

DSS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER NO. ECONOMIC AND FAMILY SERVICES 3-2009

(Work First)

TO: County Directors of Social Services
ATTENTION: Work First Managers & Supervisors
SUBJECT: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
DATE: March 31, 2009

The **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009** (ARRA '09-Public Law 111-5) was enacted by Congress and signed into law by President Barack Obama on February 17, 2009. The Act is intended to provide a stimulus to the U.S. economy in the wake of the economic downturn. The Act includes federal tax cuts, expansion of unemployment benefits, and other social welfare provisions. The purpose of this letter is to outline the procedures for handling the changes associated with the American Recovery and Investment Act of 2009. These changes are effective April 1, 2009.

Economic Recovery Payments

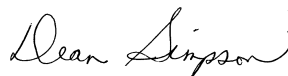
Some recipients of Social Security (SSA), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Railroad Retirement Benefits, and Veterans Disability Compensation or Pension Benefits will receive a \$250 Economic Recovery Payment. These one-time payments **will not** be counted as income. The payment is also excluded as a resource the month of receipt and for up to nine months after the month of receipt. Refer to Work First Section 114 on Income and 115 for Resources for further guidance.

Expansion of Unemployment Benefits

The ARRA of 2009 provides for the expansion of unemployment benefits to include an additional \$25.00 a week to the unemployment compensation currently being paid to individuals. According to the North Carolina Department of Labor, the payments will be retroactive to those claimants who were eligible for payments after the week ending February 28, 2009. Should someone's benefits run out after that week, they will still receive an adjustment check for those weeks they were eligible for the \$25. The increased UIB amount will be retroactive to week ending February 28. Treat this one time adjustment check as a non-recurring lump sum payment. Refer to Work First Section 115, Resources, for further guidance. The ongoing weekly UIB payment **will** be treated as countable income.

An insert notifying Work First and Medicaid recipients will be included with the May benefits mailing. The insert will appear in both English and Spanish. If you have questions around this issue, please contact your Work First Representative.

Sincerely,



Dean Simpson, Chief
Economic and Family Services Section

DS: sdm

cc:: Sherry Bradsher
Jack Rogers
Sarah Barham
Hank Bowers
Charisse Johnson
Work First Local Support
Local Business Liaisons