OTDA-4357-EL (Rev. 7/01) GIS 10 TA/DC028

UPSTATE MESSAGE

GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM Center for Employment and Economic Supports

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

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

SUBJECT: Termination of the \$25 per week UIB Supplement and FS Income Exclusion

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2011

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

The "Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009" (HR 3548), which amended a provision in the American Recovery and Relief Act (ARRA) affecting Food Stamp households was signed into law on November 18, 2009. Section 8 of HR 2548 amended ARRA to disregard the unemployment supplement (\$25 per individual per week), provided through ARRA, as income and resource when calculating eligibility and benefit amounts for the Food Stamp Program.

This exclusion as well as the supplement expired on December 12, 2010. As a result, temporary assistance households receiving the supplement and food stamp households receiving the supplement and exclusion must have their cases adjusted **effective January 1, 2011**. The result should be that TA benefits go up and FS on TA-FS cases may go down or stay same; NTA FS amounts should stay the same.

This information is also a follow up to the guidance provided in GIS 10 TA/DC020.

As instructed in ABEL Transmittal 10-6 dated 11/24/10 and GIS 10 TA/WMS037 dated 12/3/10, NTA-FS cases with Unearned Income Source '49' stored on the ABEL FS budget will be included in the mass rebudgeting/reauthorization (MRB/A) to terminate the supplement and the exclusion. The MRB/A is scheduled to run on December 18, 2010 for budgets with a FS effective 'FROM' date of 1/1/11. This MRB/A is for FS cases only. Districts will receive lists of TA cases to rebudget the UIB as income source code 49. Eligible and exception lists will be available in districts on Monday, December 20.

Districts are advised of the following case processing instructions:

NTA-FS Cases:

• Upstate Local Districts will not need to take any action on the cases that have UIB budgeted using the income code 49. The MRB/A will identify any NTA-FS budgets with unearned income source "49" and reduce the UIB income amount entered by the \$25/wk UIB supplement amount along with no longer automatically system calculating a

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\$25/wk FS income exclusion. This rebudgeting will in all likelihood result in no change in countable FS income or in the FS benefit.

- Upstate districts must re-code any UIB that was coded as 99-Other at either the next required contact or the next time that the FS case is re-budgeted. Any time on after 11/27/10 FS budgets with FROM Dates of 1/1/11 or later with UIB income entered as unearned income source "99" can be worker rebudgeted by changing unearned income source "99" to unearned income source "49'. This is because the \$25/wk FS income exclusion will then no longer be automatically system calculated with use of unearned income source "49'
- ABEL changes were migrated on **November 27, 2010**. After that date, a worker initiated transmission of a FS budget with a FROM Date of **January 1, 2011** will produce the new FS calculation amounts. For NTA-FS cases with UIB unearned income source "49" that are <u>worker rebudgeted</u> on or after 11/27/10 with a FROM Date of 1/1/11 or later, the \$25/wk FS income exclusion will no longer be automatically system calculated. It is therefore important for the worker to remember to adjust the total UIB income amount entered by removing the \$25/wk UIB supplement amount. This of course assumes that the total UIB income amount originally entered includes the \$25/wk UIB supplement amount.
- All Authorized cases will be sent a CNS notice addressing the change in budgeting. Workers must prepare notices for Exceptions and Rejections, as they are resolved.

TA-FS Cases:

- Upstate we are excluding all TA-FS cases from the MRB/A and sending lists to districts to rebudget the FS as income source code '49'.
- For TA cases with UIB income, districts will shortly be receiving a list of cases with unearned income source "49". Beginning 11/27/10, the LDSS will have to determine which cases from this list with a FROM date of 1/1/11 need to be rebudgeted by removing the \$25/wk UIB income supplement. After removing the UIB supplement from and storing the TA budget, the TA-FS budget must then be rebudgeted and stored, and the \$25/wk FS income exclusion automatically will no longer be applied. These cases should see an increase in their TA grant and a reduction in their food stamps.
- As explained in GIS 10 TA/DC020, in TA cases where UIB income is budgeted for a UIB claimant who filed for UIB on or after May 25, 2010 and the UIB income did not include the \$25/wk supplement, the UIB income on the TA-FS budget should have been budgeted as unearned income source "99-Other" to prevent the \$25/wk FS income exclusion from being automatically system calculated. For these cases, no TA UIB income adjustment is necessary and the worker can rebudget the TA-FS budget by changing unearned income source "99" to unearned source "49" anytime on or after 11/27/10. There should be no change to the TA or FS benefits for these cases.