

GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM
Center for Employment and Economic Supports

July 22, 2010

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TO: Commissioners, TA Directors, FS Directors, WMS Coordinators, TOP Coordinators, HEAP Coordinators, Staff Development Coordinators

FROM: Russell Sykes, Deputy Commissioner, Center for Employment & Economic Supports

SUBJECT: Documentation of Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

CONTACT PERSON: Temporary Assistance Bureau at 1-800-343-8859 ext. 4-9344
Food Stamp Bureau at 1-800-343-8859 ext. 3-1469

At OTDA, we want to do everything we can to help eligible persons whose UI benefits have expired to access other benefits where possible and if they are not already doing so. The Department of Labor (DOL) currently does not provide Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants written documentation as to the status of their UI benefit including extensions. Districts have several resources available that will assist them in verifying UI benefits in order to make an accurate Temporary Assistance (TA) and Food Stamp (FS) eligibility determinations.

- When a client certifies for UI on-line through the DOL website, a message is shown on their payment screen stating the status of their UI benefits. This message is also given to the client when a client certifies for UI using the DOL phone system. Districts can accept a screen print of the current payment screen showing the status of their UI benefits or hear the phone message with a note in the case record, as documentation.
- Resource File Integration (RFI) is available for UI information and is considered a primary source of information and therefore verified upon receipt. RFI is available on the 2nd day after a TA application is registered and is matched monthly for recipients.
- Districts can request direct access to DOL's UI file. The district must request access through their Terminal Transaction Security System (TTSS) administrator.

Legislation to extend the eligibility dates for UI benefit extensions beyond June 6, 2010 remains pending in Congress. If legislation passes, UI claimants may be eligible for retroactive UI benefits, if provided for in the proposed legislation. Retroactive UI benefits are lump sum payments. For further information on TA lump sum budgeting and lump sum set asides, please reference 92 ADM-17 and 03 ADM-10.

For further information regarding the federal extension and the UI extension filing dates, please visit www.labor.ny.gov/unemploymentassistance.shtm

Food Stamp Implications

As noted in the bullets above, local districts can use the same resources to determine the UI benefit status of food stamp benefit applicants and recipients.

Also, as noted in Section 12, Income Exclusions, page 276, #12 of the Food Stamp Source Book, non-recurring lump sum payments are excluded (not counted) as income when determining Food Stamp program eligibility and benefit amounts.