

FYI

Treatment of Additional Combat Pay Excluded for Food Stamp Purposes

State Letter 1295 (see related article on page 7) implements Food Stamp Program exclusions of income by law for additional pay received by a member of the United States Armed Forces as a result of deployment to a combat zone. "Additional pay" is defined as extra payment provided to a member of the Armed Forces for the duration of the member's deployment to or while serving in a combat zone, which was not received immediately before serving in the combat zone.

The additional combat pay exclusion goes into effect April 1, 2005 and is retroactive to October 1, 2004. For the purpose of calculating the amount of lost benefits owed to the AU, the AU Manager must:

- determine the new monthly FS benefit **after** the income has been excluded;
- determine the number of months for which the AU is owed retroactive FS benefits because the income was incorrectly counted in the FS benefit calculation;
- multiply the two numbers from the answers above to determine the lost benefit amount; and
- issue the amount as a Related Benefit: FS Supplement/Immediate Issuance.

Call the Policy Hotline if you have questions about this new regulation.

FYI

Utility Moratorium

Due to the severity of the winter and the below-normal temperatures, the Department of Telecommunications and Energy (DTE) has requested that Massachusetts gas and electric companies extend the moratorium for terminating any heat-providing service contracts from March 15 until April 30, 2005. This will be a voluntary action by the utility companies, but the utilities have always cooperated in this safety initiative.

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