



Eric Holcomb, Governor
State of Indiana

Division of Family Resources
402 W. WASHINGTON STREET, ROOM W392
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204-2747

April 24, 2020

Julie Mikkelson
Midwest Regional Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
United States Department of Agriculture
77 West Jackson Blvd., 20th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3507

Dear Ms. Mikkelson:

Indiana is submitting the attached waiver request to allow for the exclusion of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) income for SNAP applicants and recipients.

We feel that the exemption of this income for SNAP applicants and recipients recognizes the importance of this benefit to individuals and local economies, while at the same time helping to ensure all eligible households continue to receive SNAP benefits. This disregard of this source of short term income would also ease program administration by allowing Indiana to align SNAP policy with our TANF and health care programs. This administrative flexibility is considered essential during this time, due to the significant increase in applications resulting from this public health emergency.

We look forward to your response. If you have any questions, you or your staff may contact David Smalley at (317) 232-2010 or David.Smalley@fssa.in.gov

Sincerely,

Adrienne M. Shields

Adrienne Shields, Director
FSSA/Division of Family Resources



STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):**
2. **Type of request:** Initial
3. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.9 (b)(2)(ii)
4. **State:** Indiana
5. **Region:** MWRO
6. **Regulatory requirements:** (2) Unearned income shall include:
(ii) Annuities; pensions; retirement, veteran's, or disability benefits; worker's or unemployment compensation including any amounts deducted to repay claims for intentional program violations as provided in § 272.12; old-age, survivors, or social security benefits; strike benefits; foster care payments for children or adults who are considered members of the household; gross income minus the cost of doing business derived from rental property in which a household member is not actively engaged in the management of the property at least 20 hours a week.
7. **Description of alternative procedures:** Indiana proposes to continue to count the pandemic (Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation) and non-pandemic unemployment benefit amount received by a SNAP recipient, but to exclude any amount of unemployment authorized under the CARES Act and denoted as Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) of \$600 per week for the duration of receipt.
8. **Justification for request:** During this unprecedented COVID-19 health emergency, the federal government has found there to be a sufficient need for the creation and issuance of a pandemic unemployment supplement. The emergency supplement will help low income families, and families who have recently lost their job due to COVID-19 continue to meet financial obligations such as housing and utility expenses over the short term. The additional pandemic unemployment should be considered as exempt from consideration as unearned income in order to ensure that all eligible households will continue to have access to SNAP benefits.

Disregarding the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) benefits would also ease program administration by allowing Indiana to align SNAP policy with TANF and our health care assistance programs. This additional administrative flexibility is essential during this time, due to the significant increase in applications resulting from this public health emergency and the need to achieve efficiencies wherever possible.
9. **Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:** Current and new SNAP households will continue receiving SNAP benefits without interruptions or reductions.

Administratively, this will allow SNAP, TANF and health care programs of assistance to align, resulting in a more streamlined eligibility determination process and resultant efficiencies for staff.

- 10. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):** The number of SNAP recipients in Indiana as of January 2020 was 561,268.
- 11. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:** Immediately upon approval and for the duration of receipt of FPUC.
- 12. Proposed quality control review procedures:** With waiver approval, Quality Control will consider this income source as exempt during the error determination process.
- 13. State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:** David Smalley – David.Smalley@fssa.in.gov
- 14. Signature and title of requesting official:**

Adrienne Shields, Director
FSSA/Division of Family Resources
Adrienne.Shields@fssa.in.gov

- 15. Date of request:** 04/24/2020
- 16. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone):** David Smalley, David.Smalley@fssa.in.gov, 317-232-2010
- 17. Regional office contact person (to be completed by FNS regional office):**
Jenie Farinas