

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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May 8, 1979

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-52-79

TO: All County Welfare Directors

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING OF THE FOOD STAMP ACT OF 1977

REFERENCE:

Implementation of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 in accordance with state and federal regulations is of great concern not only to this Department, but to USDA and Congress. As a result, several different methods of monitoring have been developed (especially at the federal level) and county monitoring has already begun. The purpose of this letter is to provide county welfare departments with an overview of the monitoring that may affect them during conversion.

This Department has been working with Food and Nutrition Service, Western Region Office (FNS, WRO) to try to reduce duplication as much as possible. As a result, FNS, WRO staff will accompany state staff on visits to several counties instead of making separate visits.

Listed below are the various monitoring visits which have either begun or will be conducted over the next several months.

1. Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Conversion Monitoring
 - A. Visits in April and May to the 20 largest counties (Attachment A) by OIG to determine accuracy and rate of conversion of existing caseload are being scheduled through the DSS Food Stamp Program Operations Bureau (FSPOB). The purpose of the visits is to assist OIG in its Congressional reporting responsibilities and to provide early feedback on conversion problems. FSPOB will alert counties to any critical problems identified as soon after the OIG visit as possible.
 - B. There will be follow-up visits by OIG (May through September) to large counties where major problems have been identified to determine if they have been corrected. If the state has provided adequate information to FNS indicating that the problem(s) have been resolved, these follow-up visits may not be necessary.

2. State (FSPOB) visits to the 20 large counties (and other counties as problems are identified as time permits)

These visits will cover basic implementation, regulation compliance and implementation, program accessibility, and in some cases may include FINS review of County Food Stamp Manuals. FNS, WRO staff will accompany state staff on some of these visits.

3. Quality Control (QC)

A. The State Quality Control staff will be pulling cases each month (beginning in April) under interim QC procedures as described in All-County Letter 79-16. County responsibilities are also outlined in that letter.

B. FNS, WRO QC Subsample

FNS, WRO QC staff will be pulling a QC subsample of the cases which State QC staff are reviewing. They plan a one-time review of approximately 75 active cases and 75 negative action cases beginning late in May. There is a possibility that they will pull another subsample in July or August but no definite decision has been reached. FNS, QC staff will be dealing directly with counties to arrange for the subsample reviews.

4. Household Characteristics Study

A. A private company under contract with FNS, WRO will be conducting a survey of household characteristics in 18 counties (see Attachment B) during late May or early June to compare characteristics of households before and after implementation of the new regulations. They will be looking at cases certified in November 1978. FSPOB is coordinating the visits and will be providing more detailed information to the affected counties.

B. A follow-up visit in December 1979 and January 1980 will be scheduled at a later time to collect November 1979 data.

We appreciate the county assistance and cooperation which we have been receiving in response to the above items as well as to phoned requests for information. Questions regarding any of the above should be addressed to your FSPOB Consultant.


 KYLE S. MCKINSEY
 Deputy Director

Attachments

cc: CWDA

ATTACHMENT A

Alameda

Contra Costa

Fresno

Kern

Los Angeles

Monterey

Orange

Riverside

Sacramento

San Bernardino

San Diego

San Francisco

San Joaquin

San Mateo

Santa Barbara

Santa Clara

Santa Cruz

Stanislaus

Tulare

Ventura

ATTACHMENT B

Alameda

Butte

El Dorado

Humboldt

Imperial

Kern

Los Angeles

Mendocino

Riverside

San Bernardino

San Diego

San Francisco

Santa Clara

Shasta

Sonoma

Tulare

Ventura