

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



December 17, 1996

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 96-71

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL FOOD STAMP EMPLOYMENT
AND TRAINING COORDINATORS

<u>Reason for this Transmittal</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	State Law Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal Law or Regulation Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	Court Order
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: FFY 1997 FOOD STAMP EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING
PROGRAM PLAN

REFERENCE: MPP 63-407, ALL-COUNTY LETTER 93-43

The purpose of this letter is to inform counties of the Food Stamp Employment and Training (FSET) planning process for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 1997. Beginning in FFY 1997 the Food and Consumer Service (FCS), at our request, has reduced the amount of detail in the FSET Plan. Please continue to use the Handbook on Preparing State Plans for Programs published in May 1994 for guidance.

In developing their plans, counties should take into account the new work requirements which were established by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act. In order to remain eligible for food stamps, non-exempt recipients are now required to work 20 hours per week, participate in a workfare program which meets standards approved by the Governor, or participate in a work program, such as FSET, for 20 hours per week. Job Club/Job Search does not count toward meeting this 20-hour work requirement. See ACL No. 96-62 for a description of the new work requirement.

The FFY 1997 FSET Program Plan amendments must include a narrative description of significant operational changes from the FFY 1996 Plan and updates to Tables 1, 2, 4, and 5 (copies of the tables are attached). Also, plan amendments must include the following information if it has changed: 1) a description of the methods used for obtaining the initial work registrants count; and 2) an explanation of whether the count is duplicated or unduplicated, and, if duplicated, what portion of the count is duplicated.

Counties that have chosen to discontinue their FSET program must still submit a STAT 40, to the Information Services Bureau each quarter. Only the first line of the STAT 40, "Total new work registrants," must be completed by counties that do not have an FSET program. Counties will be sent revised STAT 40 instructions that incorporate the new reporting requirements for non-participating FSET counties under separate cover.

All counties still have the option of participating in the FFY 1997 FSET program. However, if a plan is not submitted in response to this letter, a county must wait until the planning process for the following year to begin the FSET program.

Funding for the FSET Program

FCS provides a limited 100 percent federal allocation for the administrative cost of the program based on the number of work registrants nationwide. The state provides a limited administrative allocation and participant reimbursement allocation that is matched against federal 50 percent and county 15 percent funds.

Attachment I reflects each county's estimated administrative share of the 100 percent federal funds and estimated share of the total 50 percent federal/35 percent state/15 percent county administrative funds. Attachment II reflects each county's estimated total share of participant reimbursement for transportation and dependent care at the 50 percent federal/35 percent state/15 percent county sharing ratios. These funding ratios are based on federal and state funds available and on your county's percentage of the statewide non-assistance food stamp caseload. Counties that are approved for exclusion from the FSET program have not been allocated funds in Attachments I and II.

The final allocation will be based on the request each county makes as part of the planning process and the availability of state and federal funds. FCS approval of California's FSET State Plan and budget is required before the final allocations will be released. In addition, funding for the FSET program is subject to state legislative approval through the budget process.

Program expenditures in excess of the 100 percent federal allocation and 50/35/15 allocation can be funded, at county option, with 50 percent federal/50 percent county funds. All fund requests must be accurate and justifiable, and must be identified in the county plan. To the extent that proposed components and services are consistent with state regulations, requests will be forwarded to FCS for approval as part of the State Plan.

County Plan Submittal

Counties that chose to remain excluded need only complete Table 1 and the Management Information and Program Reporting form. Counties not excluded must complete each table and the Management Information and Reporting form. Send one copy of the plan by January 15, 1997 to:

California Department of Social Services
Employment Operations Section
744 P Street, M.S. 6-136
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attention: Tony Pyara

If you have any questions, please have your staff contact Tony Pyara at (916) 657-2630. Questions concerning your allocation should be directed to the County Cost Analysis Bureau at (916) 657-3806.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Wagstaff".

BRUCE WAGSTAFF
Deputy Director
Welfare Programs Division

Enclosures

c: CWDA