 is no longer needed.

Use the Z03 or Z04 and the Z19 screen in Maryland Automated Benefits System (MABS) to determine who received the additional \$25 per week and the correct amount to count.

Note: The Z04 shows the amount issued to the recipient, either by check or debit card. Do not use this amount if it includes the \$25 payment. The Z04 amount will also reflect any deductions, such as child support or taxes, and may give you an incorrect amount for gross income.

Restoring Lost Benefits

If a participating household's November, 2009 (or subsequent) benefits included the additional \$25 per week as income, recalculate and restore any lost benefits at the next recertification or interim change.

If you become aware of a case that was denied or closed solely because of the \$25 weekly payment, re-open the household's application, certify the household if the household is still eligible, and restore any lost benefits back to November, 2009.

Quality Control

Quality Control will exclude variances resulting from this change in policy from the date of implementation until April 17, 2010.

QC will not count variances related to including the \$25 weekly unemployment compensation payment as either a resource or income during the 120-day variance exclusion until the case manager recertifies or takes action on a case outside of the 120-day variance exclusion period.

INQUIRIES:

Please direct FSP policy questions to Rick McClendon at 410 767-7307. Direct TCA questions to Marilyn Lorenzo at 410-767-7333 and Medical Assistance questions to the policy unit at 410-767-1463.

cc: FIA Management Staff
Constituent Services
OTHS Help Desk