

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



July 25, 2002

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-56-02

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: FOOD STAMP REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2002

REFERENCE: PUBLIC LAW 107-171 OF MAY 13, 2002

The purpose of this notice is to advise you of the immediate mandatory changes to the Food Stamp Program due to the Food Stamp Reauthorization Act of 2002, part of the Farm Bill of 2002.

A summary of the mandatory changes and a table of the Standard Deduction amount effective 10/01/02 follows. Please note that there will be no change in the Standard Deduction for households of four and under in the coming year. Households of five will increase to \$147.00 and households of six and over will increase to \$168.00. Households of five and more comprise approximately 14% of the California food stamp caseload.

- Federal benefits will be restored to three categories of legal non-citizens over a three-step phase-in process. On October 1, 2002, legal noncitizens who are disabled will be restored to federal benefits regardless of date of entry into the United States. On April 1, 2003, legal non-citizens who have been in the U.S. for five or more years will be restored to federal benefits. On October 1, 2003, legal noncitizen children will be restored to federal benefits regardless of date of entry into the United States.
- The resource limit for households with a disabled member is raised from \$2,000 to \$3,000 to match that of households with an elderly member.

- The Standard Deduction is restructured from one amount for all families to 8.31% of each year's poverty level for each household size, but not less than the current standard deduction of \$134.00 nor more than 8.31% of the poverty level for a household of six persons, even if household is larger than six persons.
- The Standard Deduction for FFY 2003 is:

| Household Size | Standard Deduction |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1 to 4 persons | \$134.00 |
| 5 persons | 147.00 |
| 6 or more persons | 168.00 |

State regulations are being developed to implement the mandatory changes directly from the Food Stamp Reauthorization Act of 2002. However, in the interim, County Welfare Departments need to initiate action to implement the mandatory changes effective with the dates from the Reauthorization Act. DSS will keep you informed of the regulations development and obtain input from counties in the normal manner.

If you have any questions regarding the above information, please contact Rebecca Fuller of the Food Stamp Policy Development Unit at (916) 654-5709.

Sincerely,

Original document signed by

GARY SWANSON, Chief
Food Stamp Branch