

**DSS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER ECONOMIC AND FAMILY SERVICES 8-2020
EFS_WF_AL-8-2020**

Work First Program

TO: County Directors of Social Services

ATTENTION: Work First Program Administrators,
Managers and Supervisors

DATE: April 21, 2020

SUBJECT: Economic Impact Payment and Unemployment Compensation

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon Receipt

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Economic Impact Payments (Payments), commonly referred to as “stimulus checks” or “recovery rebates”, are a key provision of the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act legislation passed by Congress and signed into law March 27, 2020 to help reduce the financial burden on residents across the United States. Most people will receive a payment automatically and will not need to take any action. These payments count as a rebate or advance payment of a credit that are exempted as income.

The CARES Act also gives states the option of extending unemployment compensation payments to workers not traditionally eligible for unemployment benefits who are unable to work as a direct result of the coronavirus public health emergency. There are three New Unemployment Programs under the CARES Act: Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC).

1. Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA): PUA aids with unemployed or partially unemployed individuals who are not eligible for regular unemployment compensation and who are unable or unavailable to work as a direct result of the coronavirus public health emergency. PUA will be provide up to 39 weeks. (minus any weeks of regular UC and Extended Benefits (EB) the individual received)
2. Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation: (FPUC) is an emergency program established by the CARES Act to increase unemployment benefits for Americans who are out of work because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Under FPUC, eligible people who collect certain unemployment insurance benefits—including regular unemployment compensation—will get an extra \$600 in federal benefits each week through July 31, 2020.
3. The CARES Act also created the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program, which extends unemployment benefits for an extra 13 weeks through December 31, 2020 to those who have exhausted their benefits.

II. POLICY PROCEDURES

Counties must not consider the Economic Impact Payments as income for TANF eligibility or benefit calculations. The payment is worth up to \$1,200 for qualifying individuals or \$2,400 for married couples. Up to \$500 is provided for each qualifying child who is a dependent under 17 by the end of the tax year (December 31, 2018 or December 31, 2019 depending on the last tax returned filed).

Counties must disregard any unemployment compensation received under the CARES Act; however, regular unemployment compensation payments are a countable source of income to be considered for TANF eligibility and benefit calculations. Please refer to the North Carolina Integrated Eligibility Manual for guidance on how to calculate income.

III. EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy is effective upon receipt. All unemployment compensation provisions implemented will be allowed until the specified ending period indicated under the CARES Act. Submit any questions regarding this policy to the Operational Support Team (OST) at DSS.Policy.Questions@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Locklear".

David Locklear, Deputy Director
Economic and Family Services

DL/Imd