

GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM
Center for Employment & Economic Supports

August 5, 2010

Page: 1

TO: Upstate 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: Budgeting of Extended Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB) and Treatment of the \$25.00 Weekly Federal Additional Compensation (FAC) Payments

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

On July 22, 2010, President Obama signed legislation that extended Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB) for millions of Americans. However, **claimants who filed for UIB on or after May 31, 2010 are not eligible for the weekly, supplemental \$25.00 Federal Additional Compensation (FAC) payment.**

Claimants who already were receiving the \$25 weekly supplement will continue to receive these payments until they have exhausted their eligibility for UIB, or until 12/12/10, whichever comes first. This includes claimants who had their UIB suspended while awaiting passage of the legislation extending the number of weeks that UIB can be received. On July 27, 2010, claimants who had their benefits suspended began receiving the lump sum payment for the retroactive benefits including the \$25 weekly supplement.

As described in ABEL Transmittal 10-1, Information #3, pages 15 and 16, as of January 16, 2010, FS ABEL budgets with Unearned Income Source Code "49 – Unemployment Insurance Benefit Compensation" automatically exclude \$25 per week (\$108.33/mo) from the UIB amount entered in the budget, based on the assumption that the UIB amount includes the \$25 per week supplement. Obviously, with Congress electing not to allow new UIB claimants to get the FAC payments, budgeting the actual gross UIB income of new claimants as Unearned Income Source Code '49' on FS budgets could result in overpayments due to the automatic exclusion. The budgeting method described below will ensure that correct benefit amounts are generated.

Purpose

The purpose of this GIS is to inform local districts how to budget UIB income for individuals who are not and will not receive the \$25 per week FAC payment because they filed UIB claims on or after May 31, 2010.

Budgeting for NTA-FS Cases

For individuals on NTA-FS cases who are receiving UIB income resulting from a UIB claim made on or after 5/31/10 and therefore **do not receive the \$25 weekly supplement**, district staff should **budget the UIB income on ABEL using Unearned Income Source Code- "99- Other"**. Please do **not** use Unearned Income Source Code "49 – Unemployment Insurance Benefit Compensation."

**GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM
Center for Employment & Economic Supports**

August 5, 2010

Page: 2

This is because, as described in ABEL Transmittal 10-1, as of 1/16/2010, FS ABEL budgets with Unearned Income Source Code “49 – Unemployment Insurance Benefit Compensation” automatically will exclude \$25 per week (\$108.33/mo) from the UIB amount entered, based on the assumption that the UIB amount entered includes the \$25 per week supplement. **Using unearned income source ‘99’ for UIB income resulting from claims that were filed on or after 5/31/10 will ensure that ABEL will not automatically apply the \$25 per week exclusion to the UIB income.**

In cases that already have an instance of “99 – Other” in the ABEL budget, the UIB income should be entered as another, separate instance of “99 – Other” income.

For claimants who are receiving the \$25 weekly FAC payments, there is no change to the budgeting methodology described in Information #3, pages 15 and 16 of ABEL Transmittal 10-1. The income of claimants who are receiving the \$25 weekly supplement must continue to be budgeted with each individual’s total UIB amount (basic UIB plus FAC) as a single instance of unearned income source ‘49’ per individual UIB recipient. They will continue to have the \$25 per week FS exclusion applied against their UIB income in their household’s FS budget. When the \$25 weekly FAC payments end in December of this year, a MRB/A will be done to remove the \$25 per week supplements from the FS budgets that contain unearned income source ‘49’, and remove the automatic exclusion of \$108.33 per month from each occurrence of Unearned Income Source Code ‘49 – Unemployment Insurance Benefit Compensation’ in FS ABEL budgets.

Budgeting for TA-FS Cases

The current number of TA-FS cases with UIB income is slightly more than 700 throughout all of the upstate districts. Almost all of these are cases that currently are receiving the weekly \$25 FAC payment. No action needs to be taken on these current cases that get the \$25 weekly supplement.

TA-FS cases with UIB income from claims filed on or after 5/31/10 should continue to use “49 – Unemployment Insurance Benefit Compensation” when entering the UIB income on the TA budget. This entry automatically will carry over from the TA budget to the FS ABEL budget. **It must be removed from the FS budget and re-entered as Unearned Income Source Code “99-Other”** so that ABEL does not apply the \$108.33 per month exclusion. It is important to note that this process must be followed each time the TA budget is updated and stored.

All TA-FS cases with UIB income in the TA budget will be excluded from the MRB/A that removes the \$25.00 per week UIB FAC when it expires later this year. Instead, lists of TA-FS cases with UIB income will be provided for districts to re-budget the TA and FS for cases that are losing the UIB FAC. Districts may wish to maintain lists of TA-FS cases in which UIB income results from a UIB claim on or after 5/31/10 and does NOT include the \$25.00 per week FAC, so that these cases can be eliminated from the list of cases needing re-budgeting.

Budgeting Lump-Sum Retroactive UIB payments

The budgeting of these lump-sum payments for both TA and FS was addressed in GIS 10 TA/DC019, dated July 22, 2010.

**GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM
Center for Employment & Economic Supports**

August 5, 2010

Page: 3

Nonrecurring lump sum payments are excluded (not counted) as income when determining Food Stamp program eligibility and benefit amounts.

Determining Which UIB Recipients Receive the \$25 weekly FAC Payment?

This topic also was addressed in GIS 10 A/DC019, dated July 22, 2010. Please refer to that GIS for details.