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**State of Wisconsin  
Governor Jim Doyle**

**TO: Income Maintenance Supervisors  
Income Maintenance Lead Workers  
Income Maintenance Staff  
W-2 Agencies  
Workforce Development Boards  
Job Center Leads and Managers  
Training Staff  
Child Care Coordinators**

**FROM: Amy Mendel-Clemens, Chief  
Technical Assistance and Training Section  
Bureau of Enrollment Management  
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability**

<b>BEM/DFS OPERATIONS MEMO</b>		
<b>No: 09-25 (Amended)</b>		
<b>DATE: 04/28/2009</b>		
FS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BC+ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SC <input type="checkbox"/>	CTS <input type="checkbox"/>	FSET <input type="checkbox"/>
CC <input type="checkbox"/>	W-2 <input type="checkbox"/>	EA <input type="checkbox"/>
CF <input type="checkbox"/>	JAL <input type="checkbox"/>	JC <input type="checkbox"/>
RAP <input type="checkbox"/>	WIA <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/> *
EP		
<b>PRIORITY: HIGH</b>		

**SUBJECT: Treatment of Income from Temporary Census Employment**

**CROSS REFERENCE:** BadgerCare Plus 16.2 # 21  
Medicaid Manual 15.3.22 #2, 15.5.11 #2  
FoodShare Handbook, 12.0.0.  
Ops Memo 00-24

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediately

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this operations memo is to communicate the change in FoodShare policy regarding income received by individuals temporarily working either full or part time for the U. S. Bureau of the Census for the 2010 Census as census takers and enumerators. .

**BACKGROUND**

Effective February 1, 2000, workers were instructed to disregard all wages paid by the U.S. Census Bureau for temporary employment related to Census 2000 activities when determining eligibility for FoodShare and Health Care programs.

The State of Wisconsin recently received clarification from FNS that Census income is no longer exempt as income for FoodShare. The earnings are still disregarded for Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus.

### FOODSHARE PROGRAM

#### **Old Policy**

Effective February 1, 2000, disregard all wages paid by the U.S. Census Bureau for temporary employment related to Census 2000 activities when determining:

1. Eligibility for Food Stamps.
2. Food Stamp allotment amounts.

#### **New Policy:**

Count income paid by the US Census Bureau, including temporary employment related to the 2010 census as earned income.

### MEDICAID/BADGERCARE PLUS

The policy for Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus has not changed. Exempt all wages paid by the U.S. Census Bureau for temporary employment as census takers/enumerators when determining:

1. Eligibility for Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus.
2. Whether a BadgerCare Plus assistance group has to pay a premium and the amount of the premium.

The Census Bureau is also hiring other employees as permanent staff. They are working on ongoing census projects. These are not temporary positions. Their earnings are not exempt.

### OTHER PROGRAMS

Child care and W-2 plan to issue their own operations memo in the very near future. If questions arise in the meantime follow current procedures for resolution.

### **CARES**

CARES will be updated **June 15, 2009** to correctly count or disregard the income for each program when the employment type entered on the Earned Income page is "Census Enumerator".

Until the update has been made to CARES, workers should enter the employment type as 'Regular' and enter a zero in the Override MA amount so the income does not count for Medicaid or BadgerCare Plus. Workers should keep a list of these cases and remove the work around once CARES has been updated in May.

**CONTACTS:**

BEM CARES Information & Problem Resolution Center

\*Program Categories – FS – FoodShare, MA – Medicaid, BC+ – BadgerCare Plus, SC – Senior Care, CTS – Caretaker Supplement, CC – Child Care, W-2 – Wisconsin Works, FSET – FoodShare Employment and Training, CF – Children First, EA – Emergency Assistance, JAL – Job Access Loan, JC - Job Center Programs, RAP – Refugee Assistance Program, WIA – Workforce Investment Act, Other EP – Other Employment Programs.

DHS/DHCAA/BEM/JB