

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



September 17, 2001

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-77-01

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL FOOD STAMP COORDINATORS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | State Law Change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Federal Law or Regulation Change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Court Order or Settlement Agreement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Clarification Requested by One or More Counties |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Initiated by CDSS |

SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME/STATE SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAM (SSI/SSP) RECIPIENTS ELIGIBLE FOR SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION TITLE II BENEFITS

REFERENCE: ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE 01-53

The Social Security Administration (SSA) is currently reviewing the claims of 130,000 SSI recipients nationwide who may be eligible for, but have not been receiving, Title II (T2) disability payments. Eligibility for T2 entitlements will generate benefit payments that will offset Title XVI (T16)(SSI) payments. SSI recipients began receiving notification regarding these reviews in July, with any changes effective in August.

Counties will receive alerts for benefit changes through the normal BENDEX/SDX process. Mass noticing regarding these changes is not required; however, counties should be aware of how these changes may affect food stamp allotments in households containing members who are excluded for being SSI/SSP recipients.

TREATMENT OF PERSONS RECEIVING A T16 BENEFIT ONLY OR A T2/T16 BENEFIT COMBINATION

MPP 63-402.226 states: "Once receiving SSI/SSP benefits, the person will remain ineligible for food stamp benefits until actually terminated from the SSI/SSP Program; periods of nonreceipt or suspension of SSI/SSP payments do not restore food stamp eligibility." Thus, a person receiving a T16 benefit only or a T2/T16 benefit combination as a result of these SSA reviews would still be an SSI/SSP recipient and would still be an excluded household member.

SSA changes may result in an increase in benefits or the receipt of a retroactive payment. For persons retaining SSI/SSP eligibility, any T2 benefits, including retroactive payments received, would be excluded from income and resource consideration in accordance with MPP 63-503.443 and 63-503.45.

TREATMENT OF PERSONS RECEIVING A T2 BENEFIT ONLY

There is potential that the T2 benefit will exceed the T16 payment causing termination of T16 entitlement. Persons who have their T16 benefits terminated and receive only T2 benefits would no longer be SSI/SSP recipients as indicated in MPP 63-402.226. As counties become aware of individuals terminated from SSI/SSP, they will need to determine whether these persons must now be included in the food stamp household and review the household's eligibility to receive food stamps. Counties are to follow the usual procedure for adding household members as specified in MPP 63-504.353 and 63-504.354.

For those persons who are terminated from SSI/SSP and whose income and resources are considered available to the household, receipt of T2 benefits would be counted as unearned income as specified in MPP 63-502.142. Any retroactive benefit received would be a lump-sum payment and counted as a resource as specified in MPP 63-501.111.

CONTACTS

If you have any questions regarding the above information, please contact the following designated analyst:

SUBJECT	NAME	PHONE
HH Concept—SSI/SSP Recipients Adding HH Members	Fred Hodges	916-653-7973
T2 Benefits/Income	Rosemary Akhidenor	916-654-2116
Lump Sum Resources Income & Resources of Excluded Members	Doris Bowers	916-654-0710

Sincerely,

Original signed by:
GARY SWANSON, Chief
Food Stamp Branch