

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



January 3, 2006

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-01-06

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY FOOD STAMP COORDINATORS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

SUBJECT: FOOD STAMP QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The purpose of this All-County Information Notice is to provide counties with answers to questions regarding Food Stamp Program policy. These questions and answers were submitted, reviewed, and commented on by the County Welfare Directors Association's Food Stamp Committee before being finalized by the Food Stamp Policy Bureau. As requested by the committee, Questions and Answers (Q&As) are separated and categorized by subject matter for ease of reference.

If you have any questions regarding the attached Q&As, please contact the policy analyst assigned to that area of the regulations.

Sincerely,

RIGHTON YEE, Chief
Food Stamp Branch

Attachment

THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION COLLECTING AN OVERISSUANCE FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS

QUESTION #1:

SCENARIO:

A food stamp recipient receives Social Security Disability benefits. He is not receiving the gross amount of \$1,472, because there is a reduction of \$220 to repay an overpayment owed to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). He actually receives \$1,251. (The assumption is that the VA overpayment was due to noncompliance with VA requirements.)

QUESTION:

Should we count the gross Social Security income of \$1,472, or the net of \$1,251, when computing the allotment? Regulations state that income shall not include monies returned to repay a prior overpayment received from that income source.

ANSWER:

As clarified by the Food and Nutrition Service, the gross amount of \$1,472 Social Security Disability income is used to compute food stamp benefits. MPP Section 63-502.121 permits the exclusion of "monies withheld from an assistance payment, earned income, or other income source, or monies received from any income source which are voluntarily or involuntarily returned, to repay a prior overpayment received from that income source....." Federal regulations at 7 CFR 273.9(b)((2)(vi)(5) further explains that moneys withheld from assistance from another program for non-compliance with that programs requirements is considered income in the Food Stamp Program. In this scenario, monies are withheld from a Social Security benefit to collect an overpayment from Veterans Affairs. Therefore, since a VA overpayment is being collected from Social Security benefits, that is, from a different source, the gross amount of SSA benefits are considered income when computing food stamp benefits.

INCOME – CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS

CLARIFICATION TO ACIN I-34-05, PAGE 6 (June 24, 2005)

QUESTION #2:

Is a CalWORKs Maximum Family Grant (MFG) child's receipt of child support from the Local Child Support Agency (LCSA) considered income in the FSP?

ANSWER:

For MFG households, a child's receipt of child support from the LCSA is considered unearned income in the FSP. If the child support payment is received directly from an absent parent and kept by the household, it is also counted as unearned income.

SHELTER DEDUCTION – CONVERSION FACTOR FOR HOUSING BILLED WEEKLY

QUESTION #3:

How do you determine a monthly shelter amount when a household incurs and pays rent weekly?

EXAMPLE: Mary Smith applies for aid and pays rent in the amount of \$125 weekly.

ANSWER:

Per MPP Section 63-503.225 (QR), for change reporting and Quarterly Reporting (QR) households the income conversion factors of MPP Section 63-503.242(b)(1)(QR) is applied to expenses billed on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. In a QR household, the conversion factor is used only when a full month's expense is anticipated to continue throughout the QR Payment Quarter as specified in MPP Section 63-509(a)(5).