The Census 2020 Demonstration Project was scheduled to end last year. However, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is extending this project to align with the Census Bureau’s Post-Enumeration Survey (PES) operations. States that participated in the original demonstration should continue to exclude temporary income earned from Census employment due to PES operations from February 1, 2021, through October 31, 2021. Maryland received federal approval to continue to exclude census earnings for temporary census workers for the following programs:

1. TCA;
2. SNAP; and,
3. Non-MAGI MA

Temporary census workers’ earnings are countable for MAGI coverage groups, and changes in the Maryland Health Connection (MHC) in January 2020 accommodated this type of income and
allowed the income to be entered as a “reasonably predictable change” (RPC) during affected months. This Action Transmittal addresses the treatment of temporary Census Workers’ income for other benefit programs, allowing it to be disregarded so that recipients can gain valuable work experience without a reduction to SNAP or TCA benefits or the loss of Non-MAGI MA coverage.

**REQUIRED ACTION:**

**Customer Service**

These temporary positions are an opportunity for customers who are looking for employment and/or more work experience. Please promote this opportunity and refer customers who are interested, to the U.S. Census website [https://2020census.gov/en/jobs](https://2020census.gov/en/jobs).

**Case Management**

FIA is required to submit to the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) the following data points for this demonstration project:

1. # of SNAP households with excluded earnings
2. # of months income was excluded (average)
3. Average monthly benefit for these households
4. Average amount of excluded income per household

In order for us to report out on these numbers, it is important to code CARES correctly.

**CARES Instructions**

Income earned from temporary employment with the Census should be entered on the ERN1 & ERN2 screens as follows:

**On ERN1**

1. In the Employer Name field enter U.S. Census
2. Enter the Federal ID number (if available) and complete the Address fields
3. In the Type field enter ‘MS’
4. In the Begin Date field enter the date employment began
5. Complete all other applicable fields

**On ERN2**

1. Complete the following fields:
   a. Amount (Amt)
   b. Hours (Hrs)
   c. Verification (V)
   d. Frequency (Freq)
2. Narrate your action
E&E Instructions

Enter the Case ID (1) and click search (2):

From Case Home under the Eligibility Determination
Select Income from the left-hand navigation menu

Under the Earned Income Tab (1) select the (+) Add Earned Income (2) to add income
Select Md. Service Corp from the "Type" drop-down menu

Enter the Employer Name "US Census" Federal ID (if applicable)
(Add all Employment Information that you have)
Add the Employment Details add the Start Date

Complete Earned Income Details

Scroll down to (+) Add Income Amount
Add Start Date
Add Frequency
Add Pay Hours  
Add Pay Amount  
Add Verification Type  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount Start Date</th>
<th>Amount End Date</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Last Update Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02/05/2021</td>
<td></td>
<td>$750.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Earned Income Details**

- **Representative Month**: 
  - Frequency: Bi-Weekly, Every 2 Weeks

- **Pay 1**
  - Hours: 40  
  - Amount: $150.00  
  - Payment Method: Wage Stub  
  - Verification: Wage Stub

- **Pay 2**
  - Hours: 40  
  - Amount: $150.00  
  - Payment Method: Wage Stub  
  - Verification: Wage Stub

- **Pay 3**
  - Hours: 40  
  - Amount: $150.00  
  - Payment Method: Wage Stub  
  - Verification: Wage Stub

**Save & Close**

From Case Home under the Eligibility Determination  
Select Income from the left-hand navigation menu  
Under the Earned Income Tab select the (+) Earned Income to add income  
Select Md. Service Corp  
Enter the Employer Name "US Census" Federal ID (if applicable)  
(Add all Employment Information that you have)  
Add the Employment Details add the Start Date  

Complete Earned Income Details  
Scroll down to (+) Add Income Amount  
Add Start Date  
Add Frequency  
Add Pay Hours  
Add Pay Amount  
Add Verification Type  

**Save & Close**

**RE: TCA and Work Programs**

- The Census Bureau is attempting to hire recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TCA in Maryland) for the temporary census worker positions around the country. The workers will work for four to eight weeks for approximately 20 to 35 hours. The jobs will provide work experience for TCA customers.  
- Although the temporary census earnings will be disregarded, customers must still report that they are working and verify their hours worked.
● The hours worked will count toward the work participation rate, and the case manager must enter the hours into WORKS as WEJ, unsubsidized employment.
● Except for customers who are exempt from TCA work requirements, any customer who quits a census job without good cause is out of compliance and the conciliation and sanction policies must be applied as appropriate.

**TDAP Reminder:** Individuals receiving Temporary Disability Assistance Program (TDAP) benefits who are found to have temporary census employment are ineligible for TDAP.

**INQUIRIES:**

Please direct policy questions to the Office of Statewide Policy Compliance and Customer Service Performance by completing the [FIA Policy Information Request Form](#) found on Knowledge Base as shown in the screenshot below.

For systems questions, please email [fia.bsdm@maryland.gov](mailto:fia.bsdm@maryland.gov).

c: DHS Executive Staff
   Constituent Services
   DHS Help Desk
   FIA Management Staff
   Office of Administrative Hearings
   MDH Executive Staff