February 13, 2018

ERRATA

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE (ACIN) NO. I-48-16E

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
    ALL COUNTY REFUGEE COORDINATORS
    ALL COUNTY WELFARE-TO-WORK COORDINATORS
    ALL CALFRESH PROGRAM COORDINATORS
    ALL CalWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
    ALL COUNTY CIVIL RIGHTS COORDINATORS
    COUNTY FISCAL OFFICERS
    ALL COUNTY CONSORTIA PROJECT MANAGERS
    ALL COUNTY CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR IMMIGRANTS
    CONTACTS
    ALL COUNTY IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS

SUBJECT: ELIGIBILITY OF INDIVIDUALS PAROLED AS REFUGEES FOR BENEFITS AND SERVICES

This erratum provides further clarification on information provided in ACIN NO. 1-48-16 regarding CalFresh, known federally as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) eligibility for individuals paroled as refugees under § 212(d)(5) of the INA.

Page 3, last section and paragraph states:

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) AND THE CALIFORNIA FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CFAP) ELIGIBILITY

Individuals paroled as a refugee are subject to a five-year waiting period for federal SNAP benefits. However, they may qualify for state-funded CFAP pursuant to WIC § 18930, et. seq., and MPP § 63-403.1, if specified eligibility criteria has been met.

Paragraph now states:

An individual paroled as a refugee under § 212(d)(5) becomes a qualified non-citizen after one year. Qualified non-citizens are subject to an additional five-year waiting period for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. While accumulating these years, if otherwise eligible, they may qualify for the state-funded California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) pursuant to WIC § 18900-18927 and 18930-18935; the MPP § 63-403.1 and MPP § 63-405.117.

In accordance with MPP § 63-405.117, parolees must meet two criteria to receive SNAP benefits as a qualified noncitizen:

- Be lawfully admitted into the U.S. as a parolee under § 212(d)(5) of the INA for at least one year.

- Meet the five-year residency requirement under MPP § 63-405.126. The five-year requirement can be accrued while receiving CalFresh benefits under CFAP if the individual meets all CalFresh program eligibility requirements. Per MPP § 63-405.126(a), the five-year period begins on the date the immigrant obtains status as a qualified non-citizen through the USCIS.
As a reminder, counties are required to verify immigration status through the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) system pursuant to MPP § 63-300.5(e)(2) and § 63-300.5(g)(2).

Questions regarding the content of this letter may be directed to the Refugee Programs Bureau (RPB) at (916) 654-4356 or via email at rpb@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

MARCELA RUIZ, Chief
Immigration and Refugee Programs Branch