

DSS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER ECONOMIC AND FAMILY SERVICES 40-2020

EFS_FNS_AL-40-2020

Food and Nutrition Services

TO: County Directors of Social Services

ATTENTION: Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) Managers and Supervisors

DATE: September 18, 2020

SUBJECT: Exclude Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) funded by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

EFFECTIVE: Upon Receipt

PRIORITY: For Information and Action

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

On September 10, 2020 USDA provided guidance that Wages Assistance (LWA) funded by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is countable unearned income. On September 16, 2020 USDA provided a revised response confirming that the FNS Program must exclude LWA as unearned income.

Funds provided to households under the Assistance Program for Lost Wages, including both the Federal and State share under the program, must be excluded from income for purpose of determining SNAP eligibility. The President's memorandum establishing the Assistance Program for Lost Wages states that it is being established pursuant to Section 408(e)(2) of the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(e)(2)). Section 312(d) of the Stafford Act (42 USC 5155(d)) states, "Federal major disaster and emergency assistance provided to individuals and families under this chapter, and comparable disaster assistance provided by States, local governments, and disaster assistance organizations, shall not be considered as income or a resource when determining eligibility for or benefit levels under federally funded income assistance or resource-tested benefit programs." As such, payments made under the Assistance Program for Lost Wages must be excluded from income for SNAP purposes.

II. POLICY PROCEDURES

1. A report is posted in [FAST Help](#)>Economic Services>COVID-19>Reports>Global>Pandemic UIB>Denials>200916 Pandemic UIB Application Denials>FNS tab
2. The report may be used to:
 - a. Determine which cases the LWA was entered as Unemployment Insurance Benefit (UIB) or Unemployment Pandemic Insurance (UPI)
 - b. Determine which cases are due a supplement and issue the supplement, if applicable.
 - c. Use the NC FAST report password to retrieve the report.

3. End date the unearned income for the LWA.
4. Document in notes the reason of the change and the supplement amount.
5. After the unearned income is end dated, the changes and decisions are accepted by the caseworker, NC FAST will generate a notice. Caseworkers must ensure the correct notice is generated.

III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

This policy is effective upon receipt for recertifications, pending applications and new applications that any household member receives LWA. Submit any questions regarding this information to the Operational Support Team (OST) at dss.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Locklear".

David Locklear, Deputy Director
Economic and Family Services

DL/vd