	FIA ACTION TRANSMITTAL
Department of Human Services **311 West Saratoga Street** **Baltimore MD 21201**	
Control Number: #22-34	**Effective Date: Upon Receipt**
	Issuance Date: September 15, 2022

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

FROM: LA SHERRA AYALA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RE: BEACON SYSTEM UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION CLEARANCES

PROGRAM AFFECTED: TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE (TCA)

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS

SUMMARY

The BEACON system (formerly MABS) is a Maryland information-sharing partnership with the Maryland Department of Labor to help case managers determine reported quarterly earnings, unemployment benefits information, and unemployment benefit claims information. During a recent audit, the Family Investment Administration (FIA) was cited for failure to document that Unemployment Insurance (UI) information was obtained for all TCA cases at application and, in each of the first 3 months in which the individual received TCA benefits.

The requirements for BEACON and Unemployment Insurance are accessible on Knowledge Base under TCA Manual Section 208 and Policy Alert #21-02.

REQUIRED ACTION:

- The BEACON data exchange must be used to verify receipt of UI benefits at initial application during each of the first three months in which the individual receives TCA, and at recertification of TCA.
- At application, use BEACON to verify UI receipt prior to approving or denying a case.
- **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**, at TCA benefit approval:

   ❖ Case are managers are required to :

➢ Run and review BEACON for UI benefits monthly for 3 months once TCA is approved

  ■ Each local must develop a tracking mechanism for case managers to complete a monthly check for the first 3 months after the TCA case is approved.

  ■ **Note**: The E&E system will be programmed to generate the alerts for each 30-day interval once the TCA case is approved. However, the tracking must be done manually until the alerts are implemented in the system.

➢ Take necessary action if the BEACON run reveals new information not presented during the application or determination process.

➢ Narrate all actions and findings.

➢ Upload PDF copy of BEACON results in E&E each time a BEACON inquiry is completed.

Note: There are no changes in the clearance requirements at TCA recertification.

REMINDER:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cases, BEACON must be run and reviewed at application, redetermination and during the Maryland Benefit Review (MBR) process for SNAP.
- Medical Assistance (MA) cases, BEACON must be run and reviewed at application, redetermination and interim change.

INQUIRIES:

Please direct policy questions to FIA Policy by completing the FIA Policy Information Request Form on Knowledge Base or via email at fia.policy@maryland.gov for Montgomery County only.

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

c: DHS Executive Staff
   Constituent Services
   DHS Help Desk
   FIA Management Staff
   Office of Administrative Hearings