



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 16, 2021

Dear County Directors of Social Services

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

Subject: Revised 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 the date of receipt.

Changes have been implemented in NC FAST to count PUA as unearned income. Enter PUA as Pandemic Unemployment Insurance Benefits (PUIB) and document the case to explain the reason for entering PUA as PUIB.

New and Pending applications: The PUA payments are countable for all new and pending applications.

New and pending recertification and changes to existing cases: Use the following procedures to identify any cases for possible over-issuances:

- Review reports January 2021 through April 2021 in [FAST Help](#) to determine which cases require PUA and PEUC added as unearned income. The link to the report is as follows, [FAST Help/Economic Services/COVID-19/Reports/Global/Pandemic UIB/Benefit Reductions and Modifications/2021/FNS](#) tab.
- Add income as appropriate to identified cases effective June 1, 2021.
- If appropriate, send NOAA to reduce or terminate benefits by May 14, 2021. If the addition of the PUA and/or PEUC results in ineligibility, explore possible overpayments for any months prior to June 2021.

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

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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.

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 the date of receipt. Follow the procedures above to identify the cases that may have an over-issuance.

Mixed Earners Unemployment Compensation

This provision started December 27, 2020 and extends the Mixed Earners Unemployment Compensation (MEUC) through September 4, 2021. MEUC provides additional weekly benefits to individuals with at least \$5,000 in net income from self-employment during the applicable tax year.

Changes have been implemented in NC FAST to count MEUC as unearned income. In NC FAST choose MEUC from the dropdown under Benefit.

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 will be 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 Unemployment Insurance Benefit (UIB) Codes and Types 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.

Sincerely,



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

CLW/vd

Attachment (1)

Unemployment Insurance Benefit (UIB) Codes and Types

EFS-FNSEP-40-2021