

GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM
Center for Employment & Economic Supports

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TO: NYC 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 NYC Policy Bulletin # 10-09-ELI, FS ABEL budgets with Income Source Code "36 – Unemployment Insurance Benefits" 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 Income Source Code '36' 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 **who do not receive the \$25 weekly supplement**, district staff should **budget the UIB income on ABEL using Unearned Income Source Code- "99- Other**

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Unearned Income.” Please do **not** use Income Source Code “36 – Unemployment Insurance Benefits.”

This is because, as described in NYC Policy Bulletin # 10-09-ELI, ABEL 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 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 \$25per week exclusion to the UIB income.**

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

For claimants who are receiving the \$25 weekly FAC payments, there is no change to the current budgeting methodology described in NYC Policy Bulletin # 10-09-ELI. 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 income source ‘36’ 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 ‘36’, and remove the automatic exclusion of \$108.33 per month from each occurrence of Income Source Code “36 – Unemployment Insurance Benefits” in FS ABEL budgets.

Budgeting for TA-FS Cases

The current number of New York City TA-FS cases with UIB income is about 2000. 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 use “36 – Unemployment Insurance Benefits” with Program Indicator ‘P- PA Only’ and Income Source Code “99-Other Unearned Income” with Program Indicator “F-Food Stamps” when entering the UIB income on the TA budget.

Details regarding the MRB/A that will remove the \$25.00 per week UIB FAC when it expires later this year, and that will end the automatic exclusion of \$108.33 per month from each occurrence of Income Source Code “36” in the FS budget will be provided at a later date.

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.

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?

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