

## From the Hotline

If you have any questions on this column or other policy and procedural material, please have your Hotline designee call the **Policy Hotline at 617-348-8478**.

**Q.** My client and her child are receiving SNAP benefits. She lost her job and recently reported receiving a sizeable one-time severance payment from her previous employer. How do I treat this payment?

**A.** Your client's one-time severance pay is considered a non-recurring lump sum payment. As such, it is noncountable as income but countable as an asset in the month received. Since your categorically eligible client is not subject to an asset test, you can disregard the payment completely when determining your client's financial eligibility. For more information refer to 106 CMR 363.130(D).

**NOTE:** In the TAFDC Program, this one-time severance payment is considered nonrecurring lump sum income. For more information on how to proceed with these TAFDC cases, refer to 106 CMR 204.240

**Q.** My SNAP client reported that he lost his job and will begin receiving a series of severance payments over the course of the next six months. Are these payments counted?

**A.** Yes. A series of severance payments is considered countable unearned income for SNAP purposes. For more information on countable unearned income in SNAP, refer to 106 CMR 363.220.

**NOTE:** The same is true in the TAFDC Program. A series of severance payments is considered countable unearned income. For more information on countable unearned income in the TAFDC Program, refer to 106 CMR 204.210.

**Q.** According to Field Operations Memo 2009-18: *The Impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) on SNAP, TAFDC, EAEDC and EA*, when using the Unemployment Insurance Information Inquiry screen, I should be adding the \$25 ARRA amount to my client's Weekly Pay Rate before entering the amount on BEACON. Is this still the case?

**A.** Yes. At this time, the \$25 ARRA amount must be added at application, reapplication, reevaluation or recertification, until the client's benefits have ended. Unemployment compensation is countable unearned income in TAFDC, EAEDC and SNAP.

**NOTE:** A \$25 weekly "dependency allowance" is disbursed, per dependent, by the Division of Unemployment Assistance to those clients responsible for the support of their child(ren). This is an allowance that some of your clients may also be receiving; it does not change the procedures outlined in Field Operations Memo 2009-18.

For more information on Unemployment benefits, see 106 CMR 204.210(B) in TAFDC, 106 CMR 321.210(B) in EAEDC and 106 CMR 363.220(B) in SNAP.