

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street , Sacramento , CA 95814



March 3, 1992

ALL COUNTY LETTER 92-28

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: HOMELESS STANDARD SHELTER ALLOWANCE AND DISASTER ASSISTANCE

REFERENCE: Manual Sections 63-502.35, 63-1101.27 and 63-900.55 (d)

The purpose of this letter is to provide information to the County Welfare Departments (CWDs) concerning the implementation of two Food Stamp regulation changes. The following describes the two changes which are the addition of the homeless standard shelter allowance (M.S. 63-502.35 and 63-1101.27) and a change to the disaster assistance regulations (M.S. 63-900.55(d)).

Homeless Standard Shelter Allowance (M.S. 63-502.35 and 63-1101.27)

The homeless standard shelter allowance is available to homeless households that are not receiving free housing for an entire calendar month. The household is entitled to this allowance if the household incurs, or reasonably expects to incur shelter costs during a month. No verification of shelter costs is required for the household to receive this allowance. If the household claims the homeless standard shelter allowance, separate utility costs may not be claimed since a utility cost component has been included in this allowance.

The current homeless standard shelter allowance is \$128 and will be adjusted annually on October 1. A household may receive a higher shelter deduction if the household provides verification of higher costs. If a household does not incur or cannot reasonably expect to incur shelter costs during the month, the household is not eligible for the allowance.

Disaster Assistance (M.S. 63-900.55(d))

Currently, the amount of the emergency coupon allotment a household receives after a disaster is based upon the emergency coupon issuance tables and household size. This section has been amended to allow this amount to be supplemented with additional assistance to cover the actual cost of replacing food lost in a disaster, up to the maximum monthly allotment amount for that particular household size. This supplement is available to households receiving Food Stamp benefits for the first time and to continuing households.

**Implementation**

Federal regulation mandates a February 1, 1992 implementation date. CWDs are required to implement these changes beginning March 1, 1992 for all new Food Stamp applications. For continuing cases, CWDs shall restore benefits back to February 1, 1992 or the date of application, whichever occurred later. Any household entitled to a restoration shall have that restoration made upon request by the household, at recertification, when the case is next reviewed or when the CWD becomes aware a review is needed, whichever occurs first.

If you have any questions concerning the homeless standard shelter allowance, please contact Michele Carotti of the Food Stamp Program Bureau at (916) 554-1405. Questions concerning the disaster assistance should be directed to Michael Jones of the Food Stamp Program Bureau at (915) 654-1065.

**dof**

Deputy Director