

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



September 23, 2002

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-70-02

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

SUBJECT: TREATMENT OF AMERICORPS AND VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE TO
AMERICA (VISTA) PAYMENTS IN CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY
AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CalWORKs)

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

This is in response to county inquiries regarding the treatment of AmeriCorps*VISTA and other AmeriCorps payments in the CalWORKs Program. In part, confusion on AmeriCorps and VISTA payments has occurred because of federal restructuring. In 1994, Congress transferred the VISTA program to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and the name was changed from VISTA to AmeriCorps*VISTA.

County welfare departments are reminded that Manual of Policies and Procedures section 44-111.61(f) exempts VISTA (now called AmeriCorps*Vista) payments from consideration as income for CalWORKs eligibility and cash aid determination purposes. However, there are no exemptions for other types of AmeriCorps payments (AmeriCorps*State/*National, AmeriCorps*National Civilian Community Corps, etc.). For Food Stamp Program purposes, AmeriCorps*Vista payments are exempt and should not be counted as income for eligibility or benefit determination.

It is recommended that counties contact the AmeriCorps*VISTA state offices in Oakland (510) 273-0179 or Los Angeles (310) 235-7421 for assistance in determining whether a client is an AmeriCorps*VISTA participant. For other AmeriCorps members, counties can contact the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GO SERV) at (916) 323-7646 if further verification is needed for these program participants.

If you have any questions regarding this ACIN, please call Terry Mallin, CalWORKs Eligibility at (916) 653-8395 or by e-mail at terry.mallin@dss.ca.gov. For Food Stamp Program questions, call Fredrick Hodges, III, at (916) 653-7973 or by e-mail at fhodges@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

**Original document signed by
Charr Lee on 9/23/02**

CHARR LEE METSKER, Chief
Employment and Eligibility Branch

c: CWDA
CSAC