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

June 12, 1981

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-72-81

TO: ALL-COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

   ATTENTION: COUNTY QUALITY CONTROL STAFF

SUBJECT: DEFINITION OF TECHNICAL ERRORS - AFDC

REFERENCE:

The purpose of this letter is to provide a definition and examples of "technical errors" as used in the determination of county error rates in the AFDC Program.

Following are examples of the kinds of technical errors which were deleted in determining "county error rates without technical errors" for the October 1979 - March 1980 review period. The April - September 1980 period was the first in which social security enumeration errors were cited. This type of technical error will also be deleted for the April - September 1980 and later periods.

Definition of Technical Errors

For Quality Control purposes, technical errors are defined as errors occurring in cases where the grant paid to the FBU would have been correct if a required procedure had been completed. The amount of the error which falls into the technical error category may be all error dollars paid to the FBU, or only a portion of the error dollars paid depending on the circumstances causing the error(s). Only those error dollars paid as a result of the non-completion of a required paperwork procedure can be defined as technical error dollars. An error resulting from the client's refusal to cooperate cannot be considered a technical error.

Examples of Technical Errors

1. Deprivation related technical errors:

    (a) Incapacitated parent whose duration of incapacity has expired and who is no longer incapacitated, but who would qualify as an unemployed parent if he/she were registered with WIN or EDD-ES (Element 142).

GEN 654a   (9/79)

(b) Absent parent who returns to the home without notifying the county welfare department, but who would qualify as an unemployed parent if he/she were registered with WIN or EDD-ES (Element 143).

(c) Unemployed non-exempt parent not registered with WIN or EDD-ES (Element 144).

2. WIN or EDD-ES Registration related technical errors (Element 150):

(a) Mother or caretaker relative with child over six who is not registered with WIN;

(b) 16/17 year-old not regularly participating in full-time school or training program who is not otherwise exempt and is not registered with WIN;

(c) 18/20 year-old not regularly participating in school or a training program at least half-time but less than full-time who is not otherwise exempt and is not WIN or EDD-ES registered;

(d) 18/20 year-old not participating in school or a training program at least half-time and not otherwise exempt, but who could be included in the FBU as an essential person if registered with EDD-ES (there must be at least one other federally eligible child in the FBU);

(e) An individual who is no longer exempt under temporary illness or injury and is not WIN or EDD-ES registered;

(f) A U-parent who is no longer exempt due to incapacity, who is WIN registered but not WIN certified;

(g) An individual who is no longer exempt due to remoteness and is not registered with WIN or EDD-ES;

(h) An individual who is no longer exempt based on the care of another individual, and is not registered with WIN or EDD-ES;

(i) A mother or other female caretaker who is no longer exempt based on the father's WIN registration and is not WIN or EDD-ES registered;

(j) An unemployed parent who is WIN registered but is not WIN certified;

(k) An individual who is deregistered by WIN or EDD-ES and the county is not notified that the individual has been deregistered.

3. Social Security Number related technical errors (Element 181):

(a) All enumeration errors except those which result from noncooperation.

4. Essential persons related technical errors (Element 520):

(a) An individual who is included in the FBU as an essential person, but was not registered with EDD-ES, or has been deregistered by EDD-ES and the county is not notified that the individual has been deregistered.
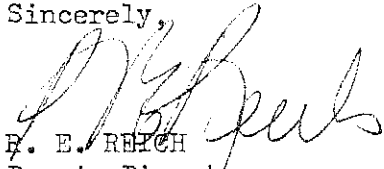
Procedures for Documenting Errors on the QC Review Schedule

County QC must continue to report on the Review Schedule errors discovered in a case review. Since the format of Section R of the QC Review Schedule only allows for the reporting of one payment error amount, Part III - Explanation of Case Errors, must be utilized to fully document all errors discovered during the QC review. The actual determination as to whether all error dollars or a portion of the error dollars reported in Section R are technical errors is the responsibility of the State Quality Control Bureau. This determination can only be based upon the written explanation of the error(s) contained in Part III of the Review Schedule. Therefore, the completeness of the explanation of the error(s) is critical to the technical error determinations.

Examples of appropriately documented errors are attached to assist counties in the error explanations. In Example 1, the amount of the technical error would be $281 ($305 - $24). In the State QC process of deleting technical errors this case would be recoded to reflect a $24 overpayment.

In Example 2 the entire amount of the overpayment ($89) would be considered a technical error. In the State QC process of deleting technical errors this case would be recoded to reflect "no error".

Sincerely,

R. E. REICH
Deputy Director
Planning and Review Division

Attachments

cc: CWDA