

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



June 12, 2001

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-46-01

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

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: RICKY RAY HEMOPHILIA RELIEF FUND PAYMENTS, NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BENEFITS, AND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SUBSISTENCE SUPPLEMENTAL ALLOWANCE BENEFITS

REFERENCE: PUBLIC LAW 105-369—NOVEMBER 12, 1998; ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE (AN) 01-31; AN 01-34

The purpose of this notice is to provide information on the handling of various types of payments when determining food stamp household and CalWORKs assistance unit eligibility and benefit amounts.

Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Fund Act Payments:

On November 12, 1998, the Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Fund Act of 1998 was signed into law. This act provides for compassionate payments to individuals with blood-clotting disorders, such as hemophilia, who contracted human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), due to contaminated blood products in the process of medical treatment. Any payment made from any fund established pursuant to this act is to be excluded as income and as a resource when determining food stamp and CalWORKs eligibility and benefit amounts.

Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits:

Whenever a household moves from an area with a Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) (i.e., Puerto Rico, American Samoa, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands), the monthly dollar amount of the NAP benefits is included as unearned income when determining food stamp and CalWORKs eligibility and benefit amounts.

For example, a household is certified and participating in the Puerto Rico NAP for January through March with monthly NAP cash benefits of \$175. In February they move to California and request food stamp and CalWORKs benefits. When calculating food stamp and CalWORKs benefits for February and March, the monthly cash NAP benefits of \$175 must be included as unearned income. NAP coupons issued in these territories are not usable in the United States regardless of the expiration date. However, they are still counted as unearned income. Expired unused NAP coupons would not count as income.

Department of Defense Subsistence Supplemental Allowance Benefits:

On October 30, 2000, the Defense Authorization Act for Federal Fiscal Year 2001 was signed into law. This act requires the Department of Defense (DoD) to pay certain service members and their families a Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA) of not more than \$500 so they will not rely on food stamps to meet their nutritional needs. The amount of FSSA will be shown on the member's leave and earnings statement that is the standard wage information form used by the military. This program does not change eligibility criteria for the Food Stamp Program (FSP). The law does not prohibit the household from receiving benefits under the FSSA program and the FSP at the same time. Any FSSA benefits are to be treated as unearned income when determining food stamp and CalWORKs eligibility and benefit amounts.

Contacts:

For food stamp questions on the treatment of Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Fund Act payments, please contact Doris Bowers at (916) 654-0710. Please contact Rosemary Akhidenor at (916) 654-2116 for any food stamp questions regarding the treatment of the other benefit payments mentioned in this notice. For CalWORKs questions, please contact Ernie Villalobos at (916) 657-1680.

Sincerely,
Original signed by
Gary Swanson on
June 12, 2001
GARY SWANSON, Chief
Food Stamp Branch