



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

**ROY COOPER** • Governor

**MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH** • Secretary

**SUSAN OSBORNE** • Assistant Secretary for County Operations for  
Human Services

Date December 30, 2020

**Dear County Directors of Social Services**

**Attention:** Food and Nutrition Services Managers and Supervisors

**Subject:** Exclusion of Pandemic Unemployment Compensation Payments

**Priority:** Information and Action Required

**I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

The COVID-19 Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 allows Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) to exclude as income or resources, the amount of Federal Pandemic Unemployment compensation payment made to an individual on or after January 1, 2021.

**II. POLICY PROCEDURES**

- A. Federal pandemic unemployment compensation payments received on or after January 1, 2021 are excluded and considered non-countable income.
- B. Federal pandemic unemployment compensation payments received on or after January 1, 2021 are not countable as a resource for the month of receipt or the nine months following the receipt for the payment.

Example: An individual receives a Federal pandemic unemployment compensation payment of \$600 in March 2021. The individual places the funds in their checking account. The \$600 may not be counted towards resource limits for the month of March 2021 through December 2021.

- C. The exclusion does not apply to:
  - a. Regular unemployment compensation.
  - b. State pandemic unemployment compensation.

**NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES • ECONOMIC AND FAMILY SERVICES**

LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603  
MAILING ADDRESS: 2420 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2420  
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6300 • FAX: 919-334-1265

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

### III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

The changes are effective with all payments received on or after January 1, 2021. Caseworkers must code the payments as "Pandemic Unemployment Compensation" in NC FAST to ensure those funds are excluded.

Submit any questions regarding this information to the Operational Support Team (OST) at [dss.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto: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 Section

DL/rc

**EFS-FNSEP-49-2020**