

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



January 5, 1998

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO.

I-01-98

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

REASON FOR TRANSMITTAL

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

- SUBJECT: 1. DISASTER READINESS  
2. DISASTER FOOD STAMP PROGRAM HANDBOOK UPDATE

DISASTER READINESS

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS), through the Food Stamp Program, Food Assistance Program, and the Disaster Response Services Bureau, is participating in disaster assistance planning with county agencies and the State Office of Emergency Services in order to be prepared should widespread storm damage occur in the approaching winter months. In particular, the "El Nino" phenomenon has the potential to severely affect California.

As part of this effort, CDSS recommends that County Welfare Departments (CWDs) review the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Service's (FCS) Disaster Food Stamp Program Handbook regarding availability of various programs of nutritional aid to counties should the need arise. The handbook outlines nutritional aid options available to CWDs in assisting households affected by a disaster. Topics covered include: types of FCS waivers allowed to the regular Food Stamp Program, determining whether to request food commodities from the Food Assistance Program, and procedures for requesting assistance under the Disaster Food Stamp Program should a county deem it necessary.

With winter approaching, and with it the potential impact of the "El Nino" weather phenomenon on California, it is imperative that all CWDs be prepared with a disaster nutrition assistance plan to respond appropriately to households in need should a disaster occur.

## DISASTER FOOD STAMP PROGRAM HANDBOOK UPDATE

Attached are revised reproducible pages to the handbook which reflect increases in resource, income and disaster food stamp allotment amounts. These revisions replace pages found in the EXHIBITS section of the handbook as follows:

EXHIBIT A:

Page 2 of item titled "Disaster Food Stamps, Fact Sheet."

EXHIBIT E, Items titled:

- a) "Food Stamp Program October 1, 1997 - September 30, 1998" (previously dated October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997)
- b) "Food Stamp Program--Monthly Allotments and Deductions"
- c) "Eligibility/Verification Chart," page 1.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ernie Villalobos of the Food Stamp Bureau at (916) 657-1680.



BRUCE WAGSTAFF  
Deputy Director  
Welfare to Work Division

Attachments (4)

damage to a home or property necessary for work, temporary shelter expenses, expenses for moving out of an evacuated area, expenses related to protecting a home or business from the disaster, and expenses due to a disaster-related injury or death. The limits for household income and cash resources, minus disaster expenses, for a month are:

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Income and Resources</u>
1	\$1,042
2	1,269
3	1,495
4	1,722
5	1,949
6	2,175
7	2,402
8	2,629

You will be asked to provide the social security number for household members if known.

**RECEIVING FOOD STAMPS** If you are eligible, you should get food stamps within 3 days after you apply. You may get food stamps in one of several ways:

- the food stamp office may give or mail the food stamps directly to you,
- you may be given (or receive in the mail) a paper or card you can take to a bank or other place to get your food stamps, or
- you may be given a plastic card that you can use to buy food.

This varies by area.

The amount of benefits a household gets depends on the number of people in the household.

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Food Stamps For a Month</u>
1	\$ 122
2	224
3	321
4	408
5	485
6	582
7	643
8	735

Food stamps come in books worth different amounts. A household member should sign each coupon book.

**USING FOOD STAMPS** You may use food stamps in any store that takes them. Most grocery stores take food stamps. You can only use food stamps to buy food or to buy seeds or plants for a garden to grow food for your own use. You cannot buy alcoholic drinks, tobacco, vitamins, toilet paper, or paper towels with food stamps. It is a very serious crime to sell your coupons for cash or drugs.

You must have the book cover to spend food stamps worth more than \$1. The store will give you change (in food stamps or up to \$1 in cash change) if you do not have the exact amount you need.

**NONDISCRIMINATION** If you think you have not been treated fairly because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religious creed, or political beliefs, you should write to the Administrator, Food and Consumer Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22302.

11/13/97

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM  
OCTOBER 1, 1997- SEPTEMBER 30, 1998

Net Monthly Income Eligibility Standards  
(100 Percent of Poverty Level)

Household Size	48 States <sup>1</sup>	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$ 658	\$ 823	\$ 756
2	885	1,106	1,017
3	1,111	1,390	1,278
4	1,338	1,673	1,539
5	1,565	1,956	1,800
6	1,791	2,240	2,060
7	2,018	2,523	2,321
8	2,245	2,806	2,582
Each Add. Member	+227	+284	+261

Gross Monthly Income Eligibility Standards  
(130 Percent of Poverty Level)

Household Size	48 States <sup>1</sup>	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$ 855	\$1,070	\$ 983
2	1,150	1,438	1,322
3	1,445	1,806	1,661
4	1,739	2,175	2,000
5	2,034	2,543	2,339
6	2,329	2,911	2,678
7	2,623	3,280	3,018
8	2,918	3,648	3,357
Each Add. Member	+295	+369	+340

Gross Monthly Income Eligibility Standards For Households  
Where Elderly Disabled Are A Separate Household  
(165 Percent of Poverty Level)

Household Size	48 States <sup>1</sup>	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$1,085	\$1,358	\$1,248
2	1,459	1,825	1,678
3	1,833	2,293	2,108
4	2,207	2,760	2,539
5	2,581	3,228	2,969
6	2,955	3,695	3,399
7	3,329	4,163	3,830
8	3,703	4,630	4,260
Each Add. Member	+374	+468	+431

<sup>1</sup> Includes District of Columbia, Guam, and the Virgin Islands

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM--MONTHLY ALLOTMENTS AND DEDUCTIONS  
OCTOBER 1997 - SEPTEMBER 1998

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MAXIMUM FOOD STAMP ALLOTMENTS

<u>HOUSEHOLD SIZE</u>	<u>48 STATES AND D. C.</u>
1	\$ 122
2	\$ 224
3	\$ 321
4	\$ 408
5	\$ 485
6	\$ 582
7	\$ 643
8	\$ 735
Each Additional Person	\$ 92

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DEDUCTIONS

<u>AREA</u>	<u>STANDARD DEDUCTIONS</u>
48 States & DC	\$ 134
Alaska	\$ 229
Hawaii	\$ 189
Guam	\$ 269
Virgin Islands	\$ 118
	<u>SHELTER DEDUCTIONS</u>
	From 1/1/97 to 9/31/98
	<u>HOMELESS HOUSEHOLD SHELTER ESTIMATE</u>
	\$143

**Eligibility/Verification Chart (48 States and D.C.)**

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>The household...</b>
<b>Residency</b>	<p>must have been living in the disaster area at the time of the disaster.</p> <p>may be eligible if it is temporarily living outside of the disaster area but within the State at the time of the disaster.</p>
<b>Purchase Food</b>	must plan on purchasing food during the benefit period.
<b>Adverse Affect</b>	<p>must have experienced at least one of the following adverse effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• loss of food, coupons or ATPs</li> <li>• damage to or destruction of the household's home or self employment business (e.g., complete destruction, loss of roof or walls, destruction of heating equipment).</li> <li>• disaster related expenses not expected to be reimbursed during the benefit period (e.g. home/business repairs, temporary shelter expenses, evacuation expenses, home/business protection, disaster related personal injury including funeral expenses).</li> <li>• loss or inaccessibility of income including reduction or termination of income or a delay in receipt of income for half the benefit period.</li> <li>• inaccessible liquid resources (e.g., banks are closed.)</li> </ul>
<b>Income and Resource Test</b>	<b>Total income received during the disaster benefit period, plus accessible liquid resources, minus certain disaster-related expenses shall not exceed the disaster gross income limit</b>

<b>Household Size</b>	<b>Disaster Gross Income Limit<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Maximum Allotment</b>
1	1,042	122
2	1,269	224
3	1,495	321
4	1,722	408
5	1,949	485
6	2,175	582
7	2,402	643
8	2,629	735
<b>Each Additional Member</b>	<b>+227</b>	<b>+92</b>

<sup>1</sup>These figures include all necessary calculations (e.g. calculation for 1 person household: maximum net monthly income = \$658; standard deduction = \$134; shelter deduction = \$250; 645 + 134 + 250 = 1,042)