



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

April 07, 2021

**Dear County Directors of Social Services**

**Attention:** Food and Nutrition Services Work First and Energy Programs Administrators,  
Managers and Supervisors

**Subject:** Extended Pandemic Unemployment Insurance Benefit (PUIB)

**Priority:** Information and Action Required

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (the Act) was signed into law. The Act includes the following provisions that were extended. These provisions may affect FNS eligibility and benefit allotments.

**Extension of Pandemic Unemployment Assistance**

This provision extends Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) payments through September 6, 2021. PUA provides unemployment benefits to individuals who do not qualify for unemployment compensation. PUA is now considered unearned income for FNS purposes. This change is effective upon receipt.

Changes have to be implemented in NC FAST to count PUA as unearned income. As a **temporary process**, enter PUA as Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB) and document the case to explain the reason for entering PUA as UIB.

**Extension of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation**

This provision extends Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation payments (FPUC) through September 6, 2021. FPUC provides additional \$300 weekly payments on top of regular unemployment compensation provided by the State. This includes the initial payments of \$600 and the \$100 Federal unemployment compensation payments.

**Extension of Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation**

This provision extends Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) through September 6, 2021. PEUC provides additional weeks of unemployment benefits to individuals who exhaust their regular unemployment compensation. PEUC is now considered unearned income for FNS purposes. This change is effective upon receipt.

**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

Changes have to be implemented in NC FAST to count PEUC as unearned income. As a **temporary process**, enter PEUC as Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB) and document the case to explain the reason for entering PEUC as UIB.

**2021 Recovery Rebates to Individuals**

This provision amends the authorized additional \$1400 rebate payments to eligible individuals, these rebates are excluded from consideration as income in the month of receipt and as a resource for 12 months following receipt for SNAP purposes. Receipt of these payments could affect a household's eligibility after 12 months if the payments cause the household to exceed the resource limit.

**Child Tax Credit Improvements for 2021**

The Child Tax Credit is available in advanced monthly payments in the calendar year 2021. The annual amounts are \$3,000 per child or \$3,600, to children under the age of six, and 17-year-olds. Regardless if the tax credit is received as an annual credit or in advance payments, it is excluded as income in the month of receipt and as a resource for 12 months following receipt for FNS. Receipt of these payments could affect a household's eligibility after 12 months if the payments cause the household to exceed the resource limit.

Utilize the revised (add chart) to determine countable and non-countable PUIB.

**Note:** Recipients receiving PUIB must be work registered.

We hope this information is beneficial. 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,



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

CLW/vd

**Attachment (1)**

Unemployment Insurance Benefit (UIB) Types and Codes

**EFS-FNSEP-37-2021**