



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Charles D. Baker, Governor ◆ Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor ◆ Jennifer D. Maddox, Undersecretary

To: All Local Housing Authority (LHA) Executive Directors
From: Ben Stone, Associate Director, Division of Public Housing
Date: August 28, 2020
Subject: PHN 2020-21A

ADDENDUM #3: Guidance on Treatment of Temporary \$300/Week Enhanced Unemployment Benefit

On Monday, August 24 [the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development announced](#) that Massachusetts would pay an additional weekly unemployment benefit of \$300/week to unemployment recipients for the weeks of the 8/1, 8/8, and 8/15 utilizing FEMA funding. Due to the temporary, one-time nature of this benefit, DHCD deems that these payments are “gifts” [under 760 CMR 6.05\(3\)\(a\)](#) and should be **excluded from income** for purposes of rent determination and eligibility for public housing. Residents do not need to report this income to LHAs.

Should this benefit be extended or Congress enact additional enhanced unemployment benefits or income support, DHCD will issue additional guidance as to how enhanced unemployment benefits will be counted in income calculations for the purposes of future rent determinations.