



# Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Governor

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## General Information System (GIS) Message

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### Section 1

<b>Transmittal:</b>	20 TA/DC035 Upstate and New York City
<b>Date:</b>	April 29, 2020
<b>To:</b>	Subscribers
<b>Suggested Distribution:</b>	Commissioners, TA Directors, SNAP Directors, HEAP Directors, WMS Coordinators, Medicaid Directors
<b>From:</b>	Jeffrey Gaskell, Deputy Commissioner Employment and Income Support Programs
<b>Subject:</b>	COVID-19 Emergency Relief- Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation Treatment for Temporary Assistance (TA), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)
<b>Effective Date:</b>	Immediately
<b>Contact Information:</b>	Temporary Assistance (TA) Questions – Temporary Assistance Bureau 518-474-9344 or <a href="mailto:otda.sm.cees.tabureau@otda.ny.gov">otda.sm.cees.tabureau@otda.ny.gov</a> Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Questions – SNAP Bureau 518-473-1469 or <a href="mailto:otda.sm.cees.snap@otda.ny.gov">otda.sm.cees.snap@otda.ny.gov</a> HEAP Bureau at: 518-473-0332 or <a href="mailto:NYSHEAP@otda.ny.gov">NYSHEAP@otda.ny.gov</a>

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### Attachments:

### Section 2

The purpose of this GIS message is to provide guidance to social services districts (districts) on how to treat Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) payments authorized by H.R. 748 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). The CARES Act provides an additional \$600 in federally funded dollars each week to the unemployment compensation benefit of each eligible worker.

#### Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

FPUC payments were not exempted as income by the CARES Act for SNAP income eligibility purposes and must be budgeted as unearned income when determining SNAP eligibility. The FPUC portion of the UIB should be added to the basic UIB amount and budgeted as a single amount for each household member receiving UIB under unearned income source “49” *Unemployment Insurance Benefit Compensation* upstate and “36” *Unemployment Insurance Benefits* in New York City (NYC).

The district should remove the FPUC from the budget once it is no longer received. This should happen as soon as it is verified the household is no longer receiving the FPUC, but no later than December 31, 2020 unless an act of Congress extends the FPUC payments.

Per federal regulation 7 CFR 273.9(c)(8), any portion of the UIB received as a retroactive lump sum payment should be excluded as income for SNAP eligibility purposes. The amount received as a lump sum payment would count as a resource in the month received.

Under broad-based categorical eligibility, few SNAP households are subject to a resource test. For those few households that currently are subject to a resource test, the test is applied at application and recertification. Only the few households subject to a resource test that also are subject to the change (not simplified) reporting requirements are required to report when their resources exceed the allowable limit for their household.

All case actions involving the FPUC are subject to appropriate timely and adequate notification requirements.

### **Temporary Assistance (TA)**

FPUC payments are considered unearned income and must be budgeted when determining eligibility for TA. For applicants or recipients who are receiving UIB, the FPUC portion of the UIB should be added to the basic UIB amount and budgeted as a single amount for each household member receiving UIB under unearned income source “49” *Unemployment Insurance Benefit Compensation* upstate and “36” *Unemployment Insurance Benefits* in NYC.

Retroactive UIB payments are subject to lump sum provisions in accordance with [03 ADM-10](#).

All case actions involving the FPUC are subject to appropriate timely and adequate notification requirements.

### **Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)**

FPUC payments are considered unearned income for HEAP eligibility and benefit determinations and must be counted in the HEAP budget. FPUC payments will be counted towards the HEAP household's income when determining eligibility for Regular HEAP, Emergency, Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement (HERR), Heating Equipment Clean and Tune (C&T), and Cooling Assistance benefits.

FPUC payments are not considered a liquid resource for the Emergency and HERR benefit components.