

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



September 18, 1996

ALL COUNTY LETTER 96-51

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

REASON FOR TRANSMITTAL

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

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM UNDER THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1996

As you are aware, on August 22, 1996, the President signed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA). The United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Service (FCS) has provided an implementation letter summarizing changes to the Food Stamp Program contained in the Act, requiring the state to implement the changes by September 22, 1996. The purpose of this letter is to provide County Welfare Departments (CWDs) with instructions for implementing these provisions of the PRWORA. While additional implementation steps will be taken, in the interim the provisions in Attachment I must be followed in order to assure compliance with federal law. CDSS has been notified by FCS that these provisions must be implemented by the state **no later than September 22, 1996** in order for the 120 day "hold harmless" period for Quality Control reviews to be in effect. Other provisions of the PRWORA have future implementation dates or are conditionally effective only at state option. These provisions and instructions will be provided in future transmittals.

QUALITY CONTROL

Beginning 30 days after enactment, there will be a 120-day variance exclusion (hold harmless) period for states that have implemented the provisions of the PRWORA. During this period, reviewers will identify all variances resulting from the misapplication of the new provisions, but exclude them from the error rate calculation.

STUFFER NOTICE

FCS has notified CDSS that states must provide notification to the public and to recipients of the changes in alien eligibility. CDSS will provide notification to the general public as required. These various changes in the law have been incorporated into the attached stuffer (Attachment II), the TEMP FS16 (9/96). This form notifies recipients of the new alien provisions as well as other changes which require mass notification. Prior to duplication,

CWDs must ensure that this notice contains the county specific address which recipients should use to send written state hearing requests. This notice must be provided to all recipient households prior to any related case actions or recertification, but no later than November 1, 1996.

APPLICATION ADDENDUM

Also provided is the TEMP 2131 (9/96), the Addendum to Food Stamp Application (Attachment III). This form must be provided to all households at initial application and recertification. This form is necessary to capture information required by some of the changes contained in the PRWORA and contains a penalty of perjury statement. This information will be integrated into the application forms as soon as administratively possible.

TRANSLATIONS

Counties that need a camera-ready copy of the stuffer and addendum notice should call:

- For English and Spanish: the Forms Management Bureau at (916) 657-1907 or CALNET 437-9307.
- For the Asian language versions (Chinese, Cambodian, and Vietnamese): the Language Services Bureau at (916) 654-1305 OR CALNET 464-1305. These translations will be forwarded to the County Forms Coordinator when available.

If you have any questions regarding Fraud provisions, contact Barbara Cox at (916) 445-2757. For questions regarding Sanctions for Work Requirements, contact Karen Kennedy at (916) 657-3400. Any other questions should be directed to the Food Stamp Policy Implementation Unit at (916) 654-1896.



BRUCE WAGSTAFF
Deputy Director
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Attachments