



## POLICY MEMO

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<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>NEW UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION PROGRAMS UNDER THE CARES ACT</b>
<b>SUPERSEDES NUMBER:</b>	N/A
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b>	<b>MARCH 27, 2020</b>
<b>DIVISION AND OFFICE:</b>	<b>MEDICAID OPERATIONS OFFICE</b>
<b>PROGRAM AREA:</b>	<b>ELIGIBILITY POLICY</b>
<b>KEY WORDS:</b>	<b>UNEMPLOYMENT, INCOME, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, ELIGIBILITY</b>
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<b>APPROVED BY: KIM BIMESTEFER</b>	

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### **Purpose and Audience:**

The purpose for this policy memo is to communicate to eligibility sites how the three new unemployment programs provided under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act are counted for income eligibility for the Medical Assistance based eligibility categories.

### **Information:**

On March 27, 2020 the CARES Act was established and signed into law, creating three different programs under the unemployment program: the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) programs.

The purpose of the PEUC and PUA programs is to provide unemployment insurance benefits to individuals who have either exhausted their benefits or who would otherwise not be eligible for benefits. Benefits received under the PEUC and PUA program will count as countable unearned income for Medical Assistance categories. In addition to the weekly benefit amount one can receive under PEUC and PUA, one may also be eligible for an additional \$600.00 per week under the FPUC program. The extra \$600.00 per week is not countable unearned income for Medical Assistance categories.

Regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) payments will continue to count towards an applicant's/member's eligibility determination for all Medical Assistance programs.

### Three New Unemployment Programs Under the CARES Act

Program	What it Does	Does it count
<b>Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)</b>	Extends benefits for an extra 13 weeks after regular unemployment compensation benefits are exhausted.	For Medical Assistance categories, income counts as unearned income.
<b>Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)</b>	Offers benefits to self-employed, freelancers, and independent contractors.	For Medical Assistance categories, income counts as unearned income.
<b>Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)</b>	Provides a federal benefit of \$600 a week, until July 31, 2020.	For Medical Assistance categories, income is not countable.

#### Attachment(s):

None

#### Department Contact:

For any questions please contact the Medicaid Inbox with your policy questions at:

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