

FIELD OPERATIONS BUREAU FOOD STAMP UNIT (FSU)

TRANSMITTAL NUMBER: 09-12

December 22, 2009

TO: All Food Assistance Action Committee (FAAC) Members
and Field Operations Bureau (FOB) staff

SUBJECT/PURPOSE: 120-Day Hold Harmless QC Variance Period For The
Exclusion of the \$25 Weekly Supplemental Unemployment
Insurance Payments from Income and Resources

RELATED REFERENCE: ACL 09-82 December 19, 2009; FNS Handbook 310 Sections
756, 1000, and 1034.

SUPERSEDES: None

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 2009 Sample

BACKGROUND:

On November 6, 2009 President Obama signed the Worker, Homeownership and Business Assistance Act of 2009, and on November 19, 2009 the Program Development Division issued guidance on how to implement Section 8 of that act requiring agencies to exclude the \$25 a week increased unemployment compensation payments from all calculation of resources and income.

INSTRUCTIONS:

According to the guidance memorandum variances will be excluded from November 1, 2009 through December 19, 2009. If the county counted the \$25 weekly increase in determining the eligibility or benefit amount, the variance will be excluded in the sample months of November and December. Additionally, a 120-day hold harmless period will go into effect from the date of the Implementing ACL 09-82 and end on April 17, 2010.

Variances related to the inclusion of the \$25 weekly increased unemployment compensation payments as either a resource or income that occur in cases that are new applications, re-certifications, or have changes made during the applicable part of the 120-day variance exclusion will be excluded until the case is recertified or otherwise acted upon outside of the 120-day variance exclusion period.

QC reviewers shall verify income per FNS Handbook 310 Section 1000 in general and Section 1034 for Unemployment Compensation in particular, and document the basis for determining that the variance is excludable. Refer to Section 520.

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Original Signed By Richard Trujillo

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