

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



January 11, 1982

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE 1- 03-82

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: STATE VERIFICATION REGULATIONS - FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

State verification regulations were filed with the Secretary of State on November 10, 1981. The implementation date as shown in the regulations is December 1, 1981. That date is technically incorrect and by law, these regulations are effective December 10, 1981.

All initial applications received on or after December 10, 1981 shall have applicant information verified in accordance with the revised regulations. Currently certified households shall have information verified in accordance with the revised regulations at the time of recertification, or when the household reports a change in an item requiring verification by the revised regulations. CWD's are to require verification only on the specific mandatory item the household reports as having changed.

Due to the problems resulting in the delay of your receiving a correct advance copy, county welfare departments shall not be held liable for errors resulting from delaying implementation of verification regulations until February 1, 1982. However, this does not preclude a CWD from implementing these regulations earlier than February 1, 1982.

Basically, the revised verification regulations increase the number of items which must be verified for all cases and allow CWD's the option to elect verification of other specific information on a county-wide basis.

One of the significant changes in the regulations is in the area of mandatory verification. Along with existing items requiring verification, mandatory verification items now include applicant's identity, residency, and continuing shelter costs. Identity of the applicant and residence of the household must be verified for all cases. However, in expedited service cases, it is no longer required that the applicant's residency be verified prior to certification. For continuing shelter costs, verification is required in all cases if allowing the expense could potentially result in a deduction. Once this has been accom-

plished, further verification of the expense is not permitted unless the household has moved, reported an increase in the amount, or unless questionable. Households claiming the standard utility allowance must provide verification that the household actually incurs a utility expense. It is not necessary to verify more than one utility unless circumstances are questionable. Reverification of the utility expense is not permitted unless the household has moved, changed its utilities, or is questionable.

Under the revised regulations, the CWD, with appropriate justification, may elect on a county-wide basis to mandate verification of the following optional items: dependent care costs, liquid resources and loans, and household size. Before the county can exercise the option of requiring verification of these items, approval must be obtained from SDSS and FNS-WRO. Justification should be submitted in writing to SDSS and should demonstrate that significant program dollar loss in the county is attributable to the factor(s) for which CWD proposes to require verification and that the loss is likely to be decreased by such verification. We encourage counties to utilize the optional verification to effect corrective action for those specific error categories. If the CWD does not mandate verification of dependent care costs, liquid resources and loans, and household size, these items shall be verified only if questionable.

The last major revision is in the verification of reported household changes which would result in increased benefits. For those changes requiring verification, the household has ten days from the date the change is reported to provide verification. If verification is received within the ten days, the time period for CWD action starts on the date the change was reported. If verification is received after the ten days, the time period for action starts on the date verification is received. If verification is not received on the reported change, no action shall be taken on the change.

If you have any questions, please call your Food Stamp Program Management Consultant.



KYLE S. McKINSEY
Deputy Director

cc: CWDA