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DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
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**GAVIN NEWSOM**  
GOVERNOR

August 5, 2019

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 19-79

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL CALFRESH PROGRAM SPECIALISTS  
ALL CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY  
TO KIDS (CALWORKs) PROGRAM SPECIALISTS  
ALL COUNTY REFUGEE PROGRAM COORDINATORS  
ALL CONSORTIUM MANAGERS  
ALL QUALITY CONTROL COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: CALFRESH TREATMENT OF 2020 UNITED STATES CENSUS  
INCOME

REFERENCE: [CENSUS 2020 DEMONSTRATION PROJECT POLICY MEMO,](#)  
[2020 CENSUS OPERATIONAL PLAN](#)

This letter provides County Welfare Departments (CWD) with guidance regarding the treatment of temporary earned income received directly from the Census Bureau for work related to the 2020 United States Decennial Census.

On April 8, 2019, the Food and Nutrition Service approved the California Department of Social Services' request to participate in the Census 2020 Demonstration Project. Demonstration Project authority allows for the earnings of temporary Census Bureau employees to be excluded when determining CalFresh eligibility. The Demonstration Project is effective through September 30, 2020.

The primary dates for 2020 United States Decennial Census operations are from January 1, 2020 through June 23, 2020. That said, temporary Census Bureau employees will be hired and may be earning income as early as July 2019 and as late as September 30, 2020. All 2020 United States Decennial Census related positions are considered temporary due to the time-limited nature of the work. The Census Bureau employs for various positions including census takers, recruitment assistants, office staff, and supervisory staff.

### **CalFresh Temporary Census Income Exclusion**

Effective August 1, 2019, earned income received directly from the Census Bureau for temporary employment related to the 2020 United States Decennial Census must be excluded when determining CalFresh eligibility and benefits. This policy applies through September 30, 2020.

If the earned income is related to 2020 United States Decennial Census operation, it must be excluded regardless of when the temporary Census Bureau employee was hired. The temporary census income exclusion cannot be applied retroactively. Therefore, census income earned by temporary employees prior to the effective date of the Demonstration Project cannot be excluded.

The CWDs that become aware of households who received income from the Census Bureau and were denied CalFresh benefits after the effective date of this policy, should reconsider those denials based on current policy.

### **Evaluation**

The CDSS will work with the Statewide Automated Welfare System consortia to fulfill the evaluation responsibilities as required by the Demonstration Project.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the CalFresh Policy Bureau at (916) 651-8047.

Sincerely,

### ***Original Document Signed By:***

Marcela Ruiz  
Acting Deputy Director  
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division