

**GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM**

**Division: Center for Employment & Economic Supports**

February 16, 2010

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**TO:** Commissioners; TA & FS Directors; WMS Coordinators

**FROM:** Russell Sykes, Deputy Commissioner, Center for Employment and Economic Supports

**SUBJECT:** Treatment of 2010 Census Temporary Income using new Earned Income Source Code '75 – Census Income (PA Only) and Exclusion of Temporary Census Income from Food Stamp Budgeting

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** March 1, 2010

**CONTACT PERSON:** Food Stamp Policy Bureau, 1-800-343-8859, ext. 3-1469

**Background**

The Census Bureau has begun hiring approximately 1.4 million **temporary** employees to help conduct the 2010 national census. The primary employment period for Census 2010 temporary employees will be from March 2010 through July 2010, although for some it may last longer. Most of the temporary employment positions associated with Census 2010 will be for “enumerators” who work in their own communities. Some of these temporary employees either may be applying for or in receipt of temporary assistance and/or food stamp benefits.

In order to encourage the recruitment of a sufficient number of enumerators in communities with high participation in the Food Stamp Program (known as SNAP on the federal level), the federal government has given states the option of excluding temporary Census income as income for the Food Stamp Program. Under this option, temporary Census income may be excluded through September 30, 2010. New York State has decided to take this waiver.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this GIS is to inform local districts that temporary Census income will be excluded as income from Food Stamp Program eligibility determinations and benefit calculations, and to notify them about the creation of a specific Earned Income Source Code '75 – Census Income (PA Only)' to be used to budget the Census income for TA purposes.

As noted above, the primary dates for Census temporary employment will be from March, 2010 through, July 2010. However, **the exclusion of Census income from the FS budget will be effective from March 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010**, in the event that some Census operations extend beyond the projected July 2010 end date.

**Census income must not be counted in the FS budget** as long as the applicant/participant earned the income for services related to the 2010 Census operation, **regardless of his/her hiring date** for temporary Census employment.

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Census income will **not** be excluded from either Temporary Assistance or HEAP eligibility and benefit determinations.

The income earned and hours worked by those employed as temporary census workers will count towards meeting both TA and FS employment requirements.

**Program Implications**

For households applying for Non-Temporary Assistance Food Stamp (NTA-FS) benefits, temporary census income should not be entered on the ABEL budget.

For households applying for or receiving both Temporary Assistance and food stamp benefits, the exclusion of the temporary census income is fully supported on WMS.

In Upstate WMS, effective February 13, 2010, for TA budget 'FROM' dates of 03/01/10 or greater ABEL will support the entry of temporary Census Income as Earned Income Source '**75-Census Income (PA Only)**'. Earned Income Source Code 75 will **not** be a valid entry for FS budgets and will not be carried over to the ABEL FS budget input screen on TA/FS budgets. (See ABEL Transmittal 10-2 for more information.) Temporary Census income should **not** be entered manually on either NTA-FS or TA-FS budgets in Upstate WMS.

For NYC WMS, effective February 13, 2010, for TA budgets for the period of 03/A/10 or later, Income Source '75 – Census Income (PA Unearned/FS Exempt)' must be used when budgeting temporary Census income. Temporary Census income should **not** be entered manually on NTA-FS budgets in NYC WMS. Earned Income Source Code 75 will not be a valid entry for FS budgets, and any income entered on a FS budget using the code will be ignored in the FS calculation.