TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT, FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND ELIGIBILITY STAFF

FROM: LA SHERRA AYALA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RE: COVID-19 RELIEF PACKAGE - CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2021 (Revised); AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021

PROGRAMS AFFECTED: SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP), TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE (TCA), TEMPORARY DISABILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TDAP), PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TO ADULTS (PAA)

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF OPERATIONS

SUMMARY

Effective April 1, 2021, the American Rescue Plan extends the 15% increase of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) maximum allotment through September 30, 2021. In addition, the Act approved another issuance of Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) **which is now countable for SNAP.**

Maximum SNAP Allotments

Remains as follows until September 30, 2021: The minimum benefit allotment is $19 for a family size of 1-2 people. Below, please find the chart of the extended maximum SNAP allotment for Maryland through September 30, 2021.

Maximum SNAP Allotments for 48 States and DC

Household Size	48 States and DC
1	$234
2	$430
3	$616
4	$782
5	$929
6	$1,114
7	$1,232
8	$1,408
Each additional person	$176

Transitional Food Supplement Program (TFS)

Effective February 2021, all of the TFS benefits have been increased by 15%.
- An underpayment project for the January 2021 issuance was completed on February 24, 2021.

Maryland Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Plan (MSNAP)

Effective February 2021, all of the MSNAP benefits have been increased by 15%.
- An underpayment project for months prior to February 2021 was completed on February 23, 2021.

Pandemic Unemployment Income (effective April 1, 2021)

- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) - **countable**
- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) - **countable**
- Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) - Exclude from income and asset considerations in the month of receipt and the following 9 months.
    - **Example:** BEACON validates that FPUC was approved as of Dec. 1, 2020. The FPUC benefit is not countable for SNAP through September 2021. The first month the FPUC benefit is countable for SNAP will be October 2021.

CARES: Code the PUA and or the PEUC as "OF" so that it only counts for SNAP:

```
CHANGE                         UNEARNED INCOME - UINC                    UINC 01
Month 05 21                       RAK28J    04 02 21                     01

Client Name '                                         Client ID (
Pickle Potential (SSI/SSA Combo)
Source    Claim Number              Exp       Prosp Amt V    Retro Amt V

          Del     ---------------- Prospective 05 21 --------------------
            Amt 1  V      Amt 2  V      Amt 3  V      Amt 4  V    Extra  V   Freq

          Del     ---------------- Retrospective 04 21 --------------------


  OF
          Del     ---------------- Prospective 05 21 --------------------
            Amt 1  V      Amt 2  V      Amt 3  V      Amt 4  V    Extra    V   Freq
            807.00 SD                          _                             AC
          Del     ---------------- Retrospective 04 21 --------------------

                                                                          MORE
Appl Type SA  Stat    Date                 Appl Type SI  Stat     Date
Message

         14-educ   15-lett                          20-cscp 23-alau 24-del


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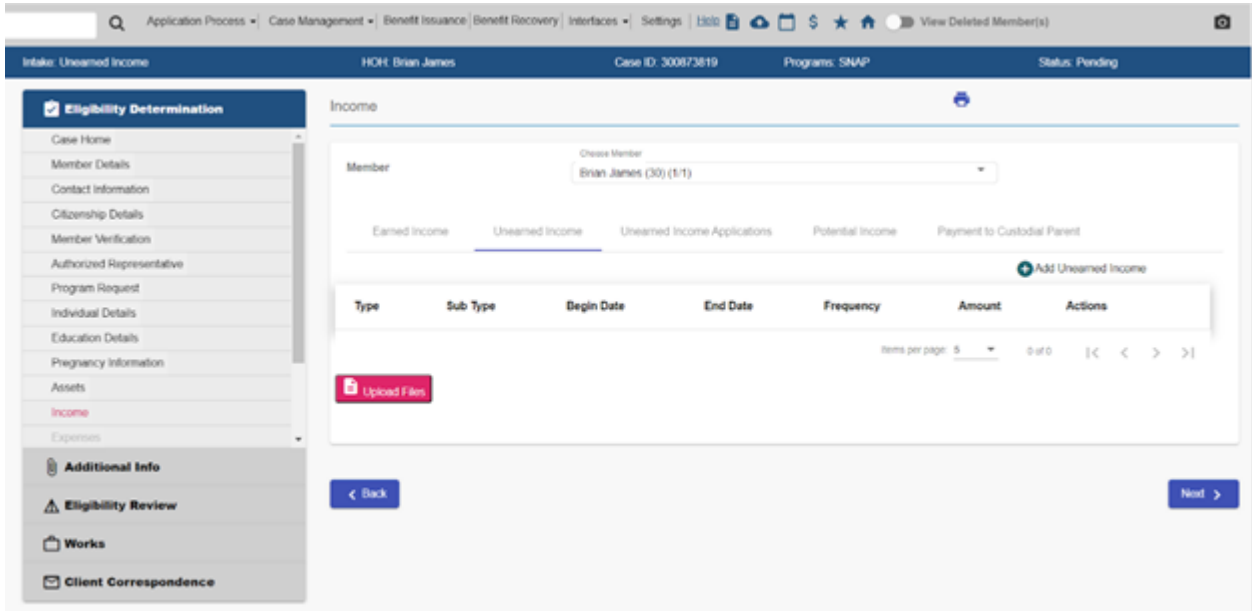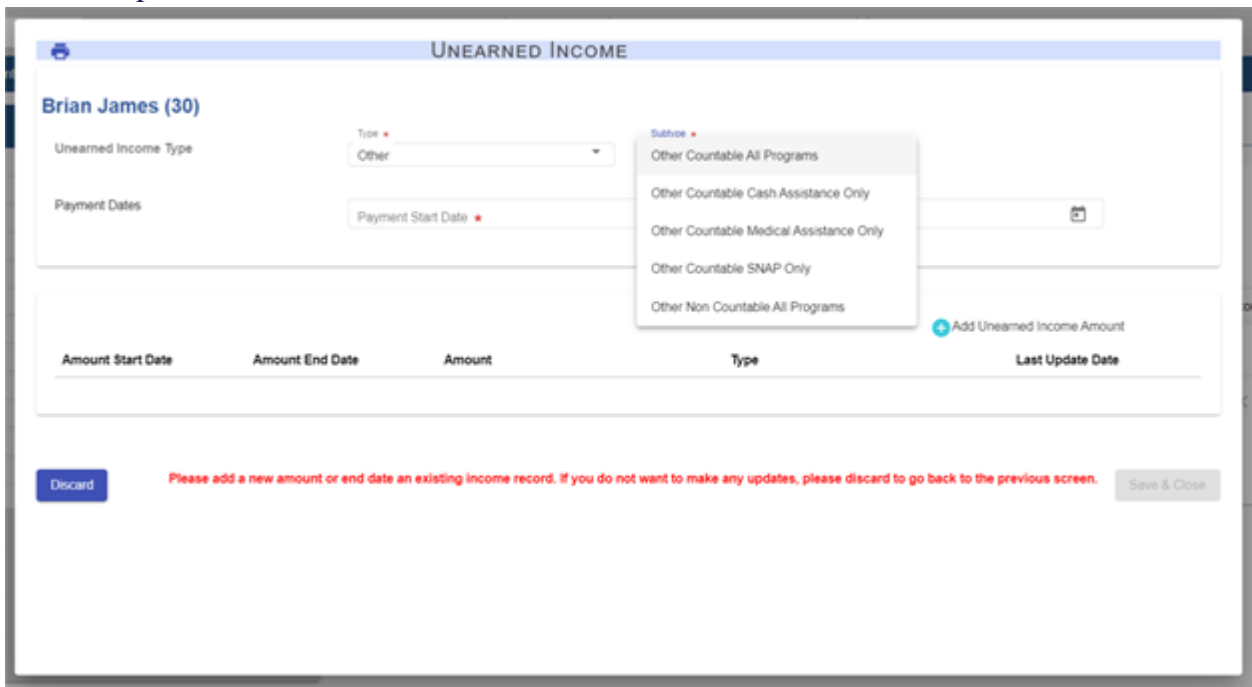
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E&E: Code the PUA and or the PEUC as follows so that it only counts for SNAP:

1. From the **Left-Hand Navigation Menu**, click the **Income** menu option. Then, select the **Unearned Income** tab. Click the +**Add Unearned Income** button to add case details.

2. Select the **Unearned Income Type** as "Other" and the **Subtype** as "Other Countable SNAP only". Click the +**Add Unearned Income Amount** to add the income amount. Then press Save & Close to save the details.

If the information is unclear you will request clarification if the information is:

1. Less than 60 days old relative to the first day of the month in which the information was received and required to have been reported based on Simplified Reporting requirements, OR
2. The unclear information appears to present significant conflicting information about household circumstances at the time of certification.

NOTE: Unless a case is due for a redetermination or the customer submits an interim change, there is no need to take any action on active cases which will affect unemployment income and eligibility.

Pandemic Unemployment Income remains uncountable for the following programs:

TCA: As of January 1, 2021, all pandemic-related unemployment is excluded for the purpose of TCA eligibility determinations. Regular, non-pandemic unemployment benefits remain countable. All other factors of eligibility are required.

TDAP: As of January 1, 2021, all pandemic-related unemployment is excluded for the purpose of TDAP eligibility determinations. Regular, non-pandemic unemployment benefits remain countable. Verification of a disability remains a requirement for TDAP eligibility.

PAA: As of January 1, 2021, all pandemic-related unemployment is excluded for the purpose of PAA eligibility determinations. Regular, non-pandemic unemployment benefits remain countable. All other factors of eligibility are required.

SNAP Student Provisions
For all SNAP applications received or processed on or after January 16, 2021, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 temporarily expanded student eligibility exemptions until 30 days after the COVID-19 public health emergency is lifted. Students enrolled at least half-time in an institution of higher education must meet an exemption to be eligible for SNAP. Two new additional exemptions are listed below:
- The individual is eligible to participate in a State or Federally financed work-study program during the regular school year, as determined by the institution of higher education, but is unable to actually participate.
- The individual has an expected family contribution (EFC) of $0 in the current academic year.
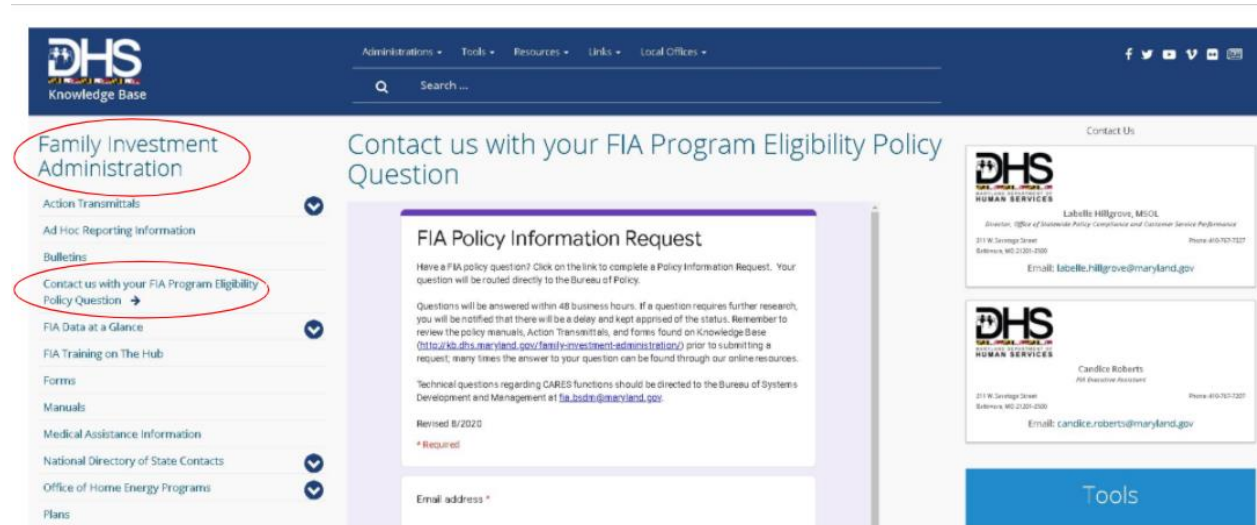
These new, temporary student exemptions shall be in effect for initial SNAP applications until 30 days after the COVID-19 Federal public health emergency is lifted. **Students must only provide verification of the exemption if questionable**. If the exemption status is unclear, a viable option is to take the appropriate case management action, such as calling the customer or submitting a request for verification if applicable. Please narrative accordingly.

Students must be screened for expedited SNAP. Only identity must be verified for expedited SNAP. Be sure to narrate the use of this exemption in CARES and E&E. No code changes have been made.

ATTACHMENTS:

- [CARES Act Unearned Income Matrix](#)

INQUIRIES: Please direct policy questions to FIA Policy by completing the [FIA Policy Information Request Form](#) found on Knowledge Base as shown in the screenshot below.

For systems questions, please email fia.bsdm@maryland.gov.

cc: DHS Executive Staff
        FIA Management Staff
        Constituent Services
        DHS Help Desk
        Office of Administrative Hearing