

**NUMBER**

#20-21-05

**DATE**

May 4, 2020

**OF INTEREST TO**

County Directors

Social Services Supervisors and  
Staff

Financial Assistance Supervisors  
and Workers

Mille Lacs Tribal TANF

Tribal Chairpersons and Tribal  
Health Directors

Health Care Eligibility  
Operations (HCEO) Managers,  
Supervisors, and Staff

**ACTION/DUE DATE**

Implement effective March 27,  
2020

**EXPIRATION DATE**

May 4, 2022

## DHS Explains Treatment of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation Payments for Minnesota Health Care Programs

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### TOPIC

How to treat Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) payments when determining eligibility for Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP).

### PURPOSE

This bulletin provides information about the treatment of FPUC payments when determining eligibility for MHCP.

### CONTACT

Counties, tribal agencies, and HCEO should submit policy questions via HealthQuest.

All others should direct questions to the following:

Health Care Eligibility and Access (HCEA) Division  
PO Box 64989  
540 Cedar Street St. Paul, MN 55164-0989

### SIGNED

MATT ANDERSON  
Assistant Commissioner/State Medicaid Director  
Health Care Administration

### TERMINOLOGY NOTICE

The terminology used to describe people we serve has changed over time. The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the use of "People First" language.

## I. Background

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The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides financial aid to individuals and families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic by temporarily supplementing unemployment insurance (UI) benefit amounts and extending the duration of those benefits. From March 27, 2020 through July 31, 2020, UI claimants will receive their usual calculated benefit plus an additional \$600 per week in Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC).

This bulletin describes how FPUC payments are treated for purposes of determining eligibility for Medical Assistance (MA) and MinnesotaCare applicants and enrollees. These policies are effective March 27, 2020.

The policies described in this bulletin apply to all of the following MA populations and programs:

- Medical Assistance for Families with Children and Adults (MA-FCA)
- Medical Assistance for People Age 65 and Older, Blind or Disabled (MA-ABD)
- Medical Assistance for Employed Persons with Disabilities (MA-EPD)
- Medical Assistance under the TEFRA Option
- Medical Assistance Northstar Care for Children
- Medical Assistance for the Treatment of Breast and Cervical Cancer (MA-BC)
- Medical Assistance for People Receiving Services at the Center for Victims of Torture (MA-CVT)
- Medicare Savings Programs (MSP): Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMB), Service Limited Medicare Beneficiaries (SLMB), Qualified Individuals (QI) and Qualified Working Disabled (QWD)
- Emergency Medical Assistance (EMA)
- Minnesota Family Planning Program (MFPP)

The policies described in this bulletin apply to all MinnesotaCare populations, including MinnesotaCare for Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals.

The policies described in this bulletin apply to all MA and MinnesotaCare enrollees, including enrollees from or receiving services from a Tribal Nation.

## II. Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) Payments

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These policies are effective March 27, 2020.

FPUC payments do not count as income for MA applicants or enrollees. Regular UI benefits continue to count as income for MA.

FPUC payments and regular UI benefits count in a person's projected annual income (PAI) for MinnesotaCare applicants and enrollees.

FPUC payments and regular UI payments retained after the month of receipt count as an asset for MA applicants and enrollees with an asset limit.

In keeping with Emergency Executive Order 20-12, DHS is maintaining coverage for MA and MinnesotaCare enrollees for the duration of the COVID-19 peacetime emergency. Therefore, for individuals who were enrolled in MA or MinnesotaCare on or after March 18, 2020, do not take negative action on a case unless the enrollee requests closure, is no longer a Minnesota resident, or is deceased.

### **III. Action Required**

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County, tribal and DHS workers must follow the policies outlined in this bulletin. ONEsource procedures will be updated in keeping with these policies soon.

### **IV. Legal Reference**

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Section 2104(h) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, Public Law Number 116-136

#### **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Advisory**

This information is available in accessible formats for people with disabilities by calling 651-297-3862 or toll free at 800-657-3672 or by using your preferred relay service. For other information on disability rights and protections, contact the agency's ADA coordinator.