

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



March 3, 2000

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 00-18

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
 FOOD STAMP COORDINATORS
 CalWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: TREATMENT OF CENSUS INCOME IN THE FOOD STAMP AND
 CalWORKs PROGRAMS

REFERENCE: MANUAL OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (MPP) 44-101.51;
 MPP 44-113.2; MPP 63-502.13

The purpose of this letter is to provide counties with information on the treatment of earnings received by temporary census workers.

At the invitation of the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the United States Department of Agriculture, California has agreed to participate in a demonstration project under which the earnings of temporary census workers will be excluded as income for Food Stamp (FS) purposes. The Bureau of Census has found that the most effective workers are those recruited from and working in their own neighborhoods. The demonstration project will assist the Bureau in recruiting these workers. An accurate count in the census is critical, since eligibility and benefit levels for some area-based federal programs are determined by the census.

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

Earned income received by a FS Household (HH) from temporary employment related to the 2000 Census will be exempt as income for program eligibility and benefit level determination purposes. The income exclusion period is from February 1, 2000 through December 31, 2000. Counties should restore benefits to FS HHs whose benefits have been reduced, terminated or denied because of inclusion of census earnings as income.

In addition, compensation received from employment of up to 180 days at Census 2000 data capture centers located in Baltimore, Maryland; Phoenix, Arizona; and Pomona, California may also be exempt from consideration as income. Although those centers are operated by private contractors, income received from employment at the centers will be treated the same as income paid directly by the Bureau of the Census.

CalWORKs CASH AID

In accordance with MPP 44-101.51 and MPP 44-113.2, Census 2000 earnings cannot be exempt for CalWORKs cash aid purposes and would be treated as earned income. Although this income would not be exempt, it would be eligible for all applicable earned income disregards.

NOTIFICATION

Counties should notify FS households that temporary census employment will not affect their food stamp eligibility or benefit level. Enclosed is sample language, which may be used, in routine mailings to inform FS households of this income exclusion. Other publicity, such as press releases, posters etc. may be substituted for the household notification.

If you have any FS Program questions, please call Ernie Villalobos of the Food Stamp Bureau at (916) 657-1680. For CalWORKs questions, please call Julie Lopes at (916) 654-1786.

Sincerely,

**Original Document signed
By Bruce Wagstaff on 3/3/00**

BRUCE WAGSTAFF
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division

Enclosure

**IF YOU HAVE A TEMPORARY JOB WITH
THE CENSUS BUREAU FOR CENSUS 2000
THIS NOTICE APPLIES TO YOU**

The money you earn between February 1, and December 31, 2000, as a temporary census worker will not count in figuring out if you are eligible for Food Stamps or how much you get in coupons. If you earned money as a census worker after February 1, 2000, but before you learned of this policy, let your county worker know.