

Children, Adults and Families

Belit Stockfleth, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Youth Services Programs Manager

Authorized Signature

Number: SS-IM-09-047

Issue Date: 09/15/2009

Topic: Food Benefits

Subject: UC Benefits

Applies to (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Children, Adults and Families | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seniors and People with Disabilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD Program Managers | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |

The FS Policy Unit has received lots of questions about UC benefits. Many workers were unsure if benefits should be counted during the waiting week or how much, if any, to anticipate as extended benefits.

Waiting Week. According to the Oregon Employment Department (OED), a Waiting Week on ECLM is no guarantee of receiving UC: a disqualification can still derail benefits. Unless your client has an approval letter from OED, do **not** anticipate UC income for prospective budgeting when you see the Waiting Week online. When processing applications, there is no expectation to check ECLM again before certifying or recertifying FS to follow up on the waiting week.

Extensions: OED is granting multiple extensions to UC recipients. These extensions can be granted on past valid claims as well as current claims. Currently, three different extensions, paying the claimant's regular UC rate for various lengths of time, are available in Oregon. Although DHS cannot predict who will file and qualify, extensions are common. Please check ALL valid claims in ECLM to ensure you do not miss something. You can see a list of all claims by pressing {F5} from the ECLM screen, selecting a record and hitting {Enter}.

Approved extended UC claims can be identified on ECLM as EUC in the Prg field. (Regular UC benefits are labeled REG.) EUC *denials* do not show on ECLM, but the claimant does receive a denial letter. When an applicant or client is nearing \$0 balance on their regular UC, continue to anticipate that income unless an OED worker or letter confirms that the extension has been denied.

Low Balance UC: Ongoing UC income should be used in prospective budgeting until the client reports that it has ended. However, if during the interim change, cert or recert, the ECLM screen shows UC benefits have a zero balance and there has been a break in benefits for more than a week, the UC benefits can be anticipated at zero.

For example, David applies for FS benefits on January 20. Per ECLM, he is receiving UC of \$297 per week and has a balance of \$610. When anticipating income for February, convert the UC to \$1277.10 (\$297 x 4.3 weeks). Do not use the UCT (terminated UC) income code on FSMIS. Ask David to report when his UC ends and adjust the amount for the following month.

If you have any questions about this information, contact:

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