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**Operations Memo 2011-4**  
**January 26, 2011**

**To:** Department of Transitional Assistance Staff

**From:** Stephanie Brown, Assistant Commissioner for Policy, Procedure and External Relations

**Re:** The ARRA \$25 Weekly Unemployment Compensation Payment Has Ended For All Claimants

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**Overview** The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), also known as the Economic Stimulus package, included a provision that authorized an additional \$25 weekly unemployment compensation (UC) benefit to eligible claimants. However, under the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2010, the ARRA \$25 weekly payment was not reauthorized. Only those claimants with claim dates of May 23, 2010 and earlier were authorized to continue receiving the ARRA \$25 weekly payment.

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**Purpose of Memo** Based on information received from the Division of Unemployment Assistance (DUA), the ARRA \$25 weekly unemployment compensation payment has ended for all claimants. The last week payable for the ARRA \$25 payment was December 11, 2010. However, many claimants continue to receive regular or extended UC payments under a range of eligibility tiers.

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**BEACON Activity** Over the weekend of January 21, 2011, MIS:

- converted the existing UC benefit amount on file to a monthly amount;
- removed the \$25 ARRA weekly UC payment from TAFDC cases with UC income on file and a claim date of May 23, 2010 or earlier; and
- recalculated the cases

Effected households will receive an increase in the TAFDC grant based on this change.

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**BEACON  
Activity  
(Continued)**

MIS also performed a data fix to remove the ARRA \$25 weekly UC payment from the BEACON record of SNAP-only cases. Since the ARRA \$25 weekly UC payment was noncountable for SNAP, SNAP-only cases will not experience a change in benefit amount because of this data fix.

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**Client Notices**

During the week of January 24, 2011, each effected TAFDC household was sent an EBC notice informing the household of the change in their TAFDC benefit amount. For the majority of cases, the change is expected to result in an increase in TAFDC benefits unless other concurrent case activity counteracts this increase.

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**Report Listing  
TAFDC Cases  
Owed  
Retroactive  
Benefits**

A report listing TAFDC cases that are owed retroactive benefits will be sent via email to the TAOs. This report is sorted by TAO and case manager within TAO. The remaining columns in the report are SSN, Case Name, New Benefit and Old Benefit.

MIS will automatically calculate and issue retroactive benefits for the period beginning January 24, 2011 and ending the day before the client's first cyclical issuance for February. The system generated retroactive amount will be available in Benefit History

**Case Manager  
Action**

Case managers must confirm that the client received reduced benefits between December 12, 2010 and January 23, 2011 because the ARRA \$25 weekly payment was applied to their grant calculation. If the client experienced a reduced benefit, case managers must calculate and issue retroactive TAFDC benefits for the period beginning December 12, 2010 and ending January 23, 2011 (43 days) as follows:

- multiply the \$25 ARRA payment by 4.333 (weeks);
- multiply that figure by 12 (months);
- divide that figure by 365 (days) and multiply that figure by the number of days between December 12, 2010 and January 23, 2011 (43 days);
- issue this Related Benefit as a *Retro Payment for Supplement* on the Related Benefits page of the Program Administration workflow

Retroactive TAFDC payments should be calculated and issued to all eligible clients by the end of January 2011.

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**Entering UC  
Income Going  
Forward**

Effective with the issuance of this memo, case managers **must no longer add** the \$25 ARRA weekly UC payment to a claimant's Weekly Pay Rate, regardless of claim date.

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**Questions**

If you have any questions, please have your Hotline designee call the Policy Hotline.

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