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.
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.

Sincerely,

David Locklear, Deputy Director
Economic and Family Services Section

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