

Policy Clarifications

LIHEAP – All - PLA-19961-650

SNAP Assistance – All - PFS-19961-550

Submitted: 5/14/2020

Agency: CAOs

Subject: Additional \$600 payment in Unemployment Compensation

Question: How can the caseworker verify that a client is not receiving or is no longer receiving the additional \$600 in their UC?

Response By: Div. of Federal Programs & Program Mgmt. Date: 5/26/2020

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides enhanced Unemployment Compensation (UC) benefits and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) for Pennsylvanians. Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) provides an additional \$600 per week to all UC and PUA recipients until July 25, 2020.

The gross amount of the \$600 per week is counted for both SNAP and LIHEAP benefits. Workers should automatically include the \$600 per week FPUC benefit if the individual has been verified to receive regular UC or PUA, unless the client reports the FPUC income is not being received.

If a client states that they are not entitled to or are not receiving the additional \$600 per week or are receiving a lesser amount of FPUC before July 25, 2020 and are continuing to receive UC, the client needs to provide verification. Acceptable forms of verification include:

- Bank statement
- ReliaCard transaction history
- **For LIHEAP only**, the client's statement if other verification is not available

NOTE: For SNAP determinations, a household must provide verification that they are not receiving the \$600 per week FPUC if they state they are not receiving it. Otherwise, the \$600 per week must be factored into the SNAP calculation. The CAO should not reject the household for not providing verification of the FPUC.

If verification is received, benefits should be authorized or adjusted to reflect the UC or PUA amount reported.

If client statement is used for LIHEAP and it is later discovered they misrepresented their income, an overpayment should be filed.