



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

March 14, 2022

Dear County Directors of Social Services

Attention: Work First Program Administrators, Managers, and Supervisors

Subject: Supplemental Benefit Payment for Active Work First Cash Assistance Recipients

Priority: Information Only

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 into law (Public Law 117-2). This law establishes the Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund (PEAF) in section 403(c) of the Social Security Act (the Act). The PEAF provides funding to states (which includes the District of Columbia), tribes administering a TANF program, and five U.S. territories to assist needy families impacted by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Due to the continued economic impact of COVID-19 in North Carolina, the NC General Assembly approved ARPA-PEAF funding to provide a supplemental payment to eligible Work First recipients. This funding is intended to provide extra cash for families to cover added costs due to the pandemic and to purchase clothing, school supplies including technology devices, and personal protective equipment. In accordance with this legislative action, the Department of Health and Human Services will be issuing a supplemental payment of \$500 for each eligible child.

II. POLICY PROCEDURES

Unlike the one-time payment issued in June 2021, this supplemental payment will include children receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and children excluded from the Work First Cash assistance due to the Family CAP.

- The calculated benefit amount is based on the number of eligible children for households that:
 1. Applied for Work First Cash Assistance prior to January 1, 2022
 2. Were approved for Work First Cash Assistance and will receive a Work First Cash Assistance payment for January 2022

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

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www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6300 • FAX: 919-334-1265

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

- The supplemental benefit payment is an electronic payment separate from the regular Work First Cash Assistance payment.
- NC FAST will automatically issue the supplemental benefit per eligible child for all Work First cases active as of 5:00pm on March 15, 2022.
- Households will receive the supplemental payment the same as their normal Work First Cash Assistance Payment.
- NC FAST will send a system-generated notice to all Work First Cash Assistance households eligible to receive this supplemental payment. The notice is available in English and Spanish (see attachments).
- NC FAST will automatically issue payments by the end of the month.

III. IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

No action required.

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

The Work First Cash Assistance supplemental payments will be issued by the end of March. Submit any questions regarding this policy to the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) at DSS.Policy.Questions@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



Carla West, Senior Director for Economic Security
Division of Social Services, Economic and Family Services Section

Attachments (2):

EFS-WF-02-2022