

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



August 19, 1997

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-52-97

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: STATE-FUNDED FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

The California State Legislature recently approved Assembly Bill (AB) 1576, which provides for a Food Assistance Program which will replace federal Food Stamp Program benefits to certain legal non-citizens. This legislation was signed into law by the Governor on August 18, 1997. The purpose of this letter is to provide County Welfare Departments (CWDs) with general information regarding the program. Additional transmittals will be forthcoming containing specific instructions and information as necessary.

Those individuals impacted are non-disabled adults 65 years of age or older and minors under 18 years of age who are legal resident non-citizens of the United States. Effective September 1, 1997, any such individual, if found ineligible for federal food stamp benefits solely due to his or her immigration status under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 (PRWORA), shall be determined eligible for state-funded food stamp benefits. Individuals meeting this criteria must have been legally present in the United States prior to August 22, 1996 and must satisfy all other existing federal eligibility requirements. Allotment amounts, deductions, and other factors of eligibility remain unchanged.

All other ineligible non-citizen recipients must have their benefits terminated no later than August 31, 1997.

Federal food stamp coupons will be purchased from the United States Department of Agriculture under an agreement currently being finalized. As a part of this agreement, CWDs will be required to employ a system of tracking and identifying cases in which a household member is issued state-funded food stamp benefits. The possibility exists that automated systems may not be in place prior to the issuance of such benefits. Also, there may be a need to notify households which contain potentially eligible members of possible entitlement to the state program. Therefore, for purposes of notification, tracking, and fiscal claiming, the ability to identify affected households is of critical importance. Accordingly, CWDs should

flag any impacted cases immediately. Information will be available in the near future explaining proposed reporting and tracking.

All costs related to the state-funded food stamp program will be borne by the state, including administrative and benefit costs. Claiming instructions and allocation information will be sent in the near future.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact David Badal of the Food Stamp Program Bureau, Policy Implementation Unit, at (916) 654-1405.



BRUCE WAGSTAFF
Deputy Director
Welfare Programs Division

c: CWDA