GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM
Center for Employment & Economic Supports

October 15, 2014

TO: Subscribers

SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION: Commissioners; TA Directors; SNAP Directors, HEAP Directors, WMS and Training Coordinators

FROM: Phyllis D. Morris, Deputy Commissioner, Center for Employment and Economic Supports

SUBJECT: Increase in the UIB Minimum and Maximum Benefits

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

CONTACT: SNAP Bureau at (518) 473-1469

Purpose

The purpose of this GIS is to inform social service districts (SSDs) that the minimum and maximum rates for weekly Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB) increased on October 6, 2014, as a result of Unemployment Insurance reforms. The minimum rate increased from $64.00 to $100.00 per week and the maximum rate increased from $405.00 to $420.00 per week.

Access to Information

For the purpose of verifying eligibility, SSD employees and contractors of State and local agencies, working in the SSD, have direct access to Unemployment Insurance (UI) claim information maintained in the NYS Department of Labor's (DOL) Benefit Claimant Inquiry System (BCIQ). If an SSD does not have direct access to DOL's UI file, the district must request access through their Terminal Transaction Security System (TTSS) administrator. For more information see 14 ADM- 05 "The Automated Information Exchange Agreement between OTDA, OCFS, DOH and DOL – Unemployment Insurance Benefit Information".

Information on UI claim information may also be obtained through the real-time automated information exchange available through myWorkspace and the batch-file information contained in the WMS Resource File Integration (RFI) system.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Program Implications

- SSD workers should be aware of the changes to the UIB benefit amounts when processing initial SNAP *applications, periodic reports, and recertifications*.
- Reporting implications:
    - For SNAP "10-day reporting" households, an increase of more than $50.00 in unearned income should be reported by the 10th day of the

month following the month in which the increase of more than $50.00 per month occurred.

- For "simplified" (six-month) reporting households, unless any additional UIB received as a result of the benefit increase put the household over 130% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL), the household does **not** need to report the increased income until the next required contact (periodic report or recertification).

Public Assistance (PA) Implications

- SSD workers should be aware of the changes to the UIB amounts when processing PA applications, changes, and recertifications.

- Changes to income, such as increased UI benefit, must be reported to the SSD within 10 days of the change to be considered timely. This reporting requirement must be met, even when other programs such as SNAP have different reporting requirements.

- The gross amount of UIB is budgeted against PA needs.

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