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 SS Medical Programs

Authorized Signature

Number: SS-PT-09-004

Issue Date: 03/03/2009

Topic: Other

Transmitting (check the box that best applies):

- New Policy
 Policy Change
 Policy Clarification
 Executive Letter
 Administrative Rule
 Manual Update
 Other: _____

Applies to (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Children, Adults and Families | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seniors and People with Disabilities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County DD Program Managers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): CAF SSP transmittal group |

Policy/Rule Title:	Unemployment Compensation rule DRA citizenship documentation requirements Economic Recovery Payments Income and Payment Standards, FS		
Policy/Rule Number(s):	461-145-0550 461-145-0143 461-155-0190	Release No:	
Effective Date:	March 3, 2009 for all but the FS allotment increases April 1, 2009 for the FS allotment increases	Expiration:	
References:			
Web Address:			

Discussion/Interpretation: The economic stimulus act (officially “The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009”) was signed into law on February 17. The

Act includes provisions for an increase in FS allotments, a \$25 weekly increase in unemployment compensation (UC) benefits as well as a special one-time only \$250 payment to persons receiving social security (SSB, SSI, SSDI), Railroad Retirement, Veterans Disability and Veterans Pension payments.

The “Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009” was signed into law February 4. It amended the Medicaid citizenship documentation requirements established in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005.

Following is a summary of the policy changes effective immediately. Additional policy changes will be added after the federal program authorities have an opportunity to analyze the impact of the new legislation and provide guidance to the states.

Changes resulting from The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

FS benefit increases

Effective April 1, the FS allotments will be increased. The new maximum allotments are:

Household Size	New Maximum Allotment
1	\$ 200
2	\$ 367
3	\$ 526
4	\$ 668
5	\$ 793
6	\$ 952
7	\$1,052
8	\$1,202
Each additional person	\$ 150

\$25 Increase in UC Benefits

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funded an additional \$25 weekly in unemployment compensation (UC) benefit payments. Payments are for the UC claim weeks beginning February 26, 2009 through December 26, 2009. Clients will begin seeing the additional \$25 UC benefit the first week of March.

- For all SPD/SSP medical programs, all TANF and TANF related programs (including pre-TANF, single-parent and two-parent TANF, Post-TANF, TA-DVS and SFPSS), the \$25 increase is excluded.
- For the ERDC and FS, the \$25 benefit increase is countable UC income.

To determine the amount of countable UC income

The Weekly Benefit Amount does not include the additional \$25 benefit. However, the \$25 is included in the check amount on the EPAY-Payment List.

If the client does not have any earnings or overpayment withholding, use the Weekly Benefit Amount (WBA) on the ECLM-Claim Summary Display screen for all but ERDC and FS. For ERDC and FS, use the WBA plus \$25.

If the client has earnings and an overpayment withholding, use the EPAY-Payment List screen to determine the amount of countable UC income.

- For all programs but ERDC and FS, add the check amount, amount of overpayment withheld, amount of child support withheld and amount of federal and state taxes withheld. Subtract \$25 from the total.
- For ERDC, add the check amount, amount of overpayment withheld, amount of child support withheld and amount of federal and state taxes withheld.
- For FS, add the check amount, amount of child support withheld and amount of federal and state taxes withheld.

Countable UC Income When You Cannot Use the WBA					
E-PAY amounts	Check Amount	Overpayment Amount	Child Support Amount	Taxes Withheld	Subtract \$25
ERDC	X	X	X	X	
FS	X		X	X	
Medical	X	X	X	X	X
All TANF	X	X	X	X	X

One-time \$250 Economic Recovery Payment

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funded a one-time \$250 economic recovery payment to most persons receiving social security (SSB, SSI, SSDI), Railroad Retirement, Veterans Disability and Veterans Pension payments. Only one \$250 payment will be allowed per person. All eligible clients will be sent their \$250 payment no later than December 31, 2010.

- For all SPD/SSP programs, the one-time \$250 payment is not counted as income in the month of receipt or as a resource in the month of receipt and the following nine months.

Changes resulting from the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009

Change to Citizenship Documentation Requirements

The CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2009 adds citizenship documentation requirements to the CHIP program, but not until January 1, 2010. However, Congress took the opportunity to change the citizenship documentation requirements for Medicaid clients immediately.

Following is a list of Medicaid citizenship documentation changes for immediate implementation.

Tribal membership: For Medicaid clients, proof of citizenship has been expanded to include any document issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe that shows membership, enrollment or affiliation with the tribe. For example, a tribal enrollment card or a certificate of degree of Indian blood may now be used to show citizenship.

- There is an important exception. Some Indian tribes are located in the US and in Canada or Mexico and have members who are not U.S. citizens.
- New federal regulations are being developed to address tribes with international borders. Until the new regulations are in place, please contact Michelle Mack, Joyce Clarkson or Carol Berg for guidance when using documentation from international Indian tribal members.

Citizenship documentation requirement lifted: The CHIP Reauthorization Act clarified existing policy for Medicaid assumed eligible newborns. As it is only a clarification of existing Medicaid policy, no rule amendment is required.

- Once a Medicaid child has been determined an assumed eligible newborn (AEN) in Oregon, no citizenship documentation is ever required (even after the AEN period ends).
- The AEN documentation process won't have any immediate changes, although a new AEN related computer code will be added later.

Implementation/Transition Instructions: N/A

Training/Communication Plan: Review and discuss with staff. Posters will be provided on the FS allotment increase. Place the posters in a public area.

Local/Branch Action Required: Review and discuss with staff. Consider adding a message to the branch voicemail letting clients know about the FS allotment increase during the first 10 days in April.

Central Office Action Required: For FS allotment increases, the rule amendments,

Family Services Manual and DHS 5530 Standards chart will be revised by April 1. Posters are being created and will be distributed to local offices by mid-March. No notices will be sent to FS households.

For medical programs, TANF and ERDC, the rule and Family Services Manual revisions are effective March 3.

New citizenship related coding on the CI Person Alias/Update screen has been requested and will be available at a later date. Additional information will be sent at that time.

Field/Stakeholder review: Yes No

If yes, reviewed by:

Filing Instructions:

If you have any questions about this policy, contact:

Contact(s):	Please contact the appropriate SSP/SPD program analyst.		
Phone:		Fax:	
E-mail:			