

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814

**HURRICANE KATRINA INFORMATION**

September 23, 2005

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-61-05

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL FOOD STAMP COORDINATORS  
ALL QUALITY CONTROL COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: AMENDMENTS TO THE EXPANDED (EXPEDITED SERVICE (ES))  
DISASTER EVACUEE POLICY

REFERENCES: ALL COUNTY INFORMATIONAL NOTICE (ACIN) I-53-05,  
SEPTEMBER 7, 2005

The purpose of this Notice is to inform counties about changes made by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to food stamp policy rules introduced in ACIN I-53-05 regarding the Expanded (ES) Disaster Evacuee Policy. The length of time for accepting applications for "Expanded (ES)" policy is extended, new information is included for the relaxed procedures for key-entered Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) transactions, a new phone number for Louisiana and Mississippi is provided and there is a reminder that regular food stamp rules start for evacuee households beginning January 2006. Descriptions of the changes are as follows:

- Applications for "Expanded (ES)" food stamp benefits shall be accepted through **October 31, 2005**. This date was extended from October 15, 2005.
- FNS has extended the relaxed procedures for key-entered EBT transactions at retailers through **September 30, 2005**. Though the EBT card is normally required to be present in order to conduct a key-entered transaction -- where the card number and PIN are manually entered -- FNS is relaxing that requirement for **all displaced residents of Louisiana (card numbers beginning with 504476), Mississippi (card numbers beginning with 507718), and Alabama (card numbers beginning with 5077680)**. These recipients do **not** need to have their card present in order to conduct a key-entered transaction for this period only.
- The number for households to request an EBT card replacement in Louisiana has changed to 1-888-524-3578. A new phone number has been provided for Mississippi evacuees to call if they do not know their EBT card number. The new number connects to the State Agency and is 1-866-449-9488.

**REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL**

- State Law Change  
 Federal Law or Regulation Change  
 Court Order  
 Clarification Requested by One or More Counties  
 Initiated by CDSS

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- Beginning with January 2006 food stamp issuances, participating evacuee households will have to satisfy the verification requirements which were postponed per ACIN I-53-05; evacuee household members subject to the work and ABAWD requirements must comply with work rules; and the Quality Control (QC) hold harmless period for certifications made under the "Expanded (ES)" policy will end on December 31, 2005.

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter, please call Rosie Avena, Food Stamp Bureau, at (916) 654-1514.

Sincerely,

**Original signed by**

CHARR LEE METSKER  
Deputy Director  
Welfare-to-Work Division